

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

September 23, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 23rd day of September, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 17th 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- Kirt Lukasiewicz stated that the Sons of the American Legion donated \$1,000.00 to the Senior Center.

County Road Discussion –Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to discuss the following items: Update on new maintenance building. Office area is complete, Hamilton Telecommunications has agreed to provide fiber for internet service to the building for no extra cost, and the well and septic are moving forward. Other supplies were also discussed.

Review Employee Applications- No additional applications have been received since the September 9th meeting. All of the Commissioners agreed that they would like to hold off hiring any additional road workers at this time.

Jon Kuck Contract –Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen and Jon Kuck were present. Mr. Kuck had signed a one-year contract on September 24, 2024, to extend a portion (200 foot) of Gordon Road which was previously classified as a minimum maintenance road. Mr. Kuck was required to up-grade the road according to the Nebraska Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards of rural roads RL3 and gravel the road. Ms. Thomsen stated that Mr. Kuck had met all of the requirements and signs have been placed. Urbanski made a motion to approve that the Jon Kuck contract has been fulfilled and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Ms. Thomsen will submit the change in classification from a minimum maintenance road to a local road.

Mail-

Copy of response letter from County Attorney for Audit

Copy of response letter from NIRMA for Audit

Copy of letter from County Attorney to Blase Farms

NDEE letter-Dugan Cattle Co. LLC Renewal

Email from the Extension Office regarding 4H Week

Precision Drone Solutions – No one showed up to do a presentation.

Subdivision Application-Meadow View Estates-Justin & Mari Boehler-Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith and Mari Boehler were present to discuss the Meadow View Estates. Mr. and Mrs. Boehler wish to split the subdivision into one large lot where their residence is and divide the remainder into 4-3 acre lots to sell. Howard Greeley has approved the electrical plan. 911 signs were discussed but currently there is no policy in place. The Commissioners suggested that 911 addresses be placed at the entrances to each of the properties. Urbanski made a motion to approve the multi-lot subdivision as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Subdivision Application-MG Subdivision-Elizabeth Gardino-Liz Gardino was present along with Ms. Klinginsmith regarding the MG Second Subdivision. Following discussion, Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the MG Second Subdivision as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Amend Annual Certification Form-Hwy Supt., Janet Thomsen- The FY2025 Allotment for Street Buyback is \$127,542.20 and the Bridge Buyback is 106,650.84. The allocation expended between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025, has been amended to \$257,227.82. Urbanski made a motion to approve the amended Annual Certification Form-Federal Street and Bridge Buyback and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Road Study-Gordon Road south of Hwy 58-Ms. Thomsen presented a road study on Gordon Road south of Highway 58 in Howard County, Nebraska. Discussion was held regarding pros and cons of opening the road as a local road. Lukasiewicz made a motion that the Commissioners have received the road study and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Interlocal Agreement/Letter to Army Corps of Engineers-City/County- Resolution 2025-21- Present were the following: Utility Superintendent, Matt Helzer, City Clerk. The Commissioners reviewed the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the City of St. Paul, Nebraska and Howard County, Nebraska to create a separate legal entity and joint agency to prepare and submit an application to the USACE regarding the Middle Loup River stabilization project. Urbanski made a motion to approve the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Resolution No. 2025-21-A resolution approving the interlocal agreement with the City of St. Paul, Nebraska, for the creation of the City of St. Paul/Howard County Joint Middle Loup River Stabilization Agency; allow the Board Chair and County Clerk to authorize and execute the Agreement on behalf of Howard County; and, the Board of Commissioners retain the authority over all agency actions that obligate financially or contractually. Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2025-21 as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

The Commissioners reviewed a letter drafted and signed by the City of St. Paul to request assistance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to request assistance under Section 14 to have a feasibility study in an area located on the Middle Loup River south of St. Paul, NE and an additional letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding the Notification of the City of St. Paul/Howard County Joint Middle Loup River Stabilization Agency. Urbanski made a motion to approve the letters as present to request financial assistance under Section 14 and provide additional information as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

County Tax Sales-Sara Roy, Treasurer- Treasurer, Sara Roy was present to discuss a list of delinquent taxes according to LB77-1918. The Treasurer had mailed out letters to those on the list. If left unpaid a tax certificate would be issued on each of the properties. Lukasiewicz made a motion for the Treasurer to proceed with the process and provide a resolution at the next Commissioner meeting on October 14, 2025 and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Mary Bejot-Buhrman Subdivision-Mary Bejot and Theresa Buhrman were present to discuss Bell Street which was dedicated at the time the Buhrman Subdivision was approved in 2005. Ms. Bejot questioned why Bell Street was created and dedicated. No one has been able to provide an answer. Ms. Bejot owns Lot 1 and her brother owns Lot 2 in the subdivision. Bell Street has been maintained as a driveway and maintained by the owners of the lots. The County has not maintained the street since it was dedicated. Ms. Bejot would like Bell Street to be a driveway with an easement access into Lot 2. The County Attorney, Planning and Zoning and Highway Superintendent were all present. All parties agreed it would be in the best interest of Ms. Bejot to go through the road vacate process with the vacated road reverting to the Lot 1 Buhrman Subdivision owners. Ms. Bejot will present a petition to vacate Bell Street.

Copier Agreement-Roads Dept.-The current copier is at the end of the five-year contract with Eakes. Eakes proposed a renewal with the current copier. Ms. Thomsen had gone out for an additional proposal. The Clerk's office has an additional copier with one year left on the

contract with Eakes. The Clerk's office has received a new printer/copier/scanner from the Secretary of States office, as well as additional scanners. The Clerk's office will provide the Road's Department two scanners as well as transferring the contract on the copier. The monthly payment on the contract is less than the two proposals received. These items will be changed to the Roads Department inventory.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 9/23/2025, and the Commissioner Meeting minutes dated 9/9/2025. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to approve the payroll and claims dated 9/23/2025, General \$246,924.86, and Roads-\$73,315.63, for a total of \$320,240.49, and Commissioner meeting minutes dated 9/9/2025 and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Recess-Urbanski made a motion to recess the Commissioner Meeting at 11:02 a.m. and to reconvene following the public hearing at 1:00 p.m. to discuss the County Budget for 2025-2026 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Reconvene-Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman, reconvened the Commissioner meeting at 1:50 p.m. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski; Aye.

2025-2026 Budget and Set Tax Levy-Resolution 2025-22- Urbanski made a motion to adopt the 2025-2026 fiscal year Budget as Resolution 2025-22 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Resolution 2025-23 -Approve 2025-2026 Property Tax Request and Final Tax Rate- Commissioner Hirschman stated the property tax request for 2025-2026 is in the amount of \$2,550,597.75. The final tax rate will be 0.142393 per \$100.00 of assessed value. Copy of Resolution 2025-23 is on file in the Clerk's office for review. Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-23, the Property Tax Request in the amount of \$2,550,597.75 and the final tax rate of 0.142393 per \$100.00 of assessed value and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Approve 1% Restricted Funds- No longer required. No action taken.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to adjourn the meeting at 2:12 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 October 10, 2025.

Dated this 23rd day of September, 2025.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk