

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

May 13, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 13th day of May, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 7th day of May 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, Aye. 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: Personnel- One employee had resigned last Friday. Ms. Thomsen asked if the Board would want to look at hiring a new employee. It was the consensus of the Commissioners to hold off on hiring a new employee. Jerry Thompson and Jamison Rawlings were present along with Ms. Thomsen to discuss the amount of training Mr. Rawlings has received to spray weeds. Mr. Urbanski stated he would speak with the Weed Superintendent regarding training.

**Review Preliminary One- and Six-Year Plan**-Ms. Thomsen provided the Board with a copy of the traffic count from Jansen Road to the Lake of the Woods. The Preliminary One- and Six-Year Plan was reviewed and discussed were completed, current and future road projects. The Public Hearing for the One- and Six-Year Plan has been scheduled for June 24, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

**Game & Parks Three Wildlife Management Areas-Grading**-Mark Feeney with Nebraska Game and Parks Wildlife Management, was present to speak with the Commissioners regarding grading roads on the following areas: Marsh Wren Wildlife Management, Leonard A. Koziel Wildlife Management and Harold Andersen Wildlife Management which would be approximately one and a half miles of roads. The roads would need to be maintained during late May through the first of September. These roads would be graded when the operator is grading the County roads in that area. This item will be brought to the next meeting to approve

the costs to the County that would be reimbursed by Nebraska Game and Parks. Mr. Feeney will prepare a service agreement for the next meeting.

**Mail –**

Elevator Inspection Report

MIPs Update

County Website Update

NACO Information regarding Replacement Revenue

**Unfinished Business –** None.

**Public Hearing-5 Over U Subdivision-P. Lukasiewicz**-This agenda item was not required to be a public hearing. Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith met with the Commissioners to discuss the application for a single lot subdivision by Philip and Tracey Lukasiewicz. Following discussion, Urbanski made a motion to approve the 5 Over U Subdivision and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Vacate 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue Road Study-Set Public Hearing Date/Resolution 2025-8 Establishing Public Hearing Date-** Isaiah and Emily Graham were present along with Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen, who was advised by the Commissioners at the last Board Meeting to perform a road study on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The Board reviewed a copy of the road study. The Board accepted the road study which acknowledges that Ms. Thomsen has completed the road study to vacate a portion of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The public hearing is required to be published for three consecutive weeks. Surrounding landowners will be notified by mail by Ms. Thomsen. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-8, Establishing a Public Hearing Date of June 10, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. regarding the Road Study to Vacate 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Resolution 2025-9-Local Emergency Operations Plan-** Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen presented the LEOP which has been updated in digital form. Mr. Wilshusen recently updated the LEOP which is required to be updated every five years. Urbanski made a motion to approve the updated LEOP in digital form as Resolution 2025-9 as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**2024 Annual Report of Projects (TIF)** –St. Paul Development Corporation Executive Director, Parker Klinginsmith mailed a report of the current Tax Increment Financing Projects of the Community Development Agency of the City of St. Paul, Nebraska. The Commissioners reviewed the report. No additional action is required.

**BTS Communications-Jon Fischer-308-389-6212**- Loren Cleveland and Jon Fischer with BTS Communications were present to discuss the current phone contract that ends in May 2025. A quote was provided to the Board. Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Fischer answered the questions the Board asked. The Board requested that BTS get on the agenda for the May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting and show the Board the updated phones they are proposing.

**County Road's Building Update-Internet Quote**- The Board is looking at two options for internet service in the new County Road's Building. Viaero has offered to run service from a tower located close by to the building. Ms. Thomsen provided what the current cost is for Viaero. Ms. Thomsen was asked to contact Starlink for a cost to provide internet. Ms. Thomsen presented a quote from Hamilton for additional wiring for the internet the Board reviewed. Jerry Thompson stated that Blackhills Energy would be running a line for the new building.

**Sheriff's Department-Surplus Vehicles** –Deputy Sheriff Paul Tartaglia was present to discuss two patrol cars the Sheriff's office would like to have declared as surplus vehicles. The vehicles are a 2013 Dodge Charger (Unit 5) and a 2017 Dodge Charger (Unit 4) which are no longer in use. Mr. Tartaglia was advised to check with Big Iron to see if it was feasible to go through them to sell the vehicles or else sell them by sealed bids. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the 2013 Dodge Charger and 2017 Dodge Charger as surplus vehicles and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Sheriff's Department-Use of Road's Department Building**-Deputy Sheriff Paul Tartaglia was present to discuss the use of the Roads Department Building located on Elm Street in St. Paul when the Roads Department moves to the new Roads Building. Mr. Tartaglia presented a proposal to the Commissioners to re-purpose the building for the Sheriff's Department and the Special Response Team (SRT) to do the following: Year-round modular shoot house training; K9 and interagency training space; Secure impound and equipment storage; Housing of a military surplus armored vehicle; Additional workstation space for deputies and Indoor winter vehicle storage and improved officer safety. Discussion followed on how expenses would be paid, including utilities, maintenance, and modifications to the building. No action taken.

**Approve/Deny Interlocal Agreement -Juvenile Diversion Services Hall/Howard County –**

Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement between Hall and Howard County for the Juvenile Diversion Services as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Set Hearing Dates for Protest Hearings**- County Assessor, Neal Dethlefs was present to explain the process to the Board. Landowners have until June 30<sup>th</sup> to file a protest on valuation of property. Next Board meeting following that date will be July 8<sup>th</sup>. The deadline to complete everything and have it mailed off is July 25, 2025. The Assessor tries to review the properties

that are being protested prior to the hearing. Urbanski made a motion to set the hearing dates for the Protest Hearings from the afternoon of July 8, 2025, through July 22, 2025, with the closing on July 22, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Set Budget Workshop Dates**-Urbanski made a motion to approve setting Budget Workshop dates for June 17<sup>th</sup> and June 18<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 9:00 a.m. each day and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Approve/Deny Spirited Citizen Appointment-Kevin Sestak**-Urbanski made a motion to approve Kevin Sestak as the Spirited Citizen for Howard County and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the claims dated 5/13/2025, the regular and board of equalization minutes for the Commissioner Meeting dated 4/22/2025, and the Clerk, District Court, Treasurer, Attorney, and Sheriff's Report. Motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski to approve the payroll and claims dated 4/22/2025, General-\$100,843.14, Roads-\$113,042.97, Tourism Improvement Fund-\$975.00, Tourism Promotion Fund-\$1,520.00, Canine Cost-\$19,007.24, Inheritance Fund-\$23,807.12 and 911 Emergency Management-\$2,054.43, for a total of \$261,249.90, the Commissioner meeting minutes dated 4/8/2025 and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes and approve the reports from the Clerk, District Court, Treasurer, Attorney and Sheriff's Department. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski to adjourn the meeting at 12:16 pm. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting Adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be May 27, 2025.

Dated this 13th day of May, 2025.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk