

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

August 25, 2026

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session on August 25, 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 10:01 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 August 11, 2026 were read. Nelson moved and DeNaeyer seconded to approve minutes as read. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughy. The motion carried.

The Board of Commissioners' special meeting minutes from August 17, 2026 were read. McConaughy moved and Nelson seconded to approve minutes as read. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughy, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

Comments from the public were received during the allotted time.

Commissioner DeNaeyer provided Road District 2 update re: starting on the armor coat project on North Whitman Road. Foreman Jay D Osburn provided Road District 1 update re: fixing washouts, laying oil in the Wood Lake area, and general maintenance. Foreman Brent Collier provided Road District 3 update re: general maintenance, fixing washouts, hauling material, and working with landowners for the potential to do dirt work for a tower road.

The board discussed flock cameras with Sheriff Osburn and Deputy Wickman. These are very new to the department, and they are still in the process of gathering information; however, do feel it would be beneficial because of the size of Cherry County and not having enough deputies to cover the entire county at all times. Sheriff Osburn stated guidelines have changed and information gathered from flock cameras will only be stored for 7 days instead of the prior guideline of 30 days. The PET Region did apply for a grant, but Cherry County has not been approved to receive funds at this time. The initial installation of the flock cameras would be paid for by the grant; however, costs associated with the cameras after initial installation will be the responsibility of the county. Deputy Wickman told the board other counties he has talked to have given him very positive feedback associated with cameras in their respective counties. No board action taken.

At 10:30 the board met with Carrie Graham, Director of the Valentine Public Library, to discuss the FY 2026-2027 budget. Ms. Graham stated the budget ask for the county did not increase from last year and she is still trying to find grants that would work to help with the Bookmobile expenses. No board action taken.

Emergency Management Director Jessica Coyle was not present but emailed a quote for the Beaver Tower generator. The board asked her via phone to provide more information re: the subscription of the propane tank. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to authorize the Emergency Management Director to sign the Dakota Power bid as presented by email for the Beaver Tower generator. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughy, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

The board discussed the potential authorization of a landowner placing a gate across 412 Ave. The board stated they have not received a draft letter from Attorney Scott; however, Highway Superintendent Osburn stated he has a template from State Statute. It was stated that the county can change this permission at any time and once executed the landowner takes liability and maintenance of said road. No board action taken.

DeNaeyer moved and McConaughy seconded to execute the 2026 Highway Superintendent Annual Program Compliance Certification. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughy. The motion carried.

McConaughy moved and Nelson seconded to adopt Resolution #2026-15 Signing of the County Annual Certification of Program Compliance. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughy, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

Ashley Blume-Vackiner met with the board to discuss opening a charge account at Conoco and Speedee Mart for the Veterans Service Office for the drivers to be able to charge fuel instead of turning in a reimbursement claim. Nelson moved and DeNaeyer seconded to authorize the Veterans Service Office to open an account at Conoco and Speedee Mart with a list of authorized users to be at the gas stations and the Clerk's Office. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughy, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

The board discussed the Employee Handbook. Sick and PTO hours were discussed and the option to transfer hours and only have PTO hours instead of both sick and PTO for simplicity and there would be no confusion of when sick leave can and cannot be used. Options of departments accruing at the same amount each month, accrual based on hours worked, etc. were discussed. Clerk Leonard stated concerns that were also brought forward as concerns in 2025 including certain employees being paid holiday pay when they are not normally scheduled to work, accountability, every employee using a time clock system instead of only certain departments, misuse of county vehicles, fringe benefits not being applied, enforcing policies and laws across all employees, employees working from home instead of being available to the public during business hours, and any accommodations being made to employees must come in a written request and must have an end date to readdress if this accommodation is still being needed. No board action taken.

The board recessed from 12:22 p.m. to 1:04 p.m.

The board recessed from 1:04 p.m. to 1:12 p.m. to convene as a Board of Equalization.

The board discussed the FY2026-2027 budget. It was a consensus of the board to deduct \$108,000 from the Road District budgets and \$35,000 from the Sheriff budget. No board action taken.

The board recessed from 1:39 p.m. to 1:47 p.m. to convene as a Board of Corrections.

At 1:47 p.m. Heidi Borg, liaison for Adrian Smith's office, provided a legislature update.

The board discussed the health insurance changes based on the decision made at the May 26, 2026 regular meeting to increase employee premiums and reduce contributions to HSA and HRA. Nelson moved and McConaughey seconded for health insurance employee paid premiums & contributions be the same as they were prior to the May 26, 2026 decision made. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughey, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

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

August 11, 2026
CHERRY COUNTY CLAIMS LISTING

Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	69,885.11	.
and disallowed in the amount of	\$	-	.
A warrant was ordered drawn on the General Fund in the amount of	\$		69,885.11
GENERAL			
Anderson Electric Inc	Services		\$205.78
Andrea Andre	Reimbursement		\$38.26
Applied Connective Technologies	Services		\$5,645.11
Melissa Bancroft	Reimbursement		\$194.35
Benchmark Government	Supplies		\$644.35
Black Hills Chemical	Supplies		\$445.40
Bob's Signs	Services		\$125.00
Bomgaars	Supplies		\$80.15
Buckles Fuel Service	Services		\$474.25
Jordan Buechle	Reimbursement		\$91.80
CenturyLink	Services		\$2,115.37
Cherry County Hospital	Services		\$7,851.87
Cherry County Sheriff	Services		\$41.00
Cherry County Sheriff Fuel Account	Supplies		\$2,407.88
Cherry County Treasurer	Bank Fees		\$10.00
Cidnet	Services		\$300.00
Clearly Communications	Services		\$326.43
DAS State Accounting	Services		\$537.60
DAS State Accounting	Services		\$222.55
Ashton Dehart	Reimbursement		\$15.01
FirstNet/AT&T Mobility	Services		\$492.32
Dustina Goodrich	Reimbursement		\$38.28
Journal Entry	Vendor Correction		(\$200.00)
Journal Entry	Void check		(\$174.00)
Weston Goodrich	Reimbursement		\$164.99
Grafix Shoppe	Supplies		\$765.00
Pat Greenough	Reimbursement		\$100.00
Timothy Hanson	Reimbursement		\$2,636.75
Heart City Drug	Supplies		\$48.58
Henderson's IGA	Supplies		\$218.57
Holt County Treasurer	Dues/Fees/Training		\$3,687.99
Patrick Hooper	Reimbursement		\$70.00
Gary Jackson	Reimbursement		\$67.59
Johnson Law Office	Clerical Salary/Rent/Telephone/Equipment		\$5,035.59
KBR Rural Public Power	Services		\$99.04
Kippes & Son's	Services		\$153.13
KVSH	Services		\$726.00
Marco Technologies	Services		\$299.19
Microfilm Imaging Systems	Services		\$186.00
Mid-Plains Community College	Dues/Fees/Training		\$70.00
Midland News	Services		\$1,683.91
Midland Printing	Services		\$183.06
MIPS	Services		\$3,515.63
Monroe HVAC	Services		\$520.00
Nebraska Law Enforcement Training	Dues/Fees/Training		\$405.00
Nebraska State Patrol	Dues/Fees/Training		\$58.00
NK Waste Management	Services		\$193.00
North Central Nebraska RC&D	Dues/Fees/Training		\$200.00
Northeast NE Juvenile Services	Services		\$3,965.00

Office Products	Supplies	\$1,273.32
Paper Tiger Shredding	Services	\$58.00
Shelley Pier	Reimbursement	\$45.90
Prema	Services	\$100.95
Premier Parts & Paint	Services	\$800.00
Presto X	Services	\$139.63
Quadient Leasing	Services	\$245.97
Quill Corporation	Services	\$869.15
Reese Inc	Services	\$323.54
Region IV	Services	\$2,626.00
Sandhill Oil	Services	\$408.55
Eric Scott Law	Clerical Salary/Rent/Telephone/Equipment	\$6,451.00
Scotty's Ranchland Foods	Supplies	\$346.06
Cardmember Service	Services	\$43.05
Sennet Duncan Jenkins & Wickham	Services	\$978.73
Blaire Speck	Reimbursement	\$308.85
Stanek Fire Protection	Services	\$194.00
Jane Stolzenburg	Reimbursement	\$181.76
Tehrani Motor Company	Services	\$1,392.10
The Twister Radio	Services	\$726.00
City of Valentine	Utilities	\$4,851.53
Viaero Wireless	Services	\$81.94
Ward Plumbing & Heating	Services	\$208.80
Western Oil Inc	Services	\$50.00
Wrenched Tire & Auto	Services	\$107.50
911 Custom	Services	\$92.00
	TOTAL	\$69,885.11
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	92,775.90
and disallowed in the amount of		
A warrant was ordered drawn on the Road Fund in the amount of	\$	92,775.90
ROAD		
Bacon Repair	Supplies	\$1,569.58
Bomgaars	Supplies	\$659.64
Bordertown Discount Fuel	Services	\$8,773.95
Buche Hardware	Services	\$10.99
Buckles Fuel Service	Services	\$8,923.12
Central Valley Ag Cooperative	Services	\$11,501.87
Cherry County Implement	Services	\$1,362.30
Circle K Motor Company	Services	\$581.39
Brent Collier	Reimbursement	\$13.25
Consolidated Telephone	Services	\$286.29
Custer Public Power District	Services	\$162.64
ESRI Inc	Services	\$950.00
Flat Creek Construction	Services	\$25,480.00
Floyd's Truck Center	Services	\$134.51
Garrett Enterprises	Services	\$555.85
Hoefs Skidloader Works	Services	\$9,532.00
Josh Whipple Trucking	Services	\$7,382.46
KBR Rural Public Power District	Services	\$288.78
Kimball Midwest	Services	\$620.70
Kohler Trailer Sales	Supplies	\$14.90
Legacy Cooperative	Supplies	\$300.00
Martin Auto Parts II	Supplies	\$62.27
Menards	Services	\$63.65
Village of Merriman	Services	\$72.45
MIPS	Services	\$195.00
Mullen Auto & Diesel	Services	\$57.08
Neal Oil & Auto Center	Services	\$7,928.64
Nebraska Machinery Company	Services	\$334.94
Nebraska Public Power	Services	\$65.54
NK Waste Management	Services	\$256.00
North Platte Farm & Auto	Supplies	\$95.00
O'Reilly Auto Parts	Supplies	\$54.68
Office Products	Supplies	\$38.17
Perrett Construction	Services	\$1,250.57
Petty Cash	Reimbursement	\$24.00
Platte Valley Communications	Services	\$748.09
Powerplan	Services	\$1,941.91
Prema	Services	\$87.65
Sheridan County Journal Star	Services	\$180.00
City of Valentine	Services	\$216.04
	TOTAL	\$92,775.90
Claims were presented in the amount of	\$	40,638.16

