

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

November 12, 2025

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session on November 12, 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 October 28, 2025 were read. Nelson moved and McConaughey seconded to approve minutes with noted corrections. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughey. The motion carried.

The Board of Corrections meeting minutes from October 28, 2025 were read. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson 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.

At 10:15 a.m., Jim Barga, CEO of Cherry County Hospital, provided an update re: workforce development and recruitment, financials, and infrastructure and technology.

At 10:31 a.m. Monroe HVAC and Heart City Plumbing & Heating presented the board with quotes for the Courthouse boiler. The quotes were presented as follows:

1. Heart City Plumbing & Heating: \$26,600 – 399,000 BTUH boiler and using existing 4" vent piping system
2. Monroe HVAC - \$23,700 – 399,000 BTUH boiler and upgrading the vent piping system

McConaughey moved and Nelson seconded to accept Monroe HVAC's quote of \$23,700 to replace the boiler and install new venting system. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughey, Nelson, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

Brown County Emergency Management Director Traci Booth provided an update on behalf of Cherry County Emergency Management Director Jesscia Coyle in her absence. The update included grass fire, Merriman siren installed, semi roll over, mapping 911 issues resolved, and a HAZMAT incident. Ms. Booth informed the board both her and her deputy are filling in during our Emergency Management Directors absence. The board expressed their gratitude to Ms. Booth for filling in during this time of need.

The board discussed remote work authorization for Emergency Management. It was a discussion that Director Coyle will do administrator work remotely and neighboring counties will help with anything that cannot be done remotely. It was stated Emergency Management does not have business hours or an office, but rather a workspace within the courthouse. The administrative exemption and practice of Emergency Management is dictated by the response of an emergency. Ms. Coyle stated she would prefer to be on the phone in closed session. County Attorney Eric Scott stated his recommendation is to keep this conversation as tight as possible because of the potential of disclosing federally protected information. At 11:06 a.m. DeNaeyer moved and McConaughey seconded to enter closed session with the Board and County Attorney to be present to discuss the authorization of remote work of the Emergency Management position to protect federally protected information and avoid damage to anyone's status or reputation. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughey. The motion carried.

At 12:36 p.m., the doors were re-opened, and the public was allowed to enter. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to exit closed session. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughey, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

It was a consensus of the board to take no action to investigate further with a written explanation from County Attorney Eric Scott and Attorney Pam Bourne with Woods Aitken, based on the positions job description.

Road Foreman Steve Stichka provided an update for District 2 re: routine equipment & road maintenance, trimming trees, and finishing up mowing road ditches. Foreman Brent Collier provided an update for District 3 re: moving product to stockpile, routine maintenance with roads & equipment, and blading roads. Foreman Jay D Osburn with District 1 provided an update re: routine equipment & road maintenance, finished mowing road ditches, trimming trees, and snow fence is in place.

Highway Superintendent Jay D Osburn presented a quote from Mainelli, Wagner, and Associates for an inspection on the privately owned bridge on Anderson Bridge Road. It was a concern for this inspection to be completed because the bridge does not have an ID number and if the county can use county funds to pay for the inspection without an ID number. It was a consensus of the board to take no action and will investigate further.

The board recessed from 12:52 p.m. to 1:16 p.m.

The board reviewed a Cost-of-Living Increase scale as presented by Clerk staff member, Billie Brockley. Right now, every county employee receives the same cost of living increase. The scale was a starting point to discuss options of cost of living increases for full time vs part time vs elected officials. The board will review on their own time and will discuss options at the December 9th meeting. No board action taken.

The board discussed the Zoning Administrator vacant position. Clerk Leonard informed the board that one applicant picked up an application, but no completed applications have been received. As of this time, the office is closed with permits on the desk and some permit payments were received in the Clerk’s office. Clerk Leonard presented the documents received from applicants to the board.

PTO/sick leave benefits for salary-exempt employees were discussed. Employees expressed their concerns about not having those benefits to bank if they must be away from employment for longer than FMLA covers. The concern of the board is the payout at the end of employment if employees are not using these benefits to the full extent. No board action taken and the board will reach out for clarification from Woods Aitken & County Attorney.

McConaughey moved and Nelson seconded to adopt Resolution #2025-15 Fund Transfer from Health Claim Fund to General Fund. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughey, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

The board discussed the Zoning permits and checks received in the Clerk’s Office with County Attorney Eric Scott via phone. Once the fee is received, the permit is complete and can be approved. In the past, checks have not been deposited until the permit is completed accurately. Per the auditors, each department codes their own expenses and revenue and delivers to the correct office. Mr. Scott’s suggestion to the board is to create a file during the interim period of the Zoning Administrator to keep all documents and deposit the checks. Clerk Leonard informed the board she received and accepted checks from USPS & FedEx; however, does not feel comfortable depositing checks without knowing the specifications of the Zoning Department and if the permits have been accurately completed. It was a consensus of the board for the Chairman to put the checks in a locked place within the Zoning Office until further discussion is had. No board action taken.

McConaughey moved and DeNaeyer seconded to adopt Resolution #2025-16 Fund Transfer from General Fund to Emergency Management Fund. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughey. The motion carried.

DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to adopt Resolution #2025-17 2025 Year End Certification of Highway Superintendent and authorize the Chairman to sign the Certification and Resolution. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughey, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

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

November 12, 2025
CHERRY COUNTY CLAIMS LISTING

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	154,819.81	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the General Fund in the amount of	\$	154,819.81	
GENERAL			
Applied Connective	Services		\$7,782.52
Black Hills Chemical	Services		\$300.82
Bomgaars	Supplies		\$83.56
Borders & Furrow Law PC	Services		\$2,268.55
CenturyLink	Services		\$2,070.78
Cherry County Court	Services		\$459.00
Cherry County District Court	Services		\$108.00
Cherry County Extension Service	Reimbursement		\$330.00
Cherry County Fund Transfer	Fund Transfer		\$53,145.02
Cherry County Hospital	Services		\$9,393.02
Cherry County Sheriff	Services		\$45.52
Cherry County Sheriff Fuel Account	Supplies		\$1,717.28
Cherry County Treasurer	Bank Fees/Transfer		\$10.00
Clearly Communications	Telephone Service		\$325.77
Cummins Sales and Service	Services		\$1,483.82
CVSOAN Treasurer	Dues/Fees/Trainings		\$100.00
DAS State Accounting 6506	Services		\$537.60
DAS State Accounting 6507	Services		\$203.80
Dept Correctional Services	Services		\$2,683.95
Federal Signal Corporation	Services		\$22,386.35
Firstnet/AT&T Mobility	Services		\$486.40
Galls Parent Holdings	Supplies		\$491.94
Pat Greenough	Reimbursement		\$100.00
Timothy Hanson	Equipment		\$2,636.75
Heart City Drug	Supplies		\$56.87
Heart City Plumbing & Heating	Services		\$3,914.25
Henderson's IGA	Supplies		\$293.25
Sharon Hesse	Reimbursement		\$282.96
Hometown Lumber & Construction	Supplies		\$33.10

Patrick Hooper	Reimbursement	\$179.80
Johnson Law Office	Clerical Salary/Rent/Telephone/Equipment	\$3,511.26
KBR Rural Public Power	Services	\$92.99
Microfilm Imaging Systems	Services	\$186.00
Midland Printing	Supplies	\$57.00
Midwest Connect	Services	\$284.00
MIPS	Services	\$12,468.53
NACO	Dues/Fees/Trainings	\$2,483.09
Nebraska Health & Human Services	Services	\$290.34
Nebraska Sheriff's Association	Dues/Fees/Trainings	\$350.00
Nebraska State Fire Marshal Agency	Services	\$108.00
NK Waste Management	Services	\$193.00
North Star Electric	Services	\$181.35
NPZA	Dues/Fees/Trainings	\$100.00
Office Products	Supplies	\$1,177.14
Albert Osburn	Reimbursement	\$175.00
Paper Tiger Shredding	Services	\$55.00
Petty Cash	Reimbursement	\$299.88
Platte Valley Communications	Services	\$135.00
Presto X	Services	\$128.10
Quadient Leasing	Services	\$1,128.63
Quadient Finance	Services	\$43.44
R Kruger Extinguishers	Services	\$444.00
Sandhill Oil	Supplies	\$1,574.04
Eric Scott Law	Clerical Salary/Rent/Telephone/Equipment	\$5,259.73
Scotty's Ranchland Foods	Supplies	\$365.26
Ryan Sexson	Reimbursement	\$56.00
Tony's Tire & Auto Repair	Services	\$772.00
City of Valentine	Utilities	\$4,423.26
Vandiest Supply Company	Services	\$2,838.40
Viaero Wireless	Services	\$84.75
Bill Wachob	Reimbursement	\$131.60
Western Oil Inc	Services	\$22.84
Laura Willert	Reimbursement	\$38.50
Woods & Aitken LLP	Services	\$1,451.00
	TOTAL	\$154,819.81
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	177,138.40
and disallowed in the amount of		
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Road Fund in the amount of	\$	177,138.40
ROAD		
Bacon Repair	Services	\$1,228.02
Bill's Garage	Services	\$28.25
Bomgaars	Supplies	\$499.28
Bordertown Discount Fuel	Services	\$572.00
Buckles Fuel Service	Services	\$8,093.00
Cherry County Implement	Supplies	\$562.69
Circle K Motor Company	Services	\$1,058.23
Village of Cody	Supplies	\$195.40
Consolidated Telephone	Services	\$284.46
Croell Inc	Services	\$6,742.98
Custer Public Power District	Services	\$147.10
DAS State Accounting Central Finance	Services	\$27.70
Dooley Oil	Supplies	\$1,285.10
Emerson Equipment	Services	\$274.30
Flat Creek Construction	Services	\$10,395.00
Floyd's Truck Center	Services	\$166.05
Garrett Enterprises	Services	\$892.96
Randy Graeff	Reimbursement	\$158.25
Great Plains Communications	Services	\$321.21
Hoefs Skidloader Works	Services	\$1,670.00
Interstate Battery System	Supplies	\$993.92
Jebro Inc	Services	\$20,192.40
Josh Whipple Trucking	Services	\$22,001.00
KBR Rural Public Power District	Services	\$251.79
Kippes & Son's	Services	\$812.23
MARC	Services	\$308.81
Martin Auto Parts	Supplies	\$74.21
Mathis Equipment	Supplies	\$134.90
Medical Enterprises	Services	\$108.00
Village of Merriman	Services	\$123.12

Mips Inc	Services	\$180.00
Mullen Auto & Diesel	Services	\$4,084.47
Village of Mullen	Services	\$144.00
Nebraska Dept of Transportation	Services	\$74,271.00
Nebraska Public Power District	Services	\$45.21
NK Waste Inc	Services	\$128.00
The Parts Company	Supplies	\$306.08
Perrett Construction	Services	\$869.65
Prema	Services	\$75.09
R Kruger Extinguishers	Services	\$3,583.00
Reese Inc	Supplies	\$379.00
Sandhill Oil Company	Supplies	\$8,607.78
Leroy Songer	Reimbursement	\$250.00
Superior Sanitation Services	Services	\$80.00
Triple G Redimix	Services	\$4,172.79
Truck Center Companies	Services	\$138.00
City of Valentine	Services	\$221.97
	TOTAL	\$177,138.40

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	10,108.64	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Visitor Promotion Fund in the amount of		\$	10,108.64

VISITOR PROMOTION

Cherry County Visitors Promo Board	Reimbursement	\$78.00
Great Plains Communications	Services	\$198.64
Henderson's IGA	Supplies	\$25.41
The Nebraska Star Party	Grant	\$4,000.00
Nelsen Furniture	Supplies	\$299.00
NK Waste	Services	\$105.00
NRG Media	Services	\$2,670.00
Office Products	Supplies	\$35.00
Tech Harbor Holdings	Services	\$360.00
Valentine Area Arts Council	Grant	\$2,000.00
Valentine Rotary Club	Services	\$111.00
City of Valentine	Utilities	\$226.59
	TOTAL	\$10,108.64

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	23,120.00	.
and disallowed in the amount of		-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Visitor Improvement Fund in the amount of		\$	23,120.00

VISITOR IMPROVEMENT (995)

Bob's Signs	Services	\$3,120.00
Cherry County Ag Society	Grant	\$20,000.00
	TOTAL	\$23,120.00

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	94,907.46	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Health Insurance Claims Fund in the amount of		\$	94,907.46

EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE CLAIMS

Cherry County Clerk	Health Insurance Claims	\$19,907.46
Cherry County Fund Transfer	Fund Transfer	\$75,000.00
	TOTAL	\$94,907.46

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	10,923.23	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Bookmobile Fund in the amount of		\$	10,923.23

BOOKMOBILE

Thomas County Library	Bookmobile	\$622.00
Valentine Public Library	Bookmobile	\$10,301.23
	TOTAL	\$10,923.23

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	533,636.25	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Disaster Fund in the amount of		\$	533,636.25

DISASTER FUND

BOKF,NA	Bond Payment	\$533,636.25
	TOTAL	\$533,636.25

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	218.97	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Emergency Management Fund in the amount of		\$	218.97

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Jessica Coyle	Reimbursement	\$78.40
Office Products	Supplies	\$140.57
	TOTAL	\$218.97

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	449.56	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	
A warrant was ordered drawn on the 911 Emergency Services Fund in the amount of		\$	449.56

911 EMERGENCY SERVICES (2910)

Centurylink	Services	\$276.48
Great Plains Communications	Services	\$173.08
	TOTAL	\$449.56

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	\$	2,390.00	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Courthouse (Special Building) Fund in the amount of		\$	2,390.00

Courthouse (Special Building)

Weathercraft	Services	\$2,390.00
	TOTAL	\$2,390.00

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	13,571.92	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Hospital Operating/Maintenance Fund in the amount of		\$	13,571.92

Hospital Operating/Maintenance

Cherry County Hospital	Operating Expense	\$13,571.92
	TOTAL	\$13,571.92

At 3:00 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 25th day of November 2025.

Samantha Leonard
Cherry County Clerk

Mike McConaughey, Chairperson
Cherry County Board of Commissioners