

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

April 22, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 22nd day of April, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 16th 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 8:40 a.m. Roll Call: Kirt Lukasiewicz, Aye; Kathy Hirschman, Aye; and Jessie Urbanski, Absent. Also, present is County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky.

**Pledge of Allegiance-** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited during the Board of Equalization meeting.

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:

**Setting Hearing Date for One and Six Year Plan**-Lukasiewicz made a motion to set the One and Six Year Plan for May 27, 2025 at 9:15 a.m. and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent. The Commissioners had asked Ms. Thomsen for a preliminary one and six year plan to review at the next meeting.

**Personnel-Road Employee-Possible Hire**-Lukasiewicz made a motion to authorize Ms. Thomsen to offer a road worker position to an individual that had recently been interviewed and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent. Various county roads were discussed and prioritized.

**Mail** –

Kori Ostendorf-NACO Medicare Assistance-Dates to come to Howard County  
MIPS Website Update/Increased Fee  
SAMS (System for Awards Management) Renewal  
Opioid Settlement Correspondence  
SFY 2026 Title II Formula Grant Program

Central NE Community Action Partnership 2024 Annual Report

**Unfinished Business** – None.

**Department of Revenue Reports and Opinions-Property Tax Administrator-Neal Dethlefs**-Mr.

Dethlefs was present to explain the 2025 Preliminary Draft Statistics using 2024 Values. This information correlated with information found in the Department of Revenue Reports and Opinions. Mr. Dethlefs answered questions from the Commissioners.

**County Road Building Update**-Ms. Thomsen stated a walk through had been done last week.

Currently, the electrical and data portion are being worked on. Viaero will provide internet service. Also discussed were an air compressor and fuel tank.

**Approve/Deny GIS Map-Re-zoned from I-1 to A-2** –Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith presented maps to the Commissioners showing the changes in Section 31, Range 14, Township 9 Re-zone 10 acres located in Section 31, Range 14, Township 9, from I-1 to A-2, which had been approve by the Commissioners on April 8, 2025. The Commissioners reviewed the map showing the change in Section 31-Range 14, Township 9. Ms. Klinginsmith presented a resolution directing the Planning and Zoning Administrator to amend the Howard County Zoning Map in Section 31, Township 14N, Range 9 W of 6<sup>th</sup> P.M. accordingly and republish the Map as amended. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve **Resolution 2025-7** as presented by Ms. Klinginsmith and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Executive Session-Protect Public Interest**- Lukasiewicz made a motion to go into executive session at 10:37 a.m. to Protect Public Interest and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent. Hirschman stated that the Commissioners were going into executive session at 10:37 a.m. to Protect Public Interest. Those present in executive session are Lukasiewicz, Hirschman, and Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith. Lukasiewicz made a motion to come out of executive session at 11:27 a.m. and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent. No action taken.

**Courthouse Lawn Repair-Review Estimate-Possible Action** –The bid to repair the courthouse lawn came in over \$10,000.00. The Commissioners agreed to put repairs on hold and go out for additional bids for the repairs.

**Approve/Deny Nebraska Fire Sprinkler** –The Commissioners reviewed the proposal from Nebraska Fire Sprinkler. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the proposal from Nebraska Fire Sprinkler for the annual fire sprinkler inspection and report of inspection and seconded by Hirschman. Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Cost Analysis and Nance County Dispatch Merger-** Sheriff, Mike Hoff, Head Dispatcher, Melissa Paxton, and Chief Deputy, Paul Tartaglia were present to discuss the Howard-Nance 911 Dispatch Consolidation Costs to include the one-time and recurring annual costs. Contractors are in place to begin renovations upon approval by the Howard County Medical Center Board on April 30, 2025. It was decided that the 911 Center will be able to operate with the two equipped stations. A third station will be added but not fully functional until additional funds are available. A new fund will need to be created by the Treasurer and Clerk to deposit and budget funds received from Nance County for the 911 wireless funds Nance County receives. Howard County will be obligated to use sixty-two percent of the 911 wireless funds from Nance County to update the GIS mapping system for Nance County each year. Twelve percent of the funds paid by Nance County and the remainder of the wireless funds from Nance County will be allocated exclusively to the Howard County Communications Center annually. The agreement will run perpetually unless one of the parties decides to terminate.

**Interlocal Agreement** – Sheriff Hoff, Ms. Paxton and Chief Deputy, Paul Tartaglia attended the Nance County Commissioner meeting in Fullerton at 9:30 a.m. and brought back the approved and signed Interlocal Agreement. After review of the Interlocal Agreement, Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement for Dispatching of Law Enforcement and Emergency Services between Howard County and Nance County effective July 1, 2025, and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 4/22/2025, the regular minutes for the Commissioner Meeting dated 4/8/2025, and the Sheriff's Report. Motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Hirschman to approve the payroll and claims dated 4/22/2025, General-\$260,717.13, Roads-\$66,186.49, Canine Cost-\$83.98, and 911 Emergency Management-\$341.90, for a total of \$327,329.50, the Commissioner meeting minutes dated 4/8/2025 and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes and the report from the Sheriff. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Hirschman to adjourn the meeting at 12:56 p.m. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be May 13, 2025.

Dated this 22nd day of April, 2025.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk