

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

April 28, 2026

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 28th day of April, 2026, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska. Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 22nd 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 8:40 a.m. Roll Call: Jessie Urbanski, Aye; Kirt Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Kathy Hirschman, 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 and Road Foreman, Jerry Thompson were present to discuss the following:

Bridge/14th Ave. East of Sherman Rd-Ms. Thomsen received information from County Engineer, Lance Harter regarding the subject bridge. Also present was David Dominguez. Discussed was a bridge versus culverts, inspections and the cost of each and water flow. The Commissioners talked about the consequences of closing the road and it would not be favorable for local landowners in particular, Mr. Dominguez. Ms. Thomsen will continue working on this project.

Approve/Deny Rock Purchase- The Commissioners reviewed the Road's Department current budget to make sure there would be enough funds available through the end of the fiscal year for the purchase of the rock. Based on current spending (payroll and accounts payable), it was agreed that 500 tons could be purchased during this budget period. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the purchase of 500 tons of rock from the Wilson Brothers located on Chapman Road for \$21.00 per ton if the County hauls and \$26.00 per ton if the Wilson Brothers haul the rock and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye.

Mail-

Information sheet regarding St. Paul Road's Building
Governor's designation of natural disaster areas

Unfinished Business- None.

Don Shuda-Re-appoint new member to Committee-Dale Rasmussen- Veteran Service Officer, Don Shuda, Administrative Assistant, Margy Goerl were present along with Chairman, Larry Kiser, Fritz Lee, Bryce Pearson and Dale Rasmussen. Mr. Shuda discussed the statistics of where the funds were utilized for the veterans in Howard County in the past year. Currently there are 387 veterans in Howard County. Shuda also discussed the budget amount for fiscal year 2026-2027. Mr. Shuda is requesting a 3% increase in the budget for fiscal year 2026-2027. The amount requested is \$41,107.00. There had not been an increase for the last two fiscal years, (\$39,910.00). Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the 3% increase in the amount of \$41,107.00 for fiscal year 2026-2027 and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The Howard County Veterans Service Committee met earlier this morning and voted to have Dale Rasmussen re-appointed to the committee. Mr. Shuda asked the Commissioners to re-appoint Dale Rasmussen. Lukasiewicz made a motion to re-appoint Dale Rasmussen (5-year term) as a member of the Howard County Veteran's Service Committee and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye.

Approve/Deny Scott & Victoria Cyboron-Administrative Sub.-VLC Acres Subdivision-Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith was present to discuss the application of an Administrative Subdivision for VLC Acres Subdivision. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the administrative subdivision as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Public Hearing-Conditional Use Permit Renewal-Adam Donaldson- Urbanski made a motion to open the public hearing at 9:30 a.m. and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Ms. Klinginsmith and Adam Donaldson were present to discuss the conditional use permit renewal with the Commissioners. The conditional use permit is for a residential with horse training facility to continue perpetually until the use is no longer needed. Lukasiewicz made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:39 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the conditional use permit renewal for Adam Donaldson as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye.

Public Hearing-Conditional Use Permit-ADU (Accessory Dwelling Unit)-Jon Kuck- Lukasiewicz made a motion to open the public hearing for a conditional use permit for an accessory dwelling unit for Jon Kuck at 9:45 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Ms. Klinginsmith was also present. Following discussion, Urbanski made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:56 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye. Lukasiewicz made a motion to

table the conditional use permit as presented until more information is attained and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye.

Public Hearing Conditional Use Permit Application Eric & Adam Blase-Class 1 Commercial

Feeding Operation- Urbanski made a motion to open the public hearing at 10:00 a.m. regarding a conditional use permit application for Eric and Adam Blase for a Class 1 Commercial Feeding Operation and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Those present were: Ms. Klinginsmith, County Attorney, Heather Sikyta, Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen, Road Foreman, Jerry Thompson, and Cassidy Van Meter representing the Blase's. Those present reviewed all of the information received regarding the conditional use permit application. LB663 was discussed. The Planning and Zoning Board tabled the application until they receive documentation from the Road's Department that all of the road ditches affected by the previous feedlots have been returned to the same condition prior to the original feedlots. Following discussion, Urbanski made a motion to close the public hearing at 10:49 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to table the conditional use permit of Eric and Adam Blase for a Class 1 commercial feeding operation until Planning and Zoning makes a recommendation and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Nay.

Approve/Deny Closing Planning & Zoning Office on May 12th- Due to the Primary Election on May 12, 2026, Lukasiewicz made a motion to close the Planning and Zoning Office on May 12, 2026 and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye.

Drone Purchase-Out of State Legal Representation-Possible Action-Present are Sheriff, Mike Hoff and Chief Deputy, Paul Tartaglia and County Attorney, Heather Sikyta. An update on the drone purchase from Lone Star was discussed. Sources from Texas stated the doors of the business have been locked during regular business hours. Phone calls are unanswered. Lukasiewicz made a motion to deny out of state legal representation and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Sheriff's Department-Event Security-Possible Action-Present for the discussion are Sheriff Hoff and Chief Deputy, Paul Tartaglia. Also present is Casey Sample, the events manager for Bosselmans. Bosselmans is planning to host an event in November 2026. Ms. Sample would like to utilize the Howard County Law Enforcement employees by contract to handle security at the event. After discussion, Lukasiewicz made a motion to table the issue until more information is received and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye.

Security Cameras-SRT-Possible Action- The Commissioners discussed an invoice received for security cameras installed on the two SRT units. The Commissioners reviewed the budgets of the Sheriff and the SRT. Urbanski made a motion to pay for the camera with \$3,000.00 out of the Sheriff's budget, equipment replacement line item and \$1,140.00 out of the SRT budget and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye.

CDA-City of St. Paul-2025 Annual Report of Projects-The Commissioners received information from the St. Paul Development Corporation regarding the tax increment financing projects and a colored map of the redevelopment and blighted and substandard areas located in the City of St. Paul. The Commissioners reviewed the documents and acknowledged that they were received.

Dept. of Revenue Reports and Opinions-Property Tax Administrator-Neal Dethlefs, Assessor- Assessor, Neal Dethlefs was present to review the Department of Revenue Reports and Opinions for Howard County with the Commissioners. The Commissioners acknowledge that the information was reviewed.

Executive Session-Possible Litigation- Lukasiewicz made a motion to go into executive session to discuss possible litigation at 12:17 p.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman stated the Commissioners were going into executive session regarding possible litigation. Those present were the Commissioners and County Attorney, Heather Sikyta. Lukasiewicz made a motion to come out of executive session at 12:36 p.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye. No action taken.

Road's Work Session- Janet Thomsen and Jerry Thompson were present to discuss the current road's projects in progress and recently completed. Also discussed was how to make the department more efficient and use of equipment.

Approve/Deny-County Burial-Couton- Lukasiewicz made a motion to table the County Burial application due to not having all of the information and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye.

Sale of County Property Proceeds- The Clerk had received information from the State Auditor's office regarding where the proceeds of the sale of the old Road's maintenance building should be deposited. When the sale of the property had been discussed, a question came up on whether the proceeds of the sale could be deposited back into the inheritance fund as that is the fund that paid for a majority of the new road's building in St. Paul. The proceeds would first need to be deposited in either the general or road's fund and a resolution to transfer the proceeds would need to be approved to transfer to the inheritance fund. Recommendations from the State auditor's office and Howard County's auditor will be attached for documentation purposes.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 4/28/2026, and the Commissioner Meeting regular minutes dated 4/14/2026. Motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski to approve the payroll and claims dated 4/28/2026, General \$264,536.42, and Roads-\$81,711.55, for a total of \$346,247.97, and Commissioner meeting minutes dated 4/14/2026, and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, 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 1:51 p.m. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye. Meeting Adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be May 8, 2026.

Dated this 28th day of April, 2026.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk