

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

January 27, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 27th day of January, 2026, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 21st day of January, 2026. 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 provided the Commissioners with a list of projects to start this week. Road projects were discussed. Use of the gravel retriever and mulcher were also discussed. A road work session was also discussed and set for February 24, 2026, in the afternoon at the Commissioner Room. Hirschman asked that the County right of way line would be flagged at 14th Avenue and Hardy Road. Future projects were also discussed. Dirt will be placed around the new building as weather permits. Gravel will be scraped up and moved from the site of the old St. Paul Road's building and moved to the new one. Issues on the new building were discussed. The boiler emergency shut off needs to have a cover or be re-located. The Commissioners would like to have a few employees trained on the boiler. The status of G Works was discussed.

Mail-

NACO Legislative Reports

Hamilton Business Technologies-Weekly Project Status Report

NACO-Understanding Medicare Workshop

Copy of letter from NE Dept. of Water, Energy and Environment to Eagle Heart Ranch Inc.

Copy of letter from Sheriff Hoff to landowner regarding vehicles parked on County ROW

Emergency Manager/Code Red

Unfinished Business- None.

Review Road Study to Vacate Bell Street/Resolution 2026-6 to Set Public Hearing Date-The

Commissioners, Ms. Thomsen, and County Attorney, Heather Sikyta reviewed a copy of the Road Study on Bell Street. The Commissioners accepted the road study which acknowledges that Ms. Thomsen has completed the road study to vacate Bell Street. The public hearing is required to be published for three consecutive weeks. Surrounding landowners will be notified by mail by Ms. Thomsen. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-6 Establishing a Public Hearing Date of February 24, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. regarding the Vacate of Bell Street located in the Buhrman Subdivision and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Road Dept. Copier Lease Agreement-The Commissioners reviewed a 3-year Copier Lease Agreement for the Roads Department. Several options were discussed. The Commissioners asked Ms. Thomsen to do further research on the copier and bring back to the Board.

Approval Interlocal Agreement-BUILD Federal Grant- Ms. Thomsen presented an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for a joint application to the BUILD Grant Grouped Bridge Application between Howard County and Greeley, Thurston, Nemaha, and Otoe Counties. Saunders County has not taken action on the agreement. The agreement would have Howard County being the lead agency and the other listed counties being the Participating Counties. Following discussion, Urbanski made a motion to approve signing the agreements with Greeley, Nemaha, Otoe, and Thurston Counties and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Vacate Lost Rail Acres Subdivision-Travis and Trisha Hedman- Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith and Trisha Hedman were present to discuss the vacate of a subdivision. The Hedmans wish to vacate the current subdivision which includes their house to add to the rest of their land. This meets all current regulations. Motion was made by Lukasiewicz to approve the vacate of the Lost Rail Acres Subdivision and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Board of Adjustment Appointment- Glen Killion agreed to another 3-year term on the Board of Adjustment. The Board of Adjustment voted to keep Glen Killion as Vice Chairman and Chad Donscheski as Alternate. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the re-appointment of Glen Killion for years 2026, 2027 and 2028 and Chad Donscheski as Alternate through year 2026, to the Board of Adjustment and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

Sheriff's Department-Storage of SRT Equipment- Sheriff Mike Hoff and Chief Deputy, Paul Tartaglia were present to discuss storage for SRT equipment. They are currently looking for other options for storage. Several possibilities were discussed. No action taken.

Discuss St. Paul Old Roads Building/Surplus Real Estate and Improvements- Items discussed were to finish cleaning out the old shop, decision on how they want to sell the property by sealed bids or auction. The Commissioners agreed to set the public hearing date at the next Commissioner meeting on February 10, 2026, along with setting the fair market value and closing costs. County Attorney, Heather Sikyta agreed to write up a real estate contract with different purchase options. Other details will be researched prior to the next meeting and discussed.

Allen Wilshusen-County Road Maps- Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen was present to discuss samples of different maps of the roads in the County that might be helpful for the Commissioners and Road's Department. The consensus of the Commissioners was to wait until the Road's Department and GWorks can correct some of the roads before printing out a map. Mr. Wilshusen was thanked for looking into the maps.

Certificate of Liability Insurance/W-9 Forms-Vendors- Clerk, Brenda Klanecky spoke with the Commissioners regarding Certificate of Liability Insurance and W-9 forms. Lukasiewicz made a motion to allow the Clerk to send information to the Howard County departments to obtain the Certificate of Liability Insurance and completed W-9 forms from vendors and seconded by Urbanski. Roll call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

GIS Information to Supply Maps for County- Assessor, Neal Dethlefs was present to discuss supplying GIS information to a company that produces plat books and County maps to sell for profit. Lukasiewicz made a motion to have Mr. Dethlefs contact the Farm and Home Publishers to waive the fee of \$605.00 for the cost of the information and have them supply the County with three full size maps and ten plat books for free and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

SCEDD-Amended Interlocal Agreement- The Commissioners reviewed the amended interlocal agreement and discussed the changes and how they would impact Howard County. Urbanski made a motion to approve the SCEDD Amended Interlocal Agreement and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Hirschman left the meeting at 12:09 p.m.

Executive Session-Road Personnel Evaluations Review- Motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski to go into Executive Session for road personnel evaluations review at 12:17 p.m. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Absent; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski stated the Board was going into executive session to review road employee evaluations at 12:17 p.m. Those present in executive session are Lukasiewicz and Urbanski. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to come out of executive session at 12:32 p.m. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Absent; and Urbanski, Aye. No Action taken.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 12/23/2025, and the Commissioner Meeting and regular minutes dated 12/9/2025. Motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski to approve the payroll and claims dated 12/23/2025, General \$279,008.61, and Roads-\$93,001.53, for a total of \$372,010.14, and Commissioner meeting minutes dated 1/13/2026, 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 12:32 p.m. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Absent; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting Adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be February 10, 2026.

Dated this 27th day of January, 2026.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk