

## HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

April 14, 2026

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 14th day of April, 2026, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 8th day of April, 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-** Reminder the first commissioner meeting in May will be held on May 8, 2026 at 8:30 a.m., due to the Primary Election being held on May 12, 2026.

**County Road Discussion-** Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to discuss the following: Discussed was a pile of rock located on Chapman Road that is for sale. Commissioners discussed the size of the rock, how the rock could be utilized and what project the rock could be used on. Gravel stock piles and cost savings were also discussed.

Jerry Thompson updated the Commissioners on current road projects. The road buyback fund and how the money could be used on qualifying road projects was discussed.

**Review Road Applications-Set Up Interviews-**Commissioners reviewed road worker applications received. It was decided to re-visit after the interviews for road foreman. No action taken.

**Hydrology Study Hardy Rd. and 10<sup>th</sup> Ave.-**County Engineer, Lance Harter provided a broad estimate of what it would cost the County to do a hydrology study. The amount given was between \$4,000.00 and \$8,000.00. Also discussed was a need for a flood plain permit. Ms. Thomsen will talk to Planning and Zoning regarding a flood plain permit. Following discussion, Lukasiewicz made a motion to deny a hydrology study on Hardy Rd. and 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye, and Urbanski, Nay.

### **Mail-**

Letter from DWEE to Meyer Cattle LLC.

Copy of Boiler Inspection from State Fire Marshal Agency  
Letter from St. Paul Police Department

**Unfinished Business** – None.

**Open Bids-Block 26 Real Estate-Possible Action**-Bids were opened. Bids received from:

Erik Mrkvicka-\$60,035 for Lots 1, 2, and 3, Block 26.

Lowell Poland-\$125,000.00 for Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and Lots 18, 17, 16, 15, 14 and 13, Block 26.

Ron Synowski-\$225,000.00 for all of Block 26.

Wilson River Bottom Express-\$36,000.00 for Lots 4, 5, and 6, Block 26; \$161,000.00 for Lots 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12, Block 26; \$36,000.00 for Lots 1, 2, and 3, Block 26; and \$36,000.00 for Lots 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18, Block 26.

Lukasiewicz made a motion to accept Mrkvicka's bid in the amount of \$60,035.00 for Lots 1, 2, and 3, Block 26 and Wilson River Bottom Express's bid of \$36,000.00 for Lots 4, 5, and 6, Block 26; \$161,000.00 for Lots 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12, Block 26; and, \$36,000.00 for Lots 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18, Block 26 (\$233,000.00) total of both bids \$293,035.00, and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye.

**GCA Days Discussion**- County employees gathered to discuss activities the courthouse may want to participate in during the GCA Day's festivities for the 250<sup>th</sup> celebration with the Commissioners. Discussed was doing a float for the parade, open the courthouse, providing root beer floats and provide a video of Howard County that Tim Aitken had put together in the past and show the video during this time. Also discussed was allowing some of the GCA activities to take place on the courthouse grounds. Lukasiewicz made a motion to have the County participate in the GCA activities and form a subcommittee to plan and organize the event and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye.

**Approve/Deny signing of Master Services Agreement-Hamilton**-The Master Services Agreement between Hamilton Information Systems Inc. and Howard County was reviewed as well as an Exhibit A-1 Initial Customer Service Order regarding Cybersecurity Services between Hamilton Information Systems, Inc. and Howard County. Following discussion, Urbanski made a motion to approve the signing of the agreement and service order as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Hamilton Communications-Cybersecurity Information-Approve/Deny Recommendations**- Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman, Clerk, Brenda Klanecky and Sheriff, Mike Hoff met with Doug Cramer, Ed Uden and Will Obermier with Hamilton Telecommunications on March 26<sup>th</sup> regarding remediation of the cybersecurity testing that was completed for Howard County.

Recommendations from Hamilton Telecommunications were discussed. Part of the upgrades qualify to be paid out of the cybersecurity grant the County received. Hamilton Communication has offered to provide training to the employees and provide lunch. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the cybersecurity recommendations made by Hamilton Communications and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Rob Schultz-Discuss and Approve NDA Reports & Requirements Form**-Weed Superintendent, Rob Schultz was present to review the Reports and Requirements Summary, County Noxious Weed Program Evaluation, Activity Report, Inspections Improvement, Funding, and Enforcement in Howard County. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the reports and requirements as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye.

**Scott & Victoria Cyboron-Administrative Sub.-VLC Acres Subdivision**- Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith was present to discuss the Administrative Single Lot Subdivision Application for Scott and Victoria Cyboron. The Cyboron's were unable to get the documents signed before today's meeting. Urbanski made a motion to table the single lot subdivision application as presented until the Commissioner meeting to be held on April 28, 2026, and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Letter of Support-Deb Fischer-Middle Loup River Stabilization Project**-Commissioner Lukasiewicz presented a letter to the Commissioners to review. Urbanski made a motion to approve signing and sending the letter to Senator Deb Fischer and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye. The Clerk will send the letter along with a letter approved by the City of St. Paul to Senator Fischer.

**Sheriff's Dept.-Canine Supplies/Surplus Vehicles-Possible Action**-Sheriff, Mike Hoff, and Chief Deputy, Paul Tartaglia were present to discuss canine supplies and surplus vehicles. The canine dog was previously donated to Howard County. The handler for the canine transferred to the Sheriff's Department in Hall County. The vest for the canine was also donated specifically for the canine. Part of the expenses were for outfitting and repair on the canine vehicle. The Sheriff's office is looking at selling some of the canine supplies.

The Sheriff's office would like to declare two vehicles as surplus property. A 2018 Ford Explorer (Unit 8) and a 2019 Dodge Charger (Unit 2). Discussed are how they would sell the vehicles. Urbanski made a motion to declare the 2018 Ford Explorer and the 2019 Dodge Charger as surplus property and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and

Urbanski, Aye. The Sheriff will look at combining the vehicles with items the Road's Department is selling.

**Approve/Deny Drone Purchase-Out of State Legal Representation**-Attorney, Josh Salter with Sikyta Law office was present to discuss an \$8,000.00 judgement that the County obtained for two drones that were purchased by the Sheriff's Department from a company in Texas that were paid for and never received. The judgement was obtained in Nebraska but would require a Texas attorney to get the judgement recognized in Texas. Discussed was what it would cost the County for attorney fees and if it would be worth the extra expense. Mr. Salter could not guarantee that the judgement would be paid even if we get an attorney in Texas. The Sheriff's Department had received a grant for \$10,000.00 for the drones. Lukasiewicz made a motion to table this item until the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye.

**Approve/Deny Signing AKRS Lease**- Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the AKRS Lease as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye.

**Approve Choice Gas Selections**-Pricing was received from the seven different gas suppliers; Symmetry Energy, Public Alliance (ACE), Vista Energy, Black Hills, Wood River Energy, Constellation and Legacy Natural Gas. After reviewing all of the pricing, Hirschman made a motion to approve the following: New Roads Building-971 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, St. Paul-2 year fixed rate-Wood River Energy; Dannebrog Roads Building-213 S 2<sup>nd</sup> , Dannebrog-2 year fixed rate-Wood River Energy, and Courthouse-612 Indian Street-2 year fixed rate-Public Alliance. The building at 408 Elm Street is being sold. Urbanski seconded the motion. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye.

**Approve/Deny Nebraska Fire Sprinkler-Annual Inspection Proposal**-The Commissioners reviewed a proposal from Nebraska Fire Sprinkler regarding the annual inspection. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the proposal as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Approve/Deny 2026-2027 Crime Commission Grant Contingencies**- The award contingency responses were reviewed. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the contingencies as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

**Consent Agenda** - The Board reviewed the claims dated 4/14/2026, and the Commissioner and meeting minutes dated 3/24/2026. The Board also reviewed the Clerk, District Court, Treasurer, Sheriff and Attorney Reports as presented. Motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski to approve the claims dated 4/14/2026, General \$99,215.99, Roads-\$62,269.53,

Canine Cost \$3,632.13, and 911 Emergency Management Fund-\$807.38, for a total of \$167,045.03, meeting minutes dated 3/24/2026, and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes, and reports received from the Clerk, District Court, Treasurer, Sheriff, and Attorney. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye.

The Commissioners recessed until 12:30 p.m.

**Executive Session-Road Foreman Interviews-Possible Action**-Urbanski made a motion to go into executive session to conduct road foreman interviews at 12:36 p.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman stated to those in attendance that the Commissioners were going into executive session at 12:36 p.m. to conduct road foreman interviews. Those present are the Commissioners and Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen.

Urbanski made a motion to come out of executive session at 3:58 p.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Action: Lukasiewicz made a motion to hire Jerry Thompson as Road Foreman effective April 19, 2026 and seconded by Urbanski. 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 4:05 p.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 April 28, 2026.

Dated this 14th day of April, 2026.

Kathy Hirschman  
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:  
Brenda Klanecky  
Howard County Clerk