

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

May 27, 2025

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session on May 27, 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 29, 2025 were read. McConaughy moved and DeNaeyer seconded to approve minutes with noted corrections. Roll call vote: Aye –McConaughy, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

The Board of Corrections meeting minutes from April 29, 2025 were read. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to approve minutes as read. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughy, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

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

Road Foreman JD Osburn updated for District 1 re: setback on Highway 12 detour due to heavy rain, regular maintenance, and trees down from wind. Foreman Steve Stichka updated the board for District 2 re: general maintenance, trees down from wind, moisture is helping some roads, new loader is here, and the two machines traded are gone. District 3 updated by Commissioner McConaughy re: soft spots, moisture helping and hauling materials to roads.

Emergency Management Director Jessica Coyle provided a printed update to the board re: May 14th severe weather with dry lightning & heavy rains cause fires in the Southeast part of the county and South on Highway 97, rain assisted with fire suppression; May 19th Valentine Community Rural School students toured the EOC and described the department and 911 operations; attended NC PET meeting on May 22; attended NC 911 meeting on May 23; new SRS radio installed in unit on May 20 in Grand Island; working with Applied Connective testing live streaming for meetings – only able to do from commissioner meeting room, if change of venue cannot be steamed; May 22 found issues with Merriman Law and A/F radio worked for temporary solution, Platte Valley arrived Friday for a permanent solution; received Cyber Security Grant award for \$20,048.00 will work with Applied Connective on the use of the grant. Problem is with Merriman A/F is a programming issue. Boyd's will be replacing a monitor in dispatch.

Noxious Weed Superintendent Pat Hooper updated the board re: spaying weeds on East Pioneer and Lyons Bridge in ditches; has weed mapper program; questions regarding organic areas to notify landowner or lease, will be filing reports with landowner; 4-wheeler needs work and has a local contact for repairs.

Ted Teahon with the forest service would like to have year-round stage one fire restrictions due to conditions and response time to a fire. Mr. Teahon provided examples of stage one fire restrictions and if supported would have a specific letter drafted for Cherry County. Mr. Teahon stated that if a fire was for life saving measures it would be permitted and burn permits would have to be obtained to burn. It was the consensus of the board to approve of moving into the forest service stage one burn ban. An official copy will be sent for signatures.

County Clerk Samantha Leonard was present for the discussion regarding live streaming of commissioner meetings. Elaine from NACO informed Commissioner McConaughy that the meetings do not have to be archived per state statute, however, Commissioner McConaughy would like to have archived for up to a year if possible. If change of venue it would not be possible to steam meeting. Options will be explored and start date will be at a later date. No board action taken.

Lloyd Smith informed the board that Thomas County was planning on advertising for bids for an armor coat project and informed the board it may be more cost effective to do a project at the same time. No board action taken.

Justice Center Administrator Sharon Hesse advised the board that with the approval of the TCPR Protocol she would have a mandatory staff meeting to implement the new policy and protocol and have the staff acknowledge this as being part of the SOP. McConaughy made a motion to approve the TCPR Protocol and Policy as presented and authorize Justice Center Administrator to sign. Nelson seconded. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, McConaughy, Nelson. The motion carried.

Budget Resolution #2025-04 was presented which transfers the shortfall for a maintenance contract in the communications budget, splitting the County Road Superintendent wages between districts and transferring from the jail budget to dispatch for added training expenses. The fund numbers were verified as well as amounts. Nelson moved to adopt Budget Resolution #2025-04 and authorize chairman to sign. DeNaeyer seconded. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughy, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

Cherry County has been awarded the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) grant in the amount of \$20,048.00. DeNaeyer moved to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the SLGCP Grant award. Nelson seconded. Aye –McConaughy, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

Road employee payroll structure was discussed in order to obtain consistency across the board for road employees. This will aid in keeping trained personnel. The District Foreman will come up with a proposal and present to the commissioners at the next board meeting.

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

May 30, 2025
CHERRY COUNTY CLAIMS LISTING

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	248,824.30	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the General Fund in the amount of	\$	248,824.30	

GENERAL FUND

AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	\$2,881.97
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$18,701.91
Blue Cross Blue Shield	Health Insurance Administration Fees	\$671.00
Centurylink	Utilities	\$2,065.66
Cherry County Health Account	Health Claims Funding	\$39,181.04
Delta Dental of Nebraska	Withholdings/Insurance	\$2,230.49
EFTPS	Withholdings/Taxes	\$32,518.78
AUL Health Benefit Trust	Health Reimbursement Arrangement Funding	\$3,000.00
NE Department of Revenue	Withholdings/Taxes	\$4,690.16
Pace Underwriters Insurance	Health Insurance Funding	\$21,066.36
City of Valentine	Utilities	\$51.22
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance	\$534.99
Andre, Andrea	Gross Wages	\$3,734.35
Bancroft, Kaetryn	Gross Wages	\$328.00
Bancroft, Melissa	Gross Salary	\$4,929.21
Blume, Ashley	Gross Wages	\$3,990.70
Brockley, Billie	Gross Wages	\$4,000.00
Buechle, Shelbie	Gross Wages	\$4,381.43
Coates, Sonia	Gross Wages	\$4,078.57
Daugherty, Betty	Gross Wages	\$2,683.80
DeNaeyer, Martin	Gross Salary	\$2,012.50
Dobbins, Cynthia	Gross Wages	\$2,818.70
Duffield, Janette	Gross Wages	\$4,265.09
Froning, Ellen	Gross Wages	\$1,363.10
Goodrich, Dustina	Gross Wages	\$2,978.43
Goodrich, Weston	Gross Wages	\$4,023.97
Greenough, Pat	Gross Wages	\$4,000.86
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	\$2,170.25
Hunt, Clarissa	Gross Wages	\$3,443.14
Jackson, Gary	Gross Wages	\$5,083.62
Johnson, Andrew	Gross Salary	\$3,608.25
Knox, Calvin	Gross Wages	\$3,897.30
Leonard, Samantha	Gross Wages	\$4,929.21
Lopez, Vincent	Gross Wages	\$1,015.43
Lutter, Tammy	Gross Wages	\$2,905.38
McConaughey, Michael	Gross Salary	\$2,012.50
McSweeney, Ryan	Gross Wages	\$4,726.36
Nelson, Nina	Gross Salary	\$2,012.50
Ormesher, Katie	Gross Wages	\$4,076.54
Osborne, Joanie	Gross Wages	\$587.52
Osburn, Albert	Gross Salary	\$5,087.02
Peterson, Efran	Gross Wages	\$2,048.09
Pier, Shelley	Gross Wages	\$3,117.58
Price, Cassandra	Gross Wages	\$3,485.92
Red Fish, Cheyenne	Gross Wages	\$4,573.50
Renning, Maxwell	Gross Wages	\$4,875.23
Running Bear, Brittany	Gross Wages	\$2,575.13
Scott, Eric	Gross Salary	\$5,551.16
Starr, Christopher	Gross Wages	\$3,642.97
Stec, Nicholas	Gross Wages	\$4,632.43
Stoeger, David	Gross Wages	\$4,500.31
Stolzenburg, Jane	Gross Wages	\$4,740.67
Wickman, Erick	Gross Wages	\$5,287.65

April 8th Claims/payroll adjustment	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$854.74)
	GROSS TOTAL	\$288,444.56
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$39,620.26)
	NET TOTAL	\$248,824.30

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	120,693.23	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Road Fund in the amount of	\$		120,693.23

ROAD FUND

AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	\$1,924.07
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$8,973.83
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	\$16,750.21
Legal Shield	Services	\$33.90
AUL Health Benefit Trust	Health Reimbursement Arrangement Funding	\$1,350.00
NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings	\$2,394.52
Pace Underwriters Insurance	Health Claim Funding	\$9,568.08
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance	\$225.21
Buechle, Jordan	Gross Wages	\$3,797.82
Bunner, Bradley	Gross Wages	\$3,372.80
Cash, Tyler	Gross Wages	\$4,255.00
Coetzee, Daniel	Gross Wages	\$3,599.80
Collier, David	Gross Salary	\$5,000.00
Egger, Garrett	Gross Wages	\$4,094.27
Fernau, Bradly	Gross Wages	\$3,775.68
Graeff, Randy	Gross Wages	\$3,960.12
Hampton, Donald	Gross Wages	\$2,400.84
Hart Benjamin	Gross Wages	\$1,658.07
Licking, Jeffrey	Gross Wages	\$161.28
McWhirter, Bentz	Gross Wages	\$4,371.28
Olson, Arnold	Gross Wages	\$3,393.36
Osburn, Jay D	Gross Salary	\$5,750.00
Pearman, Terry	Gross Wages	\$4,179.32
Reese, Kay	Gross Wages	\$1,891.77
Songer, LeRoy	Gross Wages	\$3,714.12
Szakacs, Brye	Gross Wages	\$4,359.72
Szakacs, Ryan	Gross Wages	\$3,806.48
Stichka, Steven	Gross Salary	\$5,000.00
Thompson, Shawn	Gross Wages	\$4,322.80
Vest, Daniel	Gross Wages	\$4,102.65
	GROSS TOTAL	\$141,196.79
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$20,503.56)
	NET TOTAL	\$120,693.23

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	5,357.53	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Visitors Promotion Fund in the amount of	\$		5,357.53

VISITORS PROMOTION FUND

AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	97.37
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$528.06
Delta Dental of Nebraska	Withholdings/Insurance	\$62.83
EFTPS	Taxes/Withholdings	\$908.87
NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings	\$113.95
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance	\$31.84
Braun, Regina	Gross Wages	\$3,884.69
Graeff, Lynn	Gross Wages	\$809.17
	GROSS TOTAL	\$6,436.78
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$1,079.25)
	NET TOTAL	\$5,357.53

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	11,783.05	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Health Claims Fund in the amount of	\$		11,783.05

HEALTH CLAIMS FUND

Cherry County Clerk	Health Insurance Claims	\$11,783.05
	TOTAL	\$11,783.05

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	9,121.63	.
--	----	-----------------	---

and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Emergency Management Fund in the amount of	\$		9,121.63
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND			
AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance		143.39
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement		\$682.05
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		\$1,336.04
AUL Health Benefit Trust	Health Reimbursement Arrangement Funding		\$100.00
NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings		\$182.88
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		\$1,174.62
	GROSS TOTAL		\$10,785.90
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings		(\$1,664.27)
	NET TOTAL		\$9,121.63

At 11:35 a.m. Chairman McConaughey adjourned the meeting until 1:00 p.m.

The board convened as Board of Equalization from 1:00 p.m. to 1:20 p.m.

The board convened as Board of Corrections from 1:30 p.m. to 1:50 p.m.

At 2:00 p.m. Gregg Mooney and Mike Boden of NACO Benefits presented the board with health insurance quotes and informed the board they were still waiting for numbers from other insurance companies. Mr. Mooney advised the board their best option would be to keep what is in place with self-funding. The best estimate for runout claims is figured at 18% of claims. The stop loss will process run out claims and advised to have the hospital print out the report of outstanding claims.

Dan Duran of Benefit Management presented the board with a dual option fully insured health insurance plan where employees can choose the benefit. They will meet with employees for enrollment or there is an online enrollment option. If deductible has been met it will carry over due to no loss no gain contract. The billing will be a once a month bill not separate claims. Benefit Management will provide quotes for group life and long-term disability insurance. NACO stated they would include paid group term life and long-term disability. Per NACO if there is a switch today no other charges for a cancellation fee only run out claims would be due. Nelson moved to accept the proposal from Benefit Management Health Insurance as presented by Daniel Duren for Medica PPO plan with the option of Medica HSA. McConaughey seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, McConaughey, Nelson. The motion carried.

At 2:51 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 10th day of June 2025.

<hr/> Jane Stolzenburg Cherry County Deputy Clerk	<hr/> Mike McConaughey, Chairperson Cherry County Board of Commissioners
--	---

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MINUTES
May 27, 2025

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened as a Board of Equalization on May 27, 2025 in the Commissioner Meeting Room of the Cherry County Courthouse, as per notice published May 14, 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, Martin DeNaeyer, Deputy County Clerk Jane Stolzenburg, County Assessor Melissa Bancroft, and Bryan Hill of Lake Mac Assessment. 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 Tax List Corrections #42 and 44. After review, DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to approve Tax List Corrections #42 and #44 as presented by County Assessor and authorize the Chairman to sign. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, DeNaeyer, McConaughey. The motion carried.

Bryan Hill of Lake Mac Assessment reported they are at the end of the two-year contract. Valuation notices will be sent out on June 1, 2025. All homes and outbuildings in the Northern part of the county have been reviewed and working with surrounding counties to equalize values. County Assessor staff entered the values and with recent sales the value tables will need to be adjusted. Bryan will be available anytime regarding the protest process and value changes and will be present in July when protests are heard.

At 1:20 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 10th day of June 2025.

<hr/> Jane Stolzenburg Cherry County Deputy Clerk	<hr/> Mike McConaughey, Chairperson Cherry County Board of Commissioner
--	--

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MINUTES
May 27, 2025

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened as a Board of Corrections on May 27, 2025 in the Commissioner Meeting Room of the Cherry County Courthouse, as per notice published May 14, 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 1:30 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, new dispatch hire and one new jail school graduate.

Employee contracts created by Cherry County Attorney Eric Scott were discussed. The values entered on contracts will vary per employee and are to be based on best judgment of estimated costs. Nelson made a motion to approve employee contract for dispatch and jail as presented by Justice Center Administrator. DeNaeyer seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, DeNaeyer, McConaughey. The motion carried.

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

DRAFT