

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

March 25, 2025

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session on March 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 March 11, 2025 were read. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to approve minutes as read. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughy. The motion carried.

Comments from the public were received during the allotted time.

Pat Greenough informed the board that one of the boilers is no longer working in the courthouse as the fire chamber breached. Mr. Greenough presented the board with one replacement bid and one bid to repair the fire chamber within the boiler from Heart City Plumbing. The board asked Mr. Greenough to collect an additional bid from another company to be presented at the next meeting. No action was taken.

Veterans Service Secretary Ashley Blume-Vackiner discussed the appointment and endorsement process with the board. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to accept the Veterans Service Committee's recommendation to appoint Monty Krueger to the Veterans Service Committee for the next 5-year term beginning July 1, 2025. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughy, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

Road Foreman JD Osburn presented the board with a road update re: road maintenance and equipment repairs and maintenance.

Zoning Administrator Jane Stolzenburg presented the board with an update re: NPZA conference attendance, minimal email communication from Keith Marvin for the Comprehensive Plan changes, Zoning Regulation update progress, and 14 permits submitted in 2025 thus far.

The board met with members of the Ag Society and Visitor Promotions Board re: a grant the Visitor Promotions Board approved for the Ag Society. The Visitor Promotions Board members stated they would like the \$20,000 grant to be used for the construction of a bathhouse. The Ag Society members confirmed it will be used for the bathhouse, and if approved by the Commissioners, their estimated date of completion is Fall 2025. The Board expressed their concerns of transparency, following regulations, and communication from the Ag Society. The Board asked the Ag Society to submit more data, meeting minutes with a vote of the project the grant will be used for, an audit, and financial reports to the board at the next meeting, before they are willing to move forward with the approval of the Visitor Promotion Grant. No action was taken.

At 11:00 a.m. sealed bids were opened for one motor grader for Road District 1. Bids were received from NMC Cat and Murphy Tractor listed as follows in the order they were received:

1. NMC Cat
 - a. 2014 12M3AWD Motor Grader – 9,660 hours - \$159,500.00
 - b. 2018 12M3AWD Motor Grader – 7,411 hours - \$180,600.00
 - c. 2018 12M3AWD Motor Grader – 7,640 hours - \$184,900.00
 - d. 2016 12M3AWD Motor Grader – 11,117 hours - \$135,000.00
2. Murphy Tractor
 - a. 2019 John Deere 772G Motor Grader – 6,727 hours - \$ 262,000.00
 - b. 2015 John Deere 672G Motor Grader – 7,763 hours - \$136,500.00

The board reviewed the bids and discussed specs and warranties with Road Foreman JD Osburn. Nelson expressed her interest in financing a portion of the bid and will present loan documents at the next meeting. Nelson moved and McConaughy seconded to accept the bid from Murphy Tractor for the 2015 John Deere 672G Motor Grader for \$136,500, contingent upon inspection by Murphy Tractor. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughy, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

The board reviewed Resolution #2025-02 to reimburse the Inheritance Tax Fund for the difference of the Sheriff's Department grant with the State of Nebraska and the total cost for the equipment purchased. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to approve Resolution #2025-02 Fund Transfer for \$4,711.11 and authorize the Chairman to sign. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughy. The motion carried.

The board reviewed the Cherry County Extension Board Appointment recommendations for the areas of Western Cherry County, Eastern Cherry County, and the Valentine Area. McConaughy moved and Nelson seconded to appoint Dale Bowlin to represent Western Cherry County for a 3-year term and Victoria Simmons to represent Eastern Cherry County to fill the vacancy of Edward Heinert until December 31, 2025. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughy, DeNaeyer. The motion carried. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to reappoint Jan Smith to a second term of 3 years for the Valentine Area. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughy, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

The board discussed starting pay rates with the Road Foreman re: raising the starting rate, pay scales, CDL requirements, retention concerns, changing hours worked per week from 40 to 45 hours, performance evaluations, and previous raises given. No action was taken.

The board recessed from 12:20 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The board convened as Board of Equalization from 1:01 p.m. to 1:39 p.m.

The board convened as Board of Corrections from 1:39 p.m. to 1:47 p.m.

Emergency Management Director Jessica Coyle provided an update re: Box Butte Dam safety meeting attendance, safety prevention week, hosting a storm spotter training, PCAP funding completion & submission, and attending the Nebraska Association of Emergency Management conference in April.

The board met via Zoom with the Keya Paha County Commissioners to discuss the Cherry County - Keya Paha County Dispatching Interlocal Agreement re: changes of wording to include emergency services instead of employees, Keya Paha County's responsibility to maintain their own vehicle equipment & towers, etc for Cherry County dispatch to be able to reach them. County Attorney Eric Scott informed the boards Cherry County is not liable if Cherry County cannot dispatch based on failure of Keya Paha County equipment. Corrections will be made to the interlocal agreement by the County Attorney, and he will disperse agreement documents to both boards for signatures at their next meeting. Nelson moved and DeNaeyer seconded to adopt the Cherry County – Keya Paha County Interlocal Agreement for Dispatching with noted corrections made by the County Attorney, services to begin May 1, 2025, and authorize the Chairman to sign. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughy. The motion carried.

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

Claims were presented in the amount of \$ 265,980.44
 and disallowed in the amount of \$ -
 A warrant was ordered drawn on the General Fund in the amount of \$265,980.44

GENERAL FUND

AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	\$2,823.76
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$20,188.23
Blue Cross Blue Shield	Health Insurance Administration Fees	\$605.00
Cherry County Health Account	Health Claims Funding	\$41,068.14
Delta Dental of Nebraska	Withholdings/Insurance	\$2,517.29
EFTPS	Withholdings/Taxes	\$35,079.13
General Collections	Garnishment	\$483.42
Journal Entry	Void Ck# 25025648	(\$15.00)
Journal Entry	Void Ck# 25025693	(\$733.88)
Journal Entry	Correction 24120002	\$90.16
AUL Health Benefit Trust	Health Reimbursement Arrangement Funding	\$3,150.00
NE Department of Revenue	Withholdings/Taxes	\$5,154.59
Pace Underwriters Insurance	Health Insurance Funding	\$22,099.32
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance	\$577.96
Andre, Andrea	Gross Wages	\$3,665.55
Bancroft, Kaetryn	Gross Wages	\$328.00
Bancroft, Melissa	Gross Salary	\$4,929.21
Blume, Ashley	Gross Wages	\$3,873.53
Brockley, Billie	Gross Wages	\$4,000.00
Buechle, Shelbie	Gross Wages	\$4,438.29
Coates, Sonia	Gross Wages	\$3,055.98
Daugherty, Betty	Gross Wages	\$2,595.60
DeNaeyer, Martin	Gross Salary	\$2,012.50
Dobbins, Cynthia	Gross Wages	\$2,900.89
Duffield, Janette	Gross Wages	\$4,232.65
Froning, Ellen	Gross Wages	\$6,246.50
Goodrich, Dustina	Gross Wages	\$2,912.07
Goodrich, Weston	Gross Wages	\$3,937.50
Greenough, Pat	Gross Wages	\$3,929.94
Hamlin, Ashtyn	Gross Wages	\$4,202.03
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
Hooper, Patrick	Gross Wages	\$421.52
Hunt, Clarissa	Gross Wages	\$3,491.65
Jackson, Gary	Gross Wages	\$5,401.90
Johnson, Andrew	Gross Salary	\$3,608.25
Knox, Calvin	Gross Wages	\$3,874.35
Leonard, Samantha	Gross Wages	\$4,929.21
Lopez, Vincent	Gross Wages	\$2,285.18
Lutter, Tammy	Gross Wages	\$2,902.04
McConaughy, Michael	Gross Salary	\$2,012.50
McSweeney, Ryan	Gross Wages	\$4,753.68
Nelson, Nina	Gross Salary	\$2,012.50

Ormesher, Katie	Gross Wages	\$2,516.95
Osborne, Joanie	Gross Wages	\$729.60
Osburn, Albert	Gross Salary	\$5,087.02
Peterson, Eهران	Gross Wages	\$1,576.97
Peterson, Heather	Gross Wages	\$2,884.61
Pier, Shelley	Gross Wages	\$3,024.77
Price, Cassandra	Gross Wages	\$3,622.08
Red Fish, Cheyenne	Gross Wages	\$4,446.22
Renning, Maxwell	Gross Wages	\$4,775.43
Scott, Adelmicia	Gross Wages	\$3,943.03
Scott, Eric	Gross Salary	\$5,551.16
Starr, Christopher	Gross Wages	\$4,466.94
Stec, Nicholas	Gross Wages	\$3,967.20
Stoeger, David	Gross Wages	\$4,550.01
Stolzenburg, Jane	Gross Wages	\$4,740.67
Wickman, Erick	Gross Wages	\$5,408.77
Young, Sarah	Gross Wages	\$4,009.01

GROSS TOTAL \$308,872.93

Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings (\$42,892.49)

NET TOTAL \$265,980.44

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	119,044.74	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Road Fund in the amount of			\$119,044.74

ROAD FUND

AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	\$1,924.07
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$8,839.99
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	\$16,425.35
Legal Shield	Services	\$33.90
AUL Health Benefit Trust	Health Reimbursement Arrangement Funding	\$1,350.00
NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings	\$2,340.48
Pace Underwriters Insurance	Health Claim Funding	\$9,568.08
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance	\$225.21
Buechle, Jordan	Gross Wages	\$4,338.82
Bunner, Bradley	Gross Wages	\$3,973.58
Bunner, Mikeal	Gross Wages	\$133.00
Cash, Tyler	Gross Wages	\$3,963.04
Coetzee, Daniel	Gross Wages	\$3,712.94
Collier, David	Gross Salary	\$5,000.00
Egger, Garrett	Gross Wages	\$4,152.24
Fernau, Bradly	Gross Wages	\$3,842.37
Graeff, Randy	Gross Wages	\$4,317.18
Hampton, Donald	Gross Wages	\$1,713.42
Hart Benjamin	Gross Wages	\$1,289.61
Licking, Jeffrey	Gross Wages	\$161.28
McWhirter, Bentz	Gross Wages	\$4,154.88
Olson, Arnold	Gross Wages	\$2,234.48
Osburn, Jay D	Gross Salary	\$5,750.00
Pearman, Terry	Gross Wages	\$3,897.28
Reese, Kay	Gross Wages	\$1,928.98
Songer, LeRoy	Gross Wages	\$3,714.12
Szakacs, Brye	Gross Wages	\$4,370.24
Szakacs, Ryan	Gross Wages	\$3,689.04
Stichka, Steven	Gross Salary	\$5,000.00
Thompson, Shawn	Gross Wages	\$4,033.90
Vest, Daniel	Gross Wages	\$4,140.00

GROSS TOTAL \$139,227.27

Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings (\$20,182.53)

NET TOTAL \$119,044.74

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	5,967.70	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Visitors Promotion Fund in the amount of			\$ 5,967.70

VISITORS PROMOTION FUND

AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	97.37
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$588.07
Delta Dental of Nebraska	Withholdings/Insurance	\$62.83
EFTPS	Taxes/Withholdings	\$984.83
NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings	\$114.52
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance	\$31.84
Braun, Regina	Gross Wages	\$3,835.49
Graeff, Lynn	Gross Wages	\$1,391.74

GROSS TOTAL \$7,106.69

Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings (\$1,138.99)

NET TOTAL \$5,967.70

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	51,844.20	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Health Claims Fund in the amount of			\$ 51,844.20

HEALTH CLAIMS FUND

Cherry County Clerk	Health Insurance Claims		\$51,844.20
		TOTAL	\$51,844.20
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	9,125.35	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Emergency Management Fund in the amount of		\$	9,125.35
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND			
AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance		143.39
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement		\$682.41
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		\$1,337.35
AUL Health Benefit Trust	Health Reimbursement Arrangement Funding		\$100.00
NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings		\$183.26
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		\$1,177.87
		GROSS TOTAL	\$10,791.20
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings		(\$1,665.85)
		NET TOTAL	\$9,125.35

At 2:44 p.m. Chairman McConaughy 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 8th day of April 2025.

Samantha Leonard
Cherry County Clerk

Mike McConaughy, Chairperson
Cherry County Board of Commissioners

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MINUTES

March 25, 2025

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened as a Board of Equalization on March 25, 2025 in the Commissioner Meeting Room of the Cherry County Courthouse, as per notice published March 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 1:01 p.m. by Chairman McConaughey. Present were Commissioners Nina Nelson, Mike McConaughey, Martin DeNaeyer, 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.

Assessor Bancroft presented the board with amended Tax List Corrections #8-12, 14-16, 18, 20, 22-24 and new Tax List Corrections #25-26. After review, Nelson moved and DeNaeyer seconded to approve Tax List Corrections #8-12, 14-16, 18, 20, 22-26 as presented by Assessor Bancroft and authorize the Chairman to sign. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughey. The motion carried.

At 1:15 Chairman McConaughey opened the public hearing re: Permissive Exemption Applications. Assessor Bancroft informed the board Cherry Hills Estates LLC application meets all qualifications for approval of 27% based on numbers of Medicaid beds over a 3-year average.

At 1:22 p.m. the public hearing for MyBridge was opened. MyBridge is a Christian radio station that is funded solely by donations, Assessor Bancroft informed the board they are 100% exempt because of the religious aspect.

At 1:30 p.m. the public hearing for Valentine Good Samaritan Housing Inc was opened and Assessor Bancroft informed the board they are a low income & disabled housing facility to anyone 62 years and older, with no assistance provided and therefore do not meet qualifications. At 1:34 p.m. Chairman McConaughey closed the public hearings.

McConaughey moved and DeNaeyer seconded to approve Cherry Hills Estates LLC's application as presented by Assessor Bancroft. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughey, DeNaeyer. The motion carried. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to approve MyBridge's application as presented by Assessor Bancroft and authorize the Chairman to sign. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughey, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried. Nelson moved and DeNaeyer seconded to accept Assessor Bancroft's recommendation to deny Valentine Good Samaritan Housing Inc's application. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughey. The motion carried.

At 1:39 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 8th day of April 2025.

Samantha Leonard
Cherry County Clerk

Mike McConaughey, Chairperson
Cherry County Board of Commissioners

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MINUTES
March 25, 2025

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened as a Board of Corrections on March 25, 2025 in the Commissioner Meeting Room of the Cherry County Courthouse, as per notice published March 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 1:39 p.m. by Chairman McConaughey. Present were Commissioners Nina Nelson, Mike McConaughey, Martin DeNaeyer, County Clerk Samantha Leonard, and Justice Center Administrator Sharon Hesse. The Open Meetings Act Poster was acknowledged by Chairman McConaughey.

No public comment was received during the allotted time.

Justice Center Administrator Sharon Hesse updated the board regarding the staff and jail census, dispatch trainings, and budget concerns with payroll to finish the fiscal year.

At 1:47 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 8th day of April 2025.

Samantha Leonard
Cherry County Clerk

Mike McConaughey, Chairperson
Cherry County Board of Commissioners

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