

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES
November 25, 2025

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session on November 25, 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 12, 2025 were read. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to approve minutes with noted corrections. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughey. 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, trimming trees, and being finished mowing road ditches. Foreman Brent Collier provided an update for District 3 re: moving product to stockpile, routine maintenance with roads & equipment, and repair auto gates. Foreman Jay D Osburn with District 1 provided an update re: routine equipment & road maintenance.

Highway Superintendent Jay D Osburn discussed a concern that the sheriff’s office received a complaint of hay equipment being parked in a right of way in District 1. Mr. Osburn stated it is not a safety concern, and the equipment has been parked there for years; however, it is still against state law. It was a consensus of the board for Mr. Osburn to have a conversation with the owners of the equipment. No board action taken.

Mr. Osburn presented a Request to Occupy County Right of Way permit submitted by ALLO Communications to lay fiber along Chaduza Road. Nelson moved and DeNaeyer seconded to approve the ALLO Communications permit and authorize the Chairman and Highway Superintendent to sign. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughey, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

The board discussed the need for a loader in District 1. Foreman Osburn stated he is using the same specs used last May for the loader in District 2. Nelson moved and McConaughey seconded to set the date and time to open sealed bids for a District 1 loader for January 13, 2026 at 11: 00 AM CST. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughey, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

Clerk Leonard presented the NACO Conference Voter Registration form. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to select Chairman McConaughey as the representative for the NACO Conference Election. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughey. The motion carried.

At 10:30 a.m. the board discussed the Mainelli Wagner bridge inspection quote for the privately owned bridge on Anderson Bridge Road. Mr. Osburn stated the bridge owners are okay with the process discussed of the county paying for the inspection, and if inspection is sufficient, the bridge can be used for public use. It was a consensus of the board that the inspection is the first step to be able to move forward with the process. The inspection quote is broken down into two parts. If part one of the inspection fails, the county does not incur the expense of the second part of the inspection. McConaughey moved and Nelson seconded to accept the Mainelli Wagner quote to inspect the privately owned bridge on Anderson Bridge Road. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughey, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

Clerk Leonard presented the Contryman Associates Draft Financial Statement and Management Representation Letter for the FY 2024-2025 Audit. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to approve the financial statement for FY 2024-2025 and authorize the Chairman to sign the Management Representation Letter. Roll call vote – Aye: McConaughey, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

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

November 26, 2025
CHERRY COUNTY CLAIMS LISTING

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	267,565.19	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the General Fund in the amount of	\$	267,565.19	
GENERAL FUND			
AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	\$2,871.12	
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$19,319.72	
Credit Management Services	Garnishment	\$499.85	
Delta Dental of Nebraska	Withholdings/Insurance	\$2,423.53	
EFTPS	Withholdings/Taxes	\$33,253.93	
Lincoln Financial Group	Withholding/Insurance	\$763.99	

Medica Health Insurance	Withholdings/Insurance	\$67,824.23
AUL Health Benefit Trust	Health Reimbursement Arrangement Funding	\$5,100.00
MidAmerica Admin & Retirement Solutions	Withholdings/Insurance	\$492.00
NE Department of Revenue	Withholdings/Taxes	\$4,772.59
Journal Entry	Void Ck# 25117308	(\$1,451.00)
Journal Entry	Wex Bank Refund	(\$2,172.17)
Journal Entry	Entry #25110003	\$265.16
Eric Scott Law	Clerical Salary/Rent/Telephone/Equipment	\$6,685.04
Security 1st Health Savings Account	Withholdings/Insurance	\$4,033.33
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance	\$571.96
Woods & Aitken LLP	Services	\$333.00
Andre, Andrea	Gross Wages	\$3,642.19
Bancroft, Melissa	Gross Salary	\$4,929.21
Blume, Ashley	Gross Wages	\$3,808.12
Brockley, Billie	Gross Wages	\$4,000.00
Bruning, Jerri	Gross Wages	\$2,374.06
Coates, Sonia	Gross Wages	\$4,248.79
DeNaeyer, Martin	Gross Salary	\$2,012.50
Dobbins, Cynthia	Gross Wages	\$2,988.65
Duffield, Janette	Gross Wages	\$4,190.48
Froning, Ellen	Gross Wages	\$2,428.56
Ghost Bear, Tamara	Gross Wages	\$3,794.62
Goodrich, Dustina	Gross Wages	\$2,937.90
Goodrich, Weston	Gross Wages	\$4,012.45
Greenough, Pat	Gross Wages	\$3,946.41
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
Hoefs, Jasmine	Gross Wages	\$2,778.64
Hooper, Patrick	Gross Wages	\$2,684.79
Jackson, Gary	Gross Wages	\$5,118.75
Johnson, Andrew	Gross Salary	\$3,608.25
Knox, Calvin	Gross Wages	\$4,260.36
Leonard, Samantha	Gross Wages	\$4,929.21
Lopez, Vincent	Gross Wages	\$1,300.60
Lutter, Tammy	Gross Wages	\$2,947.52
McConaughy, Michael	Gross Salary	\$2,012.50
McSweeney, Ryan	Gross Wages	\$4,432.67
Menze, Caitlyn	Gross Wages	\$2,144.78
Miller, Eve	Gross Wages	\$174.26
Nelson, Nina	Gross Salary	\$2,012.50
Ormesher, Katie	Gross Wages	\$2,522.47
Osborne, Joanie	Gross Wages	\$676.32
Osburn, Albert	Gross Salary	\$5,087.02
Peterson, Ehran	Gross Wages	\$2,744.63
Pier, Shelley	Gross Wages	\$3,106.20
Price, Cassandra	Gross Wages	\$4,110.39
Red Fish, Cheyenne	Gross Wages	\$4,256.02
Renning, Maxwell	Gross Wages	\$4,768.34
Scott, Eric	Gross Salary	\$5,551.16
Starr, Christopher	Gross Wages	\$5,009.93
Stec, Nicholas	Gross Wages	\$4,100.78
Stoeger, David	Gross Wages	\$4,420.29
Stolzenburg, Jane	Gross Wages	\$4,658.18
Thomsen, Clarissa	Gross Wages	\$3,481.19
Wickman, Erick	Gross Wages	\$4,965.92
	GROSS TOTAL	\$310,295.24
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$42,730.05)
	NET TOTAL	\$267,565.19
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	123,656.04
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Road Fund in the amount of	\$	123,656.04
ROAD FUND		
AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	\$1,588.76
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	8865.52
Delta Dental of Nebraska	Withholdings/Insurance	\$891.09
EFTPS	Taxes/Withholdings	\$16,138.66
Legal Shield	Services	\$33.90
Medica Health Insurance	Withholdings/Insurance	\$30,586.40
AUL Health Benefit Trust	Health Reimbursement Arrangement Funding	\$2,100.00

NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings		\$2,404.17
Security 1st Health Savings Account	Withholdings/Insurance		\$1,800.00
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance		\$215.59
Buechle, Jordan	Gross Wages		\$5,030.30
Bunner, Bradley	Gross Wages		\$4,147.00
Cash, Tyler	Gross Wages		\$4,306.79
Coetzee, Daniel	Gross Wages		\$3,712.93
Collier, David	Gross Salary		\$5,000.00
Egger, Garrett	Gross Wages		\$3,933.68
Fernau, Bradly	Gross Wages		\$4,654.14
Graeff, Randy	Gross Wages		\$5,001.68
Hampton, Donald	Gross Wages		\$1,846.80
Hart Benjamin	Gross Wages		\$900.68
McWhirter, Bentz	Gross Wages		\$5,175.20
Olson, Arnold	Gross Wages		\$1,306.96
Osburn, Jay D	Gross Salary		\$5,750.00
Pearman, Terry	Gross Wages		\$4,968.00
Reese, Kay	Gross Wages		\$2,001.05
Songer, LeRoy	Gross Wages		\$4,096.88
Szakacs, Ryan	Gross Wages		\$3,877.54
Stichka, Steven	Gross Salary		\$5,000.00
Thompson, Shawn	Gross Wages		\$4,639.08
Vest, Daniel	Gross Wages		\$3,855.77
	GROSS TOTAL		\$143,828.57
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings		(\$20,172.53)
	NET TOTAL		\$123,656.04
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	5,623.71	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Visitors Promotion Fund in the amount of		\$	5,623.71
VISITORS PROMOTION FUND			
AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance		97.37
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement		\$554.23
Delta Dental of Nebraska	Withholdings/Insurance		\$62.83
EFTPS	Taxes/Withholdings		\$912.80
NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings		\$101.18
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance		\$31.84
Braun, Regina	Gross Wages		\$3,581.77
Graeff, Lynn	Gross Wages		\$1,344.77
	GROSS TOTAL		\$6,686.79
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings		(\$1,063.08)
	NET TOTAL		\$5,623.71
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	352.00	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Health Claims Fund in the amount of		\$	352.00
HEALTH CLAIMS FUND			
Cherry County Clerk	Health Insurance Claims		\$352.00
	TOTAL		\$352.00
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	9,312.59	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Emergency Management Fund in the amount of		\$	9,312.59
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND			
AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance		143.39
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement		\$672.48
Delta Dental of Nebraska	Withholdings/Insurance		\$80.24
EFTPS	Taxes/Withholdings		\$1,316.59
Medica Health Insurance	Withholdings/Insurance		\$2,155.10
NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings		\$180.46
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		\$1,089.57
	GROSS TOTAL		\$11,057.67
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings		(\$1,745.08)
	NET TOTAL		\$9,312.59
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	26,602.00	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Courthouse (Special Building) Fund in the amount of		\$	26,602.00
Courthouse (Special Building)			
Monroe HVAC Inc	Services		\$26,602.00
	NET TOTAL		\$26,602.00

The board discussed the Bookmobile fund with the Valentine Public Library Director, Carrie Graham, and members of the Library Board of Trustees. It was a consensus of the board to continue to the bookmobile to follow the interlocal agreement as the agreement states but because of federal funds being depleted, other options such as including the schools, grants, etc. were discussed for the future of the bookmobile. Ms. Graham stated the grants she has found this far cannot be used for any operating expenses. The board informed Ms. Graham and the Library Board of Trustees that the county will continue the bookmobile agreement as stated for this year, but options for long-term sustainability will need to be discussed and pursued. No board action taken.

At 11:33 a.m. the board met with Attorney Pam Bourne with Woods Aiken via phone to receive advice from legal counsel on a personnel matter for the protection of the public’s interest. At 11:35 a.m. McConaughey moved and DeNaeyer seconded to enter executive session to receive advice from legal counsel on a personnel matter for the protection of the public’s interest with the Board, Clerk, and Billie Brockley to be present. Rol call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughey, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

At 12:10 p.m. the meeting doors were re-opened, and the public was allowed to enter. McConaughey moved and DeNaeyer seconded to exit executive session. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughey, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried. Chairman McConaughey restated the reason for executive session to the public.

At 12:12 p.m. Emergency Management Director Jessica Coyle met with the board via phone, along with Brown County Emergency Management Director Traci Booth, who was present in the meeting room. Invoicing from Applied Connective for the SLCG FY 2023 grant was discussed. This grant was awarded last spring and since prices have changed for updates to be made from Applied Connective. Applied Connective will bill the county for existing services for a 12-month period, and the grant will be used to pay a portion of these services. The grant is a reimbursable grant and Cherry County will receive 80% of the grant money allocated. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to approve the Applied Connective invoicing to be submitted and paid, with submission to the SLCG Grant 2023 for 80% reimbursement. Roll call vote: Aye - DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughey. The motion carried.

SLCG FY 2024 Round 3 will be for cybersecurity upgrades with Cherry County receiving 70% reimbursed from the grant. McConaughey moved and DeNaeyer seconded to authorize the Emergency Management Director to apply for the SLCG FY 2024 Round 3 grant for 70% reimbursement to the county. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughey, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

Director Coyle provided an update via phone re: BREMA, Mullen Fire, GEOCOM updates, NC PET meeting, SLCG grants, weather monitoring and attending a Mental Health First Aid webinar.

Brown County Director Booth updated the board on the McKelvie fire and was present at the fire department to help where needed with resources.

The board recessed from 12:25 p.m. to 1:31 p.m.
The board recessed from 1:31 to 1:35 p.m. to convene as a Board of Corrections.

No applications were received for the agenda item Zoning Administrator Applications/Interviews. Therefore, no board action taken.

At 1:36 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 December 2025.

Samantha Leonard
Cherry County Clerk

Mike McConaughey, Chairperson
Cherry County Board of Commissioners

BOARD OF CORRECTION MINUTES
November 25, 2025

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened as a Board of Corrections on November 25, 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 1:31 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.

Justice Administrator Sharon Hesse provided a jail and staff census update.

At 1:35 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 December 2025.

Samantha Leonard
Cherry County Clerk

Mike McConaughey, Chairperson
Cherry County Board of Commissioners