## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES February 25, 2025

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session on February 25, 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 10:00 a.m. by Chairman McConaughey. Roll call was taken. Present for the meeting were Commissioners Martin DeNaeyer, Nina Nelson, Mike McConaughey, and County Clerk Samantha Leonard. The Open Meetings Act Poster was acknowledged by Chairman McConaughey and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Board of Commissioners' regular meeting minutes from February 11, 2025 were read. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to approve minutes as read. Roll call vote: Aye — DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughey. The motion carried.

The Board of Equalization meeting minutes from February 11, 2025 were read. Nelson moved and McConaughey seconded to approve the minutes with noted corrections. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughey, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

The Board of Commissioners' special meeting minutes from February 24, 2025 regarding the Cherry County Comprehensive Plan Workshop were read. McConaughey moved and Nelson seconded to approved minutes as read. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughey, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

Comments from the public were received during the allotted time.

Claims were presented in the amount of \$

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

261.380.61

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$ 261,380.61	
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Gen	eral Fund in the amount of	\$ 261,380.61
GENERAL FUND		
AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	\$2,759.54
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$19,260.57
Blue Cross Blue Shield	Health Insurance Administration Fees	\$162.68
Cherry County Health Account	Health Claims Funding	\$40,499.00
Delta Dental of Nebraska	Withholdings/Insurance	\$2,199.62
EFTPS	Withholdings/Taxes	\$33,457.21
General Collections	Garnishment	\$472.22
AUL Health Benefit Trust	Health Reimbursement Arrangement Funding	\$3,000.00
NE Department of Revenue	Withholdings/Taxes	\$4,855.55
Pace Underwriters Insurance	Health Insurance Funding	\$21,800.24
Quadient Finance USA	Services	\$200.00
Eric Scott Law	Clerical Salary/Rent/Telephone/Equipment	\$5,484.05
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance	\$577.96
Andre, Andrea	Gross Wages	\$3,651.79
Bancroft, Melissa	Gross Salary	\$4,929.21
Blume, Ashley	Gross Salary	\$3,693.50
Brockley, Billie	Gross Wages	\$3,578.14
Buechle, Shelbie	Gross Wages	\$4,114.14
Coates, Sonia	Gross Wages	\$3,624.23
Daugherty, Betty	Gross Wages	\$3,087.00
DeNaeyer, Martin	Gross Salary	\$2,012.50
Dobbins, Cynthia	Gross Wages	\$2,975.67
Duffield, Janette	Gross Wages	\$3,182.44
Froning, Ellen	Gross Wages	\$3,981.23
Goodrich, Dustina	Gross Wages	\$2,907.69
Goodrich, Weston	Gross Wages	\$4,156.57
Greenough, Pat	Gross Wages	\$3,924.69
Hamlin, Ashtyn	Gross Wages	\$2,201.21
Hammond, Kathy	Gross Salary	\$4,929.21
Hanson, Jessica	Gross Wages	\$4,929.21
Hanson, Timothy	Gross Salary	\$2,464.60
Hesse, Sharon	Gross Salary	\$5,208.33
Hunt, Clarissa	Gross Wages	\$3,332.11
Jackson, Gary	Gross Wages	\$5,812.02
Johnson, Andrew	Gross Salary	\$3,608.25
Knox, Calvin	Gross Wages	\$4,034.38
Leonard, Samantha	Gross Wages	\$4,929.21
Lopez, Vincent	Gross Wages	\$1,557.68
Lutter, Tammy	Gross Wages	\$2,941.89

McConaughey, Michael McSweeney, Ryan Nelson, Nina Ormesher, Katie Osborne, Joanie Osburn, Albert Peterson, Heather	Gross Salary Gross Wages Gross Salary Gross Wages Gross Wages Gross Salary Gross Wages		\$2,012.50 \$4,794.66 \$2,012.50 \$2,455.64 \$673.12 \$5,087.02 \$3,595.31
Pier, Shelley Price, Cassandra Red Fish, Cheyenne Renning, Maxwell	Gross Wages Gross Wages Gross Wages Gross Wages		\$3,105.10 \$4,098.61 \$4,391.55 \$4,932.28
Scott, Adelicia Scott, Eric Starr, Christopher Stec, Nicholas	Gross Wages Gross Salary Gross Wages Gross Wages		\$3,844.65 \$5,551.16 \$4,634.85 \$4,514.26
Stoeger, David Stolzenburg, Jane Wickman, Erick Young, Sarah	Gross Wages Gross Wages Gross Wages Gross Wages GROSS TOTA	ΔI	\$4,479.84 \$4,246.46 \$5,314.14 \$2,020.55 \$302,259.74
Claims were presented in the amount o	Adjustment for employees' share of withholding NET TOTA	gs	(\$40,879.13) <b>\$261,380.61</b>
and disallowed in the amount of  A warrant was ordered drawn on the Ro	\$	\$	112,994.28
ROAD FUND AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance		\$1,924.07
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement		\$8,259.07
Blue Cross Blue Shield Cherry County Health Account	Health Insurance Administration Fees Health Claim Funding		\$240.00 \$17,943.26
Delta Dental of Nebraska	Withholdings/Insurance		\$826.53
EFTPS	Taxes/Withholdings		\$14,899.83
Legal Shield	Services		\$33.90
AUL Health Benefit Trust	Health Reimbursement Arrangement Funding	3	\$1,350.00
NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings		\$2,176.08
Pace Underwriters Insurance Vision Service Plan	Health Claim Funding Withholdings/Insurance		\$9,568.08 \$225.21
Buechle, Jordan	Gross Wages		\$3,787.00
Bunner, Bradley	Gross Wages		\$3,941.96
Cash, Tyler	Gross Wages		\$3,973.58
Coetzee, Daniel	Gross Salany		\$3,805.52
Collier, David Egger, Garrett	Gross Salary Gross Wages		\$5,000.00 \$4,089.00
Fernau, Bradly	Gross Wages		\$3,498.66
Graeff, Randy	Gross Wages		\$3,938.48
Hampton, Donald	Gross Wages		\$1,477.44
Hart Benjamin McWhirter, Bentz	Gross Wages Gross Wages		\$736.92 \$3,954.71
Osburn, Jay D	Gross Salary		\$5,750.00
Pearman, Terry	Gross Wages		\$3,897.28
Reese, Kay	Gross Wages		\$1,961.02
Songer, LeRoy Szakacs, Brye	Gross Wages Gross Wages		\$3,708.99 \$3,865.91
Szakacs, Ryan	Gross Wages		\$3,762.43
Stichka, Steven	Gross Salary		\$5,000.00
Thompson, Shawn	Gross Wages		\$3,894.80
Vest, Daniel	Gross Wages GROSS TOTA	NI.	\$4,170.00 \$131,659.73
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholding		(\$18,665.45)
	NET TOTA		\$112,994.28
Claims were presented in the amount o			
VISITORS PROMOTION FUND	\$ - sitors Promotion Fund in the amount of	\$	5,987.97
AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance		97.37
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement Delta Dental of Nebraska	Withholdings/Retirement Withholdings/Insurance		\$590.06 \$62.83
EFTPS	Taxes/Withholdings		\$987.22
NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings		\$115.01

Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance		\$31.84
Braun, Regina	Gross Wages		\$3,832.61
Graeff, Lynn	Gross Wages		\$1,412.34
	GRO	SS TOTAL	\$7,129.28
	Adjustment for employees' share of with	nholdings	(\$1,141.31)
	N	ET TOTAL	\$5,987.97
Claims were presented in the amount of	f \$ 2,	.134.93	
and disallowed in the amount of	\$		
A warrant was ordered drawn on the He	ealth Claims Fund in the amount of	\$	2,134.93
HEALTH CLAIMS FUND		•	·
Cherry County Clerk	Health Insurance Claims		\$2,134.93
		TOTAL	\$2,134.93
Claims were presented in the amount of	f é	.091.92	
Claims were presented in the amount of and disallowed in the amount of	f \$ 9, \$	091.92 .	
	ب nergency Management Fund in the amour	nt of \$	9,091.92
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND	0 , 0	, it oi	5,051.52
AFLAC	, Withholdings/Insurance		143.39
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement		\$679.12
Blue Cross Blue Shield	Health Insurance Administration Fees		\$15.00
Cherry County Health Account	Health Claim Funding		\$1,417.96
Delta Dental of Nebraska	Withholdings/Insurance		\$80.24
EFTPS	Taxes/Withholdings		\$1,330.59
AUL Health Benefit Trust	Health Reimbursement Arrangement	Funding	\$100.00
NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings	T dilaing	\$182.38
Pace Underwriters Insurance	Health Claim Funding		\$733.88
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance		\$31.84
Coyle, Jessica	Gross Salary		\$4,888.00
Reese, Kay	Gross Wages		\$1,148.65
, -,			, ,
	GRO	SS TOTAL	\$10,751.05
	Adjustment for employees' share of with	nholdings	(\$1,659.13)
	N	ET TOTAL	\$9,091.92

At 10:21 a.m. the board met with Cherry County Hospital CEO Jim Bargen re: a hospital update. Mr. Bargen updated the board on a new strategic plan for the next 3-4 years, financial resilience, growth, and community engagement, infrastructure and technology upgrades, recruiting, leadership development programs in March, a new online bill program coming in March, and currently working on 2026 budget.

At 10:30 a.m. Jonnie Kusek with Open Plains Transit presented the board with a request for consideration of local matching funds to support the FTA/NDOT Public Transportation Operating Assistance Applications for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. The board discussed outstanding amounts, anticipation of payments coming in from the State of Nebraska, Tourism assistance, stop of business concerns with Ms. Kusek. Ms. Kusek informed the board they would need commitment to apply for funds to leverage state and federal funds by the March 21, 2025 deadline. The Board informed Ms. Kusek they would need assurance OPT will be receiving all their outstanding funds from the state and more information, data, and an audit of their previous year budget to clarify expenditures of funds received from the County in 2023 before they would consider matching funds for 2026-2027. No board action was taken.

At 11:00 a.m. Chairman McConaughey opened the Public Hearing for CUP #004-24 Sharp's Outfitters LLC, RV Electrical Hookups on Existing Campground. Rita Rowan, owner of Sharp's Outfitters LLC, was present and informed the board they are wanting to place 10 more sites on the existing campground site. Zoning Administrator Jane Stolzenburg informed the board that their application met all zoning regulations, and the Planning & Zoning Board voted 6-0 to approve CUP #004/24. At 11:04 a.m. Chairman McConaughey closed the Public Hearing. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughey, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

Nelson moved and McConaughey seconded Resolution #Z-97 to approve CUP #004/24. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughey, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

Road Foreman JD Osburn updated the board on fixing broken equipment from the cold weather the last couple weeks. Commissioner DeNaeyer updated on Road District 2 regarding projects to do and the department using the good weather to work on machinery. Commissioner McConaughey updated on Road District 3 regarding purchase of a low-boy trailer, plow pickup repairs, and maintenance being done on equipment.

Highway Superintendent JD Osburn updated the board on the 1- and 6-year Highway Improvement Public Hearing set for March 11, 2025 and JD and the Foreman have been working together to have everything prepared for the Hearing.

The board discussed with Road Foreman JD Osburn a date and time to open bids for a used motor grader with specs of 250 HP with 4,000-8,000 hours. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to set the date and time for March 25, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. to open bids for a used motor grader with specs to be set by Road Foreman JD Osburn. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughey. The motion carried.

McConaughey moved and Nelson seconded to appoint Caleb Johnson with J13 Enterprises LLC, as the 2025 Cherry County Budget Preparer. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughey, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

Amy Tharp with CNEDD updated the board on a broadband grant project they are working on in Cherry, Brown and Custer County to provide residents with more options for broadband providers. Ms. Tharp asked the board if they would consider presenting a letter of support for the grant and it was discussed that Commissioner Nelson to be the point of contact.

Emergency Management Director Jessica Coyle provided the board with an update re: CWDG, server upgrades, North Central 911 meetings, solocom contract extension, 911 recording system is at end of life and presented the board with a new proposal from Motorola. Ms. Coyle informed the board the initial cost would be approximately \$45,000 with a 3-year warranty of approximately \$9,000/year and all expenses would be paid out of the E911 Funds.

At 11:30 a.m. the Board met with NACO Benefit Services to discuss health insurance reports for the year and upcoming renewal in July 2025. Mike Boden informed the board they would be able to present the board with self-funded and fully funded options 90 days prior to the July 2025 renewal date. The board also discussed a BlueFlex Program with NACO Benefit Services for prescriptions, so the claim does not come back to Cherry County. BlueCross BlueShield will reach out to members regarding the BlueFlex program. NACO Benefit Services informed the board our stop loss carrier has approximately \$50,000 for pending claims to reimburse the county for.

The board recessed from 12:05 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

At 1:00 p.m. the board reconvened and Chairman McConaughey excused Commissioner DeNaeyer for the remainder of the meeting. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughey, Nelson. Absent – DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

The board recessed from 1:01 p.m. to 1:08 p.m. to convene as Board of Equalization.

The board discussed Contryman Associate, P.C. engagement contract. McConaughey moved and Nelson seconded to accept the contract for the ARPA Funds Exam and authorize the Chairman to sign. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughey. Absent – DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

The board discussed agenda item Set Date & Time for Cherry County Comprehensive Plan Decision. It was decided to wait to set a date and time until the board has received communication from Keith Marvin re: the concerns discussed from the workshop on February 24, 2025. No Board action was taken.

The board recessed from 1:32 p.m. to 1:33 p.m. to convene as a Board of Corrections.

At 2:00 p.m. the board met with Keya Paha County Commissioners via phone to discuss dispatching for Keya Paha County. The board discussed options and additional costs that will be incurred. The board proposed \$20,000/year for services as it was discussed that was the current Keya Paha County Dispatching budget. An upgrade to the Cherry County tower to reach the Mills and Springview towers was discussed with a cost of \$7,500 one-time fee from Keya Paha County and a \$2,000 annual fee covered by E911 funds for additional memory storage for radio traffic recordings. Keya Paha County Commissioners proposed a \$6,000 annual fee for services. The board informed Keya Paha County Commissioners they would like to speak with our Justice Administrator Sharon Hesse for more details and information on extra workload and expenses that would incur with the transition. The board asked Ms. Hesse to compile information with itemized costs for additional costs including administrative time, wages, permits, warrants, etc. Ms. Hesse said she would compile information to prepare the board to meet with Keya Paha County Commissioners again on March 11, 2025.

At 2:48 p.m. Chairman McConaughey adjourned the meeting.

Samantha Leonard

**Cherry County Clerk** 

State of Nebraska,	)
	) SS.
County of Cherry,	)
minutes are true and	I, the undersigned County Clerk of Cherry County, Nebraska, do hereby certify the foregoing dare part of the official records of this office. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my seal this 11 <sup>th</sup> day of March 2025.

Mike McConaughey, Chairperson Cherry County Board of Commissioners

## **BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MINUTES** February 25, 2025

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened as a Board of Equalization on February 25, 2025 in the Commissioner Meeting Room of the Cherry County Courthouse, as per notice published February 12, 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 Nina Nelson, Mike McConaughey, County Clerk Samantha Leonard, and County Assessor Melissa Bancroft. Commissioner Martin DeNaeyer had an excused absence. The Open Meetings Act Poster was acknowledged by Chairman McConaughey.

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

Assessor Bancroft informed the board of new Form 451 – Permissive Exemption Applications and needing to
schedule a date and time for the Public Hearing for each exemption application. McConaughey moved and Nelson
seconded to set the date and time for Permissive Exemption Public Hearings for March 25, 2025 for the following
times:

		each exemption application. McConaughey moved and Nelson
	e date and time for Permissive Exe	emption Public Hearings for March 25, 2025 for the following
times:		
•	· Cherry Hills Estates LLC	
1:20 p.m. –	<ul> <li>MyBridge/VSS Catholic Commun</li> </ul>	nications
1:30 p.m	Valentine Good Samaritan Hous	ng Inc/Prairie Estates
Roll call vote: Aye –	Nelson, McConaughey. Absent –	DeNaeyer. The motion carried
At 1:08 p.m. Chairm	nan McConaughey adjourned the	meeting.
State of Nebraska,	)	
	) SS.	
County of Cherry,	)	
minutes are true an		of Cherry County, Nebraska, do hereby certify the foregoing of this office. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my is.
Samantha Leonard Cherry County Cle		Mike McConaughey, Chairperson Cherry County Board of Commissioners

## BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MINUTES February 25, 2025

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened as a Board of Corrections on February 25, 2025 in the Commissioner Meeting Room of the Cherry County Courthouse, as per notice published February 12, 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 1:32 p.m. by Chairman McConaughey. Present were Commissioners Nina Nelson, Mike McConaughey, and County Clerk Samantha Leonard. Commissioner DeNaeyer had an excused absence. The Open Meetings Act Poster was acknowledged by Chairman McConaughey.

was acknowledged by Chairman McConaughey.	, , ,
No public comment was received during the allott	ed time.
Justice Center Administrator Sharon Hesse update	ed the board via email.
At 1:33 p.m. Chairman McConaughey adjourned the	he meeting.
State of Nebraska, ) ) SS.	
County of Cherry, )	
	erk of Cherry County, Nebraska, do hereby certify the foregoing rds of this office. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my 025.
Samantha Leonard	Mike McConaughey, Chairperson
Cherry County Clerk	Cherry County Board of Commissioners