

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

March 10, 2026

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

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 4th day of March, 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 8:46 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 during the Board of Equalization meeting.

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 was present to discuss the following:

Approve/Deny Atlas Copco Compressor Services Contract-Urbanski made a motion to deny the Atlas Copco Compressor Services Contract as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye. The consensus is that the maintenance on the compressor can be done by County employees.

Approve/Deny gWorks Service Contract for Roads Dept.-A quote was received from gWorks for additional services to the program the Road's Department is currently using. Ms. Thomsen, Michelle Woitalewicz and Jamison Rawlings were present to discuss the additional services along with Mr. Lukasiewicz. Following discussion, Urbanski made a motion to table this item until budget time and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye.

Road Dept. Foreman/Employee Vacancy-Due to the retirement of the current road foreman, the Commissioners along with Ms. Thomsen discussed filling the vacancy. Lukasiewicz made a motion to advertise and post for the positions of Road Worker I and Road Foreman with the applications deadline being April 10th and reviewing of the applications on April 14th and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Mail –

Congressman Adrian Smith FY 2027 Community Project Funding

Hamilton's Monthly Report

NIRMA-Spotlight Seminar Series

Unfinished Business – None.

Vacate of Bell Street- Resolution 2026-9-Motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski to approve the vacate of Bell Street, by and through Resolution 2026-9. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye. Owners of Buhrman Subdivision are required to have the resolution recorded in the real estate record at the Register of Deeds.

Public Hearing-Application for Conditional Use Permit-Fuentes- Urbanski made a motion to open the public hearing at 9:18 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye. Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith and Diana Fuentes were present regarding the application for a Conditional Use Permit for Sahid and Diana Fuentes to live in a RV while completing the living space inside their existing shop and convert into a residence located in Lot 3 MG Subdivision for one year. 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. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the application for Conditional Use Permit for Sahid and Diana Fuentes and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye.

Public Hearing-Sale of Real Estate-Urbanski made a motion to open the public hearing at 9:31 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye. St. Paul City Utility Superintendent, Matt Helzer and Deputy City Clerk, Laura Berthelsen were present to discuss the utilities and zoning information with the Commissioners. No one from the public was present. Lukasiewicz made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:57a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Approve/Deny Sale of Real Estate-to Proceed with Sealed Bids or Auction-The County has 60 days from the day of the Public Hearing to sell the real estate. Discussion was held regarding how to proceed with the sale. Lukasiewicz made a motion to sell the property by sealed bids to include five different options of buying the property and to advertise in the paper on March 18 and 25th, with the bids being opened at the April 14th, 2026 Commissioner meeting at 9:00 a.m. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye.

Approve/Deny Interlocal Agreement with Hall County-Weed- Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement for the Provision of Weed Control Superintendent Services

between Hall County and Howard County and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Resolution 2026-10 to Establish Petty Cash Fund for County Attorney-Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-10 to Establish Petty Cash Fund for the County Attorney in the amount of \$100.00 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye.

Approve/Deny Credit Card Application and Policy-Sheriff's Dept.-Sheriff, Mike Hoff, Chief Deputy, Paul Tartaglia and Deputy, Trev Sharman were present to discuss the credit card application and policy. Following discussion, Lukasiewicz made a motion approve the credit card policy and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to approve the credit card application with a \$2,000.00 limit and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye.

Surplus Property-Guns Sheriff's Dept.- -Sheriff, Mike Hoff, Chief Deputy, Paul Tartaglia, and Deputy, Trev Sharman were present to discuss guns to be declared surplus property. The Sheriff's Department has six 9MM guns to declare surplus property. One is broken and will be destroyed. The other five will be sold and funds deposited into the general fund. Urbanski made a motion to approve the six 9MM guns as surplus property and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye. This will be reflected on the Sheriff's inventory.

May Commissioner Meeting Date Change-Due to the primary election and the timing on the sale process for the sale of the County property, Urbanski made a motion to approve changing the first meeting in May, 2026 to Friday, May 8, 2026, and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye.

Approve/Deny NE Game & Parks WMA Road Maintenance Contract-Following a review of the Maintenance Contract between Nebraska Game and Parks and Howard County to maintain three wildlife management areas located in Howard County one time a month for the months of May, June, July and August at a cost of \$1,000.00 per time not to exceed \$4,000.00, Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the contract as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Road Building Open House- Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve an open house at the new Road's Building on March 27, 2026, from 1-3 p.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Howard County Extension 2025 Annual Report-Maddie Prosocki-Extension Educator, Maddie Prosocki presented the 2025 Howard County Extension Annual Report. Lukasiewicz made a

motion to approve the 2025 Howard County Extension Annual Report and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye.

Senator Deb Fischer FY27 Appropriations Request- An email was received regarding this agenda item. It was agreed to take no action until further information can be obtained.

Disaster Declaration-A large grass fire occurred in northern Howard County on March 8, 2026. Multiple fire departments and agencies were called in to battle the blaze. Extent of damage is still unknown at this time. On Monday, March 9, 2026, Chairman Hirschman signed a Disaster Declaration authorized under Nebraska State Statute 81-0829.50. The Declaration has been received by NEMA. There is a \$25,000.00, minimum threshold.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the claims dated 3/10/2026, and the Commissioner and Board of Equalization meeting minutes dated 2/24/2026. 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 3/10/2026, General \$79,226.75, Roads-\$85,616.12, Tourism \$310.00, Hwy Safety Fees/Stop Fund-\$246.67, and 911 Emergency Management Fund-\$807.38, for a total of \$166,206.92, meeting minutes dated 2/24/2026, and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes, and reports received from the Clerk, District Court, Treasurer and Sheriff. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, 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 11:50 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 March 24, 2026.

Dated this 10th day of March, 2026.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk