

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

August 26, 2025

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session on August 26, 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 McConaughey. Roll call was taken. Present for the meeting were Commissioners Mike McConaughey, Nina Nelson, Martin DeNaeyer, and County Clerk Samantha Leonard. The Open Meetings Act Poster was acknowledged by Chairman McConaughey and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Board of Commissioners' regular meeting minutes from August 12, 2025 were read. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to approve minutes as read. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughey. The motion carried.

The Board of Equalization meeting minutes from August 12, 2025 were read. Nelson moved and McConaughey seconded to approve minutes as read. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughey, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

The Board of Commissioners' special meeting minutes from August 14, 2025 were read. McConaughey moved and Nelson seconded to approve minutes as read. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughey, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

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

The road foremen gave updates for their specific districts. Steve Stickha, Road District #2 Foreman, updated re: millings being laid on Whitman Road and routine maintenance of roads & equipment. Road District #3 Foreman Brent Collier updated re: road routine maintenance, oil work being done, and millings being laid. Road District #1 JD Osburn updated re: regular maintenance and oil work being done.

Highway Superintendent JD Osburn discussed a potential purchase of a traffic counter to determine the threshold of heavy traffic and requirements of widening roads that have high volumes of heavy traffic to remain compliant with state laws.

Weeds Superintendent Pat Hooper provided an update re: trainings, grant possibilities with MWAG, reports, notices sent to landowners, and potentially hosting an informational meeting in Valentine. The board discussed options for an office and a heated space to keep chemicals through the winter at the road shop in Cody or Merriman for Mr. Hooper. Road District #2 Foreman Steve Stichka stated there is a storage unit at the road shop in Mullen that could potentially be used. Commissioner McConaughey will meet with Mr. Stichka to look at the storage unit and possibly move to Road District #3 shop for Mr. Hooper's use.

At 10:35 a.m. the board met with Valentine Library Director, Carrie Graham, for an update and to review the library budget for Fiscal year 2025-2026. Ms. Graham informed the board she included a 2.5% COLI for employees' salaries. The library is also seeking grants for a new bookmobile when the time comes. Some changes in the budget are due to needing new computers to have current, working software and doing grounds maintenance for safety of the public during outdoor activities.

At 10:53 Grounds Superintendent Pat Greenough met with the board to discuss the servicing of the courthouse generator. Mr. Greenough presented two bids to the board. NMC quoted \$3,765 and Cummins quoted \$2,061.37 to service the generator. After discussion, McConaughey moved and DeNaeyer seconded to accept Cummins bid of \$2,061.37 to service the County Courthouse generator. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughey. The motion carried.

The board discussed County Courthouse and Cherry County South Building locks & doors with Mr. Greenough. Mr. Greenough felt Binswanger's estimate was out of line for the front door of the Courthouse building and contacted Lower Construction for another estimate. Binswanger informed Mr. Greenough they want to check with the fire Marshall on details of potentially making one door wider for the Courthouse front door. Mr. Greenough will report back to the board when he has all estimates in writing for door and lock changes.

Mike & Kim Burge with the RC&D Board met with the board to discuss potentially paying for part of the tire amnesty overage that was received as the county was a large contributor. The overage costs are \$3,381.01. Nelson moved and DeNaeyer seconded to approve the RC&D Board to send an invoice to the County Road Department for a total of \$3,381.01 to be split between the 3 road departments for the tire amnesty overage. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughey, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

Zoning Administrator Jane Stolzenburg provided an update re: BOA alternate appointment, public hearing date for BSH Kilgore appeal to the Board of Adjustments is set for September 4, 2025, Marvin Consultants sent updates for the Comprehensive Plan, and fee scheduling.

Nelson moved and DeNaeyer seconded to appoint Dewayne Lancaster as the Board of Adjustments alternate for a three-year term, to expire February 11, 2028. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughey, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

At 11:30 the board met with Brittney Longcor and Jim Bargaen, Cherry County Hospital, and Justice Administrator Sharon Hesse to discuss the tax request and Justice Center billing. Ms. Longcor proposed a request to increase the tax request by 10% for the hospital and that additional money would be set aside for Justice Center billing and the county would not owe until the additional 10% was reached but would still receive monthly itemized invoices. Ms. Hesse stated there has been billing inconsistencies with the Hospital. Commissioner Nelson stated she does not feel comfortable with a 10% increase as there has not been transparency in re: to billing with the Cherry County Hospital and Clinic. The board discussed putting in writing the Medicaid policy with the County and the Hospital. The invoice presented to the board showed discrepancies of documentation presented by Ms. Hesse. The hospital billing department and Ms. Hesse will work together to bring the County current in billing. No board action taken.

The board and Highway Superintendent Jay D Osburn met to discuss the Request to Occupy County Right of Way Application and Permit. Commissioner McConaughey, Mr. Osburn, and Clerk Leonard stated they have not heard from County Attorney Eric Scott if the draft is completed for board review. No board action taken.

Mr. Osburn asked the board to approve him to start the process of abandoning two bridges in the county. The process begins with letters to landowners and public notification. DeNaeyer moved and McConaughey seconded to authorize Highway Superintendent Jay D Osburn to start the process to abandon Bridge # ending 3505 and Bridge # ending 3510. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughey. The motion carried.

The board discussed Niobrara Valley Consultant invoices with Road Foremen Jay D Osburn, Steve Stickha, and Brent Collier. Commissioner McConaughey will meet with Lloyd Smith to discuss invoicing received in re: to the Highway Superintendent agreement for 2024 services. No board action taken.

Emergency Management Director Jessica Coyle provided the board an update via email.

The board recessed from 12:10 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The board recessed from 1:00 p.m. to 1:01 p.m. to convene as a Board of Equalization.

The board met with Sheriff Rusty Osburn to discuss opening a fuel banking account. McConaughey moved and Nelson seconded to authorize Sheriff Osburn to open a checking account with Security First Bank for the purpose of paying the WEX Bank fuel bill. Roll call vote: Aye- Nelson, McConaughey, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

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

Claims were presented in the amount of		\$	263,442.91	.
and disallowed in the amount of		\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the General Fund in the amount of		\$	263,442.91	
GENERAL FUND				
AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance		\$2,970.74	
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement		\$18,283.90	
Delta Dental of Nebraska	Withholdings/Insurance		\$2,264.18	
EFTPS	Withholdings/Taxes		\$31,721.24	
Journal Entry	Void Ck# 25086747		(\$1,008.81)	
Journal Entry	Void Ck# 25015432		(\$35.00)	
Journal Entry	Void CK# 25015466		(\$4.02)	
Weston Goodrich	Reimbursement		\$37.18	
Medica Health Insurance	Withholdings/Insurance		\$64,181.04	
AUL Health Benefit Trust	Health Reimbursement Arrangement Funding		\$4,800.00	
NE Department of Revenue	Withholdings/Taxes		\$4,515.05	
Maxwell Renning	Reimbursement		\$30.04	
Eric Scott Law	Clerical Salary/Rent/Telephone/Equipment		\$11,679.03	
Cardmember Service	Services		\$100.91	
Security 1st Health Savings Account	Withholdings/Insurance		\$4,091.66	
UNL/Extension/Cherry County	Reimbursement		\$1,008.81	
Viaero Wireless	Services		\$158.70	
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance		\$530.50	
Andre, Andrea	Gross Wages		\$3,596.24	
Bancroft, Kaetryn	Gross Wages		\$80.00	
Bancroft, Melissa	Gross Salary		\$4,929.21	
Blume, Ashley	Gross Wages		\$3,888.32	
Brockley, Billie	Gross Wages		\$4,000.00	
Buechle, Shelby	Gross Wages		\$4,293.25	
Coates, Sonia	Gross Wages		\$3,600.40	
DeNaeyer, Martin	Gross Salary		\$2,012.50	

Dobbins, Cynthia	Gross Wages	\$2,793.36
Duffield, Janette	Gross Wages	\$4,683.78
Froning, Ellen	Gross Wages	\$1,911.67
Goodrich, Dustina	Gross Wages	\$2,940.63
Goodrich, Weston	Gross Wages	\$3,735.72
Greenough, Pat	Gross Wages	\$3,951.54
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	\$3,013.77
Hunt, Clarissa	Gross Wages	\$838.99
Jackson, Gary	Gross Wages	\$4,735.04
Johnson, Andrew	Gross Salary	\$3,608.25
Knox, Calvin	Gross Wages	\$3,667.38
Leonard, Samantha	Gross Wages	\$4,929.21
Lopez, Vincent	Gross Wages	\$1,375.88
Lutter, Tammy	Gross Wages	\$2,853.23
McConaughey, Michael	Gross Salary	\$2,012.50
McSweeney, Ryan	Gross Wages	\$4,439.50
Menze, Caitlyn	Gross Wages	\$3,138.51
Miller, Eve	Gross Wages	\$2,883.83
Nelson, Nina	Gross Salary	\$2,012.50
Ormesher, Katie	Gross Wages	\$2,510.05
Osborne, Joanie	Gross Wages	\$555.20
Osburn, Albert	Gross Salary	\$5,087.02
Peterson, Eهران	Gross Wages	\$2,597.79
Pier, Shelley	Gross Wages	\$3,105.53
Price, Cassandra	Gross Wages	\$3,726.32
Red Fish, Cheyenne	Gross Wages	\$4,310.52
Renning, Maxwell	Gross Wages	\$4,590.11
Running Bear, Brittany	Gross Wages	\$951.59
Scott, Eric	Gross Salary	\$5,551.16
Starr, Christopher	Gross Wages	\$4,369.88
Stec, Nicholas	Gross Wages	\$4,688.93
Stoeger, David	Gross Wages	\$4,443.82
Stolzenburg, Jane	Gross Wages	\$3,522.42
Wickman, Erick	Gross Wages	\$4,890.22
	GROSS TOTAL	\$303,682.27
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$40,239.36)
	NET TOTAL	\$263,442.91
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	132,008.03
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Road Fund in the amount of	\$	132,008.03
ROAD FUND		
AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	\$1,588.76
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$9,457.88
Delta Dental of Nebraska	Withholdings/Insurance	\$891.09
EFTPS	Taxes/Withholdings	\$18,145.14
Legal Shield	Services	\$33.90
Medica Health Insurance	Withholdings/Insurance	\$30,586.40
AUL Health Benefit Trust	Health Reimbursement Arrangement Funding	\$1,900.00
NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings	\$2,630.97
Security 1st Health Savings Account	Withholdings/Insurance	\$1,800.00
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance	\$215.59
Buechle, Jordan	Gross Wages	\$4,499.03
Bunner, Bradley	Gross Wages	\$4,180.00
Cash, Tyler	Gross Wages	\$4,540.62
Coetzee, Daniel	Gross Wages	\$3,836.38
Collier, David	Gross Salary	\$5,000.00
Donner, Abigayle	Gross Wages	\$1,852.50
Egger, Garrett	Gross Wages	\$4,474.39
Fanning, Eden	Gross Wages	\$3,382.00
Fernau, Bradly	Gross Wages	\$4,412.64
Fish, Tristan	Gross Wages	\$1,548.50
Graeff, Randy	Gross Wages	\$5,098.71
Hampton, Donald	Gross Wages	\$738.72
Hart Benjamin	Gross Wages	\$1,473.84
Licking, Jeffrey	Gross Wages	\$342.72
McWhirter, Bentz	Gross Wages	\$4,344.79
Olson, Arnold	Gross Wages	\$2,961.22

Osburn, Jay D	Gross Salary	\$5,750.00
Pearman, Terry	Gross Wages	\$5,130.00
Reese, Kay	Gross Wages	\$1,850.22
Songer, LeRoy	Gross Wages	\$3,781.71
Szakacs, Ryan	Gross Wages	\$4,093.56
Stichka, Steven	Gross Salary	\$5,000.00
Thompson, Shawn	Gross Wages	\$4,897.52
Vest, Daniel	Gross Wages	\$3,629.49

GROSS TOTAL	\$154,068.29
Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$22,060.26)
NET TOTAL	\$132,008.03

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	6,621.79	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Visitors Promotion Fund in the amount of	\$	6,621.79	

VISITORS PROMOTION FUND

AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	97.37
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$652.39
Delta Dental of Nebraska	Withholdings/Insurance	\$62.83
EFTPS	Taxes/Withholdings	\$1,139.58
NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings	\$141.58
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance	\$31.84
Braun, Regina	Gross Wages	\$4,422.42
Graeff, Lynn	Gross Wages	\$1,376.57

GROSS TOTAL	\$7,924.58
Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$1,302.79)
NET TOTAL	\$6,621.79

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	2,210.70	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Health Claims Fund in the amount of	\$	2,210.70	

HEALTH CLAIMS FUND

Cherry County Clerk	Health Insurance Claims	\$2,210.70
	TOTAL	\$2,210.70

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	9,477.71	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Emergency Management Fund in the amount of	\$	9,477.71	

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND

AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	143.39
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$688.72
Delta Dental of Nebraska	Withholdings/Insurance	\$80.24
EFTPS	Taxes/Withholdings	\$1,350.05
Medica Health Insurance	Withholdings/Insurance	\$2,155.10
NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings	\$184.80
Security 1st Health Savings Account	Withholdings/Insurance	\$500.00
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance	\$31.84
Coyle, Jessica	Gross Salary	\$4,888.00
Reese, Kay	Gross Wages	\$1,233.91

GROSS TOTAL	\$11,256.05
Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$1,778.34)
NET TOTAL	\$9,477.71

The board recessed from 1:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. to convene as Board of Corrections.

At 1:46 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 9th day of September 2025.

Samantha Leonard
Cherry County Clerk

Mike McConaughy, Chairperson
Cherry County Board of Commissioners

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MINUTES
August 26, 2025

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened as a Board of Equalization on August 26, 2025 in the Commissioner Meeting Room of the Cherry County Courthouse, as per notice published in the Valentine Midland News. 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 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.

No tax list corrections were presented.

At 1:01 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 9th day of September 2025.

Samantha Leonard
Cherry County Clerk

Mike McConaughey, Chairperson
Cherry County Board of Commissioners

BOARD OF CORRECTION MINUTES
August 26, 2025

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened as a Board of Corrections on August 26, 2025 in the Commissioner Meeting Room of the Cherry County Courthouse, as per notice published in the Valentine Midland News. The current 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, County Clerk Samantha Leonard, and Justice Administrator Sharon Hesse. The Open Meetings Act Poster was acknowledged by Chairman McConaughey.

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

The board discussed the bid received for the Justice Center Access Control System. After discussion of only having one bid for the large project, McConaughey moved, and Nelson seconded to reject the bid from Midwest Alarms. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughey. The motion carried.

DeNaeyer moved and McConaughey seconded to re-open the process of sealed bids for the Cherry County Justice Center Control Access System to be opened during the Board of Corrections regular meeting on September 30, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

The board discussed a current Justice Center petty cash checking account and expanding its usage. Clerk Leonard informed the board currently the Justice Center has a petty cash account that was opened in February 2021 for the sole purpose of inmate transfer. Currently Administrator Hesse comes to the Clerk’s office to use the Clerk’s petty cash for postage, etc. DeNaeyer moved and McConaughey seconded to authorize the Justice Administrator to use the Justice Center Petty Cash checking account at their discretion for Justice Center expenses. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughey, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

At 1:45 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 9th day of September 2025.

<hr/> Samantha Leonard Cherry County Clerk	<hr/> Mike McConaughey, Chairperson Cherry County Board of Commissioners
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