

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

June 24, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 24th day of June, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 18th 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 8:30 a.m. Roll Call: Jessie Urbanski, Aye; Kirt Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Kathy Hirschman, 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:

Bridge Inspection Contract- Urbanski made a motion to approve the 2025 Bridge Inspection Contracts between Oak Creek Engineering LLC and Howard County and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye. Motion Carried.

County Road's Building Update-Concrete had been poured in the shop area last Friday. Doors have been ordered. Walls and ceilings have been painted in the office area. Working on an easement for the gas line. The well has not been drilled yet. Also discussed was an air compressor for the new building.

Roads Update-Road crews are hauling gravel and maintaining roads.

Mail –

Regional Planning Commission-
Opioid payment
First Light Child Advocacy Center
Email from Svoboda Benefit Solutions
Letter from NDEE Re: Bunker Hill Cattle Co.
Coalition Meeting Notes and copy of Agreement

Unfinished Business – None.

Public Hearing-One and Six Year Plan-Resolution 2025-14-Urbanski made a motion to open the public hearing regarding the One and Six Year Plan at 9:00 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye. Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen presented the Plan to the Commissioners. Urbanski made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:08 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-14, the One and Six Year Plan and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye.

Approve/Deny-Vacate Portion of 8th Avenue-Resolution 2025-_____-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 8, 2025, by Isaiah and Emily Graham. The road study was completed by Janet Thomsen and presented to the Board on May 13, 2025 and a public hearing was held on June 10, 2025. Present at today's meeting are Isaiah and Emily Graham and Nick Busch. Others present were County Attorney, Heather Sikyta, Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherrie Klinginsmith, and Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen. Ms. Sikyta, Ms. Klinginsmith and Ms. Thomsen answered questions asked by the Board. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the vacate of 8th Avenue between Friend and Gordon Road as described in the Petition with each one half of the road to revert back to the adjacent landowners and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Urbanski, Nay; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Abstain, due to potential conflict of interest. Motion failed for lack of a 2/3 member vote of approval. No resolution required.

Set Date for Damaged Property Protest- Urbanski made a motion to approve July 22, 2025 at 12:30 p.m. as the date to hear any Damaged Property Reports and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye.

Approve/Deny Sending Letters of Support for CNCAP- Cheryl Holcomb, Executive Director of Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership had attended the previous meeting requesting the Board to send letters of support to Congressman Adrian Smith and Senator Deb Fischer. Urbanski made a motion to approve sending the letters of support as presented and to be signed by the Board Chair and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye.

Ag Society Land Purchase- Urbanski made a motion to approve the purchase of 3.01 acres of land from the Howard County Ag Society for \$31,818.50, which includes closing costs and to have Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman sign the deed and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye.

Approve/Deny Stanard Appraisal Contract-County Assessor, Neal Dethlefs was present to discuss the Stanard Appraisal Contract. Urbanski made a motion to approve the contract as presented in the amount of \$18,000.00, (any additional properties would be charged at a set rate) to review commercial properties and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye.

Communications Update-Melissa- Chief Dispatcher, Melissa Paxton was present to inform the Commissioners on the progress of the Communications building. The electrician is working on lights, flooring is half done, IT is taking care of network items. New desks are ordered but not installed. Platte Valley is setting up radios for Nance County dispatching. Mapping is being worked on with Lumen. The air conditioner has been installed. The new generator is working. Communications will take over dispatching for Nance County on July 1, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Sheriff/Treasurer Distress Warrant-Reports-Sheriff, Mike Hoff and Treasurer, Sara Roy were present to discuss the three remaining distress warrants. These three are uncollectible. They can't be taken off the record for fifteen years. The Sheriff has collected on fifteen warrants in the amount of \$7,321.79. The Board acknowledges the distress warrants. No other action taken.

Sheriff's Dept. -Vehicle Repairs-The Sheriff's Department had some vehicle repair expenses they wished to discuss with the Commissioners. The bills will be paid out of the Sheriff's budget on July 8, 2025 which will be in the next fiscal year.

Senior Center-Howard County-Lukasiewicz reported to the Board that the Senior Center is presently operating with volunteers. An average of seventeen people have been gathering each day. Meal vouchers were discussed. Meals at the Center are currently not an option. Midland Area on Aging closed the Center on April 24, 2025. Midland Area on Aging is made up of eight counties; Howard, Hall, Merrick, Adams, Nuckolls, Clay, Webster, and Hamilton. A question that came up was what is the amount of money Midlands receives from the State of Nebraska and federal funds on behalf of Howard County. Hirschman will request what the amount of revenue is received by Midlands on behalf of Howard County.

Budget/Wage Negotiations/Letter of Engagement-Contryman's-

Budget and Wage Negotiations-Present were Assessor, Neal Dethlefs, Sheriff, Mike Hoff, Treasurer, Sara Roy and Clerk, Brenda Klanecky. Discussion was held regarding wages and budgets for employees at the courthouse and dispatcher wages. No action taken. A budget request was received from First Light. Urbanski made a motion to approve the request by First Light in the amount of \$4,000.00 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye.

Letter of Engagement-Urbanski made a motion to approve Contryman and Associates, PC, Letter of Engagement to prepare the financial forecast, which comprises of the forecasted County Budget Form with an estimated fee between \$3,000.00 and \$5,000.00, and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, and Aye; Hirschman.

Extension Budget-Maddie Prosocki-Extension Educator, Maddie Prosocki was present to discuss the extension budget for 2025-2026 with the Board.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the claims and payroll dated 6/24/2025, the Board of Equalization and Commissioner Meeting minutes dated 6/10/2025. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to approve the claims and payroll dated 6/24/2025, General \$432,262.29, and Roads-\$100,657.91, Canine Fund-\$2,534.00, 911 Emergency Management Fund-\$14,943.96, and E911 Wireless Service Fund-\$39,809.45 for a total of \$590,207.61, the Board of Equalization and Commissioner meeting minutes dated 6/10/2025 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 1:00 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 July 8, 2025.

Dated this 24th day of June, 2025.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk