

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

March 31, 2026

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session on March 31, 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 10:00 a.m. by Chairman McConaughey. 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 Chairman McConaughey and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

March 31, 2026 CHERRY COUNTY CLAIMS LISTING

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	308,928.43	
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	
A warrant was ordered drawn on the General Fund in the amount of			\$ 308,928.43
GENERAL FUND			
AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance		\$3,142.16
AFLAC Dental	Withholdings/Insurance		\$2,487.89
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement		\$22,894.00
Credit Management Services	Garnishment		\$495.97
EFTPS	Withholdings/Taxes		\$40,323.25
Lincoln Financial Group	Withholdings/Insurance		\$369.44
Medica Health Insurance	Withholdings/Insurance		\$66,904.88
AUL Health Benefit Trust	Health Reimbursement Arrangement Funding		\$5,100.00
MidAmerica Admin & Retirement Solutions	Withholdings/Insurance		\$504.00
MIPS	Services		\$6,776.54
NE Department of Revenue	Withholdings/Taxes		\$5,520.17
Office Products Center Inc	Supplies		\$7.55
Eric Scott Law Office	Clerical Salary/Rent/Telephone/Equipment		\$5,280.88
Security 1st Health Savings Account	Withholdings/Insurance		\$4,033.33
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance		\$562.34
Andre, Andrea	Gross Wages		\$4,730.31
Bancroft, Melissa	Gross Salary		\$5,077.09
Blume, Ashley	Gross Wages		\$5,155.05
Brockley, Billie	Gross Salary		\$4,120.00
Bruning, Jerri	Gross Wages		\$3,831.38
Coates, Sonia	Gross Wages		\$4,480.99
DeNaeyer, Martin	Gross Salary		\$2,012.50
Dobbins, Cynthia	Gross Wages		\$3,838.27
Duffield, Janette	Gross Wages		\$4,642.83
Ghost Bear, Tamara	Gross Wages		\$5,961.51
Goodrich, Dustina	Gross Wages		\$3,796.50
Goodrich, Weston	Gross Wages		\$5,112.20
Greenough, Pat	Gross Wages		\$5,157.27
Hammond, Kathy	Gross Salary		\$5,077.09
Hanson, Jessica	Gross Wages		\$5,077.09
Hanson, Timothy	Gross Salary		\$2,538.54
Hesse, Sharon	Gross Salary		\$5,364.58
Hoefs, Jasmine	Gross Wages		\$3,477.71
Hooper, Patrick	Gross Wages		\$3,488.39
Jackson, Gary	Gross Wages		\$6,892.21
Johnson, Andrew	Gross Salary		\$3,716.50
Knox, Calvin	Gross Wages		\$5,400.09
Leonard, Samantha	Gross Salary		\$5,077.09
Lopez, Vincent	Gross Wages		\$1,393.06
Lutter, Tammy	Gross Wages		\$3,750.44
McConaughey, Michael	Gross Salary		\$2,012.50
McSweeney, Ryan	Gross Wages		\$5,909.40
Menze, Caitlyn	Gross Wages		\$3,447.21
Millar, Eve	Gross Wages		\$95.77
Nelson, Nina	Gross Salary		\$2,012.50
Ormesher, Katie	Gross Wages		\$4,066.82
Osborne, Joanie	Gross Wages		\$893.44
Osburn, Albert	Gross Salary		\$5,239.63
Peterson, Ebran	Gross Wages		\$3,528.42
Pier, Shelley	Gross Wages		\$4,010.97

Price, Cassandra	Gross Wages	\$5,142.97
Red Fish, Cheyenne	Gross Wages	\$5,651.63
Renning, Maxwell	Gross Wages	\$5,991.53
Scott, Eric	Gross Salary	\$5,717.69
Starr, Christopher	Gross Wages	\$5,331.35
Stec, Nicholas	Gross Wages	\$5,516.87
Stoeger, David	Gross Wages	\$5,466.87
Stolzenburg, Jane	Gross Wages	\$4,691.28
Thomsen, Clarissa	Gross Wages	\$4,390.37
Wickman, Erick	Gross Wages	\$6,413.45
	GROSS TOTAL	\$359,101.76
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$50,173.33)
	NET TOTAL	\$308,928.43
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	143,609.59
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Road Fund in the amount of	\$	143,609.59
ROAD FUND		
AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	\$2,303.36
AFLAC Dental	Withholdings/Insurance	\$1,065.18
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	10824.35
Credit Management	Garnishment	495.78
EFTPS	Taxes/Withholdings	\$20,449.00
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	\$2,879.96
Security 1st Health Savings Account	Withholdings/Insurance	\$1,800.00
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance	\$215.59
Buechle, Jordan	Gross Wages	\$6,477.30
Bunner, Bradley	Gross Wages	\$5,347.76
Cash, Tyler	Gross Wages	\$5,703.82
Coetzee, Daniel	Gross Wages	\$4,910.88
Collier, David	Gross Salary	\$5,150.00
Egger, Garrett	Gross Wages	\$5,125.04
Fernau, Bradly	Gross Wages	\$5,929.32
Graeff, Randy	Gross Wages	\$6,457.18
Hampton, Donald	Gross Wages	\$1,477.44
McWhirter, Bentz	Gross Wages	\$6,155.18
Olson, Arnold	Gross Wages	\$2,023.68
Osburn, Jay D	Gross Salary	\$5,900.00
Pearman, Terry	Gross Wages	\$6,347.71
Reese, Kay	Gross Wages	\$2,628.90
Songer, LeRoy	Gross Wages	\$5,194.59
Szakacs, Ryan	Gross Wages	\$5,191.70
Stichka, Steven	Gross Salary	\$5,150.00
Thompson, Shawn	Gross Wages	\$6,426.38
Vest, Daniel	Gross Wages	\$5,019.44
	GROSS TOTAL	\$169,369.84
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$25,760.25)
	NET TOTAL	\$143,609.59
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	7,801.80
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Visitors Promotion Fund in the amount of	\$	7,801.80
VISITORS PROMOTION FUND		
AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	97.37
AFLAC Dental	Withholdings/Insurance	55.63
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$768.37
EFTPS	Taxes/Withholdings	\$1,428.64
NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings	\$174.17
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance	\$31.84
Braun, Regina	Gross Wages	\$5,102.56
Graeff, Lynn	Gross Wages	\$1,727.43
	GROSS TOTAL	\$9,386.01
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$1,584.21)
	NET TOTAL	\$7,801.80
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	738.95
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Health Claims Fund in the amount of	\$	738.95
HEALTH CLAIMS FUND		
Cherry County Clerk	Health Insurance Claims	\$738.95

		TOTAL	\$738.95
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	9,887.12	
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Emergency Management Fund in the amount of		\$	9,887.12
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND			
AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance		151.04
AFLAC Dental	Withholdings/Insurance		77.81
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement		\$729.90
EFTPS	Taxes/Withholdings		\$1,407.04
Medica Health Insurance	Withholdings/Insurance		\$2,155.10
NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings		\$179.30
Security 1st Health Savings Account	Withholdings/Insurance		\$500.00
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance		\$31.84
Coyle, Jessica	Gross Salary		\$5,034.64
Reese, Kay	Gross Wages		\$1,453.31
		GROSS TOTAL	\$11,719.98
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings		(\$1,832.86)
		NET TOTAL	\$9,887.12

The Board of Commissioners' meeting minutes from March 10, 2026 were read. Nelson moved and DeNaeyer seconded to approve minutes with noted corrections. Roll call vote: Aye –Nelson, McConaughy, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

The Board of Equalization meeting minutes from March 10, 2026 were read. McConaughy moved and Nelson seconded to approve minutes as read. Roll call vote: Aye –McConaughy, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

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

District 3 Road Foreman Brent Collier provided an update re: completion of the Mule Deer Road project, general maintenance, and hauling materials. District 1 Road Foreman Jay D Osburn provided an update re: general maintenance, hand patching, equipment being repaired. District 2 Road Foreman Steve Stichka provided an update re: general maintenance, hauling material, equipment being repaired, and starting the milling project on Goose Creek Road.

Sheriff Rusty Osburn and Deputy Sheriff Erick Wickman provided an update re: a candidate to hire is enrolled in the Academy to begin in May 2026. The board discussed a potential vehicle purchase for the Sheriff's Department. DeNaeyer moved and McConaughy seconded to authorize Sheriff Osburn to begin searching for a new vehicle and present the board with bids. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughy. The motion carried.

Highway Superintendent Jay D Osburn provided an update re: the bridge inspection report from Mainelli-Wagner is expected soon.

Emergency Management Director Jessica Coyle provided an update via email.

At 10:30 a.m. the board met with Jim Barga, CEO of Cherry County Hospital, to discuss the 2026-2027 budget. The board discussed an approximate proposed \$6.5 million increase in patient revenue from last year, state costs and contractual allowances, bad debt with coding expense errors, net position drop due to cat up with state payments in fiscal year 2025-2026, capital expenditures & equipment being at end of life, and cash on hand improvement from last year and reserving these funds for Medicare because of the decreased rate with Mr. Barga. McConaughy moved and Nelson seconded to approve the Cherry County Hospital 2026-2027 budget as presented. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughy, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

Mr. Barga provided the board with an update re: workforce stabilized, leadership transitions, new hires, financials are stabilized and Accounts Receivables have decreased over the year, working on a high value network to improve care and reduce costs with concentration on outpatient services at this time, and technology.

At 10:59 a.m. the board met with Dustin Will, Benefit Management Services, via Zoom for a health insurance update. Mr. Will informed the board he feels the switch from self-funded to fully funded has been a great switch and is less risk to the county, a preventative program with Medica, trends for premiums currently show an increase and he is hopeful for a decrease in the next few years again, options and strategies to help with the premium increase, and will meet with the board end of April to discuss renewal options.

At 11:19 Chairman McConaughy opened the public hearing for the One- and Six-Year Road Improvement Plan. The board discussed changes and corrections with the road foremen. Whitman Road and Kilgore Road projects were discussed and the collaboration of Districts to complete the Kilgore Road project was discussed. The foremen will make the changes to the plan, and a new public hearing will be held the end of April. At 11:49 a.m. Chairman McConaughy closed the public hearing. It was a consensus of the board for the Foremen to make the corrections and hold a public hearing April 28, 2026 at 10:15 a.m.

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MINUTES March 31, 2026

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened as a Board of Corrections on March 31, 2026 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 Mike McConaughey, Nina Nelson, Martin DeNaeyer, County Clerk Samantha Leonard and Justice Administrator Sharon Hesse. The Open Meetings Act Poster was acknowledged by McConaughey.

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

Administrator Hesse provided a staff and jail update.

At 1:33 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 on this 14th day of April 2026.

Samantha Leonard
Cherry County Clerk

Mike McConaughey, Chairperson
Cherry County Board of Commissioners

