

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

January 14, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 14th day of January, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 8th day of January 2025, a proof of publication filed in the Clerk's office. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Roll Call: Kirt Lukasiewicz, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Aye. Also present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited during the Board of Equalization meeting.

Chairman Hirschman also stated to those in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting is being held.

Public Comment- NONE

Mail – Zelle; SCEDD; and NDOT. Also included was a letter from NIRMA for an Assist Grant that was received.

Unfinished Business – None

Road Discussion- Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to discuss various roads the department is working on. Currently, the Road's Department has been cutting trees and working on equipment. Next week they hope to get out on the roads to blade.

Land Negotiation-Executive Session - Urbanski made a motion to go into executive session at 8:33 a.m. to discuss a land negotiation and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman stated to those in attendance that the Board was going into executive session at 8:33 a.m. to discuss a land negotiation. Janet Thomsen and Jerry Thompson were also present. Urbanski made a motion to come out of executive session at 8:44 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. No Action taken.

REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky acting as Chairman Sine die asked for nominations for the Board Chairman for the year 2025. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to nominate Kathy Hirschman for Board Chair for the year 2025. Urbanski made a motion that nominations cease and Lukasiewicz seconded the motion. Roll Call on both motions: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Chairman Hirschman then asked for nominations for Vice Chairman. Lukasiewicz made a motion to nominate Jessie Urbanski for Vice Chairman and seconded by Hirschman. Motion was made by Hirschman that nominations cease and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call on both motions: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Treasurer Resolutions - County Treasurer, Sara Roy presented two resolutions to the Board for their approval. **Resolution 2025-1** allows the Treasurer to deposit in any bank in excess of the capital stock

and surplus of the bank, secured by pledges and assets for the bank. Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-1 and Lukasiewicz seconded the motion. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. **Resolution 2025-2** gives the Treasurer the authority to invest funds in excess of current needs. Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-2 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Howard County Treasurer, Sara Roy presented the Treasurer's Semi-Annual Report to the Board and explained the report to the Board. No further action needed.

County Appointments- The County Board went through the list of appointments of Committees as follows:

HOWARD COUNTY APPOINTMENTS – 2025

Region III Governing Board	Jessie Urbanski
Mid Plains Center for Mental Health	Jessie Urbanski
Midland Area for the Aging	Kathy Hirschman
Central NE Community Action Partnership	Kirt Lukasiewicz
Mid NE Individual Services	Jessie Urbanski
County Health Board	Dr. Chris Tomhave Sheriff Mike Hoff Clerk Brenda Klanecky
Central Community College	Kathy Hirschman
Loup Central Regional Landfill	Kirt Lukasiewicz
ADA Advisory Board	Kathy Hirschman
Central NE Joint Housing Authority	Kirt Lukasiewicz
Grievance Committee	All County Commissioners
Planning and Zoning	Ron Kulwicki (25) Terry Spilinek (25) Randy Kauk (25) Dave Sack (26) Jeff Christensen (26) Ken Kozisek (27) Jack Reimers (27)

Board of Adjustment

Daryl Anderson (27)
Chris Kosmicki (26)
Dave Boehle (26)
Janet Thomsen (26)
Mike Nelson (25)
Chad Donscheski (26) – Alternate
Terry Spilinek (27)
Glenn Killion (25)

Safety Committee

Allen Wilshusen
Jessica Hancock
Kay Placke
Lisa Johnson
Kirt Lukasiewicz
Janice Jares
Pat Koperski
Janet Thomsen
Carolyn Scarborough
Mike Hoff
Melissa Paxton
Jennifer Ostendorf
Alex Ferebee

Tourism & Lodging Committee

Sheila Horak (26)
Roger Goettsche (28)
Donna Nielsen (28)
Judy Dugan (26)
Beth Cummings (26)

City/County Communications

Kathy Hirschman
Jessie Urbanski (Alternate)

Extension Board

Denise Rathman

	Justin Wells
	Chandra Kosmicki
Hospital Board	Carol Schroeder
	Harriett Steenson
	Dan Nielsen
	Vacant
	Mike Nelson
GIS Steering Committee	Jessie Urbanski
	Neal Dethlefs
	Tim Aitken
	Brenda Klanecky
Loup Basin Health Dept. Representative	Kirt Lukasiewicz
St. Paul Senior Center, Inc. Board	Kirt Lukasiewicz
Crime Commission Grant Board/ Alcohol and Substance Abuse Coalition	Mike Hoff Dave Schroeder
	Brenda Klanecky
	Kathy Hirschman
Building Committee	Jessie Urbanski
	Brenda Klanecky
South Central Economic Development Rep.	Kirt Lukasiewicz
Loup Basin RCD Board	Kirt Lukasiewicz
Local Emergency Planning Committee	Jessie Urbanski

Urbanski made a motion to approve the County Appointments as discussed. Lukasiewicz seconded the motion. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Loup Central Landfill Association Resolution 2025-3 - Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-3 to appoint Kirt Lukasiewicz as the representative for Howard County on the Loup Central Landfill Association Board. Hirschman seconded the motion. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Highway Superintendent – Urbanski made a motion to re-appoint Janet Thomsen as Highway Superintendent and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Emergency Manager -Urbanski made a motion to re-appoint Allen Wilshusen as Emergency Manager and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Planning and Zoning Administrator/Flood Plain Administrator -Urbanski made a motion to re-appoint Cherri Klingensmith as Planning and Zoning Administrator/Flood Plain Administrator seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

2025 Meeting Dates and Holiday Dates – The first meeting in November has been changed from November 11, 2025 to November 12, 2025, due to Veterans Day.

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners and the Howard County Board of Equalization, Howard County, Nebraska will be held at 8:30 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of 2025, unless otherwise changed, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska which meeting will be open to the public. An agenda is kept current at the County Clerk's Office.

Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk

Publish:	Jan. 8, 2025	Publish:	July 2, 2025
Mtg. Date:	Jan. 14, 2025	Mtg. Date:	July 8, 2025
Publish:	Jan. 22, 2025	Publish:	July 16, 2025
Mtg. Date:	Jan. 28, 2025	Mtg. Date:	July 22, 2025
Publish:	Feb. 5, 2025	Publish:	Aug. 6, 2025
Mtg. Date:	Feb. 11, 2025	Mtg. Date:	Aug. 12, 2025
Publish:	Feb. 19, 2025	Publish:	Aug. 20, 2025
Mtg. Date:	Feb. 25, 2025	Mtg. Date:	Aug. 26, 2025
Publish:	Mar. 5, 2025	Publish:	Sept. 3, 2025
Mtg. Date:	Mar. 11, 2025	Mtg. Date:	Sept. 9, 2025
Publish:	Mar. 19, 2025	Publish:	Sept. 17, 2025
Mtg. Date:	Mar. 25, 2025	Mtg. Date:	Sept. 23, 2025
Publish:	April 2, 2025	Publish:	Oct. 8, 2025
Mtg. Date:	April 8, 2025	Mtg. Date:	Oct. 14, 2025
Publish:	April 16, 2025	Publish:	Oct. 22, 2025
Mtg. Date:	April 22, 2025	Mtg. Date:	Oct. 28, 2025
Publish:	May 7, 2025	Publish:	Nov. 5, 2025
Mtg. Date:	May 13, 2025	Mtg. Date:	Nov. 12, 2025
Publish:	May 21, 2025	Publish:	Nov. 19, 2025
Mtg. Date:	May 27, 2025	Mtg. Date:	Nov. 25, 2025
Publish:	June 4, 2025	Publish:	Dec. 3, 2025

Mtg. Date:	June 10, 2025	Mtg. Date:	Dec. 9, 2025
Publish:	June 18, 2025	Publish:	Dec. 17, 2025
Mtg. Date:	June 24, 2025	Mtg. Date:	Dec. 23, 2025

2025 County Holidays –

New Years Day	Wednesday, January 1, 2025
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Monday, January 20, 2025
President’s Day	Monday, February 17, 2025
Memorial Day	Monday, May 26, 2025
Independence Day	Friday, July 4, 2025
Labor Day	Monday, September 1, 2025
Columbus Day	Monday, October 13, 2025
Veteran’s Day	Tuesday, November 11, 2025
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 27, 2025
Day After Thanksgiving	Friday, November 28, 2025
Christmas Eve	Wednesday, December 24, 2025
Christmas Day	Thursday, December 25, 2025
New Years Day	Thursday, January 1, 2026

Urbanski made a motion to approve the Meeting Dates and Holiday Dates as presented. Lukasiewicz seconded the motion. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Payroll Designation – The Board reviewed the current policy regarding pay dates. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to keep the current payroll policy. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. A copy of the Pay Periods and Pay Date Schedule are available in the Clerk’s office.

County Engineer – The County received a letter from Lance Harter asking to re-appoint Oak Creek Engineering as the County Engineer. Urbanski made a motion to approve Oak Creek Engineering as the County Engineer and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Fair Labor Law - Urbanski made a motion and seconded by Lukasiewicz that the County abides by the Fair Labor Law. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Bank Depositories –

Boelus State Bank	Boelus, NE
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Homestead Bank	St. Paul, NE
Citizens Bank & Trust	St. Paul, NE
Heritage Bank	St. Paul, NE
NPAIT	Lincoln, NE
NE Class	Lincoln, NE

County Treasurer, Sara Roy was present to discuss the Bank Depositories. Motion was made by Urbanski to approve the six depositories as listed and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

County Medical Providers – Urbanski made a motion to approve all doctors and physician assistants at the Howard County Medical Center as official County Medical Providers. Lukasiewicz seconded the motion. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

County Paper and County Website – Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz that the Phonograph Herald is named the Official County Paper with access to post to the statewide website established and maintained as a repository for such notices reference Source: Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-1411 and the County's Website the Official Website. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Contractors - Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz that all contractors will file their proof of liability insurance with the County Clerk's office for any County work to be done. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

County Burial - Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz that the County will pay \$750.00 for both burial and cremations and will be buried only in the County lots. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Fuel Providers -

Agricultural Services	Boelus, NE
Aurora Coop	Dannebrog, NE
Aurora Coop	St. Paul, NE
Casey's General Store	St. Paul, NE
Jim's Truck Stop	St. Paul, NE
K & B Kwik Stop	St. Paul, NE
Pump and Pantry	St. Libory, NE
Pump and Pantry	St. Paul, NE
Palmer Service Center	Palmer, NE
Grossarts Inc. & Propane	St. Paul, NE

Trotter Inc.

Arcadia, NE

Urbanski made a motion to approve the fuel providers as listed and seconded by Lukasiewicz Roll Call: Lukasiewicz-Aye, Hirschman-Aye and Urbanski-Aye. Motion passed.

Gravel Providers –

Central Sand and Gravel	Grand Island, NE
Hooker Bros.	Grand Island, NE
Island Land Handlers Inc.	Grand Island, NE
Liberty Sand and Gravel	Elba, NE
Mid-Nebraska Aggregate Inc.	Gibbon, NE
Ulrich Gravel Inc.	Ord, NE

Urbanski made a motion to approve the gravel providers as listed and Lukasiewicz seconded the motion. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

County Roads Building Update – Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen provided pictures and updated the Board on the progress of the County Roads Building. The frame of the building is up and most of the walk-in doors have been installed. The crew has begun framing in the windows.

Rob Schultz-Update Weed Department, Discuss/Approve NDA State Reports, Resolution 2025-4-Delegate Authority to Weed Control Superintendent- Weed Control Superintendent, Rob Schultz presented a Weed Control Update of Howard County to the Board of Commissioners. The ultimate goal and objective of the Howard County Weed Control is to work with landowners to prevent the spread of noxious and invasive species. Mr. Schultz presented Resolution 2025-4 to the Board delegating authority to the Weed Control Superintendent. Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-4 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Mr. Schultz reviewed and answered questions regarding the Activity Report 2024, Budget Report 2025, Noxious Weed Infestation Report, Noxious Weed Control Plan, Invasive Plant Watch List Infestation Report, and Weed Control Authority Board Roster with the Board. All of these documents are sent to the Nebraska Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Protection. Urbanski made a motion to approve all of the documents as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Howard County Historic Tax Credit Purchase Agreement – The Board reviewed the Tax Credit Purchase Agreement between Howard County and Bridges Trust Company to be effective January 14, 2025. The expected amount of tax credits is \$58,350.00. The closing date is set for March 31, 2025. The historic tax credits are derived from the installation of the front steps of the courthouse. Urbanski made a motion to approve the Tax Credit Purchase Agreement as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

NIRMA Insurance Updates-The County is currently in the process of renewing the insurance policy with NIRMA. Additions and deletions have been updated on the current schedules. The Clerk updated the Board on the changes.

Cemetery Maintenance – The Commissioners have received two inquiries from Howard County residents regarding cemeteries located in the County. The Board reviewed Nebraska State Statutes regarding the County’s responsibilities to maintain cemeteries as well as information regarding abandoned and pioneer cemeteries. No action taken.

Sheriff Hoff-Vehicle Funding-Sheriff Mike Hoff was present to discuss the purchase of a 2022 Ford Explorer to replace a wrecked vehicle in the amount of \$26,995.00. An insurance check in the amount of \$20,852.00 was received for the totaled vehicle. The 2022 Ford Explorer would be used as the K-9 unit. Urbanski made a motion to approve the purchase of the 2022 Ford Explorer in the amount of \$26,995.00. Part of the payment of \$20,852.00 will be paid out of the Misc. General Fund and \$6,143.00 will be paid out of the K-9 Fund. The motion was seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Personnel-Executive Session-Urbanski made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:29 a.m. to discuss personnel and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman stated that the Board was going into Executive Session to discuss personnel at 11:29 a.m. Sheriff, Mike Hoff was also present. Hirschman made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 11:53 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. No action taken.

Funds Balance-Board Chair Hirschman explained funds balance. The Clerk and Treasurer’s offices balance funds each month. The Clerk is working on a report to present to the Commissioners quarterly.

Consent Agenda - Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to approve the Board of Equalization and Commissioners Meeting Minutes for 12/26/2024, Treasurer, Clerk, District Court and Sheriff’s Reports and Claims dated 1/14/2025, General-\$72,905.21 + \$525.00; Road-\$80,289.59; Canine Fund-\$242.83; Inheritance Tax Fund- \$198,705.22; and 911 Emergency Management Funds-\$838.25 for a total amount of \$353,506.10. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Recess-Urbanski made a motion to recess at 12:27 p.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Reconvene-The Board reconvened at 1:16 p.m.

Employee Evaluations-Executive Session – Motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski to go into Executive Session to perform employee evaluations at 1:17 p.m. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman stated the Board was going into Executive Session to perform employee evaluations at 1:17 p.m. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to come out of Executive Session at 4:34 p.m. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. No Action taken.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Lukasiewicz, seconded by Urbanski to adjourn the meeting at 4:37 p.m. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be January 28, 2025.

Dated this 14th day of January, 2025.

Kathy Hirschman

Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST:



Brenda Klanecky

Brenda Klanecky

Howard County Clerk