BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES
October 13, 2026

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session on October 13, 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 September 29, 2026 were read. McConaughey moved and Nelson seconded to approve minutes as read. Roll call vote: Aye –DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughey. The motion carried.

The Board of Corrections meeting minutes from September 29, 2026 were read. DeNaeyer moved and Nelson seconded to approve minutes as read. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughey, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

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

Emergency Management Director Jessica Coyle provided an update re: PSAP audit, measles & cybersecurity table talk, NC911 meeting, phone issues, Hazard Mitigation grant meeting, and a brief 911 outage .

The board discussed the final reports for the Niobrara Valley Vineyard CBDG Grant. Commissioner Nelson will fill out the Section 504 Evaluation with Cherry Hills Assisted Living Administrator Eve Millar. Nelson moved and DeNaeyer seconded to approve the final financial report. Roll call vote: Aye – McConaughey, DeNaeyer, Nelson. The motion carried.

Nelson moved and DeNaeyer seconded to designate Commissioner McConaughey as the representative to vote at the NACO Annual Election and Commissioner DeNaeyer as the alternative. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Nelson, McConaughey. The motion carried.

The board discussed the Marvin Planning Consultants' Invoice 2372. Commissioner McConaughey spoke with Keith Marvin. Mr. Marvin stated the discrepancy is the overpayment based on the original contract, not the extension contract. It was a consensus of the board to negotiate at a later day for the hearings, if needed. DeNaeyer moved and McConaughey seconded to authorize the Interim Zoning Administrator to turn Invoice 2372 to be paid with October payroll. Roll call vote: Aye – Nelson, McConaughey, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

At 10:45 a.m. the board met with members of the Canyon Ridge Care Center board for an update and introduction of the non-profit organization created to bring a nursing home back to Cherry County. The Care Center board has received a letter of intent to purchase Cherry Hills Assisted Living and add a nursing home onto the assisted living. The construction is tentatively planned to begin Spring 2029, after the planning and fundraising stages are completed.

Commissioner McConaughey updated the board on the North Central Board of Health meeting he attended.
No items were discussed for the October 27, 2026 meeting agenda.

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

GENERAL FUND

APPLIED CONNECTIVE TECHNOLOGIES	$6,363.06
BENCHMARK GOVERNMENT	$987.85
BILL WACHOB	$149.72
BLACK HILLS CHEMICAL	$361.50
BOB BARKER COMPANY INC	$647.25
BOMGAARS	$123.91
BORDERS & FURROW LAW PC,LLO	$5,068.34
BUCKLES FUEL SERVICE INC	$500.21
CAITLYN MENZE	$143.55
CARDMEMBER/SECURITY FIRST BANK	$100.07
CENTURYLINK	$2,126.57
CHERRY COUNTY COURT	$1,198.00
CHERRY COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE	$749.84
CHERRY COUNTY HOSPITAL	$7,048.38
CHERRY COUNTY SHERIFF	$60.00
CHERRY COUNTY SHERIFF FUEL ACCOUNT	$2,832.49
CHERRY COUNTY TREASURER	$10.00
CITY OF VALENTINE	$5,350.23
CLEARFLY COMMUNICATIONS	$329.23
CYNTHIA DOBBINS	$25.96
DALE P BOWLIN	$81.20
DAS STATE ACCOUNTING-CNTRL FINANACE	$537.60
DAS STATE ACCOUNTING-CNTRL FINANCE	$222.55

ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE	$3,048.31
ERIC A SCOTT	$11,795.00
FIRSTNET/AT&T MOBILITY	$507.30
GALLS PARENT HOLDINGS, LLC	$531.96
HEART CITY DRUG	$193.56
HEATHER PETERSON	-$9.68
HENDERSON'S IGA INC	$231.19
HOLIDAY INN-KEARNEY	$389.85
HUSKERLAND HARDWARE AND APPLIANCE	$65.03
JAMES W EDWARDS	$150.00
JOHNSON LAW OFFICE	$5,299.55
JURY DUTY	-$35.00
JURY DUTY MILEAGE	-$100.50
JWA K-LAWN,LLC	$183.00
KBR RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT	$90.86
KIPPES & SON'S	$1,091.37
KVSH RADIO	$309.00
MARCO TECHNOLOGIES LLC	$328.83
MELISSA BANCROFT	$66.10
MICROFILM IMAGING SYSTEMS INC	$186.00
MIDLAND PRINTING,DANA ANDERSON	$628.00
MIPS INC	$3,515.63
NACO (NE ASSN OF COUNTY OFFICIALS)	$7,943.72
NEBRASKA UNCLAIMED PROPERTY	$145.18
NK WASTE INC.	$193.00
NORTHEAST NE JUVENILE SERVICES INC	$5,711.75
OFFICE PRODUCTS CENTER INC	$2,288.97
PAPER TIGER SHREDDING	$58.00
PAT O GREENOUGH	$100.00
PATRICK HOOPER	$352.01
PLATTE VALLEY COMMUNICATIONS INC	$17,434.77
PREMA (PANHANDLE RURAL ELEC ASSN)	$120.57
PYE-BARKER	$429.08
QUADIENT FINANCE USA, INC	$1,000.00
QUADIENT LEASING USA,INC	$308.21
REESE INC	$670.00
REGION 4 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM	$5,384.00
REGION IV INC	$2,626.00
RON LOWER CONSTRUCTION	$104.62
RYAN SEXSON	$58.00
SANDHILL OIL COMPANY INC	$59.30
SCOTTY'S RANCHLAND FOODS LLC	$622.14
SENNET DUNCAN JENKINS & WICKHAM PC	$1,929.93
THE TWISTER RADIO	$33.00
TIMOTHY A HANSON	$2,636.75
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN	-$325.00
VALENTINE DENTAL CLINIC II LLC	$291.00
VALENTINE MIDLAND NEWS,ARGO MGMT.	$1,415.65
VIAERO WIRELESS	$84.88
WARD PLUMBING & HEATING LLC	$488.74
WESTERN OIL INC/CONOCO	$159.00
WRENCHED TIRE & AUTO LLC	$176.55
	$115,982.69

ROAD FUND

3S FABRICATION & REPAIR, LLC	$26.00
BACON REPAIR	$1,005.40
BARCO MUNICIPAL PRODUCTS INC	$4,338.25
BOMGAARS	$323.95
BORDERTOWN DISCOUNT FUEL LLC	$13,406.00
BRENT COLLIER	$26.59
BUCKLES FUEL SERVICE INC	$14,588.41
BYRNE TRUCKING/TROY BYRNE	$852.58
CENTRAL NEBRASKA BOBCAT	$765.72
CENTRAL VALLEY AG COOPERATIVE	$4,759.30
CHERRY COUNTY HOSPITAL	$117.00
CHERRY COUNTY IMPLEMENT	$342.90
CITY OF VALENTINE	$241.28
CONNECTA SATELLITE SOLUTIONS, LLC	$117.60
CONSOLIDATED TELEPHONE	$283.72

CUSTER PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT	$141.44
DANIELSKI FARMS INC	$13,638.08
DAS STATE ACCOUNTING-CNTRL FINANCE	$27.70
DIVISION OF MOTOR CARRIER SERVICES	$17.00
DOOLEY OIL INC	$96.25
FLOYD'S TRUCK CENTER	$154.38
HENDERSON'S IGA INC	$51.84
HOEFS SKIDLOADER WORKS LLC	$4,104.00
HOOKER COUNTY TRIBUNE	$60.00
J & G Johns	$1,277.95
JEBRO INC	$29,428.41
KBR RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT	$210.78
KIMBALL MIDWEST	$165.58
MARTIN AUTO PARTS II INC	$832.16
MEDICAL ENTERPRISES INC	$36.00
MENARDS	$143.37
MIPS INC	$195.00
MULLEN AUTO & DIESEL	$31.95
NEAL OIL & AUTO CENTER INC	$6,103.38
NEBRASKA MACHINERY COMPANY/NMC INC	$671.22
NEBRASKA MOTOR FUELS DIVISION	$2,878.00
NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT	$61.26
NIRMA	$486.00
NK WASTE INC.	$128.00
OFFICE PRODUCTS CENTER INC	$228.54
OUTBACK SCREENPRINTING & EMBROIDERY	$414.00
PERRETT CONSTRUCTION LTD	$1,494.73
POWERPLAN	$2,592.62
PREMA (PANHANDLE RURAL ELEC ASSN)	$102.04
QUADIENT FINANCE USA, INC	$300.00
SANDHILLS RANCH SUPPLY	$1,233.28
SHERIDAN COUNTY JOURNAL STAR	$60.00
SUPERIOR SANITATION SERVICES	$170.00
THE PARTS COMPANY	$1,419.45
VALENTINE MIDLAND NEWS,ARGO MGMT.	$35.00
VILLAGE OF MERRIMAN	$131.96
WRENCHED TIRE & AUTO LLC	$920.00
	$111,236.07
VISITOR PROMOTION FUND	
ABBOTT,AJ	$1,000.00
CHERRY COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY	$4,000.00
CHERRY COUNTY VISITORS' PROMO BOARD	$158.00
CITY OF VALENTINE	$292.51
GREAT PLAINS COMMUNICATIONS INC	$215.22
KELO TV/KCLO	$14,900.00
MCB PRODUCTIONS	$1,000.00
NRG MEDIA,LLC/BROADCAST HOUSE MEDIA	$3,420.00
OFFICE PRODUCTS CENTER INC	$66.99
	$25,052.72
REGISTER OF DEEDS P&M FUND	
MICROFILM IMAGING SYSTEMS INC	$1,000.00
	$1,000.00
BOOKMOBILE FUND	
THOMAS COUNTY LIBRARY	$622.00
VALENTINE PUBLIC LIBRARY	$10,301.23
	$10,923.23
GRANT FUND	
HENDERSON'S IGA INC	$25.92
	$25.92
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND	
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	$129.00
OFFICE PRODUCTS CENTER INC	$45.73
PETTY CASH	$404.00
STARLINK	-$404.00
	$174.73
INHERITANCE TAX FUND	
BRIAN PAXTON	$702.11
	$702.11
911 EMERGENCY SERVICES FUND	
GREAT PLAINS COMMUNICATIONS INC	$55.88
	$55.88

911 SERVICES FUND	
CENTURYLINK	$278.95
OPTK NETWORKS, NEBRASKALINK HOLDING	$977.60
	$1,256.55
COURTHOUSE (SPECIAL BUILDING) FUND	
HEART CITY PLUMBING & HEATING LLC	$4,430.60
PYE-BARKER	$2,270.99
	$6,701.59
HOSPITAL OPERATING/MAINTENANCE FUND	
CHERRY COUNTY HOSPITAL	$13,571.38
	$13,571.38

At 11:41 a.m. the board met with Pam Bourne, HR Attorney with Woods-Aitken, via zoom to discuss the handbook with elected officials, employees, and County Attorney Eric Scott. The board discussed PTO benefits, remote work, meal breaks, usage of county vehicles, and FMLA with Ms. Bourne. Ms. Bourne stated changing sick/vacation to one group of only PTO provides more flexibility and less unplanned absences from employees; however, all PTO hours must be paid to employee at time of termination. Currently sick leave hours are not paid out upon termination of employment. She stated no employees should be working from home from a government entity, and many private sectors are no longer allowing this either. Counties generally only allow this when a request for accommodation has been made by the employee, and then for only a specific amount of time. The best way to do any accommodation is to cap the number of hours able to work from home per week, and specifically state when an accommodation follow-up will be completed, generally every 30 days. Usage of county vehicles was discussed and how to calculate this fringe benefit. Ms. Bourne stated a written take-home policy should be included and a pick-up taken home is a taxable fringe benefit. The general rule for this fringe benefit is $1.50/one way commute for every employee in the vehicle, with the exclusion of law enforcement. Mr. Scott stated Noxious Weed, Emergency Management, and road employees should be exempt because of the vehicles being modified (ex. Snowplow equipped). Meal periods and breaks were discussed with Ms. Bourne. Under law, if a break is 20 minutes or less, the county cannot require employees to clock out. If the county wants, they can create a policy to make it mandatory for all employees to clock out for a 30-minute lunch break. For any mandatory break, an employee must be fully relieved of their job duties. If this cannot be done, their meal period must be paid. FMLA benefits were discussed and Ms. Bourne stated the employer has the right to make it mandatory for vacation/sick benefits to be used concurrently with the employees FMLA leave, and that most counties require concurrently. If benefits are not used concurrently with the FMLA leave, the amount of time that could be used because of the sick, vacation, and comp time max accruals is a concern because of what it could cost the county, and the extended absences employees would be entitled to. After the 12 weeks of FMLA, it is at the supervisor's discretion to extend that unpaid leave, if necessary. FMLA is a federal law to protect employees' jobs due to medical reasons. The leave donation policy was discussed and options to let employees know leave donation is needed and what information can be given out. It was a consensus of the board that any office employees should not clock out if they do not leave their desk for break, and to adjust hours for no meal periods, they should adjust what time they quit for the day, if possible, to alleviate overtime hours accrued. It was a consensus of the board that all current employees for the Road Department, Emergency Management, and Noxious Weed Superintendent are all exempt from the fringe benefit and will not be taxed. Mr. Scott stated the law is centered on the vehicle driven, not the person, and all vehicles are clearly marked and modified.
It was a consensus of the board before any amendments are made to the handbook, they would like to have feedback from all employees. No board action taken.

At 12:57 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 27th day of October 2026.

Samantha Leonard
Samantha Leonard
Cherry County Clerk

CHERRY COUNTY COUNTY CLERK SEAL NEBRASKA

Mike McConaughey
Mike McConaughey, Chairperson
Cherry County Board of Commissioners