

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

April 29, 2025

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session on April 29, 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 Nina Nelson, Martin DeNaeyer, Mike McConaughy, and Deputy County Clerk Jane Stolzenburg. 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 April 8, 2025 were read. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to approve minutes with noted corrections. Roll call vote: Aye –McConaughy, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

The Board of Equalization meeting minutes from April 8, 2025 were read. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to approve minutes as read. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, DeNaeyer, McConaughy. The motion carried.

The Board of Commissioners' special meeting minutes from April 14, 2025 were read. DeNaeyer moved and McConaughy seconded to approve minutes with noted corrections. Roll call vote: Aye –DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughy. The motion carried.

Comments from the public were received during the allotted time.

Emergency Management Director Jessica Coyle updated the board re: North Central Pet meeting wealth services on April 17, 911 meeting in Ainsworth April 18, Plum Creek Fire April 22 – 23, assessing storm damage from April 27 storm on April 28 and 29. Lightning strike started fire on McKelvie on April 28. The plane was watching for hot spots. Phone issues at Cherry County South building seem to be better. More detail to be explained by Applied Connective.

At 10:30 the board met with Will Zoucha, Eric Henn & Kenley Silhaeck of Applied Connective via Zoom to discuss the phone and internet issues at Cherry County South Building. Bill Rahder joined the call at 10:38. The main issue was the radio at the courthouse showed full connection and when assessed showed issues. The radio and Cat 5E cable has been replaced and phones and internet are more stable. Options to avoid future issues was discussed. Options included direct fiber between buildings or internet service from ALLO with a firewall. There is currently no cost for cabling and radio, however, fiber could cost up to \$20,000 or monthly internet costs could be \$350 - \$800 per month. Due to the issue being resolved at this time no board action was taken.

Road Foreman Brent Collier updated for District 3 re: working on washouts from the last storm, blading utilizing the moisture, currently down one person and are working on equipment. Foreman JD Osburn updated the board on routine maintenance and the opening of Highway 12 bridge, purchase of larger millings and Kirk Barnes is willing to grind them. No major storm damage. Will be working on the road from the bridge detour. Foreman Steve Stichka updated the board for District 2 re: signs at Ashby torn up with the storm, Whitman West end Road washed out, Boardman Creek trees removed from road, rock placed around propane tank at Beaver tower. Looked at Loop River Project with Foreman JD Osburn, plan is not to armor coat but use steel roller before other options. Checked with road supervisor in North Platte regarding millings from Highway 2 project, they do have a lot of larger pieces. Grader is in the shop with center pin problems. Looking to tie in with Thomas County for armor coat projects.

At 11:02 a.m. sealed bids were opened for one wheel loader for Road District 2. Bids were received from Quality Trucks & Trailers and Murphy Tractor listed as follows in the order they were received:

1. Quality Trucks & Trailers
 - a. 2022 John Deere 544 P Front End Wheel Loader – 3,446 hours - \$134,500.00
Less Trade in Values for Unit #7-204 and #7-205 combined total of \$11,500.00
2. Murphy Tractor
 - a. 2020 John Deere 524L Wheel Loader – 1DW524LHTLF708618 – 1,525 hours - \$ 155,000.00
Less Trade in Value for 1986 JD 644D and 1994 Hough 540 combined total of \$24,500.00
 - b. 2020 John Deere 524L Wheel Loader – 1DW524LHALF704660 – 1,300 hours - \$157,300.00
Less Trade in Value for 1986 JD 644D and 1994 Hough 540 combined total of \$24,500.00
 - c. The board reviewed the bids and discussed specs all bids included delivery and warranties with Road Foreman Steve Stichka. DeNaeyer moved and McConaughy seconded to accept the bid from Murphy Tractor for the 2020 John Deere 524L Wheel Loader – 1DW524LHALF704660 – \$132,800.00, contingent upon inspection and delivery by Murphy Tractor. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughy, Nelson, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

At 11:33 a.m. the board met with Dustin Will & Daniel Duren of Benefit Management to discuss health insurance plan options. Mr. Will informed the board of the current structure of the health plan and the possible savings to the county by moving away from a small group of a self-funded plan to a fully insured plan in a group pool. A four-tiered plan was proposed including a buydown to reduce deductible with a cost share and HSA plan where employees can also contribute. Mr. Will advised the board that changing plans would have a runout cost and they would help

budget for that cost. Benefit Management would also have enrollment and education for employees on plan benefits. A video would be provided for the employees that would not be at open enrollment. Mr. Will also informed the board they had other benefits available and would provide a proposal for Life, Accident & Disability insurance.

Noxious Weed Superintendent Pat Hooper updated the board re: attending the four day school, researching biological control for leafy spurge, use of orange twine to indicate certified weed free and no good indication for weed free net wrapped bales, looking into test date and location for certification for spraying.

The Board recessed from 12:25 p.m. to 1:03 p.m.

The Board recessed from regular session to convene as a Board of Equalization from 1:03 p.m. to 1:07 p.m.

Treasurer Hammond provided background information regarding payments received from the Department of the Interior. Cherry County received \$9,161.08 from the Forest Reserve Fund and in accordance with Nebraska Revised Statute 79-1045 one-fifth of the apportionment shall be to the Road Fund in the amount of \$1,832.22 and the balance to the Bookmobile Fund in the amount of \$7,328.86 for the support of a county circulating library. Nelson moved and DeNaeyer seconded to adopt Resolution #2025-03 Forest Reserve Funds Distribution and authorize the Chairman to sign. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, DeNaeyer, McConaughy. The motion carried.

Premier Bank of Omaha requested to be on the list of depositories for Cherry County. It was the consensus of the board to keep the contact information and re-address this issue in January when designation is normally done. No action taken.

McConaughy moved and Nelson seconded to appoint Laura Willert as the 4-H Council Representative to the Extension Board for the 2025 term. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughy, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

Zoning Administrator Jane Stolzenburg updated the board re: phone call with Keith Marvin, Marvin Planning Consultants, regarding the proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan. If the Margaret Byfield changes were to be incorporated it would have to go back to the Planning Commission for approval due to the fact they as a group said they should not be included. He will also be working on the zoning regulation changes sent to him. Commissioner Nelson requested a timeline to complete the Comprehensive Plan and have it put on the agenda for a specific time possibly in May.

The board recessed from 1:35 p.m. to 1:50 p.m. to convene as a Board of Corrections.

Human resources committee formation was discussed. The committee would be comprised of elected officials, excluding commissioners, department heads or designee and the current Human Resources employee. The committee would review policies and employee handbook. Will advise department heads to come up with a proposed plan and structure of committee for next meeting. No board action taken.

At 2:03 p.m. the board met with Cherry County Tourism Director Regina Osburn, and members of the Visitor Promotion Board regarding changes to the By-Laws regarding employees, grants and meeting laws. It was the recommendation of the commissioners to have the proposed By-Laws reviewed by the County Attorney.

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

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	272,554.44	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the General Fund in the amount of			\$ 272,554.44

GENERAL FUND

AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	\$3,017.47
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$21,278.88
Blue Cross Blue Shield	Health Insurance Administration Fees	\$630.00
Cherry County Health Account	Health Claims Funding	\$39,181.04
Delta Dental of Nebraska	Withholdings/Insurance	\$2,230.49
EFTPS	Withholdings/Taxes	\$37,896.04
General Collections	Garnishment	\$426.52
AUL Health Benefit Trust	Health Reimbursement Arrangement Funding	\$3,250.00
NE Department of Revenue	Withholdings/Taxes	\$5,662.21
Pace Underwriters Insurance	Health Insurance Funding	\$21,066.36
Thomas and Thomas Court Reporters	Services	\$236.99
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance	\$534.99
Andre, Andrea	Gross Wages	\$4,565.84
Bancroft, Melissa	Gross Salary	\$4,929.21
Blume, Ashley	Gross Wages	\$5,194.57
Brockley, Billie	Gross Wages	\$4,000.00
Buechle, Shelby	Gross Wages	\$4,795.65
Coates, Sonia	Gross Wages	\$3,936.68

Daugherty, Betty	Gross Wages	\$3,112.20
DeNaeyer, Martin	Gross Salary	\$2,012.50
Dobbins, Cynthia	Gross Wages	\$3,643.11
Duffield, Janette	Gross Wages	\$4,083.92
Goodrich, Dustina	Gross Wages	\$3,641.40
Goodrich, Weston	Gross Wages	\$4,565.88
Greenough, Pat	Gross Wages	\$4,916.77
Hamlin, Ashtyn	Gross Wages	\$1,868.53
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	\$999.19
Hunt, Clarissa	Gross Wages	\$4,300.43
Jackson, Gary	Gross Wages	\$5,038.93
Johnson, Andrew	Gross Salary	\$3,608.25
Knox, Calvin	Gross Wages	\$4,757.57
Leonard, Samantha	Gross Wages	\$4,929.21
Lopez, Vincent	Gross Wages	\$1,939.00
Lutter, Tammy	Gross Wages	\$3,683.87
McConaughy, Michael	Gross Salary	\$2,012.50
McSweeney, Ryan	Gross Wages	\$5,600.60
Millar, Eve	Gross Wages	\$96.37
Nelson, Nina	Gross Salary	\$2,012.50
Ormesher, Katie	Gross Wages	\$1,664.94
Osborne, Joanie	Gross Wages	\$843.20
Osburn, Albert	Gross Salary	\$5,087.02
Peterson, Eهران	Gross Wages	\$2,907.06
Pier, Shelley	Gross Wages	\$3,847.17
Price, Cassandra	Gross Wages	\$4,489.50
Red Fish, Cheyenne	Gross Wages	\$4,855.81
Renning, Maxwell	Gross Wages	\$5,930.09
Running Bear, Brittany	Gross Wages	\$1,604.60
Scott, Adelmica	Gross Wages	\$3,443.22
Scott, Eric	Gross Salary	\$5,551.16
Starr, Christopher	Gross Wages	\$5,907.30
Stec, Nicholas	Gross Wages	\$5,153.09
Stoeger, David	Gross Wages	\$5,685.24
Stolzenburg, Jane	Gross Wages	\$4,740.67
Wickman, Erick	Gross Wages	\$6,146.84
Young, Sarah	Gross Wages	\$4,247.61
April 8th Claims/payroll adjustment	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$854.74)
	GROSS TOTAL	\$318,436.80
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$45,882.36)
	NET TOTAL	\$272,554.44

Claims were presented in the amount of \$ **140,621.08**
and disallowed in the amount of \$ -

A warrant was ordered drawn on the Road Fund in the amount of \$ **140,621.08**

ROAD FUND

AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	\$1,924.07
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$10,933.52
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	\$21,329.76
Legal Shield	Services	\$33.90
AUL Health Benefit Trust	Health Reimbursement Arrangement Funding	\$1,350.00
NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings	\$3,239.62
Pace Underwriters Insurance	Health Claim Funding	\$9,568.08
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance	\$225.21
Buechle, Jordan	Gross Wages	\$5,042.12
Bunner, Bradley	Gross Wages	\$5,154.06
Cash, Tyler	Gross Wages	\$5,589.00
Coetzee, Daniel	Gross Wages	\$4,715.77
Collier, David	Gross Salary	\$5,000.00
Egger, Garrett	Gross Wages	\$5,316.91
Fernau, Bradly	Gross Wages	\$4,776.03

Graeff, Randy	Gross Wages	\$5,182.78
Hampton, Donald	Gross Wages	\$2,585.52
Hart Benjamin	Gross Wages	\$1,473.84
Licking, Jeffrey	Gross Wages	\$161.28
McWhirter, Bentz	Gross Wages	\$5,318.03
Olson, Arnold	Gross Wages	\$4,731.94
Osburn, Jay D	Gross Salary	\$5,750.00
Pearman, Terry	Gross Wages	\$5,128.00
Reese, Kay	Gross Wages	\$2,447.70
Songer, LeRoy	Gross Wages	\$5,017.14
Szakacs, Brye	Gross Wages	\$5,142.33
Szakacs, Ryan	Gross Wages	\$4,569.71
Stichka, Steven	Gross Salary	\$5,000.00
Thompson, Shawn	Gross Wages	\$5,050.40
Vest, Daniel	Gross Wages	\$5,234.08
	GROSS TOTAL	\$166,000.59
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$25,379.51)
	NET TOTAL	\$140,621.08

Claims were presented in the amount of \$ **7,400.70** .
and disallowed in the amount of \$ - .
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Visitors Promotion Fund in the amount of \$ **7,400.70**

VISITORS PROMOTION FUND

AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	97.37
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$728.98
Delta Dental of Nebraska	Withholdings/Insurance	\$62.83
EFTPS	Taxes/Withholdings	\$1,282.74
NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings	\$168.54
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance	\$31.84
Braun, Regina	Gross Wages	\$4,762.63
Graeff, Lynn	Gross Wages	\$1,717.22
	GROSS TOTAL	\$8,852.15
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$1,451.45)
	NET TOTAL	\$7,400.70

Claims were presented in the amount of \$ **14,536.13** .
and disallowed in the amount of \$ - .
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Health Claims Fund in the amount of \$ **14,536.13**

HEALTH CLAIMS FUND

Cherry County Clerk	Health Insurance Claims	\$14,536.13
	TOTAL	\$14,536.13

Claims were presented in the amount of \$ **9,170.15** .
and disallowed in the amount of \$ - .
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Emergency Management Fund in the amount of \$ **9,170.15**

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND

AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	143.39
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$686.82
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	\$1,352.94
AUL Health Benefit Trust	Health Reimbursement Arrangement Funding	\$100.00
NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings	\$187.80
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	\$1,217.03
	GROSS TOTAL	\$10,854.90
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$1,684.75)
	NET TOTAL	\$9,170.15

Claims were presented in the amount of \$ **38,692.96** .
and disallowed in the amount of \$ - .
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Courthouse (Special Building) Fund in the amount of \$ **38,692.96**

Courthouse (Special Building)

Dick Clark Construction	Services	\$20,706.46
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Eggert Enterprises LLC	Services	\$2,533.50
Monroe HVAC Inc	Services	\$15,453.00
	TOTAL	\$38,692.96

At 3:20 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 13th day of May 2025.

Jane Stolzenburg
Cherry County Deputy Clerk

Mike McConaughey, Chairperson
Cherry County Board of Commissioners

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BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MINUTES April 29, 2025

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened as a Board of Corrections on April 29, 2025 in the Commissioner Meeting Room of the Cherry County Courthouse, as per notice published April 16, 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 1:35 p.m. by Chairman McConaughey. Present were Commissioners Nina Nelson, Mike McConaughey, Martin DeNaeyer, Deputy County Clerk Jane Stolzenburg, 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 training, possible dispatch hires and budget concerns with payroll to finish the fiscal year. Justice Center Administrator Sharon Hesse will monitor the budget to see if a transfer would be necessary by the next scheduled meeting.

At 1:50 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 13th day of May 2025.

Jane Stolzenburg
Deputy Cherry County Clerk

Mike McConaughey, Chairperson
Cherry County Board of Commissioners

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