

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES
January 13, 2026

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session on January 13, 2026 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 10:01 a.m. by Clerk Leonard. Roll call was taken. Present for the meeting were Commissioners Mike McConaughey, Martin DeNaeyer, Nina Nelson, and Clerk Samantha Leonard. The Open Meetings Act Poster was acknowledged by Clerk Leonard and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The board conducted their annual reorganization for 2026.

Nelson moved and DeNaeyer seconded to appoint Commissioner McConaughey as the Chairperson of the Cherry County Board of Commissioners for 2026. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughey. The motion carried.

McConaughey moved and Nelson seconded to appoint Commissioner DeNaeyer as the Vice Chairperson of the Cherry County Board of Commissioners for 2026. Roll call vote: Aye- Nelson, McConaughey, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

The Board of Commissioners’ regular meeting minutes from December 30, 2025 were read. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to approve minutes with noted corrections. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughey, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

The Board of Corrections meeting minutes from December 30, 2025 were read. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to approve minutes as read. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughey. The motion carried.

No 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. Foreman Brent Collier provided an update for District 3 re: moving product to stockpile, routine maintenance with roads & equipment, and trimming trees. Foreman Jay D Osburn with District 1 provided an update re: routine equipment & road maintenance, hauling material, and the road to the Valentine tower has been repaired. The Foremen also reported the surplus equipment, and vehicles have been uploaded to Purple Wave, and the auction is expected to end February 3, 2026.

Highway Superintendent Jay D Osburn informed the board that the cost share agreement to resurface Smith Falls Road signed in December 2022 with the State of Nebraska has shown some progress, but still a long process ahead. Mr. Osburn informed the board he received a complaint on a county road, and he has reported the complaint to Sheriff Rusty Osburn.

Noxious Weed Superintendent Pat Hooper presented 2025 year-end reports and updated the board on trainings he will be attending. Mr. Hooper also updated the board on biological spores’ place on landowners’ properties for Canadian Thistle. His concern is the dry weather, but he will check for progress this spring. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to approve the Noxious Weed 2025 Year End Reports as presented by Superintendent Hooper. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughey, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

Clerk Leonard discussed rescheduling the May 12th regular meeting due to the 2026 Primary Election. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to reschedule the May 12, 2026 regular meeting to May 5, 2026 at 10:00 AM CST in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Cherry County Courthouse. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughey, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

Board committee appointments and liaison designations were discussed. Nelson moved and McConaughey seconded to approve the reorganization of the Board Committees and Liaison designations for 2026 as follows:

Keya Paha/Cherry County Housing Authority Board	DeNaeyer
Region IV/NorthStar Development Board	DeNaeyer
Region 4/Behavioral Health System Board	Nelson
County Welfare Chairman	McConaughey
RC&D Board	Nelson
Road District #1 Supervisor	Nelson
Road District #2 Supervisor	DeNaeyer
Road District #3 Supervisor	McConaughey
Niobrara Council	Nelson
Northwest Community Action Board	McConaughey
North Central District Health Department	McConaughey
Northeast Nebraska Area Agency on Aging	Nelson
CNEDD Board	Nelson
Cherry County Safety Committee	DeNaeyer

Cherry County Emergency Management Liaison	DeNaeyer
Cherry County Justice Center Liaison	McConaughey
Cherry County Hospital Liaison	Nelson

Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughey. The motion carried.

Nelson moved and DeNaeyer seconded to appoint Clerk Leonard as the Cherry County Sam.Gov Account Administrator for 2026. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughey, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

DeNaeyer moved and McConaughey seconded to designate Valentine Midland News and the Cherry County website (www.cherrycountyne.gov) as the official publications for Cherry County meeting notices and other required communications for 2026. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughey, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to designate the following institutions as depositories for Cherry County funds for 2026: Sandhills State Bank, Security First Bank, NPAIT, Union Bank & Trust, Wells Fargo Bank, and Pinnacle Bank. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughey. The motion carried.

McConaughey moved and Nelson seconded to appoint Clerk Leonard as the Cherry County Health Insurance Plan Administrator for 2026. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughey, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

Emergency Management Director Jessica Coyle provided an update via phone re: cyber ready training information sent to elected officials, radio/computer issues with Keya-Paha County, 911 outage calls reported but not affecting Cherry County, hazard mitigation report for Merriman Fire Grant, NEMA progress report for the SLCG Grant, North Central Region PET training, attending the Friday Action Call webinar with NACO, North Central 911 meetings, North Central PET meetings, and 2 small grass fires.

Nelson moved and DeNaeyer seconded to approve Treasurer Hammond's semi-annual statement for July – December 2025. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughey, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

At 11:00 a.m. the board opened sealed bids for a wheel loader for Road District 1. The bids were opened in the order they were received as follows:

1. Murphy Tractor & Equipment: 2020 John Deere 524L - \$130,500.00
2. Murphy Tractor & Equipment: 2023 John Deere 624P - \$177,500.00
3. General Equipment & Supplies: 2020 HITA ZW150-6 - \$106,000.00
4. General Equipment & Supplies: 2020 HITA ZW180-6 - \$111,000.00

Highway Superintendent Jay D Osburn presented Resolution #2026-01 Abandonment of 908th Road. Mr. Osburn stated once the Resolution is approved, he will advertise the date and time of the public hearing for 3 consecutive weeks and notify landowners. It was a consensus of the board to hold the public hearing during the February 10th regular meeting at 11:00 a.m. Nelson moved and DeNaeyer seconded to approve Resolution #2026-01: Abandonment of 908th Road. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughey. The motion carried.

The board discussed the letter received from the State of Nebraska re: the offer to purchase the State Road Maintenance Yard. Foreman Osburn stated he looked into grants; however, the timeframe of applying and guarantee of grant money does not align with the January 31st timeline from the State of Nebraska for a letter of interest. The discussion of potentially housing other departments such as Emergency Management and Law Enforcement vehicles; and this would open more grant options. The current County Road District 1 buildings are in poor shape and need major repairs. It was a consensus of the board to reach out to the City of Valentine to discuss options of a potential interlocal agreement for the state yard. No board action taken.

Assessor Bancroft discussed upgrading options to the Beacon with the board and adding more options for subscribers, such as advertising, comparable sales, adding additional forms for the assessor's office use, etc. It was a consensus of the board for Sarah with Schneider Geospatial to meet with the board via Zoom for a presentation of the upgrades. No board action taken.

The board discussed expired terms on the Planning and Zoning Board with Zoning Administrator Katie Ormesher. Currently Duane Kime, Marla Shelbourn, and Bill Wachob's terms have expired. Ms. Ormesher informed the board she has talked to all three members, and they are willing to serve another term. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to re-appoint Duane Kime, Marla Shelbourn, and Bill Wachob to an additional three-year term, to expire on January 11, 2029. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughey, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

The board recessed from 12:03 p.m. to 12:32 p.m.

The board discussed the bids for a Road District 1 Wheel loader with the Road Foremen. Nelson moved and McConaughey seconded to award the bid from General Equipment & Supplies for a 2020 HITA model ZW180-6 wheel loader, VIN #RYUPD8600H8405488, after trade in value, for a total of \$111,000, for Road District 1. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughey, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

McConaughey moved and DeNaeyer seconded to approve Resolution #2026-02: Elected Officials 2027-2030 Salaries. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughey. The motion carried.

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

January 13, 2026
CHERRY COUNTY CLAIMS LISTING

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	89,398.55	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the General Fund in the amount of	\$	89,398.55	
GENERAL			
Applied Connective Technologies	Services	\$6,471.81	
Axon Enterprise Inc	Services	\$356.80	
Melissa Bancroft	Reimbursement	\$66.76	
Ryan Benjamin	Reimbursement	\$10.30	
Black Hills Chemical	Services	\$598.93	
Kristina Blackford	Mileage	\$74.20	
Ashley Blume	Reimbursement	\$273.00	
Bob Barker Company	Supplies	\$185.20	
Bomgaars	Supplies	\$68.73	
Borders & Furrow Law PC	Services	\$4,314.71	
Dale Bowlin	Mileage	\$72.80	
Boyd's Network Solutions	Services	\$1,845.00	
CenturyLink	Services	\$2,064.92	
Cherry County Extension Service	Reimbursement	\$353.24	
Cherry County Hospital	Services	\$6,528.50	
Cherry County Implement	Supplies	\$8.65	
Cherry County Sheriff	Services	\$4.00	
Cherry County Sheriff Fuel Account	Supplies	\$1,573.39	
Cherry County Treasurer	Bank Fees/Transfer	\$10.00	
Cherry County Treasurer	Voided Claim #25066425	\$80.00	
Clearly Communications	Services	\$327.69	
Contryman Associates PC	Services	\$17,500.00	
DAS State Accounting 6506	Services	\$537.60	
DAS State Accounting 6507	Services	\$222.55	
Cynthia Dobbins	Reimbursement	\$28.50	
James Edwards	Services	\$150.00	
FirstNet/AT&T Mobility	Services	\$492.32	
Jerry Fullerton	Mileage	\$58.80	
Green Clean	Services	\$775.00	
Pat Greenough	Reimbursement	\$100.00	
GRP & Associates	Supplies	\$58.00	
Kathy Hammond	Reimbursement	\$396.44	
Timothy Hanson	Equipment	\$2,636.75	
Heart City Drug	Supplies	\$495.79	
Henderson's IGA	Supplies	\$208.06	
Tru by Hilton Kearney	Lodging	\$374.85	
Holiday Inn Kearney	Lodging	\$624.75	
Patrick Hooper	Reimbursement	\$70.00	
Houghton Bradford Whitted PC LLO	Services	\$2,000.00	
Huskerland Hardware and Appliance	Supplies	\$332.45	
Interstate All Battery Center	Supplies	\$135.20	
Gary Jackson	Reimbursement	\$70.00	
Johnson Law Office	Clerical Salary/Rent/Telephone/Equipment	\$4,004.36	
KBR Rural Public Power	Services	\$92.45	
MARCO Technologies	Services	\$18.00	
Microfilm Imaging Systems	Services	\$186.00	
Valentine Midland News	Services	\$273.44	
NACO	Dues/Fees/Training	\$395.00	
NACO Planning & Zoning	Dues/Fees/Training	\$40.00	
Nebraska Assn of County Assessors	Dues/Fees/Training	\$100.00	
Niobrara Valley Consultants	Services	\$195.90	
NK Waste Inc	Services	\$386.00	
Office Products	Supplies	\$3,011.79	
Outback Screenprinting & Embroidery	Supplies	\$232.00	
Paper Tiger Shredding	Services	\$55.00	
Petty Cash	Reimbursement	\$278.53	
Prema	Services	\$112.67	
Presto X	Services	\$128.10	
Quadient Finance	Services	\$400.00	
Quill Corporation	Services	\$31.08	
Region 4 Behavioral Health	Services	\$5,495.00	
Sandhill Oil	Supplies	\$1,414.27	

Eric Scott Law	Clerical Salary/Rent/Telephone/Equipment	\$11,685.02
Scotty's Ranchland Foods	Supplies	\$278.54
Cardmember Service	Reimbursement	\$124.53
Sennet Duncan Jenkins & Wickham PC	Services	\$1,776.25
Blaire Speck	Reimbursement	\$25.00
Timeclock Plus	Services	\$1,236.00
The Twister Radio	Services	\$495.00
Tyler Technologies	Services	\$475.94
City of Valentine	Utilities	\$3,649.00
Viaero Wireless	Services	\$79.29
West Central Dist Assessor's Assn	Dues/Fees/Training	\$25.00
Western Oil Inc	Services	\$20.00
Laura Willert	Reimbursement	\$38.50
Wrenched Tire & Auto LLC	Services	\$85.20
	TOTAL	\$89,398.55

Claims were presented in the amount of \$ 88,841.97 .
and disallowed in the amount of
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Road Fund in the amount of \$ 88,841.97

ROAD

Allard Precast	Services	\$2,860.00
Baum Hydraulics Corporation	Services	\$203.16
Bomgaars	Supplies	\$388.35
Bordertown Discount Fuel	Services	\$144.00
Brad White Equipment	Services	\$425.00
Buckles Fuel Service	Services	\$10,268.65
Central Valley Ag Cooperative	Supplies	\$929.70
Cherry County Implement	Services	\$105.95
Circle K Motor Company	Services	\$428.89
Village of Cody	Services	\$195.40
Colonial Research Chemical Company	Services	\$1,765.16
Consolidated Telephone	Services	\$284.46
Custer Public Power District	Services	\$161.18
Danielski Farms	Services	\$8,365.20
DAS State Accounting Central Finance	Services	\$27.70
Floyd's Truck Center	Services	\$476.14
Great Plains Communications	Services	\$321.69
Hometown Lumber	Supplies	\$38.60
Interstate Battery System	Services	\$296.64
JHL Construction	Services	\$22,100.00
KBR Rural Public Power District	Services	\$1,056.87
Macke's Grocery Inc	Services	\$19.18
Martin Auto Parts	Supplies	\$70.81
Menards	Services	\$299.39
Village of Merriman	Services	\$60.83
Mills Hardware	Supplies	\$278.00
Mips Inc	Services	\$180.00
Mullen Auto & Diesel	Services	\$796.10
Village of Mullen	Services	\$144.00
Nebraska Motor Fuels Division	Services	\$2,917.00
Nebraska Public Power District	Services	\$153.95
NK Waste Inc	Services	\$128.00
Northern Tool & Equipment	Supplies	\$667.61
Office Products Center	Supplies	\$107.29
Outback Screenprinting & embroidery	Supplies	\$619.25
The Parts Company	Supplies	\$703.80
Perrett Construction	Services	\$867.87
Powerplan	Services	\$17,407.05
Prema	Services	\$124.77
Sandhill Oil Company	Supplies	\$10,448.00
City of Valentine	Services	\$1,001.51
Vander Haag's Inc	Services	\$705.82
Wrenched Tire & Auto	Services	\$50.00
3s Fabrication & Repair	Services	\$249.00
	TOTAL	\$88,841.97

Claims were presented in the amount of \$ 22,962.88 .
and disallowed in the amount of \$ - .
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Visitor Promotion Fund in the amount of \$ 22,962.88

VISITOR PROMOTION

Cherry County Visitors Promo Board	Reimbursement	\$156.76
Great Plains Communications	Services	\$207.48
Tony Hanson	Services	\$125.00

Huskerland Hardware		Supplies		\$22.99
KBR Rural Public Power District		Services		\$411.12
MCB Productions		Services		\$1,000.00
NRG Media, LLC		Services		\$1,280.00
Office Products		Supplies		\$35.00
Quad Graphics		Services		\$18,608.64
Tech Harbor Holdings		Services		\$410.00
City of Valentine		Utilities		\$238.25
Ward Plumbing & Heating Inc		Services		\$467.64
		TOTAL		\$22,962.88
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$		199.48	.
and disallowed in the amount of				.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Visitor Improvement Fund in the amount of				
VISITOR IMPROVEMENT (995)				
Stec Electric LLC		Services		\$199.48
		TOTAL		\$199.48
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	\$		700,000.00	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$		-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Inheritance Tax Fund in the amount of			\$	700,000.00
INHERITANCE TAX				
Cherry County Fund Transfer		Fund Transfer		\$700,000.00
		TOTAL		\$700,000.00
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$		1,152.72	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$		-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the 911 Emergency Services Fund in the amount of			\$	1,152.72
911 EMERGENCY SERVICES (2910)				
Boyd's Network Solutions		Services		\$820.00
CenturyLink		Services		\$276.84
Great Plains Communications		Services		\$55.88
		TOTAL		\$1,152.72
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	\$		15,362.34	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$		-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the 911 Wireless Holding Fund in the amount of			\$	15,362.34
911 WIRELESS Holding (2914)				
SOLOCOM Technologies		Services		\$15,362.34
		TOTAL		\$15,362.34
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$		9,103.01	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$		-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Hospital Operating/Maintenance Fund in the amount of			\$	9,103.01
Hospital Operating/Maintenance				
Cherry County Hospital		Operating Expense		\$9,103.01
		TOTAL		\$9,103.01

At 12:43 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 27th day of January 2026.

Samantha Leonard
Cherry County Clerk

Mike McConaughey, Chairperson
Cherry County Board of Commissioners