

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

August 12, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 12th day of August, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 6th day of August, 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:

Sign Study-1st and Yutan-This item should have been 21st Avenue and Yutan Road. This will be discussed at the next Commissioner meeting.

Road Personnel-Hire Worker-Ms. Thomsen and Jerry Thompson were present to discuss the possibility of hiring another road worker. After much discussion, Lukasiewicz made a motion to advertise for a full-time road worker position and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

County Road Ditches-Mowing and Irrigation-Ms. Thomsen had placed notices in the Phonograph Herald regarding Nebraska Revised Statutes §39-301 and §39-1811. It is illegal to water a public road with center pivot irrigation systems and it is the duty of the landowners to mow all weeds that can be mowed with the ordinary farm mower to the middle of all public roads and drainage ditches running along their land at least twice each year, namely, sometime in July for the first time and sometime in September for the second time.

Mail – City of St. Paul Minutes dated July 31, 2025
Unfunded/Underfunded State Mandates Survey
TERC-Order and Notice of Hearing
Highway Allocations

Opioid Payments
Thank You from Kay Placke
County Employees Retirement News
Notices from Hall County Regional Planning Director
Central District Meeting Email
Copy of Planning and Zoning Letter
Hamilton Monthly Report
Unfinished Business – None.

Public Hearing-CUP-Adam Miller-Dirt Road Development Sub.- Lukasiewicz made a motion to open the public hearing at 9:01 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith, Adam and Whitney Miller were present to discuss an application for a conditional use permit to install a 17' x 34' area with solar panels. Following discussion, Urbanski made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:07 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to approve the application for a conditional use permit for Adam Miller to install solar panels on his property located in the Dirt Road Development Subdivision and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Application for Ziller Subdivision-Ms. Klinginsmith and Dan Garner were present to discuss a single lot subdivision known as Ziller Subdivision owned by Douglas Petersen. Driveway access and State right of way were discussed. Urbanski made a motion to approve the Ziller Subdivision and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

County Road Building-Change Orders-Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve Change Order #7- to change ceiling fans in the shop area in the amount of \$28,397.00; Change Order #8-to change the tall liner panel from 8'0" to 16'0" in the amount of \$4,329.00; and Change Order #9 to run an electrical connection to the fuel tank as proposed in the amount of \$5,281.00 and re-locating the pressure washer receptacle and add a receptacle for a water tank pump in the amount of \$4,314.00, totaling \$9,595.00, for a grand total of \$42,321.00, and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Resolution 2025-15 -Lease-Purchase Agreement-DA Davidson-The Commissioners reviewed the lease-purchase agreement with DA Davidson (a NACO Leasing Corporation). Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-15- the lease/purchase agreement in the principal amount of \$282,000 beginning August 21, 2025-July 15, 2030 for the purchase of a motor grader as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The motor grader has been delivered and is in service.

Robert Bogus-Culvert and Road Discussion-Robert Bogus was present to discuss a ditch that trees were left in the ditch, and a culvert installed by the Howard County Roads Department in an adjoining driveway to his property, both located along Liberty Road and Rose Road north of Highway 92. Others present during the discussion were Richard Hadenfeldt, Janet Thomsen, Ray Hurt, Jerry Thompson and Cherri Klinginsmith. Mr. Bogus provided a court reporter to record the meeting during this agenda item. Mr. Bogus provided pictures which were viewed by the Commissioners. Following a lengthy discussion, it was agreed upon by all parties to try to resolve the problem by placing a flap on the culvert, located along Liberty Road, to control the flow of water. The Road's Department will get a flap ordered and install when it is received. The issues on Rose Road north of Highway 92 will be taken care of by the Roads Department.

Health Insurance Renewal-Buy out- Those present during the discussion were Janet Thomsen, Neal Dethlefs, Mike Hoff, Paul Tartaglia, Jerry Thompson and Sara Roy. The Commissioners reviewed the plans and Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve Medica Choice National Network with a \$3,000.00 deductible and a \$2,500.00 buydown, Medica Elevate Network Bryan Health and Nebraska Medicine or Medica CHI Network as the three options for employees to choose from and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Also discussed was the buyout. Employees wanting to participate in the buyout are required to provide the County with proof of other health insurance coverage. Lukasiewicz made a motion to increase the amount of the buyout from \$375.00 to \$500.00 effective September 1, 2025, and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Resolution 2025-18- Allocation of Levy Authority/Political Subdivision- Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-18- Allocation of Levy Authority/Political Subdivision as presented with an adjustment to the Howard County Agricultural Society as follows General-\$43,440.08 and Sinking-\$7,627.90 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Resolution 2025-17-Transfer Funds from General to SRT Fund-Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-17-Transfer of Funds from General to SRT Fund in the amount of \$3,350.00, and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Public Defender Contract-Sheriff Mike Hoff-Sheriff Hoff was present to discuss the Public Defender Contract. He is concerned with the number of prisoners the Sheriff's department is transporting for court dates from several different locations and that the updated system in the courtroom is not being utilized to alleviate the number of prisoners needing to be transported that could be held by zoom. The current contract was approved prior to all of the updates in

the courtroom. Sheriff Hoff will review the current contract and provide a copy of the contract to the County Attorney. This item will be placed on a future agenda.

Resolution 2025-16 -Transfer Funds from Federal Disaster Fund to Roads Fund-Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-16-Transfer Funds in the amount of \$1,073.48 from the Federal Disaster Fund to the Roads Fund and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

SRT Vehicle Storage- Sheriff Mike Hoff and Chief Deputy Paul Tartaglia were present to discuss the storage of SRT vehicles at the current Roads Building once the Road's Department moves into the new building. The SRT received an armored vehicle which they will store out at the fairgrounds for now. No decisions were made.

Sheriff's Department Pickup Purchase –Sheriff Hoff and Chief Deputy Tartaglia were present to discuss the purchase of a pickup for the Sheriff's Department. They have obtained three quotes. This item has already been added to the 2025-2026 Budget in the General Fund for a Sheriff's vehicle and radio equipment. A claim will be provided at a future meeting on the new vehicle. Hirschman asked about what they are doing with excess equipment? Discussion ensued. No action taken.

BTS Communications/Clearfly Agreement- Following discussion, Urbanski made a motion to allow the County Clerk to sign the electronic agreement with Clearfly and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network Interlocal Agreement-Lukasiewicz asked to have this placed on the agenda. The County currently has a tower on top of the courthouse that goes through NRIN but the County does not actually belong to NRIN. It was decided that no additional action was needed.

River Update/Taking Bids for Engineering Study/Lead Entity-The Commissioners discussed a listening session that took place on July 31, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. Several entities, government officials, and individual property owners were present. Mr. Lukasiewicz attended the last City of St. Paul Council meeting. He has also attended other meetings regarding this issue. The Commissioners agreed to table this item until such time as Mr. Lukasiewicz received more information.

IBEW-1597-Executive Session-Personnel-Hirschman made a motion to go into executive session at 12:00 p.m. to discuss personnel and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Present in executive session was Jerry Thompson. Hirschman made a motion to come out of executive session at 12:28 p.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. No action taken.

Budget Review- The Commissioners reviewed the budget line by line to make any adjustments prior to the budget being sent to the accountant. A few items were adjusted. No other action taken.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the claims dated 8/12/2025, and the Commissioner Meeting minutes dated 7/22/2025, Board of Equalization Minutes dated 7/15/2025 and two Board of Equalization Minutes dated 7/22/2025. 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 8/12/2025, General \$75,411.18, Roads-\$174,845.69, Highway Safety Fees \$747.06, Inheritance Tax Fund-\$213,458.05, Emergency Management Fund-\$11,444.14, and E911 Wireless Holding Fund-\$6,120.06 for a total of \$482,026.18, the department reports, and Commissioner meeting minutes dated 7/15/2025 and minutes dated 7/22/2025 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 Hirschman to adjourn the meeting at 2:01 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 August 26, 2025.

Dated this 12th day of August, 2025.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk