

# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

April 28, 2026

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session on April 28, 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.

The Board of Commissioners' meeting minutes from April 14, 2026 were read. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to approve minutes as read. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughey. The motion carried.

Comments from the public were received during the allotted time.

At 10:05 a.m. the board met with Grounds Superintendent Pat Greenough, along with Tom Monroe and Andrew Ward, to discuss bids for replacing the Electric Furnace & A/C Unit in the Cherry County South Building. Three bids were presented as follows:

1. Heart City Plumbing – Lennox ML14KP1 HP unit & CBK45UHET furnace with 10KW heat pack - \$13,950
2. Monroe HVAC – Daikin 5-ton 14.3 SEER 3 Phase heat pump & 15 KW 3 phase heat kit with new line set - \$11,650 – this bid includes the \$2,000 incentive qualification from Heartland Energy
3. Monroe HVAC – 5-ton 14.3 SEER 3 phase A/C & 15 KW 3 phase heat kit with new line set - \$10,950

Nelson moved and DeNaeyer seconded to accept Monroe HVAC bid #1366 for \$11,650 with a \$2,000 Heartland Energy incentive. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughey, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

At 10:17 a.m. McConaughey opened the One-and-Six Year Road Improvement Plan public hearing. Highway Superintendent Jay D Osburn stated the foremen put together a plan they feel they could complete within their budget. The board thanked the foremen for the changes completed and the well put together plan. At 10:24 a.m. McConaughey closed the public hearing. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to adopt the One-and-Six Year Road Improvement Plan as presented and authorize the chairman to execute Resolution #2026-07. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughey, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

The board met with Deputy Sheriff Erick Wickman to discuss potential bids for a new Sheriff vehicle. Mr. Wickman stated he does not have any bids at this time, but they have two companies looking for vehicles. It was a consensus of the board to discuss it at the May 26, 2026 meeting.

District 3 Road Foreman Brent Collier provided an update re: blading roads, fixing plugged culverts, general maintenance, and filling in soft spots in roads. District 2 Foreman Steve Stichka provided an update re: blading, Goose Creek Road milling project is approximately 75% complete and hauling more materials to complete project. Foreman Jay D Osburn provided an update for District 1 re: fixing plugged culverts, autogate repairs, and pulling up roads.

Highway Superintendent Jay D Osburn provided an update re: bridge reinspections being completed due to the Federal Transportation Board audit and Mainelli Wagner splitting the cost of the inspections with the County due to the incomplete inspections originally done, and the Amish owned bridge load rating inspection is complete and waiting on a report.

The board discussed Resolution #2026-08 Certificate of Deposit Closure and Transfer of Funds for the Visitor Promotion CD currently at Pinnacle Bank, per Contryman Associate's representative Jada Thompson's recommendation, due to the CD not being used. McConaughey moved and Nelson seconded to adopt Resolution #2026-08 Certificate of Deposit Closure and Transfer of Funds. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughey. The motion carried.

Emergency Management Director Jessica Coyle provided an update re: recent fires in Cherry County, fire reports being submitted to the State, trainings, Huntress Cybersecurity training, and Platte Valley completed repairs on the Valentine Tower.

The board discussed a countywide burn ban. Commissioner McConaughey visited with all fire chiefs in Cherry County and had support prior to the moisture. Fire Chiefs from the western part of the county state we did not receive enough moisture, and they will not be issuing burn permits. The eastern part of the county received more moisture and are not as concerned about a burn ban being in place. It was a consensus of the board to discuss conditions at the next regular meeting. No board action taken.

No action taken on agenda item Resolution #2026-09 County Burn Ban.

McConaughey moved and DeNaeyer seconded to set the date and time to open sealed re: the North Whitman Road Armor Coat Project for May 26, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. CT. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughey, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

Zoning Administrator Katie Ormesher provided an update re: correspondence with Keith Marvin for the Zoning Regulations. Clerk Leonard stated she has not received any correspondence for the Comprehensive Plan updates sent in October 2025. Commissioner McConaughey will reach out to Mr. Marvin to discuss.

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

**April 30, 2026**  
**CHERRY COUNTY CLAIMS LISTING**

Claims were presented in the amount of \$ 266,254.96  
 and disallowed in the amount of \$ -  
 A warrant was ordered drawn on the General Fund in the amount of \$ 266,254.96

**GENERAL FUND**

AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	\$3,142.16
AFLAC Dental	Withholdings/Insurance	\$2,487.88
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$19,220.00
Cherry County District Court	Services	\$75.00
Credit Management Services	Garnishment	\$465.08
EFTPS	Withholdings/Taxes	\$32,242.42
Journal Entry	Void Check# 26048114	(\$111.00)
Lincoln Financial Group	Withholdings/Insurance	\$738.88
Medica Health Insurance	Withholdings/Insurance	\$66,904.88
AUL Health Benefit Trust	Health Reimbursement Arrangement Funding	\$5,100.00
NE Department of Revenue	Withholdings/Taxes	\$4,222.37
Eric Scott Law Office	Clerical Salary/Rent/Telephone/Equipment	\$5,245.00
Security 1st Health Savings Account	Withholdings/Insurance	\$4,033.33
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance	\$562.34
Andre, Andrea	Gross Wages	\$3,793.60
Bancroft, Melissa	Gross Salary	\$5,077.09
Blume, Ashley	Gross Wages	\$4,231.53
Brockley, Billie	Gross Salary	\$4,120.00
Bruning, Jerri	Gross Wages	\$2,811.53
Coates, Sonia	Gross Wages	\$3,827.91
DeNaeyer, Martin	Gross Salary	\$2,012.50
Dobbins, Cynthia	Gross Wages	\$3,055.26
Duffield, Janette	Gross Wages	\$3,771.79
Ghost Bear, Tamara	Gross Wages	\$3,737.48
Goodrich, Dustina	Gross Wages	\$3,032.10
Goodrich, Weston	Gross Wages	\$4,238.00
Greenough, Pat	Gross Wages	\$4,038.58
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	\$3,518.46
Hooper, Patrick	Gross Wages	\$2,737.54
Jackson, Gary	Gross Wages	\$4,554.38
Johnson, Andrew	Gross Salary	\$3,716.50
Knox, Calvin	Gross Wages	\$3,474.54
Leonard, Samantha	Gross Salary	\$5,077.09
Lopez, Vincent	Gross Wages	\$1,567.84
Lutter, Tammy	Gross Wages	\$2,997.43
McConaughey, Michael	Gross Salary	\$2,012.50
McSweeney, Ryan	Gross Wages	\$4,731.04
Menze, Caitlyn	Gross Wages	\$1,711.50
Millar, Eve	Gross Wages	\$129.75
Nelson, Nina	Gross Salary	\$2,012.50
Ormesher, Katie	Gross Wages	\$3,223.72
Osborne, Joanie	Gross Wages	\$773.50
Osburn, Albert	Gross Salary	\$5,239.63
Peterson, Ebran	Gross Wages	\$2,803.16
Pier, Shelley	Gross Wages	\$3,216.31
Price, Cassandra	Gross Wages	\$3,834.07
Red Fish, Cheyenne	Gross Wages	\$4,444.47
Renning, Maxwell	Gross Wages	\$4,765.28

Running Bear, Brittany	Gross Wages	\$457.40
Scott, Eric	Gross Salary	\$5,717.69
Starr, Christopher	Gross Wages	\$4,160.60
Stec, Nicholas	Gross Wages	\$3,714.08
Stoeger, David	Gross Wages	\$4,684.90
Stolzenburg, Jane	Gross Wages	\$3,776.58
Thomsen, Clarissa	Gross Wages	\$3,610.63
Wickman, Erick	Gross Wages	\$5,115.16
	GROSS TOTAL	\$307,911.26
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$41,656.30)
	NET TOTAL	\$266,254.96

Claims were presented in the amount of \$ 125,658.53  
and disallowed in the amount of \$ -  
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Road Fund in the amount of \$ 125,658.53

**ROAD FUND**

AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	\$2,303.36
AFLAC Dental	Withholdings/Insurance	\$1,065.18
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$9,059.03
Credit Management	Garnishment	493.94
EFTPS	Taxes/Withholdings	\$16,126.26
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	\$2,221.51
Security 1st Health Savings Account	Withholdings/Insurance	\$1,800.00
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance	\$215.59
Buechle, Jordan	Gross Wages	\$4,918.55
Bunner, Bradley	Gross Wages	\$4,373.38
Cash, Tyler	Gross Wages	\$4,746.87
Coetzee, Daniel	Gross Wages	\$3,930.82
Collier, David	Gross Salary	\$5,150.00
Egger, Garrett	Gross Wages	\$4,348.20
Fernau, Bradly	Gross Wages	\$4,988.18
Graeff, Randy	Gross Wages	\$5,237.09
Hampton, Donald	Gross Wages	\$1,477.44
Licking, Jeffrey	Gross Wages	\$282.24
McWhirter, Bentz	Gross Wages	\$4,812.11
Olson, Arnold	Gross Wages	\$1,602.08
Osburn, Jay D	Gross Salary	\$5,900.00
Pearman, Terry	Gross Wages	\$4,936.30
Reese, Kay	Gross Wages	\$2,029.06
Songer, LeRoy	Gross Wages	\$4,307.62
Szakacs, Ryan	Gross Wages	\$3,899.04
Stichka, Steven	Gross Salary	\$5,150.00
Thompson, Shawn	Gross Wages	\$4,822.93
Vest, Daniel	Gross Wages	\$4,012.90
	GROSS TOTAL	\$146,929.98
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$21,271.45)
	NET TOTAL	\$125,658.53

Claims were presented in the amount of \$ 5,979.78  
and disallowed in the amount of \$ -  
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Visitors Promotion Fund in the amount of \$ 5,979.78

**VISITORS PROMOTION FUND**

AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	97.37
AFLAC Dental	Withholdings/Insurance	55.63
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$589.20
EFTPS	Taxes/Withholdings	\$1,049.76
NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings	\$113.15
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance	\$31.84
Braun, Regina	Gross Wages	\$3,905.73
Graeff, Lynn	Gross Wages	\$1,331.58
	GROSS TOTAL	\$7,174.26
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$1,194.48)
	NET TOTAL	\$5,979.78

Claims were presented in the amount of \$ 9,630.84  
and disallowed in the amount of \$ -  
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Emergency Management Fund in the amount of \$ 9,630.84

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND**

AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	151.04
AFLAC Dental	Withholdings/Insurance	77.81
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$704.70
EFTPS	Taxes/Withholdings	\$1,344.48
Medica Health Insurance	Withholdings/Insurance	\$2,155.10
NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings	\$168.92
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	\$1,229.29
	GROSS TOTAL	\$11,397.82
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$1,766.98)
	NET TOTAL	\$9,630.84

At 11:01 a.m. the board met with Dustin Will, Benefit Management Services, to discuss the health insurance renewal. Mr. Will stated he feels the county has had substantial cost savings due to switching from self-funded to fully funded insurance and reduced the risk to the county. Mr. Will presented and discussed high claimant, pharmacy, premium and claim reports. The health insurance proposal for renewal is a 19% increase between the two plans currently offered to full-time county employees. Mr. Will stated the trends they are seeing they are hopeful to see premiums start to slightly decrease starting next year. Mr. Will presented four options for the board to consider helping with the increase including increasing costs of premium for employees, decreasing contributions to the HSA & HRA accounts, and plan changes for both plans including increasing deductibles and decreasing contributions. It was a consensus of the board to do their own due diligence and discuss options at the May 26, 2026 regular meeting. Mr. Will also asked the board if they would be willing to look at options at the next meeting re: full comprehensive insurance packages for employees. The board will consider based on proposals presented at the next meeting. No board action taken.

The board recessed from 11:50 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The board recessed from 1:00 p.m. to 1:20 p.m. to convene as a Board of Equalization.

The board recessed from 1:30 p.m. to 1:47 p.m. to convene as a Board of Corrections.

At 2:00 p.m. the board met with Tourism Board members and Andy Forney to discuss options of additional funding for the Convention Center. Board members stated funds have been received and pledged; however, the foundations will not commit to funding until the threshold of committed funds have been received by the Tourism board. Mr. Forney discussed bond options with the board. This bond would be held to use future tourism funds to pay the bond. This would jumpstart the Convention Center project to show proof of funds for the foundations to commit to the project. The bond would be paid with lodging tax revenue. Mr. Forney stated this kind of bond creates a limited source of payment and would need to be amortized for a longer period of time with the option to refinance. Mr. Forney and County Attorney Eric Scott would work together to create a resolution for the bond, and this resolution would state it would not exceed a certain amount; however, it is proof to the foundations to receive their funding, but the bond may not have to be used based on the foundation funding received. The tourism board stated foundation applications have been submitted and at this time they are waiting on approval. The board stated they would like to see more of the pledges committed and grant funding approved prior to deciding. It was reiterated from the board that no tax dollars will be used to fund the Convention Center or the bond. The board will discuss it again at the May 26, 2026 regular meeting. No board action taken.

At 2:34 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 on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026.

Samantha Leonard  
 Samantha Leonard  
 Cherry County Clerk

Mike McConaughy  
 Mike McConaughy, Chairperson  
 Cherry County Board of Commissioners

