

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

June 10, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 10th day of June, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 4th day of June 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:

Contract for Game & Parks Three Wildlife Management Areas-Grading- Urbanski made a motion to approve the service agreement with Nebraska Game & Parks Commission as a year to year agreement for \$1,000.00 per month when work is performed and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, No; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Motion Carried.

State Stop Sign Resolution 2025-12-Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-12 as a Certification of Completion-Statewide Upgrading Existing Stop Sign as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Union Contract-Union Steward, Jerry Thompson and Janet Thomsen were present to go over the Union Contract to begin July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028, regarding the Road's Department only. Following discussion, Urbanski made a motion to approve the Union Contract with the modifications as presented and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, No; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Motion Carried.

Road Projects-Janet Thomsen and Jerry Thompson were present to discuss ongoing road projects. Ryan Hall from the Public was present to ask questions of the Board and Road's Department.

Mail –

Hamilton Telecommunications Monthly Report
Email regarding upcoming grant opportunities
Flyer from Pete Ricketts office
Correspondence from the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce
Email regarding Sanctuary Counties
Champlin Tire Recycling Inc.

Unfinished Business – None.

Public Hearing-Vacate Portion of 8th Avenue-Urbanski made a motion to open the public hearing at 9:00 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman outlined the process according to Nebraska State Statutes to vacate a public road and what has taken place. The Petition to vacate a portion of 8th Avenue was presented on April 8th to the Board by Isaiah and Emily Graham. Present were Isaiah and Emily Graham and Nick and Liz Busch. Those speaking during the hearing were Wayne Knapp, Marilyn Bader, Fire Chief, Mike Becker, Isaiah and Emily Graham, Jeff Sack, Nick Busch, Kay Meyer, Cherri Klinginsmith and Chris Meyer. An email from Phil Bader was read to those present at the meeting. After everyone had an opportunity to speak and questions answered, a motion was made by Urbanski to close the public hearing at 9:41 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. A decision will be made at the June 24th meeting.

Ag Society/Howard County-Land Purchase- Urbanski made a motion to table this item until the next meeting and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Administrative Office of the Courts & Probation-Agreement-Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation, (AOCP), provided an agreement between the AOCP and Howard County to be effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. This agreement is in the amount of \$18,603.20 to be reimbursed to the AOCP for Clerk of the District Court duties performed by the Clerk Magistrate. Urbanski made a motion to approve the agreement as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

CNCAP-Cheryl Holcomb –Cheryl Holcomb, Executive Director for Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership (CNCAP) was present to discuss what CNCAP does. They are a non-profit. Ms. Holcomb stated CNCAP provides services to 72 of the 93 counties in Nebraska. Ms. Holcomb would like to have the Board write a letter of support to Congressman Adrian Smith

and Senator Deb Fischer regarding funding. The letter of support was not on the agenda and will be addressed at the next Board meeting.

Approve/Deny Phone System- Jon Fischer with BTS was present to answer any questions the Board had regarding the proposed telephone system. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the BTS' five-year agreement for 38-Force Pro 5 telephones with the understanding the license pricing could be adjusted from what is listed on the proposal and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Budget and Audit Proposals- The Board discussed the rising costs of the budget prep and audit for the County. Urbanski made a motion to approve going out for proposals for both the budget and the audit and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Purchase Proposals Ford F150-Sheriff's Dept. – Sheriff Mike Hoff and Chief Deputy, Paul Tartaglia were present providing three proposals for a replacement vehicle for the Sheriff's Department. Urbanski made a motion to approve the proposal received from Chicago Motors Inc. for a 2022 Ford F-150 Police Responder Super Crew in the amount of \$36,995.00 and the quote from Platte Valley Communications in the amount of \$25,821.80 to install lights, siren, radio, and electronics for a total of \$62,816.80 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. This will be paid out of the General Misc., Misc. account.

Drone Grant-Sheriff's Dept-The Sheriff's office applied for and received a grant from the Jack Lewis Grant in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the purchase of a drone. Urbanski made a motion to approve the grant and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Proposal for Cooling System-911 Center—Sheriff Hoff had received three proposals for a cooling system at the 911 Center. Urbanski made a motion to approve the proposal received from Wells Plumbing in the amount of \$3,645.38 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

County Building Update- Janet Thomsen stated colors were chosen for floors, baseboard, ceilings and walls in the new Road's Building. Overhead doors have been ordered. The shop floors are scheduled to be poured this week.

E911 Transfer Resolution# 2025-13-Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-13 to transfer \$4,423.27 from the (2910) 911 Emergency Management fund to Communications General and transferring \$39,809.45 from (2913) E911 Wireless Service Fund to Communications General and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

GI Area Clean Community-Budget Request-Urbanski made a motion to approve the \$2,000.00 budget request from Grand Island Area Clean Community and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Stanard Appraisal Services Contract-Neal Dethlefs- Mr. Dethlefs was present to discuss a proposal from Stanard Appraisal Services. Urbanski made a motion to accept the proposal in the amount of \$18,000.00 to review commercial properties in Howard County and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Howard County Ag Society-SDL Applications-The first SDL application is for a bull riding and concert event at the Howard County Fairgrounds on June 21st from 2:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Urbanski made a motion to approve the SDL for an event on June 21st and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

The second SDL application is for events taking place at the Howard County Fairgrounds during the Howard County Fair. The dates and times are as follows: July 7th from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; July 8th from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; July 9th from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; July 10th from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; July 12th from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; and July 13th from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the second SDL application for events taking place during the Howard County Fair and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

NIRMA Insurance Renewal-The County received a letter from NIRMA stating that the annual premium in the amount of \$135,295.00 for fiscal year 2025-2026 is due. This is a 5.85 percent decrease from last year.

BEAD Update-Ms. Hirschman has attended zoom meetings regarding the BEAD grant. This grant is currently in the scoring stage. The physical work is scheduled to start in January 2026.

SCEDD Budget Request-A memo was received from Sharon Hueftle, Executive Director for the South Central Economic Development. The 2026 dues will be \$5,000.00. In the past, the City of St. Paul received the bill for \$5,000.00 and sent an invoice to the County for \$500.00. Mr. Lukasiewicz will contact SCEDD regarding the amount and billing.

Road's Department Wage Discussion-Janet Thomsen and Jerry Thompson were present to review the wages for the Road Department workers. Urbanski made a motion to approve the Road's Worker Classification as presented and to re-visit the same at the July 8, 2025, Board Meeting, and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, No; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Motion Carried.

Executive Session-Personnel –The Commissioners and Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen were present. Urbanski made a motion to go into executive session regarding personnel at

11:39 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to come out of executive session at 11:58 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye. No action taken.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the claims dated 6/10/2025, the corrected board of equalization minutes dated 5/13/2025, and the Commissioner Meeting minutes dated 5/27/2025. The Board also reviewed the Clerk, District Court, Treasurer and Sheriff's Reports. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to approve the claims dated 6/10/2025, General \$72,576.33, and Roads-\$90,244.43, Tourism Improvement Fund-\$2,676.00, Tourism Promotion Fund-\$968.00, Canine Fund-\$5,905.00, Inheritance Tax Fund-\$241,535.57, 911 Emergency Management Fund-\$804.43, and E911 Wireless Holding Fund-\$21,000.00 for a total of \$435,709.76, the department reports, the corrected Board of Equalization minutes dated 5/13/2025 and Commissioner meeting minutes dated 5/27/2025 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 Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski to adjourn the meeting at 2:10 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 June 24, 2025.

Dated this 10th day of June, 2025.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk