

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES
June 30, 2026

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session on June 30, 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 McConaughy. Roll call was taken. Present for the meeting were Commissioners Mike McConaughy and Martin DeNaeyer, and Clerk Samantha Leonard. The Open Meetings Act Poster was acknowledged by Chairman McConaughy, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Commissioner Nina Nelson had an excused absence. *Nelson attended via phone for discussion.*

The Board of Commissioners' meeting minutes from June 09, 2026 were read. McConaughy moved and DeNaeyer seconded to approve minutes as read. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, McConaughy. Absent - Nelson. The motion carried.

The board of Commissioners' special meeting minutes from June 22, 2026 were read. DeNaeyer moved and McConaughy seconded to approve minutes as read. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughy, DeNaeyer. Absent – Nelson. The motion carried.

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

The board discussed a payroll claim re: sick leave being used during scheduled hours. This employee was trying use their accrued sick hours because sick leave accrual is not paid out once employment is terminated. It was a consensus of the board that the handbook is very clear, and sick leave is only to be used for medical purposes only and will not be paid out after employment terms.

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

June 30, 2026
CHERRY COUNTY CLAIMS LISTING

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	324,097.37	
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	
A warrant was ordered drawn on the General Fund in the amount of	\$		324,097.37
GENERAL FUND			
AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance		\$3,142.16
AFLAC Dental	Withholdings/Insurance		\$2,589.81
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement		\$23,592.31
DAS State Accounting	Services		\$18.75
James Edwards	Reimbursement		\$265.31
EFTPS	Withholdings/Taxes		\$42,111.97
Journal Entry	Aflac Dental Correction		\$0.02
Lincoln Financial Group	Withholdings/Insurance		\$390.08
Medica Health Insurance	Withholdings/Insurance		\$84,503.03
AUL Health Benefit Trust	Health Reimbursement Arrangement Funding		\$5,200.00
NE Department of Revenue	Withholdings/Taxes		\$5,722.77
Security 1st Health Savings Account	Withholdings/Insurance		\$4,033.33
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance		\$577.23
Andre, Andrea	Gross Wages		\$4,732.99
Bancroft, Melissa	Gross Salary		\$5,077.09
Beel, Hannah	Gross Wages		\$2,456.80
Blume, Ashley	Gross Wages		\$5,130.73
Brockley, Billie	Gross Salary		\$4,120.00
Bruning, Jerri	Gross Wages		\$3,980.63
Coates, Sonia	Gross Wages		\$6,238.84
Dehart, Ashton	Gross Wages		\$4,997.50
DeNaeyer, Martin	Gross Salary		\$2,012.50
Dobbins, Cynthia	Gross Wages		\$3,811.11
Duffield, Janette	Gross Wages		\$6,132.92
Froning, Ellen	Gross Wages		\$794.98
Ghost Bear, Tamara	Gross Wages		\$5,158.85
Goodrich, Dustina	Gross Wages		\$3,804.29
Goodrich, Weston	Gross Wages		\$5,762.25
Greenough, Pat	Gross Wages		\$5,362.68
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		\$3,701.60
Hooper, Patrick	Gross Wages		\$3,382.31
Jackson, Gary	Gross Wages		\$6,493.96

Johnson, Andrew	Gross Salary	\$3,716.50
Knox, Calvin	Gross Wages	\$5,644.29
Leonard, Samantha	Gross Salary	\$5,077.09
Lopez, Vincent	Gross Wages	\$563.04
Lutter, Tammy	Gross Wages	\$3,734.96
McConaughy, Michael	Gross Salary	\$2,012.50
McSweeney, Ryan	Gross Wages	\$6,064.17
Menze, Caitlyn	Gross Wages	\$2,572.66
Millar, Eve	Gross Wages	\$574.84
Nelson, Nina	Gross Salary	\$2,012.50
Ormesher, Katie	Gross Wages	\$3,000.25
Osborne, Joanie	Gross Wages	\$811.84
Osburn, Albert	Gross Salary	\$5,239.63
Peterson, Efran	Gross Wages	\$3,526.20
Pier, Shelley	Gross Wages	\$4,012.10
Price, Cassandra	Gross Wages	\$4,696.72
Red Fish, Cheyenne	Gross Wages	\$2,927.57
Renning, Maxwell	Gross Wages	\$6,164.04
Running Bear, Brittany	Gross Wages	\$2,721.69
Scott, Eric	Gross Salary	\$5,717.69
Starr, Christopher	Gross Wages	\$5,171.51
Stec, Nicholas	Gross Wages	\$4,366.72
Stoeger, David	Gross Wages	\$5,818.62
Stolzenburg, Jane	Gross Wages	\$4,525.10
Thomsen, Clarissa	Gross Wages	\$4,362.87
Wickman, Erick	Gross Wages	\$6,970.97

GROSS TOTAL \$375,362.17

Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings (\$51,264.80)

NET TOTAL \$324,097.37

Claims were presented in the amount of \$ 183,641.68

and disallowed in the amount of \$ -

A warrant was ordered drawn on the Road Fund in the amount of \$ 183,641.68

ROAD FUND

AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	\$2,303.36
AFLAC Dental	Withholdings/Insurance	\$1,065.18
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$10,906.87
Credit Management	Garnishment	\$495.78
Eagle Chevrolet	Vehicle	\$29,585.00
EFTPS	Taxes/Withholdings	\$21,874.50
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	\$3,132.69
Security 1st Health Savings Account	Withholdings/Insurance	\$1,800.00
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance	\$215.59
Buechle, Jordan	Gross Wages	\$6,029.48
Bunner, Bradley	Gross Wages	\$5,449.73
Cash, Tyler	Gross Wages	\$6,191.88
Coetzee, Daniel	Gross Wages	\$5,154.59
Collier, David	Gross Salary	\$5,150.00
Donner, Abigayle	Gross Wages	\$2,964.00
Egger, Garrett	Gross Wages	\$4,578.81
Fernau, Bradly	Gross Wages	\$5,970.44
Fish, Teagen	Gross Wages	\$3,451.35
Fish, Tristan	Gross Wages	\$4,142.00
Graeff, Randy	Gross Wages	\$6,478.58
Hampton, Donald	Gross Wages	\$1,313.28
Hart, Benjamin	Gross Wages	\$1,525.02
Licking, Jeffrey	Gross Wages	\$60.48
McWhirter, Bentz	Gross Wages	\$5,619.13
Olson, Arnold	Gross Wages	\$1,075.08
Osburn, Jay D	Gross Salary	\$5,900.00
Pitkin, Isaac	Gross Wages	\$1,332.00
Pearman, Terry	Gross Wages	\$5,784.48
Reese, Kay	Gross Wages	\$2,736.54
Songer, LeRoy	Gross Wages	\$4,700.42
Szakacs, Ryan	Gross Wages	\$4,746.65
Stichka, Steven	Gross Salary	\$5,150.00
Thompson, Shawn	Gross Wages	\$6,027.12
Vest, Daniel	Gross Wages	\$4,743.95
	GROSS TOTAL	\$210,374.28

	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings		(\$26,732.60)
	NET TOTAL		\$183,641.68
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	7,399.82	
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Visitors Promotion Fund in the amount of	\$		7,399.82
VISITORS PROMOTION FUND			
AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance		97.37
AFLAC Dental	Withholdings/Insurance		55.63
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement		\$728.85
EFTPS	Taxes/Withholdings		\$1,350.48
NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings		\$161.06
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance		\$31.84
Braun, Regina	Gross Wages		\$4,889.60
Graeff, Lynn	Gross Wages		\$1,589.00
	GROSS TOTAL		\$8,903.83
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings		(\$1,504.01)
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	9,830.76	
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Emergency Management Fund in the amount of	\$		9,830.76
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND			
AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance		151.04
AFLAC Dental	Withholdings/Insurance		77.81
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement		\$724.35
EFTPS	Taxes/Withholdings		\$1,395.92
Medica Health Insurance	Withholdings/Insurance		\$2,155.10
NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings		\$178.00
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		\$1,404.05
	GROSS TOTAL		\$11,652.75
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings		(\$1,821.99)
	NET TOTAL		\$9,830.76
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	46,900.00	
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Inheritance Tax Fund in the amount of	\$		46,900.00
INHERITANCE TAX FUND			
Tehrani Motor	Vehicle		\$46,900.00
	TOTAL		\$46,900.00
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	45,000.00	
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	
A warrant was ordered drawn on the 2910 Emergency Service Fund in the amount of	\$		45,000.00
2910 EMERGENCY SERVICE FUND			
Cherry County Fund Transfer	Transfer to 2650 Emergency Management Fund		\$45,000.00
	Total		\$45,000.00

DeNaeyer moved and McConaughey seconded to adopt Resolution 2026-11 Distribution of Public Grazing Funds.
Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughey, DeNaeyer. Absent – Nelson. The motion carried.

DeNaeyer moved and McConaughey seconded to accept Zoning Administrator Katie Ormesher's letter of resignation, effective immediately. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, McConaughey. Absent – Nelson. The motion carried.

The board discussed a Zoning Administrator interim during the vacancy to continue processing permits, while the Planning and Zoning Board can continue their meetings without a Zoning Administrator being present. No board action taken and will discuss it with County Attorney Eric Scott and potential candidates.

The board discussed advertising for the Zoning Administrator position. McConaughey moved and DeNaeyer seconded to advertise for the Zoning Administrator position in the Midland News and radio stations with the current job description. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughey, DeNaeyer. Absent – Nelson. The motion carried.

At 10:27 a.m. the meeting was moved to the Sheriff's Conference Room.

The board discussed the potential of a past Zoning Administrator being an interim Zoning Administrator with County Attorney Eric Scott. Tasks of the Zoning Administrator are permits and compliance with regulations. The Planning and Zoning Board can assume their tasks of meetings until a permanent applicant is hired. Discussion was had with prior Administrator Jane Stolzenburg for the interim position. Ms. Stolzenburg stated it depends on pay and that she would be available to the public during the same business hours of the Clerk's Office, not just on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Clerk Leonard stated Ms. Stolzenburg could be available all days but would clock in and out of the Clerk's Office payroll while doing Zoning duties. McConaughey moved and DeNaeyer seconded to advertise for

the Zoning Administrator Interim position and applicants to provide a proposal to the board prior to their July 14, 2026 meeting for review. The proposal must include wage, hours available, qualifications for position and other job duties. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, McConaughy. Absent – Nelson. The motion carried.

At 10:52 a.m. the board met with Representatives from the Amish Community to discuss the privately owned bridge inspection reports received from Maneli-Wagner. Highway Superintendent Jay D Osburn stated the report indicates the bridge substructure is not structural sound to be used by the public, because of lack of pylons. It was stated from the representatives that a Nebraska licensed engineer designed and built the bridge and would be willing to share the reports of the structure of the bridge. Mr. Scott stated the board needs answers to the question of what the current industry standard in building bridges for inclusion of pylons is. The inspection also informed the board the bridge does not meet width standard requirements; however, the county can apply for an exemption, if needed. Mr. Scott, Amish Community Representatives, and Mr. Osburn will work together to get all inspection reports, bridge specifications, and requirements to discuss with Nebraska DOT on next options for the bridge. No board action taken.

At 11:18 a.m. sealed bids were opened for the North Whitman Road Armor Coat Project. One bid was received from Sta-Built Construction. DeNaeyer moved and McConaughy seconded to accept the North Whitman Road Armor Coat bid from Sta-Built Construction as presented. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughy, DeNaeyer. Absent – Nelson. The motion carried.

Highway Superintendent Jay D Osburn provided an update re: Borman Bridge Road options and working on getting costs and reports for the options.

District 1 Road Foreman Jay D Osburn provided an update re: maintenance, fixing wash outs, and fixing a motor grader. District 2 Foreman Steve Stichka provided an update re: maintenance and fixing wash outs. District 3 Foreman Brent Collier provided an update re: maintenance, fixing wash outs, fixing the new culvert because of washouts, and a shortage of base material.

At 11:42 a.m. a public hearing was opened for the 2025-2026 Budget Amendment for the Cherry County Hospital exceeding their budget of approximately \$2.4 million. The board discussed the Hospital budget being included in the County budget because the Hospital is a unit of county government. Budget Preparer Caleb Johnson informed the board he included the Hospital Budget within the County Budget at the recommendation of the State Auditor's Office. The board raised many concerns and questions of why the Hospital Budget has not been included in decades past and why the Hospital budget needs to be included in the County Budget. Mr. Scott informed the board he does not feel the Hospital Budget needs to be included because they are an independent political subdivision. Clerk Leonard emailed Jeff Schrier at the State Auditor's Office per direction from Mr. Scott. Because of no response from Mr. Schrier, Mr. Johnson stated an easier solution would be to not pass this amendment of including the Hospital Budget within the County Budget and wait for the direction of the State Auditors Office. After a phone conversation with Mr. Schrier, Commissioner McConaughy stated the State Auditor's Office is fine with the board not approving this amendment and doing their own due diligence prior to the 2026-2027 Budget to decide if the Hospital Budget will be included within the County Budget, or if only the tax asking will continue to be included in the County Budget. At 12:44 p.m. the public hearing was closed.

No board action taken on agenda item Discuss/Act – 2025-2026 Budget Amendment.

McConaughy moved and DeNaeyer seconded to adopt the 2025-2026 budget amendment for the Cherry County Hospital. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, McConaughy. Absent – Nelson. The motion carried.

The board discussed transfer of budget authority for the County Attorney 2025-2026 budget exceeding expenses. Mr. Scott stated costs of prosecution to the County need to come from the general fund, not the Attorney Budget, and the excessive expenses come from unusual cases accruing additional expenses. Clerk Leonard asked for clarification of where these claims should be coded from as there are multiple funds within the General Fund including the Attorney Fund, which the Clerk's Office has been coding these claims to, because said claims were given to the Clerk's Office from the Attorney's Office. Mr. Scott stated we would discuss coding of these claims when another claim is received. Clerk Leonard stated all departments code their own claims prior to turning into the Clerk's Office for payment. Clerk Leonard asked for an amount of transfer authority as the budget is exceeded by \$7,460.91. It was a consensus of the board to transfer \$7,465.00. DeNaeyer moved and McConaughy seconded to adopt Resolution #2026-12 Transfer of Budget Authority for the County Attorney. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughy, DeNaeyer. Absent – Nelson. The motion carried.

The board recessed from 1:05 p.m. to 1:13 p.m.

The board recessed to convene as a Board of Equalization from 1:13 p.m. to 1:39 p.m.

The board recessed to convene as a Board of Corrections from 1:39 p.m. to 1:50 p.m.

At 1:48 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 14th day of July 2026.

Samantha Leonard
Samantha Leonard
Cherry County Clerk



Mike McConaughey
Mike McConaughey, Chairperson
Cherry County Board of Commissioners