

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

May 26, 2026

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session on May 26, 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 May 5, 2026 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.

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

May 29, 2026

CHERRY COUNTY CLAIMS LISTING

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	283,317.09	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the General Fund in the amount of	\$	283,317.09	
GENERAL FUND			
AFLAC		Withholdings/Insurance	\$3,142.16
AFLAC Dental		Withholdings/Insurance	\$2,589.81
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement		Withholdings/Retirement	\$20,123.00
Borders & Furrow Law PC		Services	\$1,000.00
Credit Management Services		Garnishment	\$113.04
EFTPS		Withholdings/Taxes	\$34,078.04
Journal Entry		Aflac Dental Correction	(\$0.01)
Journal Entry		Void Ck# 26048149	(\$90.00)
Medica Health Insurance		Withholdings/Insurance	\$67,824.23
AUL Health Benefit Trust		Health Reimbursement Arrangement Funding	\$5,200.00
MidAmerica Admin & Retirement Solutions		Services	\$504.00
NE Department of Revenue		Withholdings/Taxes	\$4,473.05
Eric Scott Law Office		Clerical Salary/Rent/Telephone/Equipment	\$11,800.91
Security 1st Health Savings Account		Withholdings/Insurance	\$4,033.33
Vision Service Plan		Withholdings/Insurance	\$591.27
Andre, Andrea		Gross Wages	\$3,770.34
Bancroft, Melissa		Gross Salary	\$5,077.09
Blume, Ashley		Gross Wages	\$4,061.06
Brockley, Billie		Gross Salary	\$4,120.00
Bruning, Jerri		Gross Wages	\$3,296.94
Coates, Sonia		Gross Wages	\$4,229.36
Dehart, Ashton		Gross Wages	\$2,045.00
DeNaeyer, Martin		Gross Salary	\$2,012.50
Dobbins, Cynthia		Gross Wages	\$3,038.70
Duffield, Janette		Gross Wages	\$4,243.36
Froning, Ellen		Gross Wages	\$251.67
Ghost Bear, Tamara		Gross Wages	\$4,778.52
Goodrich, Dustina		Gross Wages	\$3,047.68
Goodrich, Weston		Gross Wages	\$4,507.75
Greenough, Pat		Gross Wages	\$4,160.97
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	\$3,327.65
Hooper, Patrick		Gross Wages	\$2,703.33
Jackson, Gary		Gross Wages	\$5,234.26
Johnson, Andrew		Gross Salary	\$3,716.50
Knox, Calvin		Gross Wages	\$3,368.31
Leonard, Samantha		Gross Salary	\$5,077.09
Lopez, Vincent		Gross Wages	\$502.86
Lutter, Tammy		Gross Wages	\$2,997.43
McConaughey, Michael		Gross Salary	\$2,012.50
McSweeney, Ryan		Gross Wages	\$5,008.92
Menze, Caitlyn		Gross Wages	\$2,239.58

Millar, Eve	Gross Wages	\$91.00
Nelson, Nina	Gross Salary	\$2,012.50
Ormesher, Katie	Gross Wages	\$2,826.49
Osborne, Joanie	Gross Wages	\$688.16
Osburn, Albert	Gross Salary	\$5,239.63
Peterson, Ebran	Gross Wages	\$2,838.72
Pier, Shelley	Gross Wages	\$3,225.33
Price, Cassandra	Gross Wages	\$3,944.31
Red Fish, Cheyenne	Gross Wages	\$4,761.89
Renning, Maxwell	Gross Wages	\$4,956.24
Running Bear, Brittany	Gross Wages	\$2,085.80
Scott, Eric	Gross Salary	\$5,717.69
Starr, Christopher	Gross Wages	\$4,570.69
Stec, Nicholas	Gross Wages	\$4,114.13
Stoeger, David	Gross Wages	\$4,469.90
Stolzenburg, Jane	Gross Wages	\$3,967.77
Thomsen, Clarissa	Gross Wages	\$3,589.32
Wickman, Erick	Gross Wages	\$5,204.85

GROSS TOTAL \$326,573.92

Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings (\$43,256.83)

NET TOTAL **\$283,317.09**

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	125,290.77	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Road Fund in the amount of			\$ 125,290.77

ROAD FUND

AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	\$2,303.36
AFLAC Dental	Withholdings/Insurance	\$1,065.18
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$9,016.84
Credit Management	Garnishment	495.78
EFTPS	Taxes/Withholdings	\$15,816.80
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	\$2,215.51
Security 1st Health Savings Account	Withholdings/Insurance	\$1,800.00
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance	\$215.59
Buechle, Jordan	Gross Wages	\$4,932.42
Bunner, Bradley	Gross Wages	\$4,203.43
Bunner, Mikeal	Gross Wages	\$57.00
Cash, Tyler	Gross Wages	\$4,385.58
Coetzee, Daniel	Gross Wages	\$3,920.22
Collier, David	Gross Salary	\$5,150.00
Egger, Garrett	Gross Wages	\$4,319.21
Fernau, Bradly	Gross Wages	\$5,089.03
Graeff, Randy	Gross Wages	\$5,108.66
Hampton, Donald	Gross Wages	\$1,323.54
McWhirter, Bentz	Gross Wages	\$5,010.88
Olson, Arnold	Gross Wages	\$1,665.32
Osburn, Jay D	Gross Salary	\$5,900.00
Pearman, Terry	Gross Wages	\$5,186.64
Reese, Kay	Gross Wages	\$2,093.69
Songer, LeRoy	Gross Wages	\$4,185.84
Szakacs, Ryan	Gross Wages	\$3,512.26
Stichka, Steven	Gross Salary	\$5,150.00
Thompson, Shawn	Gross Wages	\$5,272.93
Vest, Daniel	Gross Wages	\$4,140.06

GROSS TOTAL \$146,256.07

Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings (\$20,965.30)

NET TOTAL **\$125,290.77**

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	6,247.96	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Visitors Promotion Fund in the amount of			\$ 6,247.96

VISITORS PROMOTION FUND

AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	97.37
AFLAC Dental	Withholdings/Insurance	55.63
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$615.57
EFTPS	Taxes/Withholdings	\$1,085.05
NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings	\$120.29
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance	\$31.84
Braun, Regina	Gross Wages	\$3,899.54

Graeff, Lynn		Gross Wages	\$1,572.19
		GROSS TOTAL	\$7,477.48
		Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$1,229.52)
		NET TOTAL	\$6,247.96
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	9,542.61	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Emergency Management Fund in the amount of		\$	9,542.61
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND			
AFLAC		Withholdings/Insurance	151.04
AFLAC Dental		Withholdings/Insurance	77.81
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement		Withholdings/Retirement	\$696.02
EFTPS		Taxes/Withholdings	\$1,326.57
Medica Health Insurance		Withholdings/Insurance	\$2,155.10
NE Department of Revenue		Taxes/Withholdings	\$166.68
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	\$1,152.17
		GROSS TOTAL	\$11,291.87
		Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$1,749.26)
		NET TOTAL	\$9,542.61
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	11,650.00	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Courthouse (Special Building) Fund in the amount of		\$	11,650.00
Courthouse (Special Building)			
Monroe HVAC Inc		Services	\$11,650.00
		NET TOTAL	\$11,650.00

Emergency Management Director Jessica Coyle provided an update re: submission of Anderson Bridge fire paperwork, trainings, table talks, meetings, NIRMA roundtable, weather, I Am Responding text software for EM personnel and dispatch, Cherry County LEOP plan will need to be updated for 2027, and PSAP funding.

At 10:15 a.m. Sheriff Deputy Erick Wickman met with the board to discuss potential vehicle purchase bids. Nelson moved and DeNaeyer seconded to accept the bid of a 2025 Ram 1500 Bighorn from Tehrani Motors as presented, to be paid out of the Inheritance Fund. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughy, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

The board discussed the NEMA Inspection reports with EM Director Coyle. Director Coyle stated they are still asking for documentation; however, figures will not change and funding has been opened for the year, so these reports need to be approved. McConaughy moved and DeNaeyer seconded to authorize the Emergency Management Director to sign & approve the NEMA Inspection Reports. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughy. The motion carried.

At 10:31 a.m. the board met with Dan Duren, Benefit Management Services, via Zoom to discuss Health Insurance renewal. The board discussed options as presented to help alleviate some of the increase from the County. These options included HSA/HRA contribution reductions, premium costs to the employees, and a combination of both. It was a consensus of the board to table this agenda item until more figures are presented from Mr. Duren.

Road Foreman Brent Collier provided an update for District 3 re: blading roads, maintenance, hauling materials, and patching. Foreman Steve Stichka provided an update for District 2 re: blading roads, maintenance, hauling materials, shoulder work, repairs, and Goose Creek Road project is complete. District 1 Road Foreman Jay D Osburn provided an update re: blading roads, maintenance, hauling materials, and completion of the ½ mile milling project.

Highway Superintendent Jay D Osburn provided an update re: load rating report for the Amish Bridge has been received and will be put on the agenda and Borman Bridge Road alternate route will be discussed at the next regular meeting.

Request to Occupy Right of Way permit submitted by Mark Monroe was discussed. Mr. Osburn stated the application is to bore an electrical line under the county road to a new irrigation system. Nelson moved and DeNaeyer seconded to approve the Right of Way application from Mark Monroe. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughy, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

No sealed bids were received at 11:00 am for the North Whitman Armor Coat project.

No action on agenda item Award Bid re: North Whitman Road Armor Coat project. The bid process will start over, and sealed bids will be opened at June 30, 2026 regular meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Request to Occupy County Right of Way permit submitted by City of Valentine was discussed. Mr. Osburn stated the permit is for US Game and Parks to bore electricity to a new building at the Fish Hatchery. Mr. Osburn asked the board to consider waiving the \$50 application fee for a public entity. Nelson moved and McConaughy seconded to approve the Right of Way Permit from the City of Valentine and waive the application fee. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughy, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

