

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

September 9, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 9th day of September, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 3rd day of September, 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-6th and Gordon-Oak Creek Engineering performed a Sign Study at the intersection of 6th Avenue and Gordon Road on August 25, 2025. The recommendation is for "Stop" and "Stop Ahead" signs to be placed on the North and South approaches and "Cross Road" signs on the East approach. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the recommendations from Oak Creek Engineering and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Randy Thomsen-20th Avenue and Hardy Road -Randy Thomsen was present to discuss a road located on 20th Avenue with his driveway into a pasture on top of a hill. Mr. Thomsen suggested placing a culvert in the problem area. After further discussion and looking at pictures of the area, the Commissioners and Mr. Thomsen agreed to have the County place mud rock instead to see if that would remedy the situation. Mr. Thomsen had asked about the County cutting out trees along the edge of the road. The Board Chair explained according to Nebraska State Statute, it is the landowner's responsibility to take care of the trees in the right of way.

Gordon Rd. north of 8th Avenue- Ms. Thomsen stated that Gordon Road north of 8th Avenue, according to County records is still considered a county road. She talked to the landowner who had placed a gate across the road. The landowner had talked to the State of Nebraska and the

State records do not show this being a county road. There are other roads within the county and the subject road that may need to be closed. Several different roads were discussed. Ms. Thomsen will discuss the process with the County Attorney.

Review Employee Applications-Commissioners reviewed the applications presented by Ms. Thomsen. Lukasiewicz made a motion to table the application reviews until the September 23rd meeting and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Road Building Update-Ms. Thomsen updated the Commissioners on the progress of the Road's Building. Currently, the concern is they will not have adequate internet coverage for phone service. Ms. Thomsen has contacted Century Link or possibly going with a landline. Painting is being done in the office area and the electricity is on in the building. County Surveyor, Tim Aitken re-marked the boundaries of the property. The road's department will install posts to mark the locations. Some of the shelving has been ordered.

Mail – Central District Meeting Agenda-September 18, 2025

NIRMA Annual Membership Meeting Information

Hamilton Monthly Report

Notice of Appeal-TERC

Nebraska Broadband Update

Unfinished Business – None.

Public Hearing-CUP Renewal Application-John Ropp-Kimball Kalf Ranch- 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. Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klingensmith was present to discuss the application for the renewal of a 1-year conditional use permit. The conditional use permit is for 1,000 head of calves weighing 500 pounds or less. Discussed were possible drainage issues which was noted that the land in question is not in a floodplain. Also discussed were farm feedlots versus commercial feedlots. Following discussion, Urbanski made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:30 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the renewal application for a conditional use permit for John Ropp with Kimball Kalf Ranch to run perpetual with the land and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Approve Kathy Hirschman to sign Public Notice of Exemptions 2025-Urbanski made a motion to approve the Kathy Hirschman signing the Public Notice of Exemptions for 2025 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Loup Basin Public Health Dept.-Amanda Jeffres-Amanda Jeffres and Stephanie Gideon were present to talk to the Board about the Loup Basin Public Health Dept. Ms. Jeffres and Ms. Gideon provided the Commissioners with a background on how the Health Department started and has continued to grow and the programs available.

Execution Session-Road Personnel and Corrective Actions- Urbanski made a motion to go into executive session regarding road personnel at 9:58 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Those present in executive session were the three Commissioners and Janet Thomsen. Urbanski made a motion to come out of executive session at 10:49 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. No action taken.

Budget-The Commissioners reviewed the budget documents. Discussion was held. The Public Hearing regarding the 2025-2026 Budget will be heard on September 23, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

County Burial Application-Wilcox- The Board reviewed the application. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the County Burial Application for Wilcox and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Review Interlocal Agreement-City of St. Paul; Resolution 2025- The Board reviewed the Interlocal Agreement with the City of St. Paul, the Resolution and the letter to the Army Corps. Of Engineers drafted by the City of St. Paul. Utility Superintendent, Matt Helzer was present during the discussion. Mr. Helzer wanted to know if the Commissioners had any changes to the documents presented. County Attorney, Heather Sikyta had reviewed the documents and approved of the content. The City of St. Paul will act on this item at their September 15, 2025 Council Meeting. The Commissioners will act on this item at their September 23, 2025 meeting.

Consideration and Action of Blase Zoning Violations- Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith was present along with County Attorney, Heather Sikyta by phone to discuss the Blase Zoning Violations. Discussed were the timelines dating back to January 2022. Currently, Blase Farms is out of compliance with the Howard County Zoning Regulations. After further discussion, Urbanski made a motion to approve County Attorney, Heather Sikyta sending a letter to Blase Farms requesting to either apply for a Conditional Use Permit for a Class I Commercial Feedlot or remove all cattle permanently from all properties no later than October 28, 2025, and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the claims dated 9/9/2025, and the Commissioner Meeting minutes dated 8/26/2025. 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 9/9/2025, General \$134,542.64, Roads-\$87,959.89, Tourism Improvement Fund \$100.00, Inheritance Tax Fund-\$143,634.75, and Emergency Management Fund-\$6,174.75, for a total of \$373,117.19, the department reports, Commissioner meeting minutes dated 8/26/2025, 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 11:36 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 23, 2025.

Dated this 9th day of September, 2025.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk