

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

May 27, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 27th day of May, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 21st 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 8:30 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:

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. Kozial Wildlife Management and Harold Andersen Wildlife Management which would be approximately one and a half miles of roads. During discussion the Board and Mr. Feeney agreed that the County would grade each location one time per month for five months, May through September. The cost will be \$1,000.00 per month and any extra work would be billed at \$350.00 per hour. Lukasiewicz made a motion to proceed with a contract for \$1,000.00 for five months and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Mr. Feeney will have an agreement drawn up and presented at the next Board meeting for approval.

Road Projects-Janet Thomsen, Ray Hurt and Jerry Thompson were present to discuss road projects, cleaning ditches, obtaining clay, culverts, traffic counter from NIRMA, stop signs, the mulcher, repairs on equipment, curbs on county roads and using the mulcher and retriever.

Ag Society Request to Use Equipment-Jerry Thompson with the Howard County Ag Society was present to discuss using the County's payloador and motor grader during the Howard County

Fair, July 7th through July 11th and also for a bull riding event on June 21st. Urbanski made a motion to approve the Ag Society using a loader and motor grader during the fair and during the bull riding event and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Mail –

Letter from State of NE Probation District Eight

County Website Update

St. Paul Volunteer Fire and Rescue

Howard County Medical Center Invite

TERC-Findings and Order

Unfinished Business – None.

Veterans Service Budget Request-Present were Don Shuda, Veterans Service Officer, Margy Goerl, Administrative Assistant, Committee Members, Larry Kiser, Bryce Pearson, Dave Cyboron and Dale Rasmussen. Mr. Shuda updated the Board on the Veterans Cemetery in Grand Island and an invitation for the opening on July 12th at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Shuda updated the Board on the number of veterans in Howard County, (387) and the amount of assistance and funds paid in Howard County. Mr. Shuda stated he would like to keep the budget request for 2025-2026 the same as 2024-2025, at \$39,910.00. Urbanski made a motion to approve the Veterans Service budget request in the amount of \$39,910.00 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Crime Commission Grant 2025-2026 and 2024-2025 CB Amended Award-Connie Holmes-

Connie Holmes was present to discuss the new grant starting July 1, 2025. The amount of the grant(26-CB-0513) for 2025-2026 is \$49,177.00. Along with this grant one of the changes for the Howard County School Interventionist being overseen by St. Paul Public Schools instead of Livewell Counseling. The current School Interventionist is moving out of State. The school would like to keep her on as the interventionist. A Letter of Agreement between participating parties is being discussed. The Interventionist will go from a physical presence to a virtual presence effective July 1, 2025. The Commissioners had questions about this and Connie will get the answers. Urbanski made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Crime Commission Grant in the amount of \$49,177.00 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The Crime Commission approved an additional \$7,400.00 for Howard County for the current fiscal year (2024-2025), to help with the May and June expenses. The full amount of the grant (25-CB-0513) for 2024-2025 is \$53,537.00. Urbanski

made a motion to approve the additional funding in the amount of \$7,400.00 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Don Sack-Dannebrog Fire Dept. Equipment Review-Mr. Sack called this morning and asked to have this agenda item removed.

Sheriff's Dept.-Vehicle Repair Bills/Patches for Uniforms –Chief Deputy, Paul Tartaglia was present to discuss some excess vehicle repairs in the amount of \$360.44 and an invoice for uniform patches for the SRT. No money was budgeted for the SRT during this fiscal period. These are patches were for all of the entities in the SRT. The other entities have reimbursed Howard County for the cost of their patches. The monies have been deposited into the general fund. Following discussion, Urbanski made a motion to approve paying the repairs in the amount of \$360.44 and the patches in the amount of \$228.00 in a total amount of \$588.84 out of the Misc. General, Misc. Fund and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye

Public Hearing-Conditional Use Permit-Horse Training Facility- Lukasiewicz made a motion to open the public hearing at 10:00 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith, Adam Donaldson and Linna Dee Donaldson were present to discuss the Conditional Use Permit for the Horse Training Facility. Eric Blase's name was also included on the application for the permit. Mr. Blase is the current landowner. He plans to sell to the Donaldsons if the permit is approved. The Donaldson's will be able to have 30 head of livestock at the facility at one time. Another condition is to plant vegetation to control dust and a 1-year renewable duration. The Donaldson's plan to live in the current structure on the property. The Donaldson's plan to build an indoor and outdoor arenas. Following discussion and question and answer period, Lukasiewicz made a motion to close the public hearing at 10:09 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Urbanski made a motion to approve Permit 2025-18, the Conditional Use Permit for the Donaldson's Horse Training Facility with the stipulations as discussed and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Review Planning and Zoning Complaint- A complaint filed against Bob Hirschman by Jake and Amber Dizmang. After a review by Ms. Klinginsmith and the Planning & Zoning Board, no violations were found. The Commissioners are also required to review the complaint. The odor footprints were in place prior to the Dizmang's home being built. No violations were observed. The complaint will be filed in the Planning & Zoning records. No further action taken.

Hamilton Telecommunications-Phone System – Dave Thieszen and Ed Uden with Hamilton Telecommunication were present to discuss their phone systems with the Board of

Commissioners and county employees. All of the features were discussed. Proposals were provided. No action taken.

Health Insurance-Judd Allen, NACO-Judd Allen with NACO was present to discuss quotes for health insurance. Mr. Allen discussed the information needed to provide quotes. New features with Blue Cross Blue Shield and benefits offered as well as HRAs and HSAs. Deductibles and buydowns were also discussed. Lukasiewicz made a motion to have Mr. Allen go out for quotes for Blue Cross Blue Shield pool through NACO and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

First Concord –Urbanski made a motion to table this agenda item and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Approve Letter to Citizens Bank- Urbanski made a motion to approve the letter presented to be sent to Citizens Bank & Trust explaining the procedure for the postage fund and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Region 3 Budget Request- Urbanski made a motion to approve the Region 3 budget request for fiscal year 2025-2026 in the amount of \$17,220.35 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

BTS-Phone System-Jon Fischer with BTS was present to demonstrate the 2 phones that are being proposed by BTS. The Board reviewed the proposals with Mr. Fischer. Discussion was held on the number of phones and whether the County would benefit from one phone over the other. Mr. Fischer will provide us with new proposals for each of the different phones to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Re-appoint Committee Member- Veterans Service Office, Don Shuda stated that Fritz Lee would like to be re-appointed as a committee member representing the Howard County Veterans for a term of 5 years. Urbanski made a motion to approve the re-appointment of Fritz Lee and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Request for funds-PVWMA-Weed Superintendent, Rob Schultz was present to discuss the Platte Valley Weed Management Area (PVWMA). The amount of funds from the State of Nebraska may not be available to help spray the rivers in Nebraska. Mr. Schultz wanted to update the Commissioners. Mr. Schultz will be attending a meeting tomorrow on this issue.

Road Building Update/Change Order-The Board received a change order request number 006 to have Middleton Electric install additional wiring for data and plug ins in the amount of \$9,289.00. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve Change Order Number 006 in the amount of \$9,289.00 and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Letter of Support-Area Clean Community System-Urbanski made a motion to approve the letter of support for Grand Island Area Clean Community System and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

National NACO Dues-An email was received from Jon Cannon regarding the incorporation of National NACO dues and the County dues to NACO to be paid at the same time. Urbanski made a motion to approve paying the National and County NACO dues at the same time and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Twin Loups Title Transfer-Resolution 2025-10-Bernie Glos with Twin Loups Recreation District was present to discuss the resolution regarding the Twin Loups Title Transfer. Urbanski made a motion to approve the support of Twin Loups Reclamation District title transfer of federal facilities to local ownership as Resolution 2025-10 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Approve Request to Pay Claims Twice in June-Urbanski made a motion to approve paying claim twice in the month of June and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program-The County received notice that they have been approved for a Cybersecurity Grant in the amount of \$104,050.00. Lukasiewicz made a motion to accept the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant in the amount of \$104,050.00 and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Corrective Action Regarding Sanctuary County Designation-Resolution 2025-11-County Attorney, Heather Sikyta, Sheriff, Mike Hoff and Chief Deputy, Paul Tartaglia were present to discuss this agenda item. Howard County had received notice that they are still listed as a Sanctuary County. County Attorney, Heather Sikyta prepared a resolution to take corrective action regarding the Sanctuary County Designation. Providing a copy of the approved resolution should remove Howard County from the Sanctuary County list. Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-11 taking Corrective Action Regarding Sanctuary County Designation and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Sheriff Hoff will send the approved resolution to the proper parties to get Howard County removed from the list.

Executive Session-Union Negotiations –All of the Commissioners and Union Steward, Jerry Thompson were present to discuss the union negotiations. Urbanski made a motion to go into executive session regarding union negotiations at 2:30 p.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Lukasiewicz made a motion to come out of executive session at 3:20 p.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye. No action taken.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 5/27/2025, and the regular and board of equalization minutes for the Commissioner Meeting dated 5/13/2025. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to approve the payroll and claims dated 5/28/2025, General \$261,790.74, and Roads-\$82,983.45 for a total of \$344,774.19, the Board of Equalization and Commissioner meeting minutes dated 5/13/2025 and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes. 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 3:40 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 June 10, 2025.

Dated this 27th day of May, 2025.

Kathy Hirschman

Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky

Howard County Clerk