

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

April 8, 2025

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session on April 8, 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 25, 2025 were read. McConaughy moved and Nelson seconded to approve minutes with noted corrections. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughy. The motion carried.

The Board of Equalization meeting minutes from March 25, 2025 were read. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to approve minutes as read. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughy, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

The Board of Corrections meeting minutes from March 25, 2025 were read. Nelson moved and McConaughy seconded to approve minutes as read. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughy, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

Comments from the public were received during the allotted time.

At 10:15 a.m. the board met with Cherry County Hospital's CEO, Jim Bargaen, for an update and budget approval for fiscal year 2025-2026. Mr. Bargaen presented a budget that projects a slim, but positive operating margin of 0.16%. Nelson moved and McConaughy seconded to approve the Cherry County Hospitals 2025-2026 Budget as presented by CEO Jim Bargaen. Mr. Bargaen also updated the board on recruiting, general surgeon to begin part-time in May, speech pathology services that have begun, filling two open leadership positions, and collaborating with 18 other independent rural hospitals to form a network aimed at securing better contracts and pricing.

Road Foreman JD Osburn updated the board on getting road work completed with the moisture recently received. Foreman Brent Collier updated for District 3 re: clean up of down trees from the storm and taking advantage of the moisture to work on roads. Foreman Steve Stichka updated the board for District 2 re: road fixes, shoulder work, and grader repairs needing completed.

The board discussed bids with District 2 Road Foreman Steve Stichka to replace 2 old wheel loaders with a more updated wheel loader, as getting parts for the old wheel loaders has been an issue. Mr. Stichka presented the board with specs. DeNaeyer moved and McConaughy seconded to authorize Road District 2 Foreman Steve Stichka to put forth specs and advertise for sealed bids to be opened at the Commissioner's regular meeting on April 29, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughy, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

The board discussed loan documents from Security First Bank for the Road District 1 motor grader purchased on March 25, 2025. The loan will be \$34,500, for 18 months, with 3 payments, no prepayment penalty, and with a maturity date of October 1, 2026. DeNaeyer moved and McConaughy seconded to authorize Road District 1 Commissioner Nelson and the chairman to sign the Security First Bank loan documents as presented by Commissioner Nelson for the District 1 Motor Grader purchase. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughy, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

At 10:47 a.m. the board met with Grounds Superintendent Pat Greenough and Tom Monroe with Monroe HVAC for a bid and discussion on the boiler that has failed in the courthouse. Mr. Monroe informed the board boilers don't fail on their own, it is usually because of another factor. Mr. Monroe took water samples of the boiler and high sediment was found in the water samples. Replacing the boiler would not fix the issue and he informed the board to do it correctly to fix the issue, a filtration system would need to be installed to remove the magnitude sediment to clean the boiler. After 1 season of using the boiler, Monroe HVAC would change filters at no cost and do another water sample. The board informed the public that bids were received from Heart City Plumbing at the regular meeting on March 25, 2025 as follows:

1. Replace the boiler (no filtration system included) - \$31,650.00
2. Repair the boiler (no filtration system included) - \$19,750.00

Monroe HVAC bid was received on April 8, 2025 as follows:

1. Replace the boiler with a filtration system included - \$25,755.00

Mr. Monroe informed the board the replacement would take place in Summer 2025, and he would arrange with Pat to have the installation completed.

DeNaeyer moved and McConaughy seconded to accept bid #1301 from Monroe HVAC for the boiler to be replaced with the filtration system installed for \$25,755.00. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughy. The motion carried.

At 11:03 a.m. the board met with Public Service Commission representative, James Almond re: 911 protocol and an update for the Lumin call handling concerns. Currently there is no policy in place for CPR certification for dispatchers; however, the protocol has not changed from previous years. Commissioner Nelson informed the board she would reach out to the Cherry County Hospital for a sign off from a medical professional to be in compliance with the Public Service Commission. Mr. Almond stated if it is completed before the May 13, 2025 meeting, he will close the file, or he is willing to come back to the regular meeting to meet again. No board action taken. Mr. Almond informed the board the state is still working through legal processes with Lumin as Lumin has not provided a contract, as promised. Emergency Management Director Jessica Coyle informed the board they will need to sign a contract extension with Solocom through the end of 2025 because of the contract not received from Lumin. Mr. Almond advised the board this would be in the county's best interest as they are unaware of the future with Lumin.

At 11:27 a.m. the meeting was moved to the Sheriff's Conference Room. At 11:29 a.m. the meeting was called back to order by Chairman McConaughy.

The board discussed budget concerns with Justice Center Administrator Sharon Hesse because of training hours, overtime hours, scheduling, and concern of additional overtime as one dispatcher is leaving employment but just completed training. Chairman McConaughy informed the board there is a contract being drafted by Cherry County Attorney Eric Scott in re: to training and reimbursing costs if an employee terminates within a specific amount of time after training. No board action was taken.

At 11:35 a.m. the board met with Cherry County Ag Society members, Tourism Director Regina Osburn, and members of the Tourism Board regarding a grant recently approved by the Tourism Board for the Ag Society. Originally, the grant was supposed to be used for a bathhouse; however, after discussion with the Tourism Board and Ag Society, the Tourism Board approved the \$20,000 grant to be used for water infrastructure. Ag Society members presented the Commissioners with a plan to tie into an existing water line on the East side of Green Street that will provide water for the recently installed electrical hookups. The Ag Society Board held a special meeting on April 7, 2025 and voted 9-1 in favor of the water infrastructure being done before the bathhouse. The Ag Society has stated to cut down on costs they will voluntarily provide all labor to install the water infrastructure. The Commissioners voiced their concerns re: financials, audits, no 2025 minutes being provided to them, closure of a CD without a vote, lack of accountability and organization, pursuing new projects with other large financial obligations due in August. Tourism Director Regina Osburn clarified to the Commissioners and Ag Society all grants are reimbursable grants and therefore, Ag Society must provide all receipts to the Tourism Director before a check is issued for the amount of the receipts, up to the allowable \$20,000 that was approved. McConaughy moved and DeNaeyer seconded to approve the Tourism Grant to the Ag Society in the amount of \$20,000 for the installation of water infrastructure. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughy, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

The board recessed from 12:13 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The board recessed from 1:00 p.m. to 1:10 p.m. to convene as a Board of Equalization.

The board reviewed the State of Nebraska Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed Program Annual Reports & Requirements for 2024. The state found no deficiencies and minor omissions within the report. The board discussed who should sign the document as the Noxious Weed Superintendent with the change of a new Superintendent in 2025, and Chairman McConaughy advised he would speak with County Attorney Eric Scott to advise for the Noxious Weed Superintendent signature. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to accept the states report and authorize the chairman to sign upon approval of the Cherry County Attorney. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughy. The motion carried.

Emergency Management Director Jessica Coyle updated the board re: Dad's Lake fire, Beaver Tower inspection & no damage, adding rock around the propane tank at the tower, storm spotter training that was held March 31st, NAEM conference attendance, EMPG reimbursement delayed, BRIC program ending, phone issues at Cherry County South building, and obtaining Allo costs for hardwiring phones into the Cherry County South building.

At 1:21 p.m. Tom Bejot inquired with the board about requesting space on the Valentine Tower for a repeater, voice over IP system. The board asked EM Director Coyle to have Platte Valley Communications do a study to confirm our tower would be able to handle more equipment and to see a standard agreement from Mr. Bejot with a list of equipment that could potentially be placed on the tower. No board action was taken.

The board discussed starting pay rates with the Cherry County Road Foremen including performance evaluations, standard starting pay rates across all three districts, hours worked per week, structuring pay wages for current employees during budget discussion this summer, and experience/CDL possession. DeNaeyer moved and McConaughy seconded to approve the starting wage for county road employees at \$19.00/hour and \$20.00/hour if the employee already holds a CDL. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughy, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

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

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	87,440.68	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the General Fund in the amount of	\$		87,440.68
GENERAL			

Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$807.08
Wade Andrews	Mileage	\$77.00
Applied Connective	Services	\$5,578.73
Benchmark Government	Services	\$230.05
Black Hills Chemical	Services	\$483.32
Kristina Blackford	Mileage	\$74.20
Bomgaars	Services	\$46.46
Michael Borders	Services	\$4,169.79
Dale Bowlin	Mileage	\$71.40
Brown County Treasurer	Services	\$1,873.85
Buckles Fuel Service	Services	\$60.18
Cherry County Court	Services	\$518.00
Cherry County District Court	Services	\$36.00
Cherry County Sheriff	Services	\$128.42
Cherry County Treasurer	Bank Fees/Transfer	\$4,781.11
Cidnet	Services	\$300.00
Clearly Communications	Telephone Service	\$325.29
Contryman Associates	Services	\$8,000.00
Crowne Plaza	Lodging	\$309.90
DAS State Accounting 6506	Services	\$537.60
DAS State Accounting 6507	Services	\$203.80
James Edwards	Services	\$50.00
EFTPS	Taxes/Withholdings	\$845.75
Firstnet/AT&T Mobility	Services	\$549.46
Galls Parent Holdings	Supplies	\$51.72
Michelle Garwood	Reimbursement	\$546.88
Great Plains Reporting	Services	\$203.00
Pat Greenough	Reimbursement	\$100.00
Jessica Hanson	Reimbursement	\$479.03
Timothy Hanson	Equipment	\$2,636.75
Heart City Drug	Supplies	\$49.00
Henderson's IGA Inc	Supplies	\$2,174.00
Journal Entry	Void Ck#25025653	-\$175.00
Journal Entry	Void Ck# 25035857	-\$25.10
Heartland Counseling Services	Services	\$263.00
Henderson's IGA Inc	Supplies	\$147.48
Sharon Hesse	Reimbursement	\$35.00
Hilton Lincoln	Lodging	\$220.00
Patrick Hooper	Reimbursement	\$70.00
Johnson Law Office	Clerical Salary/Rent/Telephone/Equipment	\$2,664.39
KVSH	Services	\$280.50
La Quinta Inn	Lodging	\$318.25
La Quinta Inn	Lodging	\$220.00
Marco Technologies	Services	\$15.24
MidAmerica Admin & Retirement	Dues/Fees/Training	\$828.00
Midland Printing	Services	\$66.00
Midwest Connect	Services	\$55.00
MIPS	Services	\$3,262.88
NACEB	Dues/Fees/Training	\$100.00
NE Assn of County Treasurers	Dues/Fees/Training	\$175.00
NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings	\$69.85
NK Waste Management	Services	\$193.00
Office Products	Supplies	\$1,324.76
Paper Tiger Shredding	Services	\$55.00
Petty Cash	Reimbursement	\$1,050.05
Physicians Laboratory	Services	\$2,750.00
Presto X	Services	\$114.10
Quadient Leasing	Services	\$347.21
Quadient Finance	Services	\$150.00
Quill Corporation	Services	\$19.59
Rapid Fire Protection	Services	\$310.00
Reese Inc	Services	\$1,069.00
Region 4 Behavioral Health	Services	\$5,407.50
Maxwell Renning	Gross Wages	\$1,083.38
Ron Lower Construction	Services	\$79.66
Sandhill Oil Co	Supplies	\$40.92
Eric Scott Law	Clerical Salary/Rent/Telephone/Equipment	\$10,826.79
Scotty's Ranchland Foods	Supplies	\$135.09
Sennet Duncan Jenkins & Wickham	Services	\$3,089.06
Ryan Sexson	Mileage	\$56.00
Marla Shelbourn	Mileage	\$266.00

Jane Stolzenburg	Mileage	\$275.80
UNL c/o NE Extension/Cherry County	Services	\$514.53
University of Nebraska Lincoln	Services	\$1,200.00
Valentine Midland News	Services	\$77.00
City of Valentine	Utilities	\$4,893.27
Bill Wachob	Mileage	\$131.60
Ward Plumbing & Heating	Services	\$785.78
Erick Wickman	Gross Wages	\$4,208.92
Western Oil/Conoco	Services	\$23.20
Wex Bank	Services	\$1,964.81
Wrenched Tire & Auto	Services	\$85.40
3S Fabrication & Repair	Services	\$25.00
	TOTAL	\$87,440.68

Claims were presented in the amount of \$ 116,529.46
and disallowed in the amount of
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Road Fund in the amount of \$ 116,529.46

ROAD

Bacon Repair	Services	\$1,361.73
Barco Municipal Products	Services	\$3,054.23
Bauerkemper's Inc	Services	\$155.73
Bomgaars	Supplies	\$1,275.44
Bordertown Discount Fuel LLC	Services	\$1,735.26
Buckles Fuel Service	Services	\$5,204.08
Tyler Cash	Reimbursement	\$250.00
Central Valley Ag Cooperative	Services	\$7,332.19
Chemsearch	Services	\$202.95
Cherry County Implement	Services	\$58.26
Circle K Motor Company	Services	\$479.49
Village of Cody	Services	\$196.60
Brent Collier	Reimbursement	\$68.56
Consolidated Telephone	Services	\$289.99
Custer Public Power District	Services	\$205.73
DAS State Accounting Central Finance	Services	\$27.70
Dooley Oil Inc	Services	\$1,114.33
Flat Creek Construction	Services	\$17,500.00
Frontier Diesel	Services	\$1,863.72
Great Plains Communications	Services	\$321.29
Hampton Well Drilling	Services	\$181.80
Heart City Lock & Key	Services	\$40.50
Hoefs Skidloader Works	Services	\$3,666.00
Inland Truck Parts Company	Supplies	\$156.18
J&J Trailer Sales	Services	\$18.97
Jim Bain Appraisal Associates	Services	\$3,200.00
KBR Rural Public Power District	Services	\$532.97
Kimball Midwest	Services	\$1,795.00
Kohler Trailer Sales	Services	\$5,506.10
Marc/Mid American Research Chemical	Services	\$288.22
Martin Auto Parts II	Services	\$152.50
Mathis Equipment	Services	\$10,500.00
Midland News	Services	\$63.88
Midland Printing	Services	\$76.78
Mips Inc	Services	\$180.00
Modern Farm Equipment	Services	\$173.15
Mullen Auto & Diesel	Services	\$856.71
Village of Mullen	Services	\$144.00
Neal Oil & Auto Center	Services	\$980.00
Nebraska Dept of Correctional Service	Services	\$9,025.00
Nebraska Motor Fuels Division	Services	\$1,699.00
Nebraska Truck Center	Services	\$984.70
Niobrara Valley Consultants	Services	\$4,675.00
Office Products	Supplies	\$66.93
Outback Screenprinting & Embroidery	Supplies	\$471.20
Perrett Construction LTD	Services	\$195.09
Power & Performance Transmission	Services	\$9,342.83
Powerplan	Services	\$11,398.86
Prema	Services	\$239.74
Ranch Supply	Supplies	\$5.99
Reese Inc	Supplies	\$1,985.10
Road Builders	Services	\$67.10
Sandhill Oil Company	Services	\$587.39
Sandhills Ranch Supply	Services	\$1,790.09

City of Valentine		Services	\$1,381.31
Village of Thedford		Services	\$490.80
Vishay Transducers		Services	\$833.34
Wrenched Tire & Auto		Services	\$79.95
		TOTAL	\$116,529.46
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$		20,620.00
and disallowed in the amount of			.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Emergency Bridge Fund in the amount of	\$		20,620.00
Emergency Bridge			
Mainelli Wagner & Associates		Services	\$ 20,620.00
		TOTAL	\$20,620.00
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$		9,547.94
and disallowed in the amount of	\$		-
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Visitor Promotion Fund in the amount of	\$		9,547.94
VISITOR PROMOTION			
Cherry County Visitors Promo Board		Reimbursement	\$606.30
Great Plains Communications		Services	\$183.31
Heart City Gun Show		Grant	\$3,560.18
JW Klawn		Services	\$156.00
Regina Osburn		Reimbursement	\$659.88
Valentine Chamber of Commerce		Grant	\$4,000.00
City of Valentine		Services	\$382.27
		TOTAL	\$9,547.94
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$		7,174.62
and disallowed in the amount of	\$		-
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Health Insurance Claims Fund in the amount of	\$		7,174.62
EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE CLAIMS			
Cherry County Clerk		Health Insurance Claims	\$7,174.62
		TOTAL	\$7,174.62
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			
Thomas County Library		Bookmobile	
Valentine Public Library		Bookmobile	\$10,001.19
		TOTAL	\$ 10,001.19
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$		4,300.00
and disallowed in the amount of	\$		-
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Covid American Rescue Plan Fund in the amount of	\$		4,300.00
COVID ARPF			
Applied Technologies		Services	\$4,300.00
		TOTAL	\$4,300.00
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$		7,735.66
and disallowed in the amount of	\$		-
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Emergency Management Fund in the amount of	\$		7,735.66
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT			
Firstnet		Services	\$53.73
KBR Public Power District		Services	\$92.02
Midwest Card & ID		Services	\$7,235.00
Prema		Services	\$255.91
Springview Herald		Services	\$99.00
		TOTAL	\$7,735.66
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$		449.33
and disallowed in the amount of	\$		-
A warrant was ordered drawn on the 911 Emergency Services Fund in the amount of	\$		449.33
911 EMERGENCY SERVICES (2910)			
Centurylink		Services	\$276.25
Great Plains Communications		Services	\$173.08
		TOTAL	\$449.33
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$		977.60
and disallowed in the amount of	\$		-
A warrant was ordered drawn on the 911 Wireless Service Fund in the amount of	\$		977.60
911 WIRELESS SERVICE (2913)			
OPTK Networks		Services	\$977.60
		TOTAL	\$977.60
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$		107,326.32
and disallowed in the amount of	\$		-
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Hospital Operating/Maintenance Fund in the amount of	\$		107,326.32
Hospital Operating/Maintenance			
Cherry County Hospital		Operating Expense	\$107,326.32
		TOTAL	\$107,326.32

At 2:18 p.m. Chairman McConaughey adjourned the meeting.

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

I, Jane Stolzenburg, the undersigned Deputy 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 29th day of April 2025.

Jane Stolzenburg
Cherry County Deputy Clerk

Mike McConaughey, Chairperson
Cherry County Board of Commissioners

DRAFT

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MINUTES

April 8, 2025

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened as a Board of Equalization on April 8, 2025 in the Commissioner Meeting Room of the Cherry County Courthouse, as per notice posted March 27, 2025 at the following public places: Valentine Public Library, Valentine Post Office, Cherry County Clerk's Office, and Cherry County Courthouse front door. The current agenda being on file in the office of the County Clerk. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairman McConaughy. Present were Commissioners Nina Nelson, Mike McConaughy, Martin DeNaeyer, County Clerk Samantha Leonard, and County Assessor Staff Member Betty Daugherty. The Open Meetings Act Poster was acknowledged by Chairman McConaughy.

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

Betty Daugherty presented the board with amended Tax List Corrections #10, 14-15, 18, 20, 22, 27-30, 32-36, 38-39 and new Tax List Corrections #31 and 37. After review, DeNaeyer moved and McConaughy seconded to approve the above tax list corrections as presented and authorize the Chairman to sign. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughy, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

At 1:10 p.m. Chairman McConaughy adjourned the meeting.

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

I, Jane Stolzenburg, the undersigned Deputy 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 29th day of April 2025.

Jane Stolzenburg
Cherry County Deputy Clerk

Mike McConaughy, Chairperson
Cherry County Board of Commissioners

