

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

July 28, 2026

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 28th day of July, 2026, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska. Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 22nd day of July, 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. 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 the following:

Underground Permits- The Commissioners reviewed the application for the underground permits. The underground permits will be for commercial permits. Agricultural would be exempt. Also, the Commissioners stated they would like to authorize the Highway Superintendent to approve or deny the applications. Lukasiewicz made a motion to table action on the underground permits until the next meeting so additional verbiage can be added to the application and a resolution is presented to authorize the Highway Superintendent to approve or deny the underground permit applications and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye.

Mid-Plains Construction Co.-Status Inquiry- The status of the road's building was reviewed. The building was completed on January 1, 2026, and the final cost was \$2,212,227.00. Lukasiewicz made a motion to sign off on the contract bond and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye.

Roads Surplus Equipment-Ms. Thomsen stated she would like to declare Truck 9, a 2007 Freightliner Columbia Truck as surplus and be able to trade it for another truck. Motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski to approve Truck 9 as surplus property to be sold or traded on a truck. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye.

Public Road Concern/Claim-Kristi Klein was present to discuss concerns on Arthur Road between 13th and 14th Avenue. Ms. Klein provided pictures and a claim for damages for a tire punctured by a railroad spike on her vehicle. The area was within an eighth of a mile from an old, abandoned railroad crossing that was removed. It was thought that when the maintainer goes by and pulls gravel out of the ditch, they might be pulling up old railroad spikes. The Commissioners decided to have a road worker go behind the maintainer when they go through the affected area to pick up any spikes they find until they no longer find any spikes. Action on the claim will be taken at the next Commissioner meeting.

Mail-

Email from Hamilton Telecommunications
Notice of Special Meeting
Hamilton Telecommunications-Software Inventory
County Burial Information
Email-Dispatch Fingerprint Machine
Live Well Counseling Center Information
P & Z Letter to Kevin Lukasiewicz

Unfinished Business- None.

Kevin From, Svoboda Benefits-Medica Renewal-Kevin From and Chad Svoboda were present to discuss the increased renewal cost on the Medica Health Insurance Plan. They would like to look at options to see how to keep the costs down for the County and keep a comparable plan for the employees. Mr. From and Mr. Svoboda will attend the next Commissioner meeting on August 11th to present options to the Commissioners.

Tire Grant Application-Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen was present to discuss the tire grant application. The last tire grant received and utilized was three years ago. The collection of tires was increased to 2.25 tons of tires on the application. Lukasiewicz made a motion to move forward on the tire grant application and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye.

Spectrum Franchise Agreement-Dayton Murty-Dayton Murty was present to discuss the agreement between Howard County and Spectrum in the St. Libory area. Urbanski made a motion to approve signing the agreement to extend the agreement for an additional ten years. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye.

Supreme Court Summer Tour August 10th- Clerk Magistrate, Lisa Johnson was present to discuss an upcoming Courthouse Visit & Tour on August 10, 2026. The Nebraska Supreme Court will meet with court staff and community members from 11:00 am.-11:45 am. at the Howard County Courthouse.

Assessor-2026 Plan of Assessment for Howard County- Assessor, Neal Dethlefs presented the 2026 Plan of Assessment for Howard County for assessment years 2027, 2028 and 2029. Mr. Dethlefs answered questions from the Commissioners. The Commissioners acknowledge that they have received the 2026 Plan of Assessment for Howard County from the Howard County Assessor.

Equitable Sharing Agreement & Certification-Sheriff's Dept.- Following review, Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the signing of the Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification prepared by the Sheriff's Department and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye.

ICE Program Agreement-Sheriff Mike Hoff and Chief Deputy Paul Tartaglia presented a Memorandum of Agreement between the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the Howard County Sheriff's office on the 287(g) Task Force Model. Following discussion, Urbanski made a motion to approve moving forward with the agreement and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

K9 Equipment—The Sheriff's Department received a list of K 9 equipment and the cost from the Sherman County Sheriff for a total amount of \$54,892.63. The equipment would be used by the new K9 deputy and dog starting in August. Urbanski made a motion to approve and not exceed the amount of \$54,892.63 for the K9 equipment and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye.

City/County Law Enforcement Discussion- Sheriff Mike Hoff and Chief Deputy Paul Tartaglia were present to discuss the proposal of the City/County Law Enforcement Agreement with the Commissioners. Members of the public were present during the discussion. The proposed numbers, coverage by officers, applications for grants, and several other items were discussed in great length. The Sheriff's Department and Commissioners will be present at a Special Meeting to be held at the St. Paul Civic Center on August 4, 2026 with the City of St. Paul Mayor and Council. This meeting will provide the public an opportunity to ask questions and give input.

Re-evaluate Custodian Position-This item was tabled to a future date. No action taken.

Budget –The Clerk is currently waiting for additional budget information before proceeding. No action taken.

Consent Agenda - The Commissioners reviewed the payroll and claims dated 7/28/2026, and Budget Workshop Minutes dated 7/10/2026, the regular Commissioner Meeting, Board of Equalization, and Protest Hearing minutes dated 7/14/2026, and the Sheriff's report. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to approve the payroll and claims dated 7/28/2026, General \$276,031.88, and Roads-\$90,637.34, for a total of \$366,669.22, and Budget Workshop minutes dated 7/10/2026, Commissioner meeting minutes (Regular, BOE and

Protest) dated 7/14/2026, and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes and the Sheriff's report. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, 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 12:30 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 August 11, 2026.

Dated this 28th day of July, 2026.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk