

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES  
December 9, 2025

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session on December 9, 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, Martin DeNaeyer, Nina Nelson, 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 November 25, 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 Corrections meeting minutes from November 25, 2025 were read. McConaughey moved and DeNaeyer seconded to approve minutes as read. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughey, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

Comments from the public were received during the allotted time.

Road Foreman Steve Stichka provided an update for District 2 re: routine equipment & road maintenance and trimming trees. Commissioner McConaughey provided an update for District 3 re: moving product to stockpile, routine maintenance with roads & equipment, and the foundation for the maintenance building at Cody has been poured. Foreman Jay D Osburn with District 1 provided an update re: routine equipment & road maintenance and trimming trees.

Highway Superintendent Jay D Osburn presented the report to abandon 908<sup>th</sup> Road. It was a consensus of the board for Mr. Osburn to prepare a resolution, allow the County Attorney to review, and publish the resolution for three weeks as per state statute.

At 10:30 a.m. the board conducted an interview for the Zoning Administrator position. The board asked the applicant if they could start as soon as possible to complete the permits that were submitted during the vacancy. McConaughey moved and Nelson seconded to have Commissioner DeNaeyer extend the offer to Katie Ormesher for the Zoning Administrator position. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughey, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

Emergency Management Director Jessica Coyle provided an update via phone re: completion of the SLCG Round 3 application, webinars, traffic incident meeting, NCPET meetings, internet issues, and weather monitoring.

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

December 9, 2025  
CHERRY COUNTY CLAIMS LISTING

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	62,999.07	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the General Fund in the amount of	\$	62,999.07	
<b>GENERAL</b>			
Anderson Electric Inc	Services	\$1,399.88	
Applied Connective Technologies	Services	\$5,533.41	
Black Hills Chemical	Services	\$530.77	
Bob Barker Company	Supplies	\$115.67	
Bomgaars	Supplies	\$190.41	
CenturyLink	Services	\$2,071.46	
Cherry County Court	Services	\$209.00	
Cherry County Extension Service	Reimbursement	\$444.30	
Cherry County Hospital	Services	\$7,014.47	
Cherry County Sheriff	Services	\$170.42	
Cherry County Sheriff Fuel Account	Supplies	\$1,660.76	
Cherry County Treasurer	Bank Fees/Transfer	\$10.00	
Cidnet	Services	\$600.00	
DAS State Accounting 6506	Services	\$537.60	
DAS State Accounting 6507	Services	\$203.80	
FirstNet/AT&T Mobility	Services	\$486.40	
Great Plains Reporting	Services	\$542.00	
Pat Greenough	Reimbursement	\$100.00	
Timothy Hanson	Equipment	\$2,636.75	
Heart City Drug	Supplies	\$136.73	
Henderson's IGA	Supplies	\$269.11	
Hometown Lumber & Construction	Supplies	\$39.98	

Patrick Hooper	Reimbursement	\$70.00
Johnson Law Office	Clerical Salary/Rent/Telephone/Equipment	\$3,491.51
Justice Center Petty Cash	Reimbursement	\$398.86
Justice Data Solutions Inc	Services	\$6,450.00
KBR Rural Public Power	Services	\$68.29
KVSH Radio	Services	\$198.00
Legal and Liability Risk Management	Services	\$150.00
Lifeguard MD Inc	Services	\$99.00
MARCO Technologies	Services	\$262.06
Microfilm Imaging Systems	Services	\$276.00
Valentine Midland News	Services	\$408.73
Midland Printing	Services	\$35.25
MIPS	Services	\$3,229.29
Office Products	Supplies	\$2,212.22
Platte Valley Communications	Services	\$1,845.30
Presto X	Services	\$128.10
Quadient Finance	Services	\$543.63
Reese Inc	Services	\$59.99
Sandhill Oil	Supplies	\$45.81
Eric Scott Law	Clerical Salary/Rent/Telephone/Equipment	\$11,691.14
Scotty's Ranchland Foods	Supplies	\$316.81
Cardmember Service	Reimbursement	\$287.20
Sennet Duncan Jenkins & Wickham PC	Services	\$158.80
Tony's Tire & Auto Repair	Services	\$383.80
True Value Hardware	Supplies	\$145.95
City of Valentine	Utilities	\$3,637.35
Ward Plumbing & Heating	Services	\$157.61
Western Oil Inc	Services	\$10.00
Woods & Aitken LLP	Services	\$52.00
Wrenched Tire & Auto LLC	Services	\$1,283.45
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$62,999.07</b>
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	139,339.83
and disallowed in the amount of		
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Road Fund in the amount of	\$	139,339.83
<b>ROAD</b>		
AKRS Equipment	Services	\$582.65
Allard Precast	Services	\$4,875.00
Bacon Repair	Services	\$690.05
Bomgaars	Supplies	\$742.53
Bordertown Discount Fuel	Services	\$10,058.28
Buckles Fuel Service	Services	\$3,086.92
Central Valley Ag Cooperative	Supplies	\$1,476.66
Cherry County Hospital	Services	\$117.00
Cherry County Implement	Services	\$1,228.14
Cody Livestock Supply	Supplies	\$19.95
Consolidated Telephone	Services	\$285.74
Croell Inc	Services	\$9,474.45
Custer Public Power District	Services	\$150.05
Daly Enterprises	Services	\$26.50
Danielski Farms	Services	\$26,879.99
DAS State Accounting Central Finance	Services	\$27.70
Floyd's Truck Center	Services	\$16,864.21
Great Plains Communications	Services	\$321.69
Hometown Lumber	Supplies	\$95.96
Independent Salt Co	Supplies	\$1,000.00
Interstate Battery System	Services	\$272.64
JHL Construction	Services	\$10,000.00
Josh Whipple Trucking	Services	\$12,500.00
KBR Rural Public Power District	Services	\$260.07
Kimball Midwest	Services	\$2,130.82
Lawson Products Inc	Services	\$69.98
M I Jones	Services	\$925.00
Martin Auto Parts	Supplies	\$78.52
Medical Enterprises	Services	\$46.00
Village of Merriman	Services	\$61.18
Mips Inc	Services	\$180.00
Modern Farm Equipment Corporation	Services	\$247.24
Nebraska Public Power District	Services	\$61.48
Office Products Center	Supplies	\$126.76
The Parts Company	Supplies	\$197.79
Perrett Construction	Services	\$158.39

Powerplan	Services		\$6,975.25
Prema	Services		\$106.41
Road Groom Manufacturing	Services		\$2,105.38
Sandhill Oil Company	Supplies		\$24,078.38
City of Valentine	Services		\$342.57
3s Fabrication & Repair	Services		\$412.50
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$139,339.83</b>
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	8,287.04	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Visitor Promotion Fund in the amount of		\$	8,287.04
<b>VISITOR PROMOTION</b>			
Black Hills Sports Show	Services		\$430.00
Great Plains Communications	Services		\$199.31
Hand's Lawn Service, Jeromy Hand	Services		\$910.00
MCB Productions	Services		\$3,000.00
NRG Media	Services		\$2,530.00
Valentine Marathon	Grant		\$1,000.00
City of Valentine	Utilities		\$217.73
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$8,287.04</b>
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	606.50	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Register of Deeds P&M Fund in the amount of		\$	606.50
<b>REGISTER OF DEEDS P&amp;M</b>			
Spectra Associates	Supplies	\$	606.50
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$606.50</b>
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	189.61	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Health Insurance Claims Fund in the amount of		\$	189.61
<b>EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE CLAIMS</b>			
Cherry County Clerk	Health Insurance Claims		\$189.61
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$189.61</b>
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	10,301.23	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Bookmobile Fund in the amount of		\$	10,301.23
<b>BOOKMOBILE</b>			
Valentine Public Library	Bookmobile		\$10,301.23
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$10,301.23</b>
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	75.00	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Emergency Management Fund in the amount of		\$	75.00
<b>EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT</b>			
Nebraska Assn of Emergency Management	Dues/Fees		\$75.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$75.00</b>
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	393.82	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the 911 Emergency Services Fund in the amount of		\$	393.82
<b>911 EMERGENCY SERVICES (2910)</b>			
CenturyLink	Services		\$276.62
Great Plains Communications	Services		\$117.20
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$393.82</b>
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
<b>911 WIRELESS SERVICE (2913)</b>			
OPTK Networks	Services		\$977.60
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$977.60</b>
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	44,468.81	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Courthouse (Special Building) Fund in the amount of		\$	44,468.81
<b>Courthouse (Special Building)</b>			
Anderson Electric	Services		\$4,468.81
Strong1, LLC	Services		\$40,000.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$44,468.81</b>

Ryan Benjamin and Blaire Speck with Cherry County Extension met with the board for an update. They informed the board they lost the storage at the fairgrounds and are looking to explore options for storage of all 4-H items. They are currently organizing with storage shelves in the storage room at Cherry County South building; however, they will need more storage. Currently items are being stored in the old Courthouse building.

The board met with members of the Veteran’s Memorial Committee. Don Nelsen presented a picture of the Committee members. The memorial was solely funded by donations, and they expressed their gratitude to the

community. DeNaeyer moved and McConaughy seconded to approve <sup>hanging</sup> handing the picture of the Committee members in the Courthouse. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughy, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

The board met with Valentine Economic Development Director Mark Hagge to discuss options of use for the Sawyer Memorial Library. Mr. Hagge presented information about the Created District Makers Market for space for local artists to displace their work, have booths, vendor shows, pop-up markets, etc. It was a consensus of the board to have quotes from building inspections completed to know what the county will need to invest to have the building ADA compliant. No board action taken.

The board and elected officials met to discuss the 2027-2030 salaries. Clerk Leonard presented data based on the survey from NACO to show differences with comparable counties based on valuation and population, and the email from NACO for the guidelines for reference. Elected officials voice their concerns of wages being 20-30% below other comparable counties and other appointed employees receiving 20-30% raises in the last two years. Assessor Bancroft informed the board she anticipates the valuations within the county to rise drastically in the next few years. It was a consensus of the board to revisit at the next meeting after NACO Conference. No board action taken.

Benefits for salary exempt employees were discussed. It was a consensus of the board that accommodations need to be made, and benefits must be used based on the county handbook. These policies must be enforced by the supervisors. No board action taken.

Remote work was discussed and it was consensus that it will be a case-by-case basis to accommodate employees based on their job description. No board action taken.

Cost of Living Increase scale was discussed, and it was a consensus of the board to use the scale as a guideline with part time employees COLI based on evaluations of employees and full-time employees receiving COLI across all employees. The board will discuss at the January reorganization meeting to set the resolution. No board action taken.

The old courthouse building was discussed. Currently the building is being used for storage only. The building is on the national historic registry; however, it can be removed because it is not unique. It was a consensus of the board to have an engineer study or building inspection completed to determine next steps. McConaughy moved and Nelson seconded to have Commissioner DeNaeyer reach out to two building inspectors to inspect the old courthouse building and present bids to the board. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughy, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

At 12:49 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 30<sup>th</sup> day of December 2025.

Samantha Leonard  
Samantha Leonard  
Cherry County Clerk

Mike McConaughy  
Mike McConaughy, Chairperson  
Cherry County Board of Commissioners

