HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

October 13, 2026

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 13th day of October, 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-William Bert McIntosh made a public comment to provide information to the Commissioners regarding the conditions of the County roads where he lives. Mr. McIntosh suggested training for the motor grader operators.

County Road Discussion –Road Foreman, Jerry Thompson and Office worker, Michelle Woitalewicz were present to discuss the following: **Road Position Recommendations-Possible Action**-Mr. Thompson and Commissioner Hirschman recommended the County offer positions to two candidates. Lukasiewicz made a motion to offer positions to the two candidates recommended and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman asked Urbanski to reach out to the two individuals to offer them the positions and what the starting wage would be. Mr. Thompson discussed with the Commissioners ideas to increase the efficiency of employees. Also discussed was bringing someone in to provide the road employees with training on road equipment out on the roads. **Hwy Superintendent Contract/Position-Delegation of Duties** –An Agreement for Professional Services for Highway Superintendent Services was received from Lance Harter with Oak Creek Engineering. Mr. Harter was present to answer the questions the Commissioners had as they reviewed the Agreement. Following discussion, Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the agreement with Oak Creek Engineering as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye. Delegation of duties for the Roads Department are as follows: Ms. Woitalewicz has been handling the claims and time sheets and Mr. Thompson will handle the ordering of supplies and any accident reports. Discipline and discharge when necessary was discussed. Mr. Lukasiewicz stated he would be in charge of these duties. Ms. Hirschman and Mr. Urbanski were in agreement.

Ricoh Copier Contract- The Roads Department received an equipment proposal from Eakes Eco-Smart regarding a color printer the Roads Department took over the lease on. The current lease is ending on October 27, 2026. They are looking to extend the contract for one year. The Commissioners reviewed the lease to determine if the option would be more cost effective than the copier that was purchased in March. Following discussion, Lukasiewicz made a motion to end the contract with Eakes on the Ricoh copier and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye.

Tree and Brush Policy-Resolution 2026-____- The Commissioners reviewed the Tree and Brush Policy. Lukasiewicz made a motion to table the Tree and Brush Policy and corresponding resolutions to have updates, additions, and corrections made and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye. The Roads Department will put together the fees for the policy.

Mail-

EMPG Grant Receipt

Hamilton Monthly Report

Copy of Electronic Submission to Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts

Unfinished Business – None.

Public Hearing- Vacate Portion of B Street-Urbanski made a motion to open the public hearing at 9:14 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Mr. Thompson and Ms. Woitalewicz were present during the hearing. No one was present to oppose or in approval of the vacating of a portion of B Street. While discussing the vacate, the Commissioners suggested that Parcel # 470872140 and Parcel # 470872125 be combined into one parcel. Currently, the two parcels are owned by the same individuals. If the parcels were purchased separately by different landowners in the future, the one parcel would not have any access. The County is responsible to provide access to all properties per Nebraska statute. No decisions will be made today. A stipulation could be made to combine the two parcels in order to approve the vacate of a portion of B Street. Lukasiewicz made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 10:05 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. No action taken. A decision will be made at the October 27, 2026, Commissioner Meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Extension Board Appointment-Extension Educator, Maddie Prososki was present to have the Commissioners appoint an extension board member. Ms. Prososki was unable to contact the individual regarding the appointment prior to this meeting. She asked that this item be placed on the November 10th agenda at 9:00 a.m.

County Government Day-Chuck Schmid— A date of November 16, 2026, was suggested to hold County Government Day. The Clerk is currently waiting to hear from the District Court Judge to make sure the District Courtroom will be available for the mock trial on that date. No action taken.

Commissioner Representative for City/County Interlocal Agreement-Following discussion, Lukasiewicz made a motion to appoint Kathy Hirschman as the Commissioner to represent the County for the City/County Interlocal Agreement quarterly meetings effective until re-appointments are made in January 2027, and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

NIRMA Assist Grant-Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen was present to discuss the NIRMA Assist Grants and other grants he is currently working on.

Sheriff's Dept.-Approve/Deny K-9 Agreements; Inventory List-Sheriff; Bid on Ford Taurus; and Cell Phone Proposal- Sheriff Mike Hoff and Chief Deputy Paul Tartaglia were present to discuss a cell phone proposal from AT&T/First Net. The Commissioners reviewed current costs of wi-fi and cell phone stipends for each law enforcement officer. With the new contract, each officer would receive a work cell phone and no longer receive a stipend. The wi-fi expense would also be less. The contract could begin November 1, 2026. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the discontinuing of cell phone stipends for the Sheriff's Department effective November 1, 2026, and sign a contract with AT&T/First Net to provide work phones for all law enforcement officers and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent. Sheriff Hoff stated that he was putting a bid in for a 2017 Ford Taurus owned by the City of St. Paul. No action needed by the Commissioners. The Commissioners reviewed the K-9 Agreement with Sheriff Hoff and Deputy Tartaglia. There were a few items the Commissioners wished to have added in the agreement prior to approval. Lukasiewicz made a motion to table the K-9 Agreement to October 27, 2026 and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent. The Commissioners reviewed the inventory list for City of St. Paul property being transferred to Howard County per the Interlocal Agreement. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the inventory list as presented and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

Resolution 2026-26-Setting of Tax Levies- Following review of the levies, Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-26, the Setting of Tax Levies as presented and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye.

Assessor's Copier Bill-Pay Online-A written request from County Assessor, Neal Dethlefs was received to setup payment methods online regarding payments made on the Assessor's copy machine. Payments would be approved before the payments are processed. Lukasiewicz made

a motion to approve setting up online payments for the Assessor's copy machine and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye.

TKE Billing-Commissioners discussed the status of TKE and compliance of the elevator. Mr. Urbanski had contacted TKE and a technician did come out and take care of the findings. The elevator was brought back into compliance by TKE prior to the deadline and sent to the State Fire Marshall's office. Once the State receives the County payment, they will send out the annual certificate. Concerns regarding paying monthly fees and not receiving any services for the last 24 months were discussed. The Commissioners were in agreement to withhold payment to TKE for the amount billed this month. This item will be voted on when the consent agenda is discussed.

HCMC License Renewal Letter-Lukasiewicz made a motion to give permission to Carol Schroeder, Howard County Medical Center's Board of Trustees Chairperson to sign the hospital's license renewal applications and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye.

Urbanski left the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Maximus-FY2027-Sign Certificate- The Commissioners reviewed the Central Services Cost Allocation Plan FY2027 through Maximus for Howard County. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the Plan for Howard County as presented and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

NACO Voter Registration Designation-Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve Kathy Hirschman, Chairperson to cast the ballots at the December 2026 NACO election and Jessie Urbanski as the alternate and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the claims dated 10/13/2026, and the Board of Equalization meeting minutes, Budget Hearing meeting minutes, and Commissioner meeting minutes all dated 9/22/2026. The Board also reviewed the Clerk, District Court, Treasurer, Attorney, and Sheriff Reports as presented. Motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski to approve the claims dated 10/13/2026, except for claim # 2610000099 in the amount of $724.48, General $119,969.55, Roads-$61,003.81, Highway Bridge Buyback Program-$6,000.00, E911 Emergency Management Fund $93.05, and SRT Fund-$1,882.94 for a total of $289,437.80, meeting minutes dated 9/22/2026, and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes, and approve reports received from the Clerk, District Court, Treasurer, Attorney, 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 Lukasiewicz and seconded by Hirschman, to adjourn the meeting at 11:22 a.m. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye;

Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent. Meeting Adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be October 27, 2026.

Dated this 13th day of October, 2026.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Howard County Clerk
Brenda Klanecky