

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

August 26, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 26th day of August, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 20th 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 items:

**Jon Kuck Contract-**Mr. Kuck had signed a one-year contract in September 24, 2024. Mr. Kuck said he has completed the work. Commissioners questioned whether the road needs ditches. Ms. Thomsen will inspect to make sure all work has been completed. Commissioners agreed to table until an inspection has been completed.

**Excess Equipment-** Ms. Thomsen provided the Commissioners with a list of surplus equipment. A 2011 John Deere 770G motor grader and a 1973 Chevrolet C-65 red dump truck. Big Iron and Adam Marshall were contacted regarding selling the equipment. The Commissioners suggested going with Big Iron. Urbanski made a motion to approve the 2011 motor grader and 1973 dump truck as surplus equipment and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Sign Study-21<sup>st</sup> and Yutan**-A sign study at 21<sup>st</sup> and Yutan was discussed. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve a sign study at 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Yutan Road and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Estimated cost between \$400-500.

**Roads Building Update and Internet Provider**-Thomsen updated the Board on the progress of the roads building. Some of the work will be done in-house. Thomsen has set up a garbage

hauler. Thomsen has contacted both Viaero and Starlink regarding internet service in the new roads building. Discussed was the cost of both, the number of gigs required to run the building, and contract versus no contract. It was suggested to try Starlink.

**Road Study-Gordon Road south of Hwy 58**-Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith had received notification from Dan Garner who is purchasing Ziller Subdivision. Mr. Garner stated that he applied for a driveway permit through the State of Nebraska off of Hwy 58 and was denied. Mr. Garner is asking the County to approve his driveway located on Gordon Road, 205' off of Hwy 58. Urbanski made a motion to conduct a road study on Gordon Road, south of Hwy 58, and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Also discussed was hauling gravel with smaller trucks versus the semis, get a list of bridge signs that are down, and holding employees accountable. Mr. Lukasiewicz asked to add an executive session for road personnel and corrective action needed to be scheduled at the next commissioner meeting.

**Mail –**

Email from Larry Pelan with NIRMA regarding inspect and appraise buildings  
Copy of letter from Planning and Zoning to Lukasiewicz  
2025 Nebraska Pipeline Association  
Order for Single Commissioner Hearing  
Attorney General's Opinion on Assessor Trespass

**Unfinished Business** – None.

**Elaine Menzel-NACO Update**- Elaine Menzel was present to update the Board regarding what NACO has been involved with. NACO stands for Nebraska Association of County Officials. Some items discussed were inheritance tax, unfunded mandates, upcoming Legislative Conference, salary study from this last summer, and other County issues.

**Public Defender Contract-Discussion**- County Attorney, Heather Sikyta, Clerk Magistrate, Lisa Johnson, Sheriff, Mike Hoff and Public Defender, Gary Peterson were present. Discussed were the public defender contract and the use of video hearings and cutting down on the Sheriff's department having to transport several prisoners from different locations on court dates. The court room has been updated for video hearings since the public defender contract was signed. All parties discussed who sets the video hearings and what type of hearings can be held by zoom, and whose responsibility it was to request a video hearing. The Commissioners would like all of the parties present to work together to make court day more efficient and save the County money. If this subject needs to be revisited, the Commissioners are willing to meet with the parties involved.

**Resolution 2025-19- County Annual Certification of Program Compliance**—Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-19-County Annual Certification of Program Compliance and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Set Date for Joint Public Hearing**—Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve setting the date on the Joint Public Hearing for September 17, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**River Erosion-Jeff Palik-Olsson Engineering**- Present were the following: Jeff Palik with Olsson Engineering, Utility Superintendent, Matt Helzer, City Clerk, Connie Beck and Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen. Mr. Palik discussed sending a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers to apply for assistance under Section 14-Emergency Stream Bank & Shoreline Protection for a feasibility study which would pay a \$100,000.00 in federal funds towards the cost of the study and a percentage of any remaining amount. Mr. Palik stated it would be beneficial if the City of St. Paul and Howard County were to both sign the letter to make a stronger application. It was suggested that an interlocal agreement between the City and the County be established for this purpose. There would be no cost to either the City or the County at this point. If the project moves forward, the Army Corps of Engineers would be in charge of the project. Either party could back out or find other vested entities to help pay for the portion not paid by the Army Corps of Engineers. Also discussed was the liability on the County and the City for moving forward on this issue. Lukasiewicz made a motion to move forward to draft an interlocal agreement between the City of St. Paul and Howard County and a draft of a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers to apply for a Section 14 Grant regarding the Middle Loup River south of St. Paul and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The City will have an interlocal agreement drafted. Mr. Palik stated there would be no charge from Olsson's for assisting the City with drafting the letter as he is representing the City as their engineer. This item will be placed on the September 23, 2025 Agenda.

**Annual Certification Form-Federal Street & Bridge Buyback**- The FY2025 Allotment for Street Buyback is \$127,542.20 and the Bridge Buyback is 106,650.84. Urbanski made a motion to approve the Annual Certification Form-Federal Street and Bridge Buyback and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**County Government Day-Chuck Schmid**—Urbanski made a motion to approve County Government Day to be held on Monday, October 20, 2025 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**County/City Dispatch Agreement**- Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman met with City Councilmember, Katie Kowalski regarding the County/City Dispatch Agreement. It was agreed that the City of St. Paul would pay Howard County \$3,481.65 per month for dispatch services effective October 1,

2025. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the agreement between the City and County for dispatch services in the amount of \$3,481.65, effective October 1, 2025, and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Resolution 2025-20-Appoint Special Prosecutor for Inheritance Tax Matters**-Josh Salter with Heather Sikyta's office was present to explain the purpose for the resolution. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-20-Appoint Special Prosecutor for Inheritance Tax and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Lawn Edging Quote**-Urbanski made a motion to re-evaluate the lawn edging in the spring and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**County Inventories**-Urbanski made a motion to approve the County Inventories as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Real Estate Inventory**-Urbanski made a motion to approve the real estate inventory for Howard County as presented with one minor change and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Principal and Lincoln Financial-Renewals**-Urbanski made a motion to approve the renewal of Principal Dental and Vision Insurance and the Lincoln Financial Long Term Disability Insurance effective October 1, 2025 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Budget**- A brief discussion was held on the budget. The budget will need to be published by September 12, 2025.

**Set Budget Hearing Date**-Lukasiewicz made a motion to set the Budget Hearing for September 23, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 8/26/2025, and the Commissioner Meeting minutes dated 8/12/2025. Motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski to approve the payroll and claims dated 8/26/2025, General \$267,251.82, Roads-\$91,601.10, and 911 Emergency Management Fund-\$2.50 for a total of \$358,855.42, and Commissioner meeting minutes dated 8/12/2025 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 Hirschman to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 a.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 September 9, 2025.

Dated this 26th day of August, 2025.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Board Chair  
ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk