HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

September 8, 2026

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 8th day of September, 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 8:30 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 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: **Pickup-Switch/Disposal**-A trade of pickups between the Roads Department and the Building and Grounds Department. Following discussion, it was decided to keep the 2012 Dodge Pickup currently on the Building and Grounds inventory and declare the 1999 Chevrolet Pickup currently on the Roads Department inventory as surplus. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve keeping the 2012 Dodge Ram Pickup on the Building and Grounds inventory and to declare the Roads Department, 1999 Chevrolet Pickup as surplus equipment to be sold and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. **County Bridge Match-Bridge 12815, 12510, and 12105** - County Bridge Match Agreements for the following bridges-12815 (12th & Rose), 12510 (Liberty South of 9th), and 12105 (Naper between 5th & 6th) between Oak Creek Engineering and Howard County were reviewed. Discussed in detail were what the costs would be to the County. Also discussed is whether the County could drop one of the bridge projects. This is the last year for the County Bridge Match Program. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the three engineering agreements as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye. **Discuss Tree Policy and Mowing Ditches**- County Attorney, Heather Sikyta was present during this discussion. Creating a tree policy and a mowing of ditches policy was discussed in great detail. Main concern was for the safety of people traveling on the roads being able to see at the intersections. Overhanging tree branches on the county roads and trees growing in the County right of way were discussed. Nebraska State Statutes were reviewed. The costs and who is responsible were also discussed. A courtesy letter will be sent to landowners that have not mowed for the second time by the end

of September per statute. The Highway Superintendent will work on creating a policy for the mowing and trees. This item will be on the next agenda. **Eakes Copier**-Ms. Thomsen received a quote on a Sharp copier from Eakes. No action was taken on this item. Road project updates were also discussed.

Mail-
2026 Legislative Conference
NIRMA Annual Membership Meeting
Quote to repair handrails due to tree damage
State Fire Marshall Inspection
Local Disaster Releases
Letter from NE Emergency Management Agency
Hamilton Monthly Report
Unfinished Business – None.

PH Hearing- CUP Application Great Plains Communication Tower-Lukasiewicz made a motion to open the public hearing at 9:00 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith and Mike Huizenga a representative of Great Plains Tower were present to discuss the application. The proposed tower would be located on a minimum maintenance road. The Planning and Zoning Board approved the application with one condition, that the County would not be responsible for the cost of maintenance on the minimum maintenance road and that the Tower Company would be responsible for any costs incurred. Emergency Services can be installed on the tower. Urbanski made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:17 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye.

Urbanski made a motion to approve the Conditional Use Permit Application as presented with the condition that Great Plains Communication Tower would be responsible for costs to maintain the minimum maintenance road and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye.

Road Study to Vacate Portion of B Street-Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen presented a road study for a vacate portion of B Street as requested at the last Commissioner meeting. The Commissioners reviewed a copy of the road study. The Commissioners accepted the road study which acknowledges that Ms. Thomsen has completed the road study to vacate a portion of B Street. The public hearing is required to be published for three consecutive weeks. Surrounding landowners will be notified by mail by Ms. Thomsen. Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-20, establishing a public hearing date of October 13, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. regarding the road study to vacate a portion of B Street and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Jason Lassen-Condition of Minimum Maintenance Road 22nd and Yutan-Jason Lassen was present to discuss a minimum maintenance road located at 22nd Avenue and Yutan Road. Mr. Lassen had asked when the County would be installing a culvert on that road. He is currently unable to get to his pasture. Also discussed was 19th Avenue and Wausa Rd. Conditions of theses roads and when maintenance will get to them was discussed.

Update-Cybersecurity Grant-Establish IT Steering Committee-Ms. Hirschman and Ms. Klanecky have been meeting with Hamilton Telecommunications regarding the Cybersecurity Grant. The next step is to develop an IT Steering Committee made up of department heads or other employees of the various County departments. The Commissioners agreed to establishing a committee.

Elevator Maintenance-An inspector with the State of Nebraska was at the Courthouse to do an inspection of the elevator. Monthly billing for maintenance was reviewed and when the company contracted to do regular maintenance work was last at the courthouse. The service contract will be reviewed at the next Commissioner meeting.

Sheriff's Depart.-Approve/Deny Vehicle Purchase-Chief Deputy, Paul Tartaglia was present to discuss the Sheriff's Department purchasing a vehicle as a prison transport vehicle. Mr. Tartaglia provided three quotes of vehicles. Budgeted amounts were discussed. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve purchasing a 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe, VIN-*****0627 for a price not to exceed $42,795.00, and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. A check will be cut and approved at the next Commissioner meeting.

City/County Law Enforcement Discussion- Chief Deputy Tartaglia was 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. Mr. 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- Hirschman updated the Commissioners on the Budget. The Budget Hearing will be held on September 22, 2026.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the claims dated 9/8/2026, and the Commissioner meeting minutes dated 8/25/2026. The Board also reviewed the Clerk, District Court, Treasurer, and Sheriff Reports as presented. Motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski to approve the claims dated 9/8/2026, General $72,782.89, Roads-$154,288.80, Highway Bridge Buyback Program-$4,330.60, E911 Emergency Management Fund $243.05, and SRT Fund-$2,371.00 for a total of $234,016.34, meeting minutes dated 8/25/2026, 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 11:54 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 September 22, 2026.

Dated this 8th day of September, 2026.

Kathy Hirschman

Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Howard County Clerk

Brenda Klanecky