HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

October 27, 2026

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 27th 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 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-No public comments at the beginning of the meeting. Sarah Cathcart with Senator Pete Ricketts office stopped in at the end of the meeting and asked the Commissioners if they had any questions or concerns that Senator Ricketts could help with? Questions about available grants were discussed.

County Road Discussion –Road Foreman, Jerry Thompson and Road's Office Clerk, Michelle Woitalewicz were present to discuss the following:

Tree & Brush Policy-Resolutions-The Commissioners discussed a Tree and Brush Policy in great detail. Following a long discussion, regarding the policy and the fees, (costs of fuel, use of equipment and man power), several changes and additions were recommended prior to approving the policy. Sight issues at intersections on county roads and enforcement of the policy and how the policy should be handled consistently were also discussed. Motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski to table to the November 10, 2026 or a later Commissioner meeting date to allow time to make the changes and additions to the policy. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Pickup Tire Issue-The pickup in question has already been approved as surplus equipment. The pickup has been used to pull the recycle trailer to Broken Bow approximately once every 20 days. Commissioners asked if the Roads Department had another pickup that could be used for this purpose. No further action required by the Commissioners.

Year End Certification Hwy Supt- Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-27-Year-End Certification Highway Superintendent as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye.

Road Updates-Mr. Thompson provided road updates to the Commissioners.

Mail-

Letter from Hall County Regional Planning Director
Email from Don Shuda, Howard County Veterans Service Officer
Copy of annual Elevator Certificate-State of Nebraska
Operation Green Light for Veterans
Albertsons Opioid Settlement
AKRS Quote
Notice of Default
Unfinished Business- None.

Approve/Deny Vacate of Portion of B Street- Assessor, Neal Dethlefs was present for this discussion. During the public hearing, Commissioners discussed that Parcel # 470872140 and Parcel # 470872125 be combined into one parcel to allow future access into the properties prior to the approval of said vacation. Mr. Dethlefs explained the process of combining parcels. The Assessor's office has been working with the landowners to get the parcels combined. This process has not been completed yet. Urbanski made a motion to table a decision until the parcels had been combined and place this item on the November 10, 2026, Commissioner meeting and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

SDL Application-Howard County Ag Society- Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the Special Designated License for the Howard County Ag Society for a fundraiser taking place on December 5, 2026, indoors at the Howard County Fairgrounds and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye. A copy of the certificate of liability insurance will be provided to the Clerk.

SDL Application-St. Paul Rotary at Fairgrounds – Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the Special Designated License for the Rotary International of St. Paul, Nebraska at the Howard County Fairgrounds for the St. Paul Community Theatre to be held on November 20, 21, and 22, 2026, and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye.

Approve/Deny County Government Day- Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve County Government Day on November 16, 2026 and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

K-9 Jak Agreement-Sheriff Mike Hoff and Chief Deputy, Paul Tartaglia were present to discuss a contract with the K-9 Handler, Deputy Cody Hunt. Urbanski made a motion to approve the K-9 Jak Agreement to pay Deputy Hunt for compensation of the cost of K-9 Jak in the amount of

$3,000.00 and also $400.00 per month to cover the extra care and time that is required by the handler of K-9 Jak, as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye; and Lukasiewicz, Aye.

Accepted Bid-2017 Ford Taurus-Sheriff's Dept. – Sheriff Hoff and Chief Deputy, Tartaglia were present to advise the bid the Sheriff's Department submitted on the 2017 Ford Taurus in the amount of $7,000.00 was accepted by the City of St. Paul.

Courthouse Tree Maintenance Bids-Bids were received from Twin Timber Tree Co. for trimming and removal of trees located on the grounds of the Howard County courthouse. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the bid to remove the tree and grind the stump located on the west side of the courthouse next to the west entrance in the amount of $1,525.00, and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The other trees located on the grounds will be discussed at a future date.

Consent Agenda - The Commissioners reviewed the payroll and claims dated 10/27/2026. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to approve the payroll and claims dated 10/27/2026, General $272,154.90, and Roads-$83,287.05, for a total of $355,441.95, and Commissioner regular meeting minutes dated 10/13/2026, and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes. 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 11:21 a.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 November 10, 2026.

Dated this 27th day of October, 2026.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk