

# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

## February 11, 2025

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session on February 11, 2025 in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Cherry County Courthouse, as per notice in the Valentine Midland News every week, with the agenda being on file in the office of the County Clerk. The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Chairman McConaughy. Roll call was taken. Present for the meeting were Cherry County Commissioners Mike McConaughy, Martin DeNaeyer, Nina Nelson, and Cherry County Clerk Samantha Leonard. The Open Meetings Act Poster was acknowledged by Chairman McConaughy and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Board of Commissioners' regular meeting minutes from January 28, 2024 were read. McConaughy moved and DeNaeyer seconded to approve the minutes with noted corrections. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughy. The motion carried.

Comments from the public were received during the allotted time.

District 3 Road Foreman Brent Collier provided the board with an update re: maintenance on equipment, potential engine repairs on a truck, and looking at trailer options to potentially purchase. District 2 Road Foreman Steve Stichka gave an update re: tree removal & trimming over roads, machinery maintenance, meetings with all foremen for the 1-and-6-year plan, and the availability to purchase millings this spring. District 1 Road Foreman JD Osburn provided an update re: the Highway 12 Minnechaduza Bridge detour end date being moved to June of 2025, maintenance, brush removal, and the potential to upgrade a 1997 motor grader.

Highway Superintendent JD Osburn provided the board with an update re: fiber coming in around the county, 1-and-6-year plan hearing date, reaching out to consulting firm for assistance with bridge grants, and asked the board to discuss obtaining an appraisal on the A Street State Shop. The board asked JD to reach out to Lacey Hoefs for an estimate of the appraisal work.

At 10:30 a.m. the board met with members of the Cherry County EMT, EM Director Jessica Coyle, and Cherry County Hospital CEO Jim Bargaen to discuss the emergency radios. Jessica informed the board that each department is responsible for the upkeep of their own radios. Her job as communications is to keep the radios up to date for the emergency responders to be able to communicate with dispatch controls. In previous years, the county received grants for the repairs & upkeep of the radios; however, the county does not qualify for grants and each entity has to apply for their own grants. Mr. Bargaen informed the board the hospital would be willing to upgrade and repair radios as needed but needs to know to be able to plan, investigate grants, and adjust the budget moving forward. The hospital is willing to co-op with grants and the board asked Ms. Coyle to pass along grant opportunities to the hospital. Members of the Cherry County EMT asked the board for more communication as they were not aware the county EM was no longer going to take care of the radios. It was agreed upon that the hospital will budget for all repairs and upkeep of radios, and Kay Reese will keep the inventory and new batteries. If anything is needed, Kay needs to contact the hospital.

Emergency Management Director Jessica Coyle updated the board re: regional fire chief meetings, the seat plane coming in July and there has been discussion it will be housed in Ainsworth, CWDG services meeting with Brown and Rock County Emergency Management Directors, airshow in August, signing off on the remaining 5% Motorola contract, LB546, and waiting on Keya Paha County dispatching transition discussion.

McConaughy moved and DeNaeyer seconded to set the public hearing for CUP #25-01 Outback Sales LLC Poly Outdoor Furniture Fabrication Shop for March 11, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Room. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughy, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

Dates for the special meeting for the Cherry County Comprehensive Plan workshop were discussed. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to set the meeting for February 18, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Room. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughy, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

The board discussed the departments getting preapproval of large claims. Currently the board has agreed that any claims for the Road Department over \$10,000 are discussed with one other commissioner, anything over \$20,000 is brought before the board during a meeting before claims are entered. The board recommended the Visitor Promotions Board include in their by-laws any grants over \$20,000 be presented to the Board of Commissioners prior to accepting the grant application. No action taken.

The board discussed with the Visitor Promotion Board the cost-of-living increases for the tourism department staff. Moving forward, the Visitor Promotion Board will continue to do their employee evaluations, and as an advisory board they will present the COLI recommendations to the Board of Commissioners. The Board will set all county employees' cost-of-living increases.

The board reviewed Cherry County Extension's annual report. No action was taken.

At 11:30 a.m., the board met with Dustin Will of Benefit Management Services via Zoom to discuss health insurance plan options. Mr. Will informed the board that the process would be to work with the Clerk's office to gather

information and they would draft proposals to be presented in April with no charge to the county for the service of proposals. Mr. Will emailed Clerk Leonard an agreement for release of information. The board met with County Attorney Eric Scott via phone to discuss the agreement. Mr. Scott informed the board it is not a contract, but rather an agreement for the release of information for health insurance data. Nelson moved and DeNaeyer seconded to authorize Plan Administrator Samantha Leonard to sign the business associate agreement with Benefit Management Services. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughey, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

Commissioner DeNaeyer provided the board with an update re: KPCC Housing. The KPCC Housing committee is in the process of trying to fill two vacant apartments. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded the request to pay New Generations \$11,803.70 out of the Inheritance Tax Fund for the 2025 contract. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughey. The motion carried.

The board discussed the Cherry County Noxious Weed Superintendent position and asked Clerk Leonard to start advertising for the position in the Valentine Midland News, along with ads on KVSH, KSDZ, and KBRB. McConaughey informed the board he has two potential candidates for the position. The potential for more than one superintendent was also discussed with the option of one employee and one contracted person. No board action taken.

The board discussed the expired terms of Board of Adjustment members. DeNaeyer moved and McConaughey seconded to reappoint Kerry Keys, RJ Luthy, and Garrett Swanson to the Board of Adjustments for a 3-year term, effective today. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughey, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

McConaughey moved and Nelson seconded to appoint Shane Daniels to the Board of Adjustments for a 3-year term, effective today. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughey, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

Nelson moved and DeNaeyer seconded to appoint Orrin Schaeffer to the Board of Adjustments for a 3-year term, effective today. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughey. The motion carried.

The board recessed from 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The board recessed from regular session to convene as Board of Equalization from 1:00 p.m. to 1:12 p.m.

The board discussed the proposal from Zelle Human Resources with the decision that there are other options available, including the support of TCP and the option of having an in-house HR & Payroll Committee. The board discussed the option of legal assistance for the job wage statutes and requirements. No board action was taken.

At 1:43 p.m. the board met with Brad Johnson of Midwest Alarms and Justice Administrator Sharon Hesse to discuss the security system upgrades that need to be made within the Justice Center. Mr. Johnson informed the board they could install and upgrade the controls for the security system and upgrade to an IP modem system. With the updates, Mr. Johnson estimated 80% of the equipment already installed could be used. The system currently used by the Justice Center has not been maintained and updated since 2011. Mr. Johnson will gather information needed from the Justice Center and will present the Board with quotes in a couple weeks. No board action was taken.

At 2:30 p.m. the board met with Caleb Johnson of J13 Enterprises LLC to discuss budget preparation options. Mr. Johnson informed the board he would communicate with each department to gather information about their respected budgets and would send out preliminary budget documents on May 15, 2025. Mr. Johnson presented the Board with a yearly contract for his services, with the option of a 3-year contract with a one-time fee of \$800 to rebuild the budget documents for his system, and a yearly fee of \$4,100 for the preparation of the county budget. The board met with County Attorney Eric Scott via phone to review the contract. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to enter a 3-year contract with J13 Enterprises LLC as presented based on professional services agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughey. The motion carried.

McConaughey moved and Nelson seconded to approve claims as presented. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughey, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	189,948.23	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the General Fund in the amount of			<b>\$189,948.23</b>
<b>GENERAL</b>			
Alcohol Countermeasure System	Services		\$139.80
Ameritas Life Insurance Corp	Withholdings/Retirement		\$338.42
Anderson Electric Inc	Services		\$254.90
Wade Andrews	Reimbursement		\$231.00
Applied Connective	Services		\$5,025.65
Benchmark Government	Services		\$226.10
Bizco Technologies	Services		\$6,538.60
Black Hills Chemical	Services		\$399.21
Blue Cross Blue Shield	Health Insurance Administration Fees		\$15.00
Bomgaars	Services		\$30.97
Boyd's Network Solutions	Services		\$70.00
Buckles Fuel Service	Services		\$109.22
Centurylink	Services		\$2,008.07

Cherry County Court	Services	\$175.00
Cherry County Hospital	Services	\$6,343.00
Cherry County Sheriff	Services	\$457.86
Cherry County Treasurer	Bank Fees	\$10.00
Circle K Motor Company	Services	\$113.54
Clearly Communications	Telephone Service	\$325.17
Comfort Inn-Kearney	Lodging	\$374.85
Contryman Associates	Services	\$19,000.00
CVSOAN Treasurer	Dues/Fees/Training	\$100.00
DAS State Accounting 6506	Services	\$537.60
DAS State Accounting 6507	Services	\$220.55
Dept Correctional Services	Services	\$3,081.82
James Edwards	Reimbursement	\$200.00
EFTPS	Taxes/Withholdings	\$597.52
Firstnet/AT&T Mobility	Services	\$588.52
Jerry Fullerton	Reimbursement	\$115.08
Galls Parent Holdings	Supplies	\$96.76
Michelle Garwood	Reimbursement	\$150.80
Pat Greenough	Reimbursement	\$100.00
GRP & Associates	Services	\$58.00
Timothy Hanson	Equipment	\$2,636.75
Heart City Drug	Supplies	\$31.95
Henderson's IGA Inc	Supplies	\$47.95
Hilton-Lincoln	Lodging	\$110.00
Journal Entry	Refund	-\$150.00
Journal Entry	Insurance	-\$90.16
Johnson Law Office	Clerical Salary/Rent/Telephone/Equipment	\$1,841.48
KVSH Radio	Services	\$99.00
Lake Mac Assessment	Services	\$26,221.00
David Leonard	Gross Wages	\$3,008.12
Marco Technologies	Services	\$222.77
Microfilm Imaging Systems	Services	\$136.00
Mid States Organized Crime Info	Services	\$100.00
AUL Health Benefit Trust	Health Reimbursement Arrangement Funding	\$100.00
Midland Printing	Services	\$231.10
MIPS	Services	\$16,033.62
Motorola Solutions	Services	\$61,188.00
Nebraska Assn of County Treasurers	Dues/Fees/Training	\$75.00
NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings	\$72.07
NK Waste Inc	Services	\$193.00
Office Products	Supplies	\$5,340.23
Albert Osburn	Reimbursement	\$210.00
Outback Screenprinting & Embroidery	Supplies	\$986.39
Pace Underwriters Insurance	Health Claim Funding	\$733.88
Paper Tiger Shredding	Services	\$55.00
Premier Parts & Paint	Services	\$210.00
Presto X	Services	\$114.10
Quadient Finance USA	Services	\$3,100.00
Quadient Leasing	Services	\$1,304.15
Reese Inc	Services	\$1,170.00
Region IV Inc	Services	\$2,626.00
Ron Lower Construction	Services	\$100.00
Sandhill Oil Co	Supplies	\$138.32
Scotty's Ranchland Foods, LLC	Supplies	\$137.43
Cardmember Service	Services	\$214.95
Sennet Duncan Jenkins & Wickham	Services	\$2,176.91
Timeclock Plus	Services	\$4,011.51
Tony's Tire & Auto Repair	Services	\$68.78
True Value	Supplies	\$59.94
Twister Radio	Services	\$198.00
Tyler Technologies	Services	\$449.00
US Cellular	Services	\$59.50
Valentine Dental Clinic	Services	\$216.00
Valentine Midland News	Services	\$156.00
City of Valentine	Utilities	\$4,395.48
West Central Dist Assessors Assn	Dues/Fees/Training	\$25.00
Wex Bank	Services	\$1,900.84
3S Fabrication & Repair	Services	\$225.00
	GROSS TOTAL	\$190,523.07
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$574.84)
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$189,948.23</b>

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	96,016.32	.
and disallowed in the amount of			
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Road Fund in the amount of			\$
<b>ROAD</b>			<b>96,016.32</b>
B L Contracting LLC	Services	\$19,500.00	
Bacon Repair	Services	\$252.00	
Bomgaars	Supplies	\$483.61	

Boardertown Discount Fuel LLC	Services	\$3,140.03
Buche Hardware	Supplies	\$5.99
Buckles Fuel Service	Services	\$6,654.18
Central Valley Ag Cooperative	Services	\$3,125.54
Cherry County Implement	Services	\$1,734.10
Circle K Motor Company	Services	\$4,689.84
Consolidated Telephone	Services	\$286.78
Custer Public Power District	Services	\$196.84
Daly Enterprises	Services	\$103.00
Danielski Farms	Services	\$14,685.85
DAS State Accounting Central Finance	Services	\$27.70
Dooley Oil Inc	Services	\$1,105.99
Great Plains Communications	Services	\$321.17
Great Plains Health	Services	\$28.00
Hometown Lumber	Services	\$315.32
Interstate Battery System	Services	\$166.95
J&J Trailer Sales	Services	\$1,609.25
Josh Whipple Trucking	Services	\$3,101.70
KBR Rural Public Power District	Services	\$754.08
Kimball Midwest	Services	\$1,346.66
MARC/Mid American Research Chemical	Services	\$237.96
Martin Auto Parts II	Services	\$1,121.52
Medical Enterprises	Services	\$108.00
Village of Merriman	Services	\$127.90
Mips Inc	Services	\$180.00
Mullen Auto & Diesel	Services	\$1,707.26
Village of Mullen	Services	\$144.00
Neal Oil & Auto Center	Services	\$770.00
Nebraska Machinery Company	Services	\$11,234.57
Nebraska Public Power District	Services	\$317.62
Nebraska Truck Center	Services	\$496.43
NK Waste Inc	Services	\$256.00
Office Products	Supplies	\$65.48
Ogallala Community Hospital	Services	\$40.00
The Parts Company	Supplies	\$1,092.08
Terry Pearman	Reimbursement	\$250.00
Perrett Construction LTD	Services	\$595.12
Platte Valley Communications Inc	Services	\$323.75
Powerplan	Services	\$1,774.99
Prema	Services	\$163.43
Quadient Finance	Supplies	\$300.00
Reese Inc	Supplies	\$2,107.44
Sandhill Oil Company	Services	\$6,730.35
Truck Center Companies	Services	\$256.76
True Value Hardware	Services	\$42.98
City of Valentine	Services	\$1,407.60
3s Fabrication & Repair	Services	\$530.50
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$96,016.32</b>

Claims were presented in the amount of \$ 5,192.22 .  
 and disallowed in the amount of \$ - .  
 A warrant was ordered drawn on the Visitor Promotion Fund in the amount of \$ 5,192.22

**VISITOR PROMOTION**

Great Plains Communication	Services	\$179.76
Tony Hanson	Services	\$100.00
Hollman Media LLC	Services	\$360.00
Valentine Midland News	Services	\$66.00
Office Products	Supplies	\$46.23
Sparks Spurs	Grant	\$4,000.00
Valentine Rotary Club	Dues/Fees	\$102.00
City of Valentine	Services	\$338.23

Claims were presented in the amount of \$ 844.50 .  
 and disallowed in the amount of \$ - .  
 A warrant was ordered drawn on the Register of Deeds P&M Fund in the amount of \$ 844.50

**REGISTER OF DEEDS P&M**

Spectra Associates	Supplies	\$ 844.50
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$844.50</b>

Claims were presented in the amount of \$ 11,254.91 .  
 and disallowed in the amount of \$ - .  
 A warrant was ordered drawn on the Health Insurance Claims Fund in the amount of \$ 11,254.91

**EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE CLAIMS**

Cherry County Clerk	Health Insurance Claims	\$11,254.91
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,254.91</b>

Claims were presented in the amount of \$ 10,001.19 .  
 and disallowed in the amount of \$ - .  
 A warrant was ordered drawn on the Bookmobile Fund in the amount of \$ 10,001.19

**BOOKMOBILE**

Valentine Public Library Bookmobile TOTAL \$ \$10,001.19  
10,001.19

Claims were presented in the amount of \$ 1,094.15 .  
and disallowed in the amount of \$ - .  
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Emergency Management Fund in the amount of \$ 1,094.15

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Jessica Coyle Reimbursement \$588.00  
Firstnet Services \$53.73  
KBR Public Power District Services \$104.44  
Nebraska Assn of Emergency Mgt Dues/Fees \$110.00  
Office Products Supplies \$39.80  
Prema Services \$198.18  
TOTAL \$1,094.15

Claims were presented in the amount of \$ 19,084.40 .  
and disallowed in the amount of \$ - .  
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Inheritance Tax Fund in the amount of \$ 19,084.40

**INHERITANCE TAX**

Bizco Technologies Services \$19,084.40  
TOTAL \$19,084.40

Claims were presented in the amount of \$ 266.02 .  
and disallowed in the amount of \$ - .  
A warrant was ordered drawn on the 911 Emergency Services Fund in the amount of \$ 266.02

**911 EMERGENCY SERVICES (2910)**

Centurylink Services \$266.02  
TOTAL \$266.02

Claims were presented in the amount of \$ 1,140.94 .  
and disallowed in the amount of \$ - .  
A warrant was ordered drawn on the 911 Wireless Service Fund in the amount of \$ 1,140.94

**911 WIRELESS SERVICE (2913)**

Great Plains Communications Inc Services \$163.34  
OPTK Networks Services \$977.60

Claims were presented in the amount of \$ 4,264.75 .  
and disallowed in the amount of \$ - .  
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Courthouse (Special Building) Fund in the amount of \$ 4,264.75

**Courthouse (Special Building)**

Heart City Plumbing & Heating Services \$4,264.75  
TOTAL \$4,264.75

At 3:59 p.m. Chairman McConaughey adjourned the meeting.

State of Nebraska, )  
) SS.  
County of Cherry, )

I, Samantha Leonard, the undersigned County Clerk of Cherry County, Nebraska, do hereby certify the foregoing minutes are true and are part of the official records of this office. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 25<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Samantha Leonard  
Cherry County Clerk

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Mike McConaughey, Chairperson  
Cherry County Board of Commissioners

## BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MINUTES February 11, 2025

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened as a Board of Equalization on February 11, 2025 in the Commissioner Meeting Room of the Cherry County Courthouse, as per notice published January 29, 2025 in the Valentine Midland News, with the agenda being on file in the office of the County Clerk. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairman McConaughey. Present were Commissioners Mike McConaughey, Martin DeNaeyer, Nina Nelson, County Clerk Samantha Leonard, and County Assessor Melissa Bancroft. The Open Meetings Act Poster was acknowledged by Chairman McConaughey.

No comments from the public were received during the allotted time.

The board reviewed the Lake Mac Assessments Contract Addendum with Assessor Bancroft. Assessor Bancroft informed the board that the addendum is for the pickup review work not completed in 2024 for Crookston, Kilgore, Nenzel, Wood Lake and Brownlee. Because of the lack of staff and time, the review of these villages is not possible, and the proposal is to complete the pickup work before the March 19, 2025 deadline instead of reviewing the villages. This will postpone the review of the villages mentioned for this assessment year. Nelson moved and DeNaeyer seconded to accept the Lake Mac Assessments Contract Addendum as presented by Assessor Bancroft and authorize the Chairman to sign. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughey, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

At 1:12 p.m. Chairman McConaughey adjourned the meeting.

State of Nebraska, )  
  ) SS.  
County of Cherry, )

I, Samantha Leonard, the undersigned County Clerk of Cherry County, Nebraska, do hereby certify the foregoing minutes are true and are part of the official records of this office. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 25<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025.

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Samantha Leonard  
Cherry County Clerk

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Mike McConaughey, Chairperson  
Cherry County Board of Commissioners