

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

January 13, 2026

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 13th day of January, 2026, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 7th day of January, 2026, a proof of publication filed in the Clerk's office. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at 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- was recited.

Chairman Hirschman also 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

Mail –

Letter regarding inspection on boiler system

Hamilton Monthly Report

Unfinished Business – None

Road Discussion- Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to update the Board on the move from the St. Paul Department of Roads Shop to the new Roads building located on 14th Avenue. The progress on several road projects was discussed as well as a plumbing issue at the Dannebrog Shop.

Consent Agenda - Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to approve the Commissioners Meeting Minutes for 12/23/2025, Treasurer, Clerk, District Court, Attorney, and Sheriff's Reports and Claims dated 1/13/2026, General-\$93,507.17; Road-\$64,595.68; Canine Cost-\$104.73; LATCF Fund-\$100,000.00; Inheritance Fund-\$30,158.22; 911 Emergency Management Fund-\$774.33; and SRT Law Enforcement Fund-\$158.63 for a total amount of \$289,298.76. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky acting as Chairman Sine die asked for nominations for the Board Chairman for the year 2026. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to nominate Hirschman for Board Chair for the year 2026. Lukasiewicz made a motion that nominations cease and Urbanski seconded the motion. Roll Call on both motions: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Chairman Hirschman then asked for nominations for Vice Chairman. Lukasiewicz made a motion to nominate Urbanski for Vice Chairman and seconded by Hirschman. Motion was made by Lukasiewicz that nominations cease and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call on both motions: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Treasurer Resolutions - County Treasurer, Sara Roy presented two resolutions to the Board for their approval. **Resolution 2026-1** allows the Treasurer to deposit in any bank in excess of the capital stock and surplus of the bank, secured by pledges and assets for the bank. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-1 and Urbanski seconded the motion. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. **Resolution 2026-2** gives the Treasurer the authority to invest funds in excess of current needs. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-2 and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Howard County Treasurer, Sara Roy presented the Treasurer's Semi-Annual Report to the Board. No further action needed.

County Appointments- The County Board went through the list of appointments of Committees as follows:

HOWARD COUNTY APPOINTMENTS – 2025

Region III Governing Board	Jessie Urbanski
Mid Plains Center for Mental Health	Jessie Urbanski
Midland Area for the Aging	Kirt Lukasiewicz
Central NE Community Action Partnership	Kirt Lukasiewicz
Mid NE Individual Services	Jessie Urbanski
County Health Board	Dr. Chris Tomhave Mike Hoff Brenda Klanecky
Central Community College	Kathy Hirschman
Loup Central Regional Landfill	Kirt Lukasiewicz

ADA Advisory Board

Kathy Hirschman

Central NE Joint Housing Authority

Kirt Lukasiewicz

Grievance Committee

All County Commissioners

Planning and Zoning

Ron Kulwicki (28)

Terry Spilinek (28)

Randy Kauk (28)

Dave Sack (26)

Jeff Christensen (26)

Ken Kozisek (27)

Jack Reimers (27)

Daryl Anderson (27)

Chris Kosmicki (26)

Board of Adjustment

Dave Boehle (26)

Janet Thomsen (26)

Mike Nelson (28)

Chad Donscheski (26)

Terry Spilinek (27)

Alternate-Vacant

Safety Committee

Allen Wilshusen

Jessica Hancock

Jordan Solko

Lisa Johnson

Kirt Lukasiewicz

Janice Jares

Pat Koperski

Janet Thomsen

	Carolyn Scarborough
	Mike Hoff
	Melissa Paxton
	Jennifer Ostendorf
Tourism & Lodging Committee	Sheila Horak (26)
	Roger Goettsche (28)
	Donna Nielsen (28)
	Judy Dugan (26)
	Beth Cummings (26)
City/County Communications	Kathy Hirschman
	Jessie Urbanski (Alternate)
Extension Board	Denise Rathman
	Justin Wells
	Chandra Kosmicki
Hospital Board	Carol Schroeder
	Harriett Steenson
	Dan Nielsen
	Alex Borzych
	Mike Nelson
GIS Steering Committee	Jessie Urbanski
	Neal Dethlefs
	Tim Aitken
	Brenda Klanecky
Loup Basin Health Dept. Representative	Kirt Lukasiewicz
St. Paul Senior Center, Inc. Board	Kathy Hirschman
Crime Commission Grant Board/	

Alcohol and Substance Abuse Coalition	Mike Hoff
	Heather Sikyta
	Brenda Klanecky
	Kathy Hirschman
Building Committee	Jessie Urbanski
	Brenda Klanecky
South Central Economic Development Rep.	Laura Berthelsen
	Kirt Lukasiewicz (Alternate)
Loup Basin RCD Board	Kirt Lukasiewicz
Local Emergency Planning Committee	Jessie Urbanski

Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the County Appointments as discussed. Urbanski seconded the motion. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Loup Central Landfill Association Resolution 2026-3 - Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-3 to appoint Kirt Lukasiewicz as the representative for Howard County on the Loup Central Landfill Association Board and Kathy Hirschman as alternate and change the term from two years to one year. Lukasiewicz seconded the motion. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Planning and Zoning Administrator/Flood Plain Administrator -Lukasiewicz made a motion to re-appoint Cherri Klinginsmith as Planning and Zoning Administrator/Flood Plain Administrator seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Highway Superintendent – Urbanski made a motion to re-appoint Janet Thomsen as Highway Superintendent and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Nay; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Emergency Manager -Lukasiewicz made a motion to re-appoint Allen Wilshusen as Emergency Manager and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

2026 Meeting Dates and Holiday Dates –

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners and the Howard County Board of Equalization, Howard County, Nebraska will be held at 8:30 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of 2026, unless otherwise changed, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse,

St. Paul, Nebraska which meeting will be open to the public. An agenda is kept current at the County Clerk's Office.

Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk

Publish:	Jan. 7, 2026	Publish:	July 8, 2026
Mtg. Date:	Jan. 13, 2026	Mtg. Date:	July 14, 2026
Publish:	Jan. 21, 2026	Publish:	July 22, 2026
Mtg. Date:	Jan. 27, 2026	Mtg. Date:	July 28, 2026
Publish:	Feb. 4, 2026	Publish:	Aug. 5, 2026
Mtg. Date:	Feb. 10, 2026	Mtg. Date:	Aug. 11, 2026
Publish:	Feb. 18, 2026	Publish:	Aug. 19, 2026
Mtg. Date:	Feb. 24, 2026	Mtg. Date:	Aug. 25, 2026
Publish:	Mar. 4, 2026	Publish:	Sept. 2, 2026
Mtg. Date:	Mar. 10, 2026	Mtg. Date:	Sept. 8, 2026
Publish:	Mar. 18, 2026	Publish:	Sept. 16, 2026
Mtg. Date:	Mar. 24, 2026	Mtg. Date:	Sept. 22, 2026
Publish:	April 8, 2026	Publish:	Oct. 7, 2026
Mtg. Date:	April 14, 2026	Mtg. Date:	Oct. 13, 2026
Publish:	April 22, 2026	Publish:	Oct. 21, 2026
Mtg. Date:	April 28, 2026	Mtg. Date:	Oct. 27, 2026
Publish:	May 6, 2026	Publish:	Nov. 4, 2026
Mtg. Date:	May 12, 2026	Mtg. Date:	Nov. 10, 2026
Publish:	May 20, 2026	Publish:	Nov. 18, 2026
Mtg. Date:	May 26, 2026	Mtg. Date:	Nov. 24, 2026
Publish:	June 3, 2026	Publish:	Dec. 2, 2026
Mtg. Date:	June 9, 2026	Mtg. Date:	Dec. 8, 2026
Publish:	June 17, 2026	Publish:	Dec. 16, 2026
Mtg. Date:	June 23, 2026	Mtg. Date:	Dec. 22, 2026

2026 Howard County Holidays

Holiday	Date
New Years Day	Thursday, January 1, 2026
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Monday, January 19, 2026
President's Day	Monday, February 16, 2026
Memorial Day	Monday, May 25, 2026
Independence Day	Friday, July 3, 2026
Labor Day	Monday, September 7, 2026
Columbus Day	Monday, October 12, 2026
Veteran's Day	Wednesday, November 11, 2026
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 26, 2026
Day After Thanksgiving	Friday, November 27, 2026
Christmas Holiday	Thursday, December 24, 2026
Christmas Holiday	Friday, December 25, 2026

Urbanski made a motion to approve the Meeting Dates and Holiday Dates as presented. Lukasiewicz seconded the motion. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Payroll Pay Date Designation – The Board reviewed the current policy regarding pay dates. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to keep the current payroll policy. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. A copy of the Pay Periods and Pay Date Schedule are available in the Clerk's office.

County Engineer – The County received a letter from Lance Harter asking to re-appoint Oak Creek Engineering as the County Engineer. Urbanski made a motion to approve Oak Creek Engineering-Lance Harter as the County Engineer and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Fair Labor Law - Urbanski made a motion and seconded by Lukasiewicz that the County abides by the Fair Labor Law. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Bank Depositories –

Boelus State Bank	Boelus, NE
Homestead Bank	St. Paul, NE
Citizens Bank & Trust	St. Paul, NE
Heritage Bank	St. Paul, NE
NPAIT	Lincoln, NE

County Treasurer, Sara Roy was present to discuss the Bank Depositories. Motion was made by Lukasiewicz to approve the five depositories as listed and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

County Medical Providers – Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve all doctors and physician assistants at the Howard County Medical Center as official County Medical Providers. Urbanski seconded the motion. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

County Paper and County Website – Motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski that the Phonograph Herald is named the Official County Paper with access to post to the statewide website established and maintained as a repository for such notices reference Source: [Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-1411](#) and the County’s Website the Official Website. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Contractors Filing Proof of Liability Insurance - Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz that all contractors will file their proof of liability insurance with the County Clerk’s office for any County work to be done. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

County Burial - Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz that the County will pay \$750.00 for both burial and cremations and will be buried only in the County lots. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Fuel Providers -

Agricultural Services	Boelus, NE
Aurora Coop	Dannebrog, NE
Aurora Coop	St. Paul, NE
Casey’s General Store	St. Paul, NE
Jim’s Truck Stop	St. Paul, NE

K & B Kwik Stop	St. Paul, NE
Pump and Pantry	St. Libory, NE
Pump and Pantry	St. Paul, NE
Palmer Service Center	Palmer, NE
Grossarts Inc. & Propane	Wolbach, NE
Trotter Inc.	Arcadia, NE
Oil Dealers	Grand Island, NE

Gravel Providers –

Central Sand and Gravel	Grand Island, NE
Hooker Bros.	Grand Island, NE
Island Land Handlers Inc.	Grand Island, NE
Liberty Sand and Gravel	Elba, NE
Mid-Nebraska Aggregate Inc.	Gibbon, NE
Ulrich Gravel Inc.	Ord, NE

Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the fuel providers and gravel providers as listed and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz-Aye, Hirschman-Aye and Urbanski-Aye.

Rob Schultz-Update Weed Department, Discuss/Approve NDA State Reports, Resolution 2026-4-Delegate Authority to Weed Control Superintendent-

Weed Control Superintendent, Rob Schultz presented a Weed Control Update of Howard County to the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Schultz presented Resolution 2026-4 to the Board delegating authority to the Weed Control Superintendent. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-4 and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Mr. Schultz reviewed and answered questions regarding the Weed Control Plan, Activity Report, Budget Report, Noxious Weed Infestation Report and Weed Control Authority Board Roster. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve all of the documents listed as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

County Roads Building Update/Shed –The County Roads Building Update was included in the Road discussion. The consensus of the Commissioners was to place a hold on the shed until they were able to discuss land negotiations.

Resolution 2026-5-Set Elected Officials Salaries-Officials present were the Sheriff, Assessor, Deputy Assessor, Treasurer, and Clerk. Resolution 2026-5 was presented as follows: Year 2027 Salaries-Assessor-\$76,000.00; Treasurer-\$74,000.00; Clerk-\$76,500.00; Sheriff-\$82,500.00; part-time Attorney-\$79,000.00; and part-time Surveyor-\$34,500.00. An increase of \$3,000.00 per year for years 2028, 2029, and 2030 were included for the Assessor, Treasurer, Clerk, Sheriff and Attorney. An increase of \$1,000.00 per year for years 2028, 2029 and 2030 for the Surveyor. The Commissioners would receive \$26,500.00 for years 2027 and 2028 and \$27,000.00 for years 2029 and 2030. The Board Chair would receive an additional \$150.00 per month for extra duties. The Commissioners reviewed the resolution as presented. Following discussion between the Officials and Commissioners, Lukasiewicz made a motion to amend the resolution as presented for year 2027-Assessor-\$77,000.00; Treasurer-\$73,800.00; and Attorney-\$79,500.00. The motion died for lack of a second. Lukasiewicz made a motion to amend Year 2027 for the Assessor to \$77,000.00; Year 2028-\$80,000.00; Year 2029-\$83,000; and Year 2030-\$86,000; on the resolution that was presented and approve the remainder of the salaries as presented on Resolution 2026-5 to Set Elected Officials Salaries for years 2027, 2028, 2029 and 2030 and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Nay; and Urbanski, Aye.

Executive Session-Land Negotiation-Lukasiewicz made a motion to go into executive session at 11:13 a.m. to discuss land negotiation and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman stated the Board was going into executive session to discuss land negotiations at 11:13 a.m. Those present in the executive session are Lukasiewicz, Hirschman and Urbanski. Lukasiewicz made a motion to come out of executive session at 11:35 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Action-None taken.

Employee Evaluations-Executive Session – Motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski to go into Executive Session to perform employee evaluations at 11:35 a.m. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman stated the Board was going into executive session to perform employee evaluations at 11:35 a.m. Those present in executive session are Lukasiewicz, Hirschman, and Urbanski. Motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski to come out of executive session at 12:38 p.m. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. No Action taken.

Cybersecurity Grant-County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky spoke to the Commissioners regarding a cybersecurity grant that was awarded on May 22, 2025 in the amount of \$104,050.00. The Clerk will be the point of contact for Howard County working with Hamilton Business Technologies. The project is expected to run 16-17 weeks. The Clerk will receive weekly

updates to share with the Commissioners. Another grant regarding cybersecurity was applied for in December, 2025.

The Commissioners recessed at 12:38 p.m.

The Commissioners reconvened at 1:06 p.m. Present were Lukasiewicz and Hirschman. Urbanski was absent. Lukasiewicz made a motion to go into Executive Session at 1:06 p.m. to perform employee evaluations and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent. Hirschman stated the Board was going into Executive Session at 1:06 p.m. Those present during Executive Session were Lukasiewicz, Hirschman and singularly Cherri Klinginsmith, Janet Thomsen, Allen Wilshusen and Pat Koperski. Lukasiewicz made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 2:54 p.m. and Hirschman seconded the motion. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Hirschman to adjourn the meeting at 2:54 p.m. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be January 27, 2026.

Dated this 13th day of January, 2026.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk