

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

November 25, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 25th day of November, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 19th day of November, 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- Tim Terjak was present to express concerns on a minimum maintenance road located on Yutan Road. Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen stated that they are finishing on a road project and would be starting on the bridge next, weather permitting.

County Road Discussion –Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to discuss the following items: Ms. Thomsen stated that the well has been drilled. Also discussed were extra hydrants on the outside of building. Septic and leach field are done.

Trees- County Attorney, Heather Sikyta provided the Commissioners with Nebraska State Statutes regarding trees. This includes the County and the Landowner responsibilities. A tree policy was discussed.

Road Workers Probation/Compensation-The Commissioners discussed two Road Workers that have completed new employee probation. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve moving Rawlings from a Road Worker 1 Step 1 to a Road Worker 1 Step 1B and Hettinger from a Road Worker 1 Step 5 to Road Worker 1 Step 6 and take both individuals off of probation, effective November 16, 2025, and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Mail-

Receipt for sale of Sheriff's vehicles

Assist Application-Emergency Manager for fire extinguisher expenses

Appoint Extension Board Member/Holiday Closure Extension Office-December 25th through January 2nd

– Maddie Prosocki, Extension Educator was present to discuss the Extension Board Members. Currently, Justin Wells, Denise Rathman and Chandra Kosmicki serve on the Board. Ms. Prosocki recommends re-appointing Chandra Kosmicki. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the re-appointment of Chandra Kosmicki to the Extension Board and Hirschman seconded. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Also discussed was the Extension office being closed from December 22, 2025 to January 2, 2026. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the Extension office being closed from December 22, 2025 to January 2, 2026 and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Public Hearing-CUP Application Eric Blase and Adam Blase-Class 1 Commercial Feeding

Operation- Lukasiewicz made a motion to open the public hearing at 9:00 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The Planning and Zoning Board reviewed the application at their November 19, 2025 meeting. Chris Kreikmeier, Engineer, Gunner Buchhammer, Attorney and Blase's employee, Cassidy Van Meter were present at the Planning and Zoning meeting. The Planning and Zoning Board made a motion to table the conditional use permit and remove all of the cattle within 30 days. Those present and speaking at the Commissioner meeting are Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cheri Klinginsmith, Howard County Attorney, Heather Sikyta, Terry Spilinek, Gunner Buchhammer, Cassidy Van Meter and Chris Kreikmeier. Planning and Zoning had received a Conditional Use Permit for a Class 1 Commercial Feeding Operation on October 28, 2025. A detailed site plan was not included with the application. If a detailed site plan and any and all other requested information is submitted by December 23rd, the Planning and Zoning Board could review the application at their January 21st meeting. Otherwise, a public hearing would be heard at a later date based on when the information is received. Following a question and answer period, Urbanski made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:38 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Lukasiewicz made a motion to agree with the decision made by the Planning and Zoning Board and table the Conditional Use Permit Application for Eric Blase and Adam Blase, Class 1 Commercial Feeding Operation until additional information is submitted as requested and that all cattle be removed from the corner lots with all access to the pens denied effective December 19, 2025, until said conditional use permit is approved and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Approve/Deny Todd Wojtalewicz Claim-The Commissioners reviewed the claim received from Todd Wojtalewicz. Mr. Wojtalewicz and Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen were present to discuss the claim. Urbanski made a motion to approve the purchase of 3350 cubic yards of clay and cost of seeding on Gordon Road in the amount of \$9,820.00 and seconded by

Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The claim will be paid out of the Road Buyback Program on December 9, 2025.

Vacate Rasmussen and Sons Administrative Subdivision- Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klingensmith was present along with Dale and Deb Rasmussen. The Rasmussen's would like to revert the land as it was previously. Urbanski made a motion to approve the vacate of Rasmussen and Sons Administrative Subdivision and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Resolution 2025-28-Moratorium for all permits on Solar and Wind Energy Projects- Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klingensmith and County Attorney, Heather Sikyta was present to discuss the resolution. After discussion, Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-28, Moratorium for all permits on Solar and Wind Energy Projects and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Legal Shield-Approve/Deny Additional Benefits- Ann Giebler with Legal Shield had recently spoke with the Road's Department. She stated some of the employees showed an interest in a gun supplement for those who carry concealed weapons. She would like to add this benefit to the plan and is seeking permission to do so. There is no cost to the County. Urbanski made a motion to approve the added benefit of a gun supplement for those who carry concealed weapons and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Car Repairs-Sheriff's Department-Sheriff Mike Hoff was present to discuss auto repairs on the Sheriff Department's fleet of vehicles. Four of the vehicles need to have repairs done. Discussed were the budget and repairs needing to be done on each of the vehicles. One of the vehicles has been in the repair shop numerous times and still is not fixed. How to proceed was discussed.

Employee Evaluation-Executive Session-Urbanski made a motion to go into executive session to discuss an employee evaluation at 11:30 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Those present in executive session are the three Commissioners. Urbanski made a motion to come out of executive session at 11:56 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. No action taken.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 11/25/2025, and the Commissioner Meeting special minutes dated 11/7/2025 and regular minutes dated 11/12/2025. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to approve the payroll and claims dated 11/25/2025, General \$251,270.48, and Roads-\$73,315.63, for a total of \$324,586.11, and Commissioner meeting minutes dated 11/7/2025 and 11/12/2025 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 Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to adjourn the meeting at 11:58 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 December 14, 2025.

Dated this 25th day of November, 2025.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk