

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

June 23, 2026

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 23rd day of June, 2026, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska. Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 17th day of June, 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 and Road Foreman, Jerry Thompson were present to discuss employee comp time and also the following:

Review Road Wages/Steps-Ms. Thomsen and Mr. Thompson presented a Roads Worker Classification form and wages to be effective July 1, 2026 for the Commissioners review. Following discussion, Urbanski made a motion to approve the Roads Worker Classification form and wages as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Review of Underground Permit Application-Ms. Thomsen presented a Permit to Construct Utilities on County Right-of-Way for the Commissioners review. This includes commercial projects such as fiber optic. Agriculture would be exempt. The County Attorney had also reviewed the permit. Discussed would be fees that would be charged along with the bonds and how the County would handle the fees. The Clerk will look into fees and bonds and how to handle. In the past five years the County has only done approximately six permits.

Approve/Deny gWorks Contract-Mr. Lukasiewicz has been working with gWorks on a contract for the Roads Department. gWorks would like to have Howard County be a pilot for their new software. Currently, the gWorks contract with the Roads Department costs \$6,000.00 per year. The new contract would cost \$4,500.00 for the first year. The new program would be capable of providing costs of projects, inventory, what projects have been done and when they are completed. This would be mainly used for big projects, County spraying and installed and

replacement of signs. Based on information Mr. Lukasiewicz received, the cost of the program would not reach the current cost for approximately six years. The Roads Department employees will require training prior to the program going live. This is included in the cost. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the gWorks Operations Enterprise in the amount of \$4,500.00, and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye.

Mail-

Estimated FY-2026 Federal Fund Purchase Program

NDWEE Letter CB32 Feeders LLC

Receipt on 2 Hot Shots Insurance

Changes to Open Meetings Act

Public Promise Procurement

Child Support Enforcement

2026 North American Manure Expo

TERC Certification of Final Decision

TERC Order to Stay Proceedings

Decision of Howard County Zoning Board CUP-Lukasiewicz

Emergency Manager Grant Email

Certification of Compliance -EMPG-Grant

Unfinished Business- None.

Public Hearing One and Six Year Plan-Resolution 2026-12-Urbanski made a motion to open the public hearing at 9:00 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye. Those present at the hearing are Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen and Road Foreman, Jerry Thompson. Following review and discussion of the One and Six Year Plan, Urbanski made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:19 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-12-the One and Six Year Plan as presented by the Highway Superintendent and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye.

Public Hearing-CUP Blase-Class 1 Feedlot-Lukasiewicz made a motion to open the public hearing at 9:15 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye. Those present for the hearing are Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith and Cassidy Van Meter representing Blase. Following discussion, Urbanski made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:28 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the Blase application for a conditional use permit for a Class 1 Feedlot and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye.

Howard County Ag Society-SDL Application for County Fair July 17-22, 2026 and SDL

Application for Tractor Pull on July 12, 2026- The Commissioners reviewed the SDL application for a tractor pull to be held on July 12, 2026. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the application and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The SDL application for the Howard County Fair-July 17-22, 2026, was reviewed. Urbanski made a motion to approve the application as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye.

Sheriff Distress Warrants- Sheriff, Mike Hoff and Treasurer, Sara Roy were present to discuss the Howard County Personal Property Tax Distress Warrants. Currently there are four individuals on this list for a total of \$3,079.63. Following discussion, the Commissioners acknowledged that they received the information, no other action necessary. The Sheriff's office will continue to try and collect on the distress warrants.

Luke Bonkiewicz-NACO- NACO Research Program Analyst, Luke Bonkiewicz was present to meet with the Board . A question and answer session ensued. The purchasing program was discussed, LB663(new zoning law), LB784(reduced training hours for law enforcement), other new laws taking effect in July that affect the County, and other legislative issues. Also discussed was the County explorer page on the NACO website. The general public can access this site. The pink postcard requirements have also changed. The Assessor will be required to be at the meeting. More information will be forthcoming from NACO.

Melissa Paxton-Dispatch Equipment-Firewall and Internet Service- Ms. Paxton was unable to attend the meeting. The Commissioners spoke to her by phone. She stated a power adapter went bad on the firewall causing the internet to go down. Ms. Paxton and Sheriff Hoff spoke to the Commissioners regarding a quote received to replace the firewall from Hamilton Information Systems. Following discussion, Urbanski made a motion to approve replacing the firewall through Hamilton Information Systems in the amount of \$3,500.00 to be paid out of the 2910 Fund and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye.

Custodian Position-Review hours, duties, and wages-The Commissioners met with custodian, Pat Koperski regarding hours, duties and wages of the position. Several items were discussed. Urbanski made a motion to table this agenda item and re-evaluate in 30 days and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. This item will be placed on the July 28th agenda.

Resolution 2026-13-Transfer Proceeds of Sale of Real Estate to Inheritance Fund-Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-13, to transfer proceeds of sale of real estate to the

inheritance fund in the amount of \$291,031.34, and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye.

Resolution 2026-14-Transfer Dispatch Contracted Funds-Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-14, to transfer funds received from Nance County for Contract Dispatching from the Miscellaneous Fund to the Dispatch Contracting Fund in the amount of \$15,000.00, for fiscal year 2027 the money will be transferred during fiscal year 2027 as funds are available and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz; Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Resolution 2026-15-Increase percentage of Deputy Officials Salaries-Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-15, raising the percentage of the Deputy Clerk, Deputy Treasurer and Deputy Assessor from 78% to 80% of the County Clerk, County Treasurer and County Assessor salaries effective July 1, 2026 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye.

Capital Business Services-Approve/Deny paying monthly payments by ACH -Due to the issue of Capital Business Services not receiving payments on time with mail service and timing of receiving billing statements, the Extension office, Planning and Zoning office, Clerk's office and County Court's office wish to have the billing statements paid by ACH to avoid late charges. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve paying Capital Business Services by ACH for the offices that requested it and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye.

Eakes Copier Agreement-District 8 Judge-Approve/Deny paying monthly payments by ACH- Due to additional fees to make monthly payments by check, the Judge requested that the monthly payment be made by ACH. Urbanski made a motion to approve paying the Eakes Copier Agreement District 8 Judge by ACH and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

New County Website-Authorize Primary Editor and Backup Editor-The new County website through MIPs will be going live this week. It was suggested that there be a primary and a backup editor to add to or make changes on the website. Lukasiewicz made a motion to appoint Clerk Klanecky as primary editor and Jennifer Ostendorf and Treasurer, Sara Roy as the backup editors and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye.

GCA Days- Jennifer Ostendorf and Treasurer, Sara Roy were present to discuss the County plans for GCA Days. The group is planning to have a float in the parade. The County will serve rootbeer floats after the parade at the courthouse. Surveyor, Tim Aitken will show a film of the history of Howard County at 12:30 p.m. in the assembly room.

Midland Area on Aging Parking- Commissioners agreed that Midland could park the bus at the County Roads building north of St. Paul when not in use. Ms. Hirschman had spoken to the Sheriff and Chief Dispatcher and they agreed that the two mini vans could be parked in the parking lot at the communications center. Ms. Hirschman will contact the CEO, Arlan Johnson for final approval.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 6/23/2026, and the Commissioner Meeting regular minutes dated 6/9/2026. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to approve the payroll and claims dated 6/23/2026, General \$595,148.14, and Roads-\$118,303.63, E911 Emergency Management Fund (2910)-\$93.05 and E911 Wireless Service Fund (2913)-\$47,709.58 for a total of \$761,254.40, and Commissioner meeting minutes dated 6/9/2026, and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye.

The Commissioners recessed at 11:53 a.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 12:58 p.m.

Budget Reviews-FY2027-The Commissioners met with several departments to review budgets for FY2027. Lukasiewicz made a motion to schedule another budget workshop on July 10, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. 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 3:42 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 July 14, 2026.

Dated this 23rd day of June, 2026.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk