

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

April 8, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 8th day of April, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 2nd day of April, 2025. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, emailed to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office. A proof of publication is filed in 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- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Hirschman 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.

County Road Discussion – Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to discuss the following:

Stop Sign 6th and Gordon-A landowner asked about installing a stop sign at the intersection of 6th and Gordon. Ms. Thomsen provided pictures of the area. In order to install a stop sign, an engineering study needs to be completed per regulations. A tree and brush in the area will be removed to help the view. Urbanski made a motion to approve doing an engineering study at the 6th and Gordon intersection and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Various county roads were discussed and prioritized. Ms. Thomsen stated that she had received an application and would like to interview the applicant. Ms. Hirschman volunteered to conduct the interview with Ms. Thomsen. All commissioners were in agreement.

Mail –

Kori Ostendorf-NACO Medicare Assistance-Dates to come to Howard County
Upcoming NACO Workshops
Email-Ebony Cooksley
Hamilton Monthly Report
Receipt- Historic Tax Credits
Correspondence-State Fire Marshall and Rasmussen Mechanical
NACO Legislative Report

Unfinished Business – None.

Public Hearing P&Z Re-zone Blase Co. LLC-Eric Blase-Lukasiewicz made a motion to open the public hearing at 9:00 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Those present were Planning Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith, Brandon Connick, and Cassidy Van Meter. An application to re-zone the NW ¼ of 31-14-9, from Light Industrial (I-1) to Agricultural Transitional District (A-2). The Planning and Zoning Board had approved the application on March 26, 2025. Following discussion, Urbanski made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:09 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the re-zone of Blase Co. LLC in the NW ¼ of 31-14-9, from I-1 to A-2, and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Public Hearing P & Z-Conditional Use Permit-Ken Kohohf -Urbanski made a motion to open the public hearing at 9:15 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Those present were Planning Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith, Ken Kohohf and Dick Hadenfeldt. Ms. Klinginsmith explained the application for the conditional use permit on a pivot corner which consists of 1.61 acres. The Planning and Zoning Board had approved the application with two conditions. 1. There would be a maximum of 15 trailers parked on the land for sale and 2. that the landowner must maintain a dealer's license or the conditional use permit would become null and void. Lukasiewicz made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:24 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the conditional use permit for Ken Kohohf and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Isaiah Graham-Petition to vacate 1 mile of 8th Avenue – Isaiah and Emily Graham and Nick Busch were present to discuss the vacate of one mile of 8th Avenue between Friend Road and Gordon Road. Janet Thomsen was also present during the discussion. Mr. Graham presented a petition to vacate a portion of 8th Avenue, documentation and photos to share with the commissioners. The next step to vacate the road would be to have the highway superintendent perform a road study. If approved by the commissioners, the highway superintendent has 30 days to complete the road study. The date would be May 8, 2025, if approved at today's meeting. Following the completion of a road study, a public hearing would be scheduled. The public hearing is required to be published for three consecutive weeks. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the highway superintendent to perform a road study on 8th Avenue and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Benjamin Dennis-Bead Grant-Letter of Support - Support Letter for Nextlink Internet for BEAD Grant –Benjamin Dennis with Hamilton Telecommunications was present to request a letter of

support for two grants being applied for by Nedelco, Incorporated, a branch of Hamilton Telecommunications for projects 61 and 63 located in Howard County. Mr. Dennis gave a little history on Hamilton Telecommunications. He explained the project areas and answered questions from the commissioners. Both projects would be 100% fiber. Urbanski made a motion to approve providing a letter of support for the BEAD Grant applications for both projects and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Annual Noxious Weed Program Evaluation- Weed Superintendent, Rob Schultz was present to discuss the reports and requirements from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Noxious Weed Program. There were three open files as of the end of 2024. All three landowners continue to remedy the weed situation. The commissioners appreciate the work done by Mr. Schultz. Urbanski made a motion to approve the reports and requirements summary and authorize Kathy Hirschman to sign the acknowledgment and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

County Roads Building Update-Ms. Thomsen provided pictures of the work being done on the inside of the building. Internet will be available through Viaero. Issues with the doors are being resolved. Shelving for the parts area will be built by County employees. Discussion on the fuel tank including size and location was held.

Facility Managers Organization-the Pilot Program-Jerry Berggren with Berggren Architects had reached out to Howard County regarding a pilot program their company was spearheading. They plan to have regularly scheduled zoom meetings for the maintenance department regarding the buildings. Following discussion, a motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz not to participate in the pilot program. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The Clerk will send an email to Mr. Berggren regarding the Board's decision.

Pat Koperski-Courthouse Maintenance Update – The commissioners took a tour of the 4th floor with Mr. Koperski. Surplus equipment was discussed. Upon returning to the commissioner room, discussion continued regarding portions of the sidewalk that were damaged last fall were being replaced today, also discussed was how to repair the damage to the lawn. Mr. Urbanski contacted someone to get some input on getting the necessary repairs completed and the cost. Ms. Hirschman has been working with Pella to replace the windows that were not working properly. Rasmussen Mechanical will be here this week to take care of the deficiencies during the State Fire Marshal's inspection of the boiler system.

Sheriff's Office-Copier Lease Agreement-Sheriff Mike Hoff was present to discuss another copier lease agreement. His current agreement is considerably less than the one quoted. The copier is still working and he wants to stay with the current agreement.

Update-Nance County Dispatch Merger- Sheriff, Mike Hoff, Head Dispatcher, Melissa Paxton, and Chief Deputy, Paul Tartaglia were present to discuss the updates on the Nance County Dispatch Merger. Ms. Paxton and Mr. Tartaglia had attended the Nance County Commissioner meeting earlier in the morning during a discussion regarding Nance County merging their dispatch services to Howard County. Nance County did not vote on the merger. This will be on their agenda on April 22, 2025. Ms. Paxton provided the commissioners with a list of vendors and costs. They are still waiting for a quote from Lumen. Quotes were received for electrical, desks, carpet and construction. The updates on the 911 Center will be on the Howard County Medical Center's April 30th Agenda, as they own the building. The commissioners instructed Ms. Paxton and Mr. Tartaglia to get on the schedule for an electrician, carpenter and carpet layer. These projects will be contingent on the Medical Center approving the improvements to the building on April 30th. Two members from the Nance County Fire and Rescue were present during the discussion. The Nance County Dispatch Merger will be placed on the April 22, 2025, agenda later in the morning to allow time for Nance County to vote on the issue.

Consulting Services Agreement –Ms. Paxton presented an agreement with SCG Consulting Services LLC in the amount of \$5,000.00 to integrate Nance Co 911/Dispatching into Howard County 911 Operation. The agreement was reviewed and discussed. Urbanski made a motion to approve Kathy Hirschman signing the agreement with SCG Consulting Services and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Public Spirited Citizen Appointment-Lukasiewicz volunteered to find someone to fill the position and bring back to a meeting for approval.

Nebraska Choice Gas Supplier-Courthouse and Roads Dept. – The commissioners reviewed and compared the price per therm of available gas suppliers. Urbanski made a motion to approve Wood River Energy for the courthouse and Legacy Natural Gas for the St. Paul and Dannebrog Roads Department Buildings all at the fixed rate for one year and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 4/8/2025, the regular minutes for the Commissioner Meeting dated 3/25/2025, and the Clerks, District Court, Treasurer, and Attorney Reports. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to approve the payroll and claims dated 4/8/2025, General-\$42,700.46, Roads-\$60,347.78, Canine Cost-\$68.88, Inheritance Tax Fund-\$262,188.25, 911 Emergency Management-\$839.51, and E911 Wireless Holding Fund-\$2,500.00 for a total of \$368,644.88, the Commissioner meeting minutes dated 3/25/2025 and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes and the reports from the Clerk, District Court, Treasurer and Attorney. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to adjourn the meeting at 1:50 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 April 22, 2025.

Dated this 8th day of April, 2025.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk