

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

August 11, 2026

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 11th day of August, 2026, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given. 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 8:40 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 and indicated the location of a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act available for review.

Public Comment-None.

County Road Discussion – Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen and Road Foreman, Jerry Thompson were present to discuss the following: **Approve/Deny Kristi Klein Claim**-Claim was reviewed. Lukasiewicz made a motion to deny the claim as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. **Approve/Deny Underground Permit**- Urbanski made a motion to approve the underground permit application as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-16- Authorizing the Highway Superintendent to approve or deny Underground Permit applications located in the County Right-of-Way, Howard County, Nebraska, as presented, and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye. **Resolution 2026-17- Authorize the Deposit of Fees for Underground Permits on County Right-of-Way to the Howard County Treasurer to be Deposited in the Road/Bridge Fund.** Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-17 as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. **Annual Certification Road/Bridge Buyback** was presented to the Commissioners for a period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Urbanski made a motion to approve the certification as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye. **Resolution 2026-18-County Annual Certification of Program Compliance 2026** was presented to the Commissioners. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-18 and the signing of the certification by the County Board Chairperson as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye. Road project updates were also discussed.

Mail-

Information from NACO

Emailed Memo from Don Shuda

Letter from NPERS

Bylaws of Central Nebraska District County Officials Association

Email from Emergency Manager re: Disaster Assistance

Email from Emergency Manager-EMPG Grant

Hamilton Monthly Report

Unfinished Business – None.

Svoboda Benefits-Health Insurance-Chad Svoboda and Kevin From with Svoboda Benefits were present to go over the proposed insurance renewal plans and options. They went out to other health insurance carriers for comparables. The Commissioners asked for clarification on a few items. The health insurance renewal will be on the next agenda. No action taken.

K9 Equipment- Sheriff Mike Hoff and Chief Deputy Paul Tartaglia were present to discuss this item which was previously on the July 28th meeting agenda and tabled to this meeting. The two parties had come to an agreement on the K9 equipment to exclude the pickup. The Sheriff's Department had not received anything in writing. Lukasiewicz made a motion to table this item until we receive the K9 equipment list and cost in writing and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

City/County Law Enforcement Discussion- Sheriff Hoff and Chief Deputy Tartaglia were present to review the revised proposal of the interlocal agreement between the City of St. Paul Police Department and the Howard County Sheriff's Department. Hoff and Tartaglia will be meeting with the City of St. Paul Council on the revisions. This item will be placed on the next Commissioner agenda.

Budget- Updates were made to the revenue. The Clerk will continue to work with the Accountant and Treasurer on the Budget. This item will be on the next agenda.

NACO-Judd Allen-Health Insurance-Judd Allen with NACO was present to provide the Commissioners with a Blue Cross Blue Shield pool quote. After reviewing the plans with comparable coverage and deductibles as our current provider the consensus was that Blue Cross Blue Shield would not be able to compete with the renewal rates we were given by our current carrier.

Weed Department-Forced Controls-Weed Superintendent, Rob Schultz was present to talk with the Commissioners regarding State inspections. Mr. Schultz has been working with some Howard County landowners over the last four years to take care of the musk thistle, leafy spurge or other invasive plants on their property. Discussed was the process of the landowners taking care of invasive plants. If the landowner does not take care of the invasive plants in a timely

manner the weed superintendent can do a forced control. The landowner is ultimately responsible for the cost of a forced control. The process to be reimbursed by the landowner was also discussed.

Resolution 2026-19-Allocation of Levy Authority/Political Sub.- The Commissioners reviewed the Allocation of Levy Authority/Political Subdivisions. Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-19 as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Clerk Magistrate-Surplus Property- Clerk Magistrate, Lisa Johnson presented a list of items that no longer work and are obsolete as surplus property for disposition. Urbanski made a motion to approve the list of items as surplus property as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the claims dated 8/11/2026, and the Commissioner meeting minutes dated 7/28/2026 and special meeting minutes dated 8/4/2026 and 8/6/2026. The Board also reviewed the Clerk, District Court, Treasurer, and Sheriff Reports as presented. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to approve the claims dated 8/11/2026, General \$77,438.80, Roads-\$160,271.15, and E911 Emergency Management Fund \$993.05 for a total of \$238,703.00, meeting minutes dated 7/28/2026, 8/4/2026 and 8/6/2026, and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes, and approve reports received from the Clerk, District Court, Treasurer, and Sheriff. 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 11:35 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 August 25, 2026.

Dated this 11th day of August, 2026.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Howard County Clerk
Brenda Klanecky