

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 McConaughy. Roll call was taken. Present for the meeting were Commissioners Martin DeNaeyer, Nina Nelson, Mike McConaughy, and 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 February 11, 2025 were read. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to approve minutes as read. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughy. The motion carried.

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

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

Comments from the public were received during the allotted time.

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

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	261,380.61	.	
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.	
A warrant was ordered drawn on the General 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	Gross Salary	\$2,012.50
McSweeney, Ryan	Gross Wages	\$4,794.66
Nelson, Nina	Gross Salary	\$2,012.50
Ormesher, Katie	Gross Wages	\$2,455.64
Osborne, Joanie	Gross Wages	\$673.12
Osburn, Albert	Gross Salary	\$5,087.02
Peterson, Heather	Gross Wages	\$3,595.31
Pier, Shelley	Gross Wages	\$3,105.10
Price, Cassandra	Gross Wages	\$4,098.61
Red Fish, Cheyenne	Gross Wages	\$4,391.55
Renning, Maxwell	Gross Wages	\$4,932.28
Scott, Adelmica	Gross Wages	\$3,844.65
Scott, Eric	Gross Salary	\$5,551.16
Starr, Christopher	Gross Wages	\$4,634.85
Stec, Nicholas	Gross Wages	\$4,514.26
Stoeger, David	Gross Wages	\$4,479.84
Stolzenburg, Jane	Gross Wages	\$4,246.46
Wickman, Erick	Gross Wages	\$5,314.14
Young, Sarah	Gross Wages	\$2,020.55
	GROSS TOTAL	\$302,259.74
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$40,879.13)
	NET TOTAL	\$261,380.61

Claims were presented in the amount of \$ 112,994.28 .
and disallowed in the amount of \$ - .
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Road Fund in the amount of \$ 112,994.28

ROAD FUND

AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	\$1,924.07
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$8,259.07
Blue Cross Blue Shield	Health Insurance Administration Fees	\$240.00
Cherry County Health Account	Health Claim Funding	\$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	\$1,350.00
NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings	\$2,176.08
Pace Underwriters Insurance	Health Claim Funding	\$9,568.08
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance	\$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 Wages	\$3,805.52
Collier, David	Gross Salary	\$5,000.00
Egger, Garrett	Gross Wages	\$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	Gross Wages	\$736.92
McWhirter, Bentz	Gross Wages	\$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	Gross Wages	\$3,708.99
Szakacs, Brye	Gross Wages	\$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	\$4,170.00
	GROSS TOTAL	\$131,659.73
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$18,665.45)
	NET TOTAL	\$112,994.28

Claims were presented in the amount of \$ 5,987.97 .
and disallowed in the amount of \$ - .
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Visitors Promotion Fund in the amount of \$ 5,987.97

VISITORS PROMOTION FUND

AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	97.37
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$590.06
Delta Dental of Nebraska	Withholdings/Insurance	\$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
	GROSS TOTAL	\$7,129.28
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$1,141.31)
	NET TOTAL	\$5,987.97

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	2,134.93	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Health 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	\$	9,091.92	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Emergency Management Fund in the amount of	\$		9,091.92

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND

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	\$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
	GROSS TOTAL	\$10,751.05
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$1,659.13)
	NET TOTAL	\$9,091.92

At 10:21 a.m. the board met with Cherry County Hospital CEO Jim Barga re: a hospital update. Mr. Barga 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 McConaughy 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 McConaughy closed the Public Hearing. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughy, DeNaeyer. The motion carried. Nelson moved and McConaughy seconded Resolution #Z-97 to approve CUP #004/24. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughy, 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 McConaughy 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, McConaughy. The motion carried.

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:

- 1:15 p.m. - Cherry Hills Estates LLC
- 1:20 p.m. – MyBridge/VSS Catholic Communications
- 1:30 p.m. - Valentine Good Samaritan Housing Inc/Prairie Estates

Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughey. Absent – DeNaeyer. The motion carried

At 1:08 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 11th day of March 2025.

Samantha Leonard
Cherry County Clerk

Mike McConaughey, Chairperson
Cherry County Board of Commissioners

