

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

July 28, 2026

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session on July 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 McConaughy. Roll call was taken. Present for the meeting were Commissioners Mike McConaughy, Martin DeNaeyer, Nina Nelson and Clerk Samantha Leonard. The Open Meetings Act Poster was acknowledged by Chairman McConaughy, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

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

Beth Ferrell provided a NACO update re: events, webinars, trainings, Joint Public Hearing anticipated changes, property tax legislature updates & changes, and inheritance tax legislature updates and changes coming.

Comments from the public were received during the allotted time.

Road Foreman Steve Stichka provided an update for District 2 re: armor coat project, patching roads, and regular maintenance. Commissioner Nelson provided an update for District 1 re: armor coat projects, regular maintenance, and progress working with NDOT re: the privately owned bridge engineer comparisons.

Emergency Management Director Jessica Coyle provided an update re: Beaver Tower repair quotes, finance training, NEMA Anderson Bridge Fire reports, NC911 meeting, NC PET meeting, and EMPG funds for 2025.

The board discussed the I Am Responding software with Ambulance representatives, EM Director Coyle, and CCH CEO Jim Bargaen. Director Coyle provided an updated quote and stated she has not heard back from County Attorney Eric Scott re: the draft contract she sent to him. It was a consensus of the board that the county will not pay for two systems. The app offers mapping and tracking for First Responders that will allow them to respond to remote and unknown areas faster and the tracking creates a safety net for Cherry County First Responders. Cherry County Hospital CEO Jim Bargaen stated they would be willing to help cover the initial set up costs as they feel this upgraded app would be very beneficial to all First Responders and their safety, response time, and communication to reduce radio traffic. Director Coyle stated that currently the annual fees come out of the Emergency Management Fund and she stated the budget would have to increase to cover the costs. Clerk Leonard clarified the budget is not the issue, but rather the Funds available. The last fiscal year budget only approximately 70% was used; however, funds were short due to lack of EMPG revenue not received but budgeted for. The pager service line item can be moved and paid for out of the Communications Budget within the General Fund and that would eliminate the concern of not having funds. Nelson moved for the Cherry County Hospital to pay for extra fees and setup costs, and the County will not pay for 2 systems; with implementation within 30 days. Motion failed due to a lack of a second. It was a consensus of the board for Director Coyle to reach out to Page My Cell to discuss a shorter contract option.

The board discussed a juvenile medical claim coding with Clerk Leonard. Clerk Leonard stated this motion made to pay this claim out of inheritance has caused concerns and the budgets are created to know what funds are needed to operate each department of the county. Paying claims out of inheritance does not do this justice. Clerk Leonard discussed this concern with Auditor Jada Thompson and Budget Preparer Caleb Johnson. This claim should be paid out of the general fund. Clerk Leonard recommended adding a line item to the Jail Budget within the General Fund and paying this claim accordingly. McConaughy moved and DeNaeyer seconded to code the juvenile medical claim out of the jail budget and add appropriate line items. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughy, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

The board discussed data centers and advising the Planning and Zoning Board re: their Zoning regulations at the direction of County Attorney Eric Scott at the July 14, 2026 meeting. Planning & Zoning Board Member Sherri Bacon informed the board she has reached out to a direct contact re: data centers and this representative will be at one of their meetings. Nelson moved and DeNaeyer seconded to recommend the Planning and Zoning Board to research data centers to implement into the new Zoning Regulations. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughy. The motion carried.

The board discussed additional job duties of the Interim Zoning Administrator from the July 14, 2026 proposal received. It was a consensus of the board for the interim to do the exact same job duties as a Zoning Administrator and to take minutes and keep records for the Planning & Zoning Board. McConaughy moved and DeNaeyer seconded that Interim Zoning Administrator has the same job duties as a Zoning Administrator. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughy, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

Road Foreman Brent Collier provided an update for District 3 re: regular maintenance, dragging roads, moving material, and equipment being fixed.

The board recessed from 12:03 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The board recessed from 1:00 p.m. to 1:09 p.m. to convene as a Board of Equalization.

The board discussed the I Am Responding software with Director Coyle and Ambulance representatives. Director Coyle stated Page My Cell contract ends September 13, 2026 and are willing to do a quarterly contract of \$750.00 per quarter. Per email from CEO Jim Bargaen, the Cherry County Hospital is willing to pay up to \$6,000 for the initial set up fees. The initial set up fees will be paid out of the Communications Budget and will be reimbursed by Cherry County Hospital. Nelson moved and McConaughy seconded to accept a 1-year contract with I Am Responding with Cherry County Hospital paying up to \$6,000 of set up costs. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughy, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

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

July 31, 2026
CHERRY COUNTY CLAIMS LISTING

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	305,578.49	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the General Fund in the amount of	\$	305,578.49	.
GENERAL FUND			
AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	\$3,032.08	
AFLAC Dental	Withholdings/Insurance	\$2,589.81	
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$20,038.57	
Crowne Plaza	Lodging	\$159.95	
EFTPS	Withholdings/Taxes	\$34,330.76	
Lincoln Financial Group	Withholdings/Insurance	\$376.32	
Medica Health Insurance	Withholdings/Insurance	\$76,767.81	
AUL Health Benefit Trust	Health Reimbursement Arrangement Funding	\$4,900.00	
NE Department of Revenue	Withholdings/Taxes	\$4,520.63	
Eric Scott Law	Clerical Salary/Rent/Telephone/Equipment	\$24,056.73	
Security 1st Health Savings Account	Withholdings/Insurance	\$4,033.33	
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance	\$567.61	
Bill Wachob	Mileage	\$275.80	
Andre, Andrea	Gross Wages	\$3,791.73	
Bancroft, Melissa	Gross Salary	\$5,077.09	
Beel, Hannah	Gross Wages	\$1,848.00	
Blume, Ashley	Gross Wages	\$4,119.64	
Brockley, Billie	Gross Salary	\$4,120.00	
Bruning, Jerri	Gross Wages	\$3,257.38	
Coates, Sonia	Gross Wages	\$4,438.34	
Dehart, Ashton	Gross Wages	\$4,382.50	
DeNaeyer, Martin	Gross Salary	\$2,012.50	
Dobbins, Cynthia	Gross Wages	\$2,975.47	
Duffield, Janette	Gross Wages	\$4,033.77	
Ghost Bear, Tamara	Gross Wages	\$4,557.68	
Goodrich, Dustina	Gross Wages	\$3,044.00	
Goodrich, Weston	Gross Wages	\$4,368.00	
Greenough, Pat	Gross Wages	\$3,990.61	
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	\$3,357.54	
Hooper, Patrick	Gross Wages	\$3,009.85	
Jackson, Gary	Gross Wages	\$5,496.65	
Johnson, Andrew	Gross Salary	\$3,716.50	
Knox, Calvin	Gross Wages	\$3,658.09	
Leonard, Samantha	Gross Salary	\$5,077.09	
Lopez, Vincent	Gross Wages	\$1,856.01	
Lutter, Tammy	Gross Wages	\$2,988.40	
McConaughy, Michael	Gross Salary	\$2,012.50	
McSweeney, Ryan	Gross Wages	\$4,741.59	
Menze, Caitlyn	Gross Wages	\$1,906.81	
Millar, Eve	Gross Wages	\$644.38	
Nelson, Nina	Gross Salary	\$2,012.50	
Ormesher, Katie	Gross Wages	\$3,461.63	
Osborne, Joanie	Gross Wages	\$688.16	
Osburn, Albert	Gross Salary	\$5,239.63	
Peterson, Eهران	Gross Wages	\$2,836.71	
Pier, Shelley	Gross Wages	\$3,190.16	
Price, Cassandra	Gross Wages	\$4,077.60	
Renning, Maxwell	Gross Wages	\$4,735.91	
Running Bear, Brittany	Gross Wages	\$2,056.36	
Scott, Eric	Gross Salary	\$5,717.69	
Starr, Christopher	Gross Wages	\$4,409.89	

Stec, Nicholas	Gross Wages	\$4,524.34
Stoeger, David	Gross Wages	\$4,561.68
Stolzenburg, Jane	Gross Wages	\$3,778.54
Thomsen, Clarissa	Gross Wages	\$3,607.20
Wickman, Erick	Gross Wages	\$5,516.74
	GROSS TOTAL	\$348,603.56
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$43,025.07)
	NET TOTAL	\$305,578.49
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	147,902.39
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Road Fund in the amount of	\$	147,902.39
ROAD FUND		
AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	\$2,303.36
AFLAC Dental	Withholdings/Insurance	\$1,065.18
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$9,545.17
Credit Management	Garnishment	\$495.78
EFTPS	Taxes/Withholdings	\$19,362.57
Legal Shield	Services	\$33.90
Medica Health Insurance	Withholdings/Insurance	\$36,487.41
AUL Health Benefit Trust	Health Reimbursement Arrangement Funding	\$2,100.00
NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings	\$2,729.77
Security 1st Health Savings Account	Withholdings/Insurance	\$1,800.00
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance	\$215.59
Buechle, Jordan	Gross Wages	\$5,465.18
Bunner, Bradley	Gross Wages	\$4,067.47
Cash, Tyler	Gross Wages	\$4,740.54
Coetzee, Daniel	Gross Wages	\$3,909.62
Collier, David	Gross Salary	\$5,150.00
Donner, Abigayle	Gross Wages	\$3,734.26
Egger, Garrett	Gross Wages	\$4,562.15
Fernau, Bradly	Gross Wages	\$5,541.20
Fish, Teagen	Gross Wages	\$3,802.38
Fish, Tristan	Gross Wages	\$3,610.00
Graeff, Randy	Gross Wages	\$6,224.57
Hampton, Donald	Gross Wages	\$923.40
Hart, Benjamin	Gross Wages	\$921.15
McWhirter, Bentz	Gross Wages	\$4,571.15
Olson, Arnold	Gross Wages	\$664.02
Osburn, Jay D	Gross Salary	\$5,900.00
Pitkin, Isaac	Gross Wages	\$3,177.00
Pearman, Terry	Gross Wages	\$4,533.03
Reese, Kay	Gross Wages	\$2,025.84
Songer, LeRoy	Gross Wages	\$4,181.81
Szakacs, Ryan	Gross Wages	\$4,153.36
Stichka, Steven	Gross Salary	\$5,150.00
Thompson, Shawn	Gross Wages	\$4,867.29
Vest, Daniel	Gross Wages	\$3,959.92
	GROSS TOTAL	\$171,974.07
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$24,071.68)
	NET TOTAL	\$147,902.39
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	6,017.57
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Visitors Promotion Fund in the amount of	\$	6,017.57
VISITORS PROMOTION FUND		
AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	97.37
AFLAC Dental	Withholdings/Insurance	55.63
Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$592.92
EFTPS	Taxes/Withholdings	\$1,054.04
NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings	\$114.08
Vision Service Plan	Withholdings/Insurance	\$31.84
Braun, Regina	Gross Wages	\$3,897.56
Graeff, Lynn	Gross Wages	\$1,372.78
	GROSS TOTAL	\$7,216.22
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$1,198.65)
	NET TOTAL	\$6,017.57
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	10,238.25
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Emergency Management Fund in the amount of	\$	10,238.25
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND		
AFLAC	Withholdings/Insurance	151.04
AFLAC Dental	Withholdings/Insurance	77.81

Ameritas Life Insurance/Retirement	Withholdings/Retirement	\$706.13
EFTPS	Taxes/Withholdings	\$1,347.54
Medica Health Insurance	Withholdings/Insurance	\$2,747.97
NE Department of Revenue	Taxes/Withholdings	\$169.33
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	\$1,242.00
	GROSS TOTAL	\$12,008.30
	Adjustment for employees' share of withholdings	(\$1,770.05)
	NET TOTAL	\$10,238.25

The board recessed from 1:30 p.m. to 1:31 p.m. to convene as Board of Corrections.

At 1:31 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 11th day of August 2026.

Samantha Leonard
Samantha Leonard
Cherry County Clerk



Mike McConaughey
Mike McConaughey, Chairperson
Cherry County Board of Commissioners