

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

February 10, 2026

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 10th day of February, 2026, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 4th day of February, 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-** Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen stated that he has been monitoring the North and Middle Loup Rivers as well as checking reports with the National Weather Service. As of right now everything looks good.

**County Road Discussion** – Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to discuss the following: current road projects, replacement of culverts and cleaning of culverts, gravel, road maintenance supplies and a review of current road budget.

**Mail** –

AT&T Connecting Nebraska  
Email from Planning and Zoning Administrator  
Copy of Planning and Zoning Letter to Graham  
Hamilton's Weekly Status Report  
Hamilton's Monthly Report

**Unfinished Business** – None.

**Public Hearing-Open Bids-Gravel and Hauling-**Motion was made by Urbanski to open the public hearing at 9:00 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Gravel bids were received from Central Sand & Gravel, Hooker Bros. Sand & Gravel, Liberty Sand & Gravel, Mid-Nebraska Aggregate and Ulrich Sand & Gravel. Hauling bids were received from Wilson River Bottom Express and Tri County Transport LLC. Urbanski made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:24 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to accept all

gravel and hauling bids received and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Interlocal Agreement-Build Federal Grant**-Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen stated she had received the last signed interlocal agreement from Saunders County. She also stated that she needed a letter of support. All of the information is due by the end of February. Urbanski made a motion to approve the interlocal agreement from Saunders County and to have the Commissioners sign a letter of support and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**County Bridge Match Agreement**-Discussion on whether the County would need to pay upfront and be reimbursed and the amount of funds currently in the bridge buyback program. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the County Bridge Match Agreement and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**MK Subdivision-Jay Meyer**-Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith was present to discuss the application for the MK Subdivision. The subdivision meets all of the guidelines and the Planning & Zoning Board have approved the subdivision. Urbanski made a motion to approve the MK Subdivision as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Howard County Real Estate-Set Fair Market Value, Closing Cost and Public Hearing Date-**

Discussion ensued regarding the fair market value of the property including the buildings and the land all located in Block 26, Original Town of St. Paul. Urbanski made a motion to set the fair market value at \$450,000.00. The motion died for lack of a second. Urbanski made a motion to set the fair market value at \$425,000.00 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The closing costs were discussed and also to have Dvoracek Title Services handle the closing. Urbanski made a motion to split the closing costs including title insurance costs 50/50 between the buyer and the seller (County) and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to set the public hearing for March 10, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. and advertise in the Phonograph Herald on February 25, and March 4, 2026, and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Sheriff's Department-Purchase old duty guns**-Sheriff, Mike Hoff and Chief Deputy, Paul Tartaglia, were present. The Sheriff's Department purchased new pistols for each officer. Five of the guns were not traded in as the deputies wished to purchase their old guns. Following discussion and reviewing State Statutes, Urbanski made a motion to table this item until more research on the process can be done, and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Sheriff's Department -Lodging Credit Card**-Sheriff Hoff and Deputy Tartaglia discussed the issue of out of state lodging when the Sheriff's Department attend training. Currently, they have used the Road's Department credit card. The card would be strictly for lodging. Lukasiewicz made a motion to move forward with a credit card application for the Sheriff's Department and a credit card policy and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Sheriff's Department-County Jail Budget-Possible Resolution**-Sheriff Hoff and Deputy Tartaglia discussed the costs of prisoners for lodging and medical expenses. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-7 to transfer \$38,000.00 from the Miscellaneous General fund to the Jail fund to cover the shortfall in the Jail fund budget and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Howard County Internal Vulnerability Assessment Report from Hamilton Business**

**Technologies**-The Clerk provided the Commissioners with a copy of the Internal Vulnerability Assessment Report. A web ex meeting with Hamilton Business Technologies is scheduled with the County Clerk at 9:00 a.m. on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Hirschman and Lukasiewicz stated they would listen in on the meeting. The Clerk will have invitations sent to them. They are going to discuss the findings and remediation.

**Executive Session-Possible Litigation**- Motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski to go into executive session for possible litigation at 11:04 a.m. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman stated that the Commissioners were going into executive session at 11:04 a.m. regarding possible litigation. Those present in executive session are the three commissioners and County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky. Urbanski made a motion to come out of executive session at 11:21 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. No action taken.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the claims dated 2/10/2026, and the Commissioner Meeting minutes dated 1/27/2026. 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 2/10/2026, General \$86,561.46, Roads-\$89,383.45, Emergency Management Fund-\$807.38, and SRT Law Enforcement Fund-\$296.39 for a total of \$177,048.68, meeting minutes dated 1/27/2026, and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes, and reports received from the Clerk, District Court, Treasurer and Sheriff. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski to adjourn the meeting at 11:22 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 February 24, 2026.

Dated this 10th day of February, 2026.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk