

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

January 14, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 14th day of January, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 8th day of January 2025, a proof of publication filed in the Clerk's office. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered 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 was recited during the Board of Equalization meeting.

Chairman Hirschman also 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

Mail – Zelle; SCEDD; and NDOT. Also included was a letter from NIRMA for an Assist Grant that was received.

Unfinished Business – None

Road Discussion- Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to discuss various roads the department is working on. Currently, the Road's Department has been cutting trees and working on equipment. Next week they hope to get out on the roads to blade.

Land Negotiation-Executive Session - Urbanski made a motion to go into executive session at 8:33 a.m. to discuss a land negotiation and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman stated to those in attendance that the Board was going into executive session at 8:33 a.m. to discuss a land negotiation. Janet Thomsen and Jerry Thompson were also present. Urbanski made a motion to come out of executive session at 8:44 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. No Action taken.

REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky acting as Chairman Sine dine asked for nominations for the Board Chairman for the year 2025. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to nominate Kathy Hirschman for Board Chair for the year 2025. Urbanski made a motion that nominations cease and Lukasiewicz seconded the motion. Roll Call on both motions: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Chairman Hirschman then asked for nominations for Vice Chairman. Lukasiewicz made a motion to nominate Jessie Urbanski for Vice Chairman and seconded by Hirschman. Motion was made by Hirschman that nominations cease and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call on both motions: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Treasurer Resolutions - County Treasurer, Sara Roy presented two resolutions to the Board for their approval. **Resolution 2025-1** allows the Treasurer to deposit in any bank in excess of the capital stock

and surplus of the bank, secured by pledges and assets for the bank. Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-1 and Lukasiewicz seconded the motion. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. **Resolution 2025-2** gives the Treasurer the authority to invest funds in excess of current needs. Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-2 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Howard County Treasurer, Sara Roy presented the Treasurer's Semi-Annual Report to the Board and explained the report to the Board. No further action needed.

County Appointments- The County Board went through the list of appointments of Committees as follows:

HOWARD COUNTY APPOINTMENTS – 2025

Region III Governing Board	Jessie Urbanski
Mid Plains Center for Mental Health	Jessie Urbanski
Midland Area for the Aging	Kathy Hirschman
Central NE Community Action Partnership	Kirt Lukasiewicz
Mid NE Individual Services	Jessie Urbanski
County Health Board	Dr. Chris Tomhave Sheriff Mike Hoff Clerk Brenda Klanecky
Central Community College	Kathy Hirschman
Loup Central Regional Landfill	Kirt Lukasiewicz
ADA Advisory Board	Kathy Hirschman
Central NE Joint Housing Authority	Kirt Lukasiewicz
Grievance Committee	All County Commissioners
Planning and Zoning	Ron Kulwicki (25) Terry Spilinek (25) Randy Kauk (25) Dave Sack (26) Jeff Christensen (26) Ken Kozisek (27) Jack Reimers (27)

Board of Adjustment

Daryl Anderson (27)
Chris Kosmicki (26)
Dave Boehle (26)
Janet Thomsen (26)
Mike Nelson (25)
Chad Donscheski (26) – Alternate
Terry Spilinek (27)
Glenn Killion (25)

Safety Committee

Allen Wilshusen
Jessica Hancock
Kay Placke
Lisa Johnson
Kirt Lukasiewicz
Janice Jares
Pat Koperski
Janet Thomsen
Carolyn Scarborough
Mike Hoff
Melissa Paxton
Jennifer Ostendorf
Alex Ferebee

Tourism & Lodging Committee

Sheila Horak (26)
Roger Goettsche (28)
Donna Nielsen (28)
Judy Dugan (26)
Beth Cummings (26)

City/County Communications

Kathy Hirschman
Jessie Urbanski (Alternate)

Extension Board

Denise Rathman

	Justin Wells
	Chandra Kosmicki
Hospital Board	Carol Schroeder
	Harriett Steenson
	Dan Nielsen
	Vacant
	Mike Nelson
GIS Steering Committee	Jessie Urbanski
	Neal Dethlefs
	Tim Aitken
	Brenda Klanecky
Loup Basin Health Dept. Representative	Kirt Lukasiewicz
St. Paul Senior Center, Inc. Board	Kirt Lukasiewicz
Crime Commission Grant Board/ Alcohol and Substance Abuse Coalition	Mike Hoff Dave Schroeder
	Brenda Klanecky
	Kathy Hirschman
Building Committee	Jessie Urbanski
	Brenda Klanecky
South Central Economic Development Rep.	Kirt Lukasiewicz
Loup Basin RCD Board	Kirt Lukasiewicz
Local Emergency Planning Committee	Jessie Urbanski

Urbanski made a motion to approve the County Appointments as discussed. Lukasiewicz seconded the motion. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Loup Central Landfill Association Resolution 2025-3 - Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-3 to appoint Kirt Lukasiewicz as the representative for Howard County on the Loup Central Landfill Association Board. Hirschman seconded the motion. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Highway Superintendent – Urbanski made a motion to re-appoint Janet Thomsen as Highway Superintendent and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Emergency Manager -Urbanski made a motion to re-appoint Allen Wilshusen as Emergency Manager and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Planning and Zoning Administrator/Flood Plain Administrator -Urbanski made a motion to re-appoint Cherri Klinginsmith as Planning and Zoning Administrator/Flood Plain Administrator seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

2025 Meeting Dates and Holiday Dates – The first meeting in November has been changed from November 11, 2025 to November 12, 2025, due to Veterans Day.

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners and the Howard County Board of Equalization, Howard County, Nebraska will be held at 8:30 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of 2025, unless otherwise changed, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska which meeting will be open to the public. An agenda is kept current at the County Clerk’s Office.

Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk

Publish:	Jan. 8, 2025	Publish:	July 2, 2025
Mtg. Date:	Jan. 14, 2025	Mtg. Date:	July 8, 2025
Publish:	Jan. 22, 2025	Publish:	July 16, 2025
Mtg. Date:	Jan. 28, 2025	Mtg. Date:	July 22, 2025
Publish:	Feb. 5, 2025	Publish:	Aug. 6, 2025
Mtg. Date:	Feb. 11, 2025	Mtg. Date:	Aug. 12, 2025
Publish:	Feb. 19, 2025	Publish:	Aug. 20, 2025
Mtg. Date:	Feb. 25, 2025	Mtg. Date:	Aug. 26, 2025
Publish:	Mar. 5, 2025	Publish:	Sept. 3, 2025
Mtg. Date:	Mar. 11, 2025	Mtg. Date:	Sept. 9, 2025
Publish:	Mar. 19, 2025	Publish:	Sept. 17, 2025
Mtg. Date:	Mar. 25, 2025	Mtg. Date:	Sept. 23, 2025
Publish:	April 2, 2025	Publish:	Oct. 8, 2025
Mtg. Date:	April 8, 2025	Mtg. Date:	Oct. 14, 2025
Publish:	April 16, 2025	Publish:	Oct. 22, 2025
Mtg. Date:	April 22, 2025	Mtg. Date:	Oct. 28, 2025
Publish:	May 7, 2025	Publish:	Nov. 5, 2025
Mtg. Date:	May 13, 2025	Mtg. Date:	Nov. 12, 2025
Publish:	May 21, 2025	Publish:	Nov. 19, 2025
Mtg. Date:	May 27, 2025	Mtg. Date:	Nov. 25, 2025
Publish:	June 4, 2025	Publish:	Dec. 3, 2025

Mtg. Date:	June 10, 2025	Mtg. Date:	Dec. 9, 2025
Publish:	June 18, 2025	Publish:	Dec. 17, 2025
Mtg. Date:	June 24, 2025	Mtg. Date:	Dec. 23, 2025

2025 County Holidays –

New Years Day	Wednesday, January 1, 2025
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Monday, January 20, 2025
President’s Day	Monday, February 17, 2025
Memorial Day	Monday, May 26, 2025
Independence Day	Friday, July 4, 2025
Labor Day	Monday, September 1, 2025
Columbus Day	Monday, October 13, 2025
Veteran’s Day	Tuesday, November 11, 2025
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 27, 2025
Day After Thanksgiving	Friday, November 28, 2025
Christmas Eve	Wednesday, December 24, 2025
Christmas Day	Thursday, December 25, 2025
New Years Day	Thursday, January 1, 2026

Urbanski made a motion to approve the Meeting Dates and Holiday Dates as presented. Lukasiewicz seconded the motion. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Payroll Designation – The Board reviewed the current policy regarding pay dates. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to keep the current payroll policy. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. A copy of the Pay Periods and Pay Date Schedule are available in the Clerk’s office.

County Engineer – The County received a letter from Lance Harter asking to re-appoint Oak Creek Engineering as the County Engineer. Urbanski made a motion to approve Oak Creek Engineering as the County Engineer and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Fair Labor Law - Urbanski made a motion and seconded by Lukasiewicz that the County abides by the Fair Labor Law. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Bank Depositories –

Boelus State Bank	Boelus, NE
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Homestead Bank	St. Paul, NE
Citizens Bank & Trust	St. Paul, NE
Heritage Bank	St. Paul, NE
NPAIT	Lincoln, NE
NE Class	Lincoln, NE

County Treasurer, Sara Roy was present to discuss the Bank Depositories. Motion was made by Urbanski to approve the six depositories as listed and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

County Medical Providers – Urbanski made a motion to approve all doctors and physician assistants at the Howard County Medical Center as official County Medical Providers. Lukasiewicz seconded the motion. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

County Paper and County Website – Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz that the Phonograph Herald is named the Official County Paper with access to post to the statewide website established and maintained as a repository for such notices reference Source: Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-1411 and the County's Website the Official Website. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Contractors - Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz that all contractors will file their proof of liability insurance with the County Clerk's office for any County work to be done. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

County Burial - Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz that the County will pay \$750.00 for both burial and cremations and will be buried only in the County lots. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Fuel Providers -

Agricultural Services	Boelus, NE
Aurora Coop	Dannebrog, NE
Aurora Coop	St. Paul, NE
Casey's General Store	St. Paul, NE
Jim's Truck Stop	St. Paul, NE
K & B Kwik Stop	St. Paul, NE
Pump and Pantry	St. Libory, NE
Pump and Pantry	St. Paul, NE
Palmer Service Center	Palmer, NE
Grossarts Inc. & Propane	St. Paul, NE

Trotter Inc.

Arcadia, NE

Urbanski made a motion to approve the fuel providers as listed and seconded by Lukasiewicz Roll Call: Lukasiewicz-Aye, Hirschman-Aye and Urbanski-Aye. Motion passed.

Gravel Providers –

Central Sand and Gravel	Grand Island, NE
Hooker Bros.	Grand Island, NE
Island Land Handlers Inc.	Grand Island, NE
Liberty Sand and Gravel	Elba, NE
Mid-Nebraska Aggregate Inc.	Gibbon, NE
Ulrich Gravel Inc.	Ord, NE

Urbanski made a motion to approve the gravel providers as listed and Lukasiewicz seconded the motion. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

County Roads Building Update – Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen provided pictures and updated the Board on the progress of the County Roads Building. The frame of the building is up and most of the walk-in doors have been installed. The crew has begun framing in the windows.

Rob Schultz-Update Weed Department, Discuss/Approve NDA State Reports, Resolution 2025-4-Delegate Authority to Weed Control Superintendent- Weed Control Superintendent, Rob Schultz presented a Weed Control Update of Howard County to the Board of Commissioners. The ultimate goal and objective of the Howard County Weed Control is to work with landowners to prevent the spread of noxious and invasive species. Mr. Schultz presented Resolution 2025-4 to the Board delegating authority to the Weed Control Superintendent. Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-4 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Mr. Schultz reviewed and answered questions regarding the Activity Report 2024, Budget Report 2025, Noxious Weed Infestation Report, Noxious Weed Control Plan, Invasive Plant Watch List Infestation Report, and Weed Control Authority Board Roster with the Board. All of these documents are sent to the Nebraska Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Protection. Urbanski made a motion to approve all of the documents as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Howard County Historic Tax Credit Purchase Agreement – The Board reviewed the Tax Credit Purchase Agreement between Howard County and Bridges Trust Company to be effective January 14, 2025. The expected amount of tax credits is \$58,350.00. The closing date is set for March 31, 2025. The historic tax credits are derived from the installation of the front steps of the courthouse. Urbanski made a motion to approve the Tax Credit Purchase Agreement as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

NIRMA Insurance Updates-The County is currently in the process of renewing the insurance policy with NIRMA. Additions and deletions have been updated on the current schedules. The Clerk updated the Board on the changes.

Cemetery Maintenance – The Commissioners have received two inquiries from Howard County residents regarding cemeteries located in the County. The Board reviewed Nebraska State Statutes regarding the County’s responsibilities to maintain cemeteries as well as information regarding abandoned and pioneer cemeteries. No action taken.

Sheriff Hoff-Vehicle Funding-Sheriff Mike Hoff was present to discuss the purchase of a 2022 Ford Explorer to replace a wrecked vehicle in the amount of \$26,995.00. An insurance check in the amount of \$20,852.00 was received for the totaled vehicle. The 2022 Ford Explorer would be used as the K-9 unit. Urbanski made a motion to approve the purchase of the 2022 Ford Explorer in the amount of \$26,995.00. Part of the payment of \$20,852.00 will be paid out of the Misc. General Fund and \$6,143.00 will be paid out of the K-9 Fund. The motion was seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Personnel-Executive Session-Urbanski made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:29 a.m. to discuss personnel and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman stated that the Board was going into Executive Session to discuss personnel at 11:29 a.m. Sheriff, Mike Hoff was also present. Hirschman made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 11:53 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. No action taken.

Funds Balance-Board Chair Hirschman explained funds balance. The Clerk and Treasurer’s offices balance funds each month. The Clerk is working on a report to present to the Commissioners quarterly.

Consent Agenda - Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to approve the Board of Equalization and Commissioners Meeting Minutes for 12/26/2024, Treasurer, Clerk, District Court and Sheriff’s Reports and Claims dated 1/14/2025, General-\$72,905.21 + \$525.00; Road-\$80,289.59; Canine Fund-\$242.83; Inheritance Tax Fund- \$198,705.22; and 911 Emergency Management Funds-\$838.25 for a total amount of \$353,506.10. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Recess-Urbanski made a motion to recess at 12:27 p.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Reconvene-The Board reconvened at 1:16 p.m.

Employee Evaluations-Executive Session – Motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski to go into Executive Session to perform employee evaluations at 1:17 p.m. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman stated the Board was going into Executive Session to perform employee evaluations at 1:17 p.m. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to come out of Executive Session at 4:34 p.m. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. No Action taken.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Lukasiewicz, seconded by Urbanski to adjourn the meeting at 4:37 p.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 January 28, 2025.

Dated this 14th day of January, 2025.

Kathy Hirschman

Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST:



Brenda Klanecky

Brenda Klanecky

Howard County Clerk

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

January 28, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 28th day of January, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 22nd day of January, 2025. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office. A proof of publication is filed in 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 was present to discuss scheduling a County Road's Work Session with the Commissioners. During this time, the One and Six Year Plan would be discussed as well as other road projects. The Commissioners agreed to schedule the Work Session for February 11, 2025, following the regular Commissioner meeting. Ms. Thomsen provided the Board with a work list that had previously been requested by the Board. The Board went through the list with Ms. Thomsen. Ms. Thomsen asked the Board about advertising for an open position. Following discussion, Urbanski made a motion to advertise in the local paper on February 5th and February 12th for an open road's worker position and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Executive Session-Personnel-The executive session was placed on the agenda but was not needed.

Mail – Email correspondence regarding Historic Tax Credits.

Email from Rodney Zulkoski with the Nebraska Department of Transportation regarding a project on Hwy 11. The County Surveyor is required to find the section markers and the County will receive a set amount per section marker as listed in a previous agreement.

Unfinished Business – None.

Introduction Extension-Kayla Nilson –Ms. Nilson will be present at the February 11, 2025, meeting.

Emergency Manager Update- Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen was present to update the Board. First discussed was an EMPG (Emergency Management Performance Grant) which is a federal grant provided by FEMA that Mr. Wilshusen applies for. The grant pays for approximately half of his salary. He also discussed the LEOP (Local Emergency Operations Plan) Book which is in digital format through Bold Planning. NEMA will be changing to a new company. He has been updating employee identification badges and will work with the City of St. Paul to provide badges. Also discussed were activities that have taken place and others that were planned. Just recently, a training was held at the courthouse with EMS

and firefighters from across the County on how to handle an emergency at the courthouse. On April 7th, 2025, a severe storm awareness program is scheduled in St. Libory. The Board appreciated the updates.

Resolution 2025-5-Transfer Excess Funds – The auditor requested the excess funds be transferred to the General Fund. Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-5, the transfer of excess funds in the County Clerk’s Warrant Account to the General Fund in the amount of \$14,000.00 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Gerald Jess-Kelso Cemetery and Bob Dvorak-Melrose Cemetery- Bob Dvorak was present to discuss the Melrose Cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Dvorak and Rylan Dvorak have been cleaning up the cemetery and trying to locate unmarked graves. He stated if the survey corners of the cemetery were marked it would aid in finding the graves. Mr. Dvorak asked if Tim Aitken, County Surveyor could survey the cemetery and locate the survey corners. Mr. Dvorak would like to mark the corners with concrete railroad ties. Urbanski made a motion to have County Surveyor, Tim Aitken survey, locate and mark the survey corners of the Melrose Cemetery and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman will contact Mr. Aitken regarding surveying the cemetery. Pioneer cemeteries were briefly discussed and when a cemetery is considered abandoned. This would mean there are no burials for five consecutive years. Funding through a taxing district would take time to do. Also the Board talked about reaching out to other funding groups within the County. Donations and volunteers were also discussed.

County Building Update – Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to update the Board on the county building. Siding has been completed on the north side and southeast side of the building. A dent or ding in the siding on the northeast corner of the building was noted.

Planning and Zoning-Blasé Update- Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cheri Klinginsmith was present to discuss a letter sent to Gunner Buchhammer, attorney for the Blasé Feedlots. Others present for the meeting were Deputy County Attorney, Heather Sikyta, Planning and Zoning member, Terry Spilinek, Attorney Gunner Buchhammer and Cassidy Van Meter. Included in the Board’s packet was a copy of the Planning and Zoning minutes for the January 15, 2025, meeting. During the Planning and Zoning meeting, the Zoning Board did not approve the additional four corner lots, one of which is to be abandoned. The Planning and Zoning Board recommended the Blasé’s apply for a commercial feed lot. Ms. Klinginsmith updated the Board on the current feedlot sites. The Board also asked about ownership of the feedlots. Discussion was held between the parties present and the Board. No action taken.

County Burial Application-Redding – The Board received a completed application for a county burial for Cody Redding. The Board reviewed the application and possible assets. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the county burial application for Cody Redding and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Nay; and Urbanski, Aye. Motion Passed.

Spectrum Increased Billing – The Clerk received an email from Hamilton Communication that the Sheriff’s office was having issues with uploading body camera footage. IT has requested that Spectrum increase the internet speed which will cost an additional \$70.00 per month. This will be on a month to month basis to see if this will remedy the issue. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the additional charge of \$70.00 per month to increase the internet speed on a month to month basis and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Sheriff-Updates; Budgets-Sheriff's and Canine Fund- Sheriff Hoff and Chief Deputy Paul Tartaglia were present to discuss radios that were purchased in August 2024. The payment of the radios was to come out of the ARPA funds. An invoice from Motorola was received on January 15, 2025 in the amount of \$10,390.82, for the radios. All of the ARPA funds were spent as of December 31, 2024. Urbanski made a motion to approve paying the Motorola invoice in the amount of \$10,390.82, out of the miscellaneous general account and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The Sheriff's office had previously paid invoices on the radios out of the Sheriff's budget that were to come out of the ARPA funds. The bills were paid to Platte Valley in December. This amounted to around \$6,000.00. Commissioners agreed to revert some future bills and pay out of miscellaneous general to offset that amount. Future bills will need to be reviewed as they come in to stay within the amount budgeted. Questions on the Canine Fund were also discussed. The Sheriff's department will track the overtime hours for the use of the canine. The Sheriff's office is to provide the Clerk's office with overtime information monthly.

Payroll Questions – The County Clerk had reached out to legal counsel at NACO regarding the County Attorney Position due to the death of David Schroeder and calculation of final paycheck for Mr. Schroeder. The Board read an email the Clerk received from Elaine Menzel, legal counsel for NACO. Urbanski made a motion to approve prorating the salary for Mr. Schroeder for the month of January from January 1, 2025 to January 20, 2025 (date of death) and include the buyout amount of \$375.00, and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

County Attorney Position – The Board wished to thank Heather Sikyta for filling in during the County Attorney's absence. Per State Statute, the Board is required to fill the vacated County Attorney position within 45 days of the date of Mr. Schroeder's death on January 20, 2025, which would be by March 6, 2025, the appointee would fulfill Mr. Schroeder's term through December 31, 2026. Those present to discuss the County Attorney position are Deputy County Attorney, Heather Sikyta, Attorney, Julie Gawrych, Sheriff, Mike Hoff, Chief Deputy, Paul Tartaglia and Deputy, Malik BearHeels. One of the questions on filling the position was this would be a part-time position. Ms. Sikyta said she is happy to fill in until the position is filled and felt that the County should go out for applications. Urbanski made a motion to advertise on February 5th and 12th in the Phonograph Herald, NACO website and an Attorney's website and accept applications for County Attorney until February 19, 2025, hold a special meeting on February 20th at 8:30 a.m. to review County Attorney applications, place County Attorney Position on the February 25th agenda in case anything needs to be discussed, have the interview process scheduled from February 25th through March 3, 2025, and designate Urbanski and Sheriff Mike Hoff to conduct interviews and plan a special meeting on March 4th at 8:30 a.m. to appoint a County Attorney and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Resolution 2025-6 - Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve Heather Sikyta to remain as a signatory, add County Treasurer, Sara Roy and remove David T. Schroeder as signatories on the Howard County Attorney Trust Account and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Executive Session-Personnel- Executive session was not needed.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 1/28/2025, and the minutes dated 1/14/2025. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to approve the payroll and claims dated 1/28/2025, General-\$286,688.71 and Roads-\$92,433.82, and Canine Cost-\$6,143.00 for a

total of \$385,265.53, minutes dated 1/14/2025, and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski to adjourn the meeting at 12:22 p.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 February 11, 2025.

Dated this 28th day of January, 2025.

Kathy Hirschman

Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky
 Howard County Clerk

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

February 11, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 11th day of February, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 5th day of February, 2025. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office. A proof of publication is filed in 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 was present to discuss various roads in the County. Road's Department-St. Paul have been cutting trees. Elba-will be using the mulcher. She has had several individuals interested in the Road's maintenance positions.

Mail –

Email from NDOT regarding CCTV Cameras

Money for Minutes Award

Register for Central District Meeting

Public Hearing Notice from City of St. Paul

Monthly Summary from Hamilton

Unfinished Business – None.

Public Hearing-Open Gravel Bids/Open Hauling Bids-

Urbanski made a motion to open the public hearing at 9:01 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The gravel and hauling bids were opened. Bids received were from: Hooker Bros. Sand and Gravel, Legacy Rock N Sand LLC, Liberty Sand and Gravel, Mid-Nebraska Aggregate and Ulrich Sand and Gravel. Hauling Bids were received from Legacy Rock N Sand LLC and Wilson River Bottom Express. Lukasiewicz made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:23 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the gravel and hauling bids as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

NIRMA Safety Shorts-Freezing Weather- Back in July 2024, a failure to maintain heat exclusion had been added to NIRMA's coverage document. If the insured fails to heat in a structure or do not drain equipment or shut off the water supply to plumbing and pipes freeze, NIRMA would not pay on the claim.

Extension Update-Kayla Nilson, Maddie Werner – Kayla Hinrichs, Kayla Nilson and Maddie Werner were present to introduce Kayla Nilson and Maddie Werner to the Board. They both explained what their duties are for Howard County. The Board discussed what opportunities the Extension program offered to students in school, and job and education opportunities after high school.

Howard County Extension 2024 Annual Report- The Board reviewed the 2024 Extension Annual Report with Kayla Hinrichs. Urbanski made a motion to approve the 2024 Annual Extension Report as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Road's Shop Building – County Building Committee members, Janet Thomsen, Jerry Thompson and Rob Schultz were present to update the Board on the progress of the shop building. Currently, they are working to finish installing the roof. The windows have been covered with plastic. Mr. Schultz asked if it might be possible to have the contractor provide updates once a month on the progress of the building.

Land Purchase/Purchase Agreement- Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman met with the Howard County Ag Society regarding purchasing additional land (approximately 3.05 acres) from the Ag Society in the amount of \$31,500.00. The Ag Society is in agreement. Lukasiewicz made a motion to move forward on the purchase of land from the Ag Society by having the County Surveyor, Tim Aitken, survey the land to get a legal description of the property and have Deputy County Attorney, Heather Sikyta write up a purchase agreement and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Dan Howard-County Attorney/Possible Executive Session – Police Chief Dan Howard sent a text to Ms. Hirschman this morning that he would not be present at the meeting. This item had been placed on the agenda per Mr. Howard so no discussion was held on this item.

Courthouse Door – Commissioners discussed the west entrance door which does not have a panic bar on the door. Mr. Koperski was instructed to contact Island Glass to get a quote to add the panic bar for safety reasons.

Audit Documents- Auditor, Jada Thompson was not present but stated in a phone conversation prior to the meeting to Kathy Hirschman that the audit went very well. Ms. Hirschman stated that the Treasurer and Clerk did a great job with the audit running smoothly. The Board reviewed a list of Journal Entries made by the Auditor, the financial statement transmittal and approval to be signed by the Treasurer and Clerk. The Contryman Associates PC Representation Letter needs to be signed by Board Chair, Treasurer and Clerk. Lukasiewicz made a motion to have the Board Chair, Treasurer and Clerk sign the audit documents for the auditor as requested and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Nebraska Broadband Equity Project Grants – The Clerk had received an email from Rachel Kilcoin, Communications Director for the Nebraska Broadband Office regarding the Nebraska Broadband Equity, Access, & Deployment (NBEAD) Last-mile Broadband Deployment Project Grants. The Clerk had reached out to the County's IT person at Hamilton's to find out if Howard County would be eligible for this grant.

The Clerk wanted to see if the grant would be available to provide fiber optic to the courthouse. Hamilton's had not gotten back with the Clerk prior to the meeting. Urbanski made a motion and seconded by Lukasiewicz to move forward on the grant process. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

County Attorney's Office-New Computer –Deputy Attorney, Heather Sikyta was present to discuss the purchase of a new computer for the attorney's office. The current computer will not work and she has been using her personal computer for the attorney's office. Ms. Sikyta reached out to Hamilton Information Systems to get a quote on a new computer set up for the Attorney's office. The quote is \$2,362.99 for the computer and additional equipment to be compatible with the secretary's computer. The office had previously purchased a new copier in October, 2024. A new computer was not budgeted for and would take them over budget. Urbanski made a motion to approve paying for the new computer out of miscellaneous in the miscellaneous general fund in the amount of \$2,362.99, and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Plaque for Existing Bench-Sheriff Mike Hoff – Sheriff Mike Hoff and Clerk Magistrate Lisa Johnson were present to discuss placing a plaque on one of the County benches located on the third floor, outside the courtroom in memory of former County Attorney, Dave Schroeder. There would be no cost to the County. Urbanski made a motion to place a plaque in memory of Mr. Schroeder on a County bench and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

The Road Work Session-The Road Work Session started at 10:30 a.m. Present were Janet Thomsen, Ray Hurt, and Jerry Thompson and all three Commissioners. Discussed was the One and Six Year Plan, who is responsible for trees etc. in the County road ditches (County right-of-way), planting crops to the edge of the road, new bridge inspections, bridges, upgrade instead of replace bridges, maintainer routes, stop signs to be replaced, number of employees needed, and equipment. The session ended at 1:40 p.m.

Urbanski left the meeting at 12:14 p.m. to attend another meeting.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the claims dated 2/11/2025, and the minutes dated 1/28/2025. Reports from the Clerk, District Court, Treasurer and Sheriff's office were reviewed Motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Hirschman to approve the claims dated 2/11/2025, General-\$88,521.15 and Roads-\$53,976.54, Road's Buyback Program-\$1,652.82, Canine Cost-\$274.98, Inheritance Tax Fund-\$141,178.64 and 911 Emergency Management Fund-\$839.51 for a total of \$286,443.64, minutes dated 1/28/2025, Clerk, District Court, Treasurer and Sheriff's Reports and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Hirschman and seconded by Lukasiewicz to adjourn the meeting at 1:52 p.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 February 25, 2025.

Dated this 11th day of February, 2025.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk

HOWARD COUNTY SPECIAL BOARD MINUTES

Howard COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

February 20, 2025, St. Paul, Nebraska

The Howard County Board of Commissioners of Howard County, Nebraska, met in special session at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 20, 2025, in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Courthouse in St. Paul, Nebraska.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order, and Commissioners present for roll call were Kirt Lukasiewicz, Kathy Hirschman, and Jessie Urbanski. Also present is County Clerk Brenda Klanecky.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Hirschman also 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. Notice of the special meeting was given thereof on the 12th day of February, 2025, a proof of publication filed in the Clerk's office. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse. Copies of the agenda are kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office.

There was no public comment.

The Board of Commissioners reviewed the application for Howard County Attorney. Commissioner Urbanski and Sheriff Hoff will interview the applicant before the next regular Board meeting scheduled for February 25, 2025, and make a recommendation for the Howard County Attorney appointment to the Board.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski to adjourn the special meeting at 9:15 a.m. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting adjourned.

Dated this 20th day of February, 2025

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

February 25, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 25th day of February, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 19th day of February, 2025. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, delivered to each Commissioner, and kept current and available to the public at the Clerk's office. A proof of publication is filed in the Clerk's office.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order at 8:57 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 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 was present to discuss the following:

Condition of Roads Notification Protocol-Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen was also present during this discussion. Commissioner Lukasiewicz was concerned that the schools were not getting proper notification on the conditions of county roads. Ms. Thomsen explained that at the beginning of the school year she sends out a letter to each of the three schools located in Howard County to provide the Road's Department with a copy of their bus routes. She includes her contact information for the schools to contact the Road's Department 24/7. Mr. Wilshusen explained that the County has the Code Red alert to contact the public in case of emergencies. The National Weather Service puts on a webinar on the weather to the schools and several other organizations usually the day before inclement weather.

Review Employee Applications-Urbanski made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:13 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz to review employee applications. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Those present in executive session were the Commissioners and Janet Thomsen. Hirschman stated that the Board was going into executive session to review employee applications at 10:13 a.m. Urbanski made a motion to come out of executive session at 11:03 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to have Thomsen and Hirschman perform interviews and bring recommendations back to the Board, and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Late Gravel Bid Approve/Deny – The County Clerk received a late gravel bid from Central Sand and Gravel on February 19, 2025. Urbanski made a motion to deny the bid due to the bid being received late and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Mail –

Letter from NDEE regarding Lukasiewicz Feeding Operation

Central District Meeting Draft Agenda

(2) Letters from NIRMA

Update on Blase Livestock Pens

Unfinished Business – None.

SCEDD Update-Sharon Hueftle- Executive Director of SCEDD, Sharon Hueftle was present to give the Board an update and review on the SCEDD 2024 Annual Report, re-development Information, broadband updates, housing, and Home NE Learning Network were among the topics discussed.

County Attorney Position-Recommendation by Interview Committee- Sheriff Hoff, Heather Sikyta, Josh Salter and Kathryn Harouff were present during the discussion. Sheriff Hoff and Jessie Urbanski were on the interview committee. Mr. Hoff recommends that the Commissioners appoint Heather Sikyta to the position of Howard County Attorney. Mr. Urbanski agreed.

Possible Appointment of County Attorney – Urbanski made a motion to approve appointing Heather Sikyta as Howard County Attorney and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman thanked Sheriff Hoff and Mr. Urbanski for their work on the interview process. Clerk Magistrate, Lisa Johnson administered the oath of office for Heather Sikyta as Howard County Attorney during the meeting.

Sheriff Dept. – Evidence Guns Sale- Sheriff Mike Hoff was present to discuss surplus evidence guns. Ms. Sikyta and her staff have researched the process of disposing of the guns. Mr. Hoff stated most of the guns would probably need to be destroyed per State Statute.

Brennan’s Lawn Care Inc.-Fertilizer Estimate – Motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski to approve Brennan’s Lawn Care Fertilizer Bid in the amount of \$1,550.00. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

West Door Courthouse Estimates- Pat Koperski was present to discuss the estimates received from Island Glass. Urbanski made a motion to approve Estimate W17016 for \$1,161.00, to install a panic bar in the current door and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Audit – Urbanski made a motion to approve the Audit for July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

SDL-Rotary Club – The Board reviewed the Special Designated License application for the Rotary International of St. Paul, Nebraska to be held on March 21-22, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. each night at the Howard County Fairgrounds in the Annex Building. Urbanski made a motion to approve the application and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Point C Funding-Bank Change Request- The Clerk had received a Bank Change Request from Point C. Currently, a custodial account is located at one bank and Point C would like to move it to another bank. The County has two options. Option 1- The County would have complete control of a bank account and funding and Point C would pull funds from the account. Option 2- The County would send a check as we currently do and it would be deposited in a holding account in the County’s name to fund claims as we currently do. Urbanski made a motion to approve Option 2 and authorize the County Clerk to sign the

Client Banking Election Form and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Review Catastrophic Illness Donation— The Clerk has received information from several Clerks regarding their policies on catastrophic illness donation. The Board discussed items they would like to have included in the policy and the limitations. The Board agreed to have the Employee Handbook Committee meet and put together a policy, have it reviewed by the County Attorney, and bring back to the Board for the March 11, 2025, Commissioner Meeting. This amendment to the policy would also need to be approved by the Union.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 2/25/2025, and the minutes dated 2/11/2025. Motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski to approve the payroll and claims dated 2/25/2025, General-\$241,387.82 and Roads-\$69,111.63, for a total of \$310,499.45, and minutes dated 2/11/2025, and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, 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 12:06 p.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 March 11, 2025.

Dated this 25th day of February, 2025.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

March 11, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 11th day of March, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 5th day of March, 2025. 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. A proof of publication is filed in 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 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 was present to discuss the following:

Review Employee Applications-Executive Session-This item was held in open session. Ms. Thomsen and Chairman Hirschman had interviewed five applicants. They recommended to offer employment to three of the applicants. Lukasiewicz made a motion to offer employment to the three applicants recommended by Thomsen and Hirschman and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Clay for Road Projects-Ms. Thomsen reported that clay would not be available from the Loup Central Landfill due to highway projects in the area this summer. Ms. Thomsen stated clay would be needed for some of the roads and possibly to fill in around bridge wings. Discussion was held regarding where the clay has been obtained in the past and where it could be obtained in the future. Ms. Thomsen wanted to make the Board aware of the situation.

Computer Storage Upgrade-Ms. Thomsen stated that the Road's Department would be switching email accounts due to the current one being full. She has enough money in her budget to cover the cost estimated to be \$300.00.

Mail –

Nebraska State Fire Marshall-Fire Alarm Test Report

Kevin Lukasiewicz-Approval to Operate LWCF

Kevin Lukasiewicz-NPDES General Permit for Operations

George Jensen-Issued Permit-Modified Construction and Operating

2026 Juvenile Services Commission Grant Program (JS)

Hamilton-Howard County Government Monthly Report

Letter from State of Nebraska Department of Transportation

NIRMA-Spotlight Seminar Series

Unfinished Business – None.

Administrative Subdivision-Commander's Corner-Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith was present to discuss the application for an Administrative Subdivision regarding Commander's Corner for Michael and Holly Sack. After discussion, Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the Commander's Corner Administrative Subdivision and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Broadband Recommendation Update- The Clerk had been contacted by Nextlink Internet requesting that the County provide them with a letter of support to be included with the NE BEAD Grant they are submitting. Board members have spoken with SCEDD regarding the different internet companies applying for the grant and stated the County could have several companies wanting support letters. SCEDD provided questions to ask the companies before writing the letters of support. Nextlink will be on the agenda for March 25, 2025, Commissioner Meeting.

Approve/Deny ESI-Cellular Alarm Communicator Proposal – Pat Koperski was present to discuss the proposal received from Electronic Systems, Inc. to add on a cellular alarm communicator. The courthouse was experiencing some issues with the smoke alarm panel when the internet provider was performing updates during the work day. No issues have come up since this time. Urbanski made a motion to deny the ESI Cellular Alarm Communicator and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye.

Generator and Electrical Issues-911 Center-Tim Wood- Tim Wood and Pat Henry with Powertech as well as Chief Dispatcher, Melissa Paxton, Deputy Jerome Thurnau, and Emergency Manager, Allen Willshusen were present to discuss the generator located at the 911 Center. The generator has been having mechanical issues which worsened during a recent power outage. County officials are concerned the generator may not work if we have future outages. After much discussion it was determined the purchase of a new generator met the criteria of being an emergency purchase to protect against threats of serious loss of life, health, or property in the county according to State Statute and the bidding requirements could be waived. Grants were discussed. General consensus was that Howard County could not wait for grant funds to be approved and available to purchase a generator. Mr. Henry stated that Powertech would provide a portable generator to be used until the new generator would be installed at no additional cost. The labor was not included in the estimate but he stated it would be approximately \$21,000.00, for purchase of the generator and installation. Lukasiewicz made a motion to waive the bidding requirements of the County Purchasing Act per the emergency purchase clause in State Statute 23-3109 and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and

Urbanski, Aye. Also discussed was the electrical in the 911 Center. The Commissioners asked Ms. Paxton to contact electricians to obtain bids on updating the electrical in the 911 Center.

Generator Emergency Purchase-911 Center-

Urbanski made a motion to approve the Powertech estimate and verbal agreement regarding labor, not to exceed \$21,000.00 for the purchase and installation of a Kohler generator and use of a portable generator until such time as the new generator is installed with funding from the 911 Holding Fund and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Hirschman thanked Tim Wood for all of his help in keeping the generators at the 911 Center and at the tower by Farwell running over the years.

Hirschman left the meeting to attend a funeral at 10:22 a.m.

Approve/Deny Nance County Dispatch Merge – Chief Dispatcher, Melissa Paxton and Deputy Jerome Thurnau were present to discuss merging Nance County Dispatch to Howard County Dispatch. Currently, Nance County is being serviced by Boone County. Nance County would like to have the service transferred to Howard County at the beginning of the next fiscal year which begins on July 1, 2025. Ms. Paxton provided the Commissioners with some estimated costs. Much discussion followed regarding costs to be able to accommodate the merge and any future mergers and where the money would come from to make the improvements. The Commissioners asked Ms. Paxton and Mr. Thurnau to provide solid numbers for the next meeting. Nance County is required to provide Boone County a 90-day notice to terminate services. Ms. Paxton asked the Commissioners if they wished to pursue the merger? Nance County would need to provide the notice of termination to Boone County by the end of March. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the Nance County Dispatch merge and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Absent; and Urbanski, Aye.

Approve/Deny Appoint Alternate- South Central Economic Dev. - Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the appointment of Laura Berthelsen as the alternate for the South Central Economic Development Representative for Howard County and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Absent; and Urbanski, Aye.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the claims dated 3/11/2025, and the regular minutes for the Board of Equalization and Commissioner Meetings dated 2/25/2025.; and the Special Meeting Minutes dated February 20, 2025. Reports from the Clerk, District Court, Treasurer and Sheriff's office were reviewed. Motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski to approve the claims dated 3/11/2025, General-\$99,895.95 and Roads-\$31,917.59, Tourist Improvement Fund-\$1349.00, Tourist Promotion Fund-\$612.00, Canine Cost-\$1,576.24, Inheritance Tax Fund-\$149,766.64 and 911 Emergency Management Fund-\$839.51 for a total of \$285,956.93, minutes dated 2/20/2025 and 2/25/2025, Clerk, District Court, Treasurer and Sheriff's Reports and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Absent; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 a.m. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman,

Absent; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be March 25, 2025.

Dated this 11th day of March, 2025.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST: Brenda Klanecky
 Howard County Clerk

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

March 25, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 25th day of March, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 19th day of March, 2025. 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. A proof of publication is filed in 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 was present to discuss the following:

Road Employee Applicants-At the last meeting the Board recommended adding three new employees to the Road's Department. Currently, two new employees have accepted employment with the County. After discussion, it was decided to not fill a third position at this time. The Road's Department will continue to accept applications.

Paul Street Asphalt-Ms. Thomsen received an estimate of \$304,000.00 to re-surface a ½ mile portion of Paul Street in the County's jurisdiction, from Lance Harder with Oak Creek Engineering. After discussion, the consensus was to go out for bids.

Summer Hours-Jerry Thompson, President/Business Manager of the IBEW 1597 was present to discuss county road's employees summer hours. Some of the employees would like to work nine-hour days, Monday-Thursday and leave at noon on Fridays. This will be discussed during union negotiations.

Federal Bridge Grants- Ms. Thomsen received notice that Howard County was one of twenty-three counties to be accepted for federal bridge grants. At this time no further information was available especially as to what the dollar matches would be.

14th and Hardy Rd. Drainage Issue- The Commissioners received correspondence from a landowner regarding drainage in this area. The Commissioners have been in contact with the landowner as well as a neighboring landowner regarding the situation. The Road's Department will be cleaning out cornstalks from the ditches.

NDOT County Road Inventory-Ms. Thomsen received information from the Nebraska Department of Transportation and what they are working on. She requested a new Road Map from them at the conclusion of the updates on the roads.

Mail –

Kori Ostendorf-NACO Medicare Assistance

Opioid Settlement

Upcoming NACO Workshops

Svoboda Benefit Solutions-Broker Compensation Disclosure Form

Planning and Zoning Letter dated March 11, 2025

Men's Health Month

FY26 Community-based Juvenile Services

Unfinished Business – None.

Approve/Deny HCMC-Arlan Johnson-Recommend Board Member-CEO Arlan Johnson of the Howard County Medical Center was present to recommend Alex Borzych fill the vacant position of former board member, Dave Brehm at Howard County Medical Center. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve Alex Borzych as a board member at the Howard County Medical Center and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Update-Nance County Dispatch Merger- Sheriff, Mike Hoff, Head Dispatcher, Melissa Paxton, Deputy, Jerome Thurneau, and Chief Deputy, Paul Tartaglia were present to discuss the updates on the Nance County Dispatch Merger. Ms. Paxton had contacted three electricians and received two quotes back. There were some electrical ad-ons and the electricians were to be contacted again regarding cost of the ad-ons. Ms. Paxton is currently waiting for a quote from Lumen for 911 service. Costs for an extra station were discussed as well as tower and radio updates. This item has been placed on the next agenda. The commissioners would like solid numbers as to what the total costs will be and confirmation from Nance County that they wish to move their 911 dispatch services to Howard County.

Sheriff's Office-SRT Fund/Resolution 2025-7 –Sheriff Mike Hoff, Chief Deputy, Paul Tartaglia, Deputy Jerome Thurneau, and Treasurer, Sara Roy were present to discuss the SRT Fund. Following clarification from the State Auditor's office, Resolution 2025-7 was not necessary. Several area agencies belong to the Special Response Team. The agencies would like to have their funds located in one location (Howard County). Each agency would deposit money into this single fund. The Clerk reached out to the State Auditor's office for guidance. A special fund would be created with money deposited into said fund by the County Treasurer. Claims would

be paid out by the County Board through the claims process and reflected in the County Budget according to statutory requirements. All parties were in agreement to the recommendation of the State Auditor's office.

Sheriff's Dept. Copier/Printer Lease- The Service Agreement on the copier/printer located in the Sheriff's office is approximately seven to eight years old. Eakes had quoted a new Ricoh copier/printer at a much higher cost than the current lease agreement. Mr. Hoff stated his office would keep using the current copier/printer.

Casey Muzic-Midland Area on Aging FY26 and FY27-Casey Muzic with Midland Area on Aging was present to discuss FY26 funding. Ms. Muzic requests leaving the funding the same as FY25. Urbanski made a motion to approve FY26 funding in the amount of \$23,609 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Support Letter for Nextlink Internet for BEAD Grant –Benjamin Dennis and Jim Ediger with Hamilton Business were present during a phone call with Ebony Cooksley with Nextlink, one of the companies applying for the BEAD grant for Howard County. Among the items discussed were the use of fiber vs. wireless and locations. Nextlink was requesting a letter of support to include with their BEAD Grant application. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve providing a letter of support to Nextlink and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

County Road's Building Update – The Board received a project schedule of events from Mid Plains Construction Co. dating from March 10, 2025 to May 1, 2025. The cement floor has been poured on the east side of the building in the office area. Interior construction, electrical, plumbing and HVAC are scheduled to be completed during this timeframe. The commissioners were given a possible completion date of July 4, 2025. Ms. Thomsen is looking into a fuel tank. She will also be checking into internet service for the building.

SDL Application-Bootlegger Inc.-The Commissioners reviewed the Special Designated License application for Bootlegger Inc. for a fundraiser event for the Ag Society Foundation, taking place in the Annex Building at the fairgrounds on April 26, 2025 from noon to 11:59 p.m. A copy of the certificate of liability insurance was attached. Urbanski made a motion to approve the Special Designated License application for Bootlegger Inc. on April 26, 2025 from noon to 11:59 p.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

First Amendment to Tax Credit Purchase Agreement-The First Amendment to Tax Credit Purchase Agreement is to extend the outside closing date from March 31, 2025 to June 30, 2025. Urbanski made a motion to approve Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the Tax Credit

Purchase Agreement extending the closing date to June 30, 2025 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Public Spirited Citizen Representative-The Clerk spoke with Bridget Brockman and Amanda Jeffres with the Loup Basin Public Health Department. Howard County is required to have a representative from the Board of Commissioners as well as a public-spirited citizen. Kirt Lukasiewicz had previously been appointed on the board in January 2025. According to the Interlocal Agreement between the Loup Basin Public Health Department and several counties including Howard County, the County is required to appoint a public-spirited citizen. The commissioners will come back with recommendations at the next meeting.

SBA NE Dist. Office & NE Dept. of Economic Dev. Announcement- The Clerk received an email from the Nebraska District Office of the US Small Business Administration stating that Howard County was one of six counties selected and designated as HUBZones for the purpose of creating new market opportunities for business growth.

Budget Proposal Bids/Audit-The costs for County Budget preparation and Audits have increased significantly. The Board would like the Clerk to check with other counties to see what other accountant firms are available and to go out for bids.

Union Negotiations-The Board received a letter dated March 4, 2025 from Jerry Thompson, President/Business Manager IBEW 1597, stating the Union is requesting to meet with representatives of the County to negotiate changes to the Agreement for the Road's Department. The current contract will end June 30, 2025. The second letter was dated March 20, 2025, from Mr. Thompson stating the Union is terminating the agreement between Howard County Classified Workers in the Offices of Howard County Clerk, Assessor, Treasurer, Extension/Planning/Zoning and 911 Dispatchers effective June 30, 2025. Following discussion, Lukasiewicz made a motion to designate Kathy Hirschman to represent the County to negotiate with the Union IBEW Local 1957 and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 3/25/2025, and the regular and BOE minutes for the Commissioner Meetings dated 3/11/2025. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to approve the payroll and claims dated 3/25/2025, General-\$243,258.38 and Roads-\$63,930.88, for a total of \$307,189.26, and minutes dated 3/11/2025 and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, 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 1:06 p.m. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye;

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

April 8, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 8th day of April, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 2nd day of April, 2025. 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. A proof of publication is filed in 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 was present to discuss the following:

Stop Sign 6th and Gordon-A landowner asked about installing a stop sign at the intersection of 6th and Gordon. Ms. Thomsen provided pictures of the area. In order to install a stop sign, an engineering study needs to be completed per regulations. A tree and brush in the area will be removed to help the view. Urbanski made a motion to approve doing an engineering study at the 6th and Gordon intersection and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Various county roads were discussed and prioritized. Ms. Thomsen stated that she had received an application and would like to interview the applicant. Ms. Hirschman volunteered to conduct the interview with Ms. Thomsen. All commissioners were in agreement.

Mail –

Kori Ostendorf-NACO Medicare Assistance-Dates to come to Howard County
Upcoming NACO Workshops
Email-Ebony Cooksley
Hamilton Monthly Report
Receipt- Historic Tax Credits
Correspondence-State Fire Marshall and Rasmussen Mechanical
NACO Legislative Report

Unfinished Business – None.

Public Hearing P&Z Re-zone Blase Co. LLC-Eric Blase-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. Those present were Planning Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith, Brandon Connick, and Cassidy Van Meter. An application to re-zone the NW ¼ of 31-14-9, from Light Industrial (I-1) to Agricultural Transitional District (A-2). The Planning and Zoning Board had approved the application on March 26, 2025. Following discussion, Urbanski made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:09 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the re-zone of Blase Co. LLC in the NW ¼ of 31-14-9, from I-1 to A-2, and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Public Hearing P & Z-Conditional Use Permit-Ken Kohohf -Urbanski made a motion to open the public hearing at 9:15 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Those present were Planning Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith, Ken Kohohf and Dick Hadenfeldt. Ms. Klinginsmith explained the application for the conditional use permit on a pivot corner which consists of 1.61 acres. The Planning and Zoning Board had approved the application with two conditions. 1. There would be a maximum of 15 trailers parked on the land for sale and 2. that the landowner must maintain a dealer's license or the conditional use permit would become null and void. Lukasiewicz made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:24 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the conditional use permit for Ken Kohohf and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Isaiah Graham-Petition to vacate 1 mile of 8th Avenue – Isaiah and Emily Graham and Nick Busch were present to discuss the vacate of one mile of 8th Avenue between Friend Road and Gordon Road. Janet Thomsen was also present during the discussion. Mr. Graham presented a petition to vacate a portion of 8th Avenue, documentation and photos to share with the commissioners. The next step to vacate the road would be to have the highway superintendent perform a road study. If approved by the commissioners, the highway superintendent has 30 days to complete the road study. The date would be May 8, 2025, if approved at today's meeting. Following the completion of a road study, a public hearing would be scheduled. The public hearing is required to be published for three consecutive weeks. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the highway superintendent to perform a road study on 8th Avenue and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Benjamin Dennis-Bead Grant-Letter of Support - Support Letter for Nextlink Internet for BEAD Grant –Benjamin Dennis with Hamilton Telecommunications was present to request a letter of

support for two grants being applied for by Nedelco, Incorporated, a branch of Hamilton Telecommunications for projects 61 and 63 located in Howard County. Mr. Dennis gave a little history on Hamilton Telecommunications. He explained the project areas and answered questions from the commissioners. Both projects would be 100% fiber. Urbanski made a motion to approve providing a letter of support for the BEAD Grant applications for both projects and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Annual Noxious Weed Program Evaluation- Weed Superintendent, Rob Schultz was present to discuss the reports and requirements from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Noxious Weed Program. There were three open files as of the end of 2024. All three landowners continue to remedy the weed situation. The commissioners appreciate the work done by Mr. Schultz. Urbanski made a motion to approve the reports and requirements summary and authorize Kathy Hirschman to sign the acknowledgment and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

County Roads Building Update-Ms. Thomsen provided pictures of the work being done on the inside of the building. Internet will be available through Viaero. Issues with the doors are being resolved. Shelving for the parts area will be built by County employees. Discussion on the fuel tank including size and location was held.

Facility Managers Organization-the Pilot Program-Jerry Berggren with Berggren Architects had reached out to Howard County regarding a pilot program their company was spearheading. They plan to have regularly scheduled zoom meetings for the maintenance department regarding the buildings. Following discussion, a motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz not to participate in the pilot program. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The Clerk will send an email to Mr. Berggren regarding the Board's decision.

Pat Koperski-Courthouse Maintenance Update – The commissioners took a tour of the 4th floor with Mr. Koperski. Surplus equipment was discussed. Upon returning to the commissioner room, discussion continued regarding portions of the sidewalk that were damaged last fall were being replaced today, also discussed was how to repair the damage to the lawn. Mr. Urbanski contacted someone to get some input on getting the necessary repairs completed and the cost. Ms. Hirschman has been working with Pella to replace the windows that were not working properly. Rasmussen Mechanical will be here this week to take care of the deficiencies during the State Fire Marshal's inspection of the boiler system.

Sheriff's Office-Copier Lease Agreement-Sheriff Mike Hoff was present to discuss another copier lease agreement. His current agreement is considerably less than the one quoted. The copier is still working and he wants to stay with the current agreement.

Update-Nance County Dispatch Merger- Sheriff, Mike Hoff, Head Dispatcher, Melissa Paxton, and Chief Deputy, Paul Tartaglia were present to discuss the updates on the Nance County Dispatch Merger. Ms. Paxton and Mr. Tartaglia had attended the Nance County Commissioner meeting earlier in the morning during a discussion regarding Nance County merging their dispatch services to Howard County. Nance County did not vote on the merger. This will be on their agenda on April 22, 2025. Ms. Paxton provided the commissioners with a list of vendors and costs. They are still waiting for a quote from Lumen. Quotes were received for electrical, desks, carpet and construction. The updates on the 911 Center will be on the Howard County Medical Center's April 30th Agenda, as they own the building. The commissioners instructed Ms. Paxton and Mr. Tartaglia to get on the schedule for an electrician, carpenter and carpet layer. These projects will be contingent on the Medical Center approving the improvements to the building on April 30th. Two members from the Nance County Fire and Rescue were present during the discussion. The Nance County Dispatch Merger will be placed on the April 22, 2025, agenda later in the morning to allow time for Nance County to vote on the issue.

Consulting Services Agreement –Ms. Paxton presented an agreement with SCG Consulting Services LLC in the amount of \$5,000.00 to integrate Nance Co 911/Dispatching into Howard County 911 Operation. The agreement was reviewed and discussed. Urbanski made a motion to approve Kathy Hirschman signing the agreement with SCG Consulting Services and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Public Spirited Citizen Appointment-Lukasiewicz volunteered to find someone to fill the position and bring back to a meeting for approval.

Nebraska Choice Gas Supplier-Courthouse and Roads Dept. – The commissioners reviewed and compared the price per therm of available gas suppliers. Urbanski made a motion to approve Wood River Energy for the courthouse and Legacy Natural Gas for the St. Paul and Dannebrog Roads Department Buildings all at the fixed rate for one year and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 4/8/2025, the regular minutes for the Commissioner Meeting dated 3/25/2025, and the Clerks, District Court, Treasurer, and Attorney Reports. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to approve the payroll and claims dated 4/8/2025, General-\$42,700.46, Roads-\$60,347.78, Canine Cost-\$68.88, Inheritance Tax Fund-\$262,188.25, 911 Emergency Management-\$839.51, and E911 Wireless Holding Fund-\$2,500.00 for a total of \$368,644.88, the Commissioner meeting minutes dated 3/25/2025 and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes and the reports from the Clerk, District Court, Treasurer and Attorney. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

April 22, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 22nd day of April, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 16th day of April, 2025. 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. A proof of publication is filed in 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, Absent. 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 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 was present to discuss the following:

Setting Hearing Date for One and Six Year Plan-Lukasiewicz made a motion to set the One and Six Year Plan for May 27, 2025 at 9:15 a.m. and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent. The Commissioners had asked Ms. Thomsen for a preliminary one and six year plan to review at the next meeting.

Personnel-Road Employee-Possible Hire-Lukasiewicz made a motion to authorize Ms. Thomsen to offer a road worker position to an individual that had recently been interviewed and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent. Various county roads were discussed and prioritized.

Mail –

Kori Ostendorf-NACO Medicare Assistance-Dates to come to Howard County
MIPS Website Update/Increased Fee
SAMS (System for Awards Management) Renewal
Opioid Settlement Correspondence
SFY 2026 Title II Formula Grant Program

Central NE Community Action Partnership 2024 Annual Report
Unfinished Business – None.

Department of Revenue Reports and Opinions-Property Tax Administrator-Neal Dethlefs-Mr. Dethlefs was present to explain the 2025 Preliminary Draft Statistics using 2024 Values. This information correlated with information found in the Department of Revenue Reports and Opinions. Mr. Dethlefs answered questions from the Commissioners.

County Road Building Update-Ms. Thomsen stated a walk through had been done last week. Currently, the electrical and data portion are being worked on. Viaero will provide internet service. Also discussed were an air compressor and fuel tank.

Approve/Deny GIS Map-Re-zoned from I-1 to A-2 –Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith presented maps to the Commissioners showing the changes in Section 31, Range 14, Township 9 Re-zone 10 acres located in Section 31, Range 14, Township 9, from I-1 to A-2, which had been approve by the Commissioners on April 8, 2025. The Commissioners reviewed the map showing the change in Section 31-Range 14, Township 9. Ms. Klinginsmith presented a resolution directing the Planning and Zoning Administrator to amend the Howard County Zoning Map in Section 31, Township 14N, Range 9 W of 6th P.M. accordingly and republish the Map as amended. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve **Resolution 2025-7** as presented by Ms. Klinginsmith and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

Executive Session-Protect Public Interest- Lukasiewicz made a motion to go into executive session at 10:37 a.m. to Protect Public Interest and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent. Hirschman stated that the Commissioners were going into executive session at 10:37 a.m. to Protect Public Interest. Those present in executive session are Lukasiewicz, Hirschman, and Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith. Lukasiewicz made a motion to come out of executive session at 11:27 a.m. and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent. No action taken.

Courthouse Lawn Repair-Review Estimate-Possible Action –The bid to repair the courthouse lawn came in over \$10,000.00. The Commissioners agreed to put repairs on hold and go out for additional bids for the repairs.

Approve/Deny Nebraska Fire Sprinkler –The Commissioners reviewed the proposal from Nebraska Fire Sprinkler. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the proposal from Nebraska Fire Sprinkler for the annual fire sprinkler inspection and report of inspection and seconded by Hirschman. Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

Cost Analysis and Nance County Dispatch Merger- Sheriff, Mike Hoff, Head Dispatcher, Melissa Paxton, and Chief Deputy, Paul Tartaglia were present to discuss the Howard-Nance 911 Dispatch Consolidation Costs to include the one-time and recurring annual costs. Contractors are in place to begin renovations upon approval by the Howard County Medical Center Board on April 30, 2025. It was decided that the 911 Center will be able to operate with the two equipped stations. A third station will be added but not fully functional until additional funds are available. A new fund will need to be created by the Treasurer and Clerk to deposit and budget funds received from Nance County for the 911 wireless funds Nance County receives. Howard County will be obligated to use sixty-two percent of the 911 wireless funds from Nance County to update the GIS mapping system for Nance County each year. Twelve percent of the funds paid by Nance County and the remainder of the wireless funds from Nance County will be allocated exclusively to the Howard County Communications Center annually. The agreement will run perpetually unless one of the parties decides to terminate.

Interlocal Agreement – Sheriff Hoff, Ms. Paxton and Chief Deputy, Paul Tartaglia attended the Nance County Commissioner meeting in Fullerton at 9:30 a.m. and brought back the approved and signed Interlocal Agreement. After review of the Interlocal Agreement, Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement for Dispatching of Law Enforcement and Emergency Services between Howard County and Nance County effective July 1, 2025, and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 4/22/2025, the regular minutes for the Commissioner Meeting dated 4/8/2025, and the Sheriff's Report. Motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Hirschman to approve the payroll and claims dated 4/22/2025, General-\$260,717.13, Roads-\$66,186.49, Canine Cost-\$83.98, and 911 Emergency Management-\$341.90, for a total of \$327,329.50, the Commissioner meeting minutes dated 4/8/2025 and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes and the report from the Sheriff. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Hirschman to adjourn the meeting at 12:56 p.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 May 13, 2025.

Dated this 22nd day of April, 2025.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

May 13, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 13th day of May, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 7th day of May 2025. 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. A proof of publication is filed in 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 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 was present to discuss the following: Personnel- One employee had resigned last Friday. Ms. Thomsen asked if the Board would want to look at hiring a new employee. It was the consensus of the Commissioners to hold off on hiring a new employee. Jerry Thompson and Jamison Rawlings were present along with Ms. Thomsen to discuss the amount of training Mr. Rawlings has received to spray weeds. Mr. Urbanski stated he would speak with the Weed Superintendent regarding training.

Review Preliminary One- and Six-Year Plan-Ms. Thomsen provided the Board with a copy of the traffic count from Jansen Road to the Lake of the Woods. The Preliminary One- and Six-Year Plan was reviewed and discussed were completed, current and future road projects. The Public Hearing for the One- and Six-Year Plan has been scheduled for June 24, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Game & Parks Three Wildlife Management Areas-Grading-Mark Feeney with Nebraska Game and Parks Wildlife Management, was present to speak with the Commissioners regarding grading roads on the following areas: Marsh Wren Wildlife Management, Leonard A. Kozial Wildlife Management and Harold Andersen Wildlife Management which would be approximately one and a half miles of roads. The roads would need to be maintained during late May through the first of September. These roads would be graded when the operator is grading the County roads in that area. This item will be brought to the next meeting to approve

the costs to the County that would be reimbursed by Nebraska Game and Parks. Mr. Feeney will prepare a service agreement for the next meeting.

Mail –

Elevator Inspection Report

MIPs Update

County Website Update

NACO Information regarding Replacement Revenue

Unfinished Business – None.

Public Hearing-5 Over U Subdivision-P. Lukasiewicz-This agenda item was not required to be a public hearing. Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith met with the Commissioners to discuss the application for a single lot subdivision by Philip and Tracey Lukasiewicz. Following discussion, Urbanski made a motion to approve the 5 Over U Subdivision and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Vacate 8th Avenue Road Study-Set Public Hearing Date/Resolution 2025-8 Establishing Public Hearing Date- Isaiah and Emily Graham were present along with Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen, who was advised by the Commissioners at the last Board Meeting to perform a road study on 8th Avenue. The Board reviewed a copy of the road study. The Board accepted the road study which acknowledges that Ms. Thomsen has completed the road study to vacate a portion of 8th Avenue. The public hearing is required to be published for three consecutive weeks. Surrounding landowners will be notified by mail by Ms. Thomsen. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-8, Establishing a Public Hearing Date of June 10, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. regarding the Road Study to Vacate 8th Avenue and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Resolution 2025-9-Local Emergency Operations Plan- Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen presented the LEOP which has been updated in digital form. Mr. Wilshusen recently updated the LEOP which is required to be updated every five years. Urbanski made a motion to approve the updated LEOP in digital form as Resolution 2025-9 as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

2024 Annual Report of Projects (TIF) –St. Paul Development Corporation Executive Director, Parker Klinginsmith mailed a report of the current Tax Increment Financing Projects of the Community Development Agency of the City of St. Paul, Nebraska. The Commissioners reviewed the report. No additional action is required.

BTS Communications-Jon Fischer-308-389-6212- Loren Cleveland and Jon Fischer with BTS Communications were present to discuss the current phone contract that ends in May 2025. A quote was provided to the Board. Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Fischer answered the questions the Board asked. The Board requested that BTS get on the agenda for the May 27th meeting and show the Board the updated phones they are proposing.

County Road's Building Update-Internet Quote- The Board is looking at two options for internet service in the new County Road's Building. Viaero has offered to run service from a tower located close by to the building. Ms. Thomsen provided what the current cost is for Viaero. Ms. Thomsen was asked to contact Starlink for a cost to provide internet. Ms. Thomsen presented a quote from Hamilton for additional wiring for the internet the Board reviewed. Jerry Thompson stated that Blackhills Energy would be running a line for the new building.

Sheriff's Department-Surplus Vehicles –Deputy Sheriff Paul Tartaglia was present to discuss two patrol cars the Sheriff's office would like to have declared as surplus vehicles. The vehicles are a 2013 Dodge Charger (Unit 5) and a 2017 Dodge Charger (Unit 4) which are no longer in use. Mr. Tartaglia was advised to check with Big Iron to see if it was feasible to go through them to sell the vehicles or else sell them by sealed bids. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the 2013 Dodge Charger and 2017 Dodge Charger as surplus vehicles and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Sheriff's Department-Use of Road's Department Building-Deputy Sheriff Paul Tartaglia was present to discuss the use of the Roads Department Building located on Elm Street in St. Paul when the Roads Department moves to the new Roads Building. Mr. Tartaglia presented a proposal to the Commissioners to re-purpose the building for the Sheriff's Department and the Special Response Team (SRT) to do the following: Year-round modular shoot house training; K9 and interagency training space; Secure impound and equipment storage; Housing of a military surplus armored vehicle; Additional workstation space for deputies and Indoor winter vehicle storage and improved officer safety. Discussion followed on how expenses would be paid, including utilities, maintenance, and modifications to the building. No action taken.

Approve/Deny Interlocal Agreement -Juvenile Diversion Services Hall/Howard County –

Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement between Hall and Howard County for the Juvenile Diversion Services as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Set Hearing Dates for Protest Hearings- County Assessor, Neal Dethlefs was present to explain the process to the Board. Landowners have until June 30th to file a protest on valuation of property. Next Board meeting following that date will be July 8th. The deadline to complete everything and have it mailed off is July 25, 2025. The Assessor tries to review the properties

that are being protested prior to the hearing. Urbanski made a motion to set the hearing dates for the Protest Hearings from the afternoon of July 8, 2025, through July 22, 2025, with the closing on July 22, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Set Budget Workshop Dates-Urbanski made a motion to approve setting Budget Workshop dates for June 17th and June 18th, beginning at 9:00 a.m. each day and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Approve/Deny Spirited Citizen Appointment-Kevin Sestak-Urbanski made a motion to approve Kevin Sestak as the Spirited Citizen for Howard County and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the claims dated 5/13/2025, the regular and board of equalization minutes for the Commissioner Meeting dated 4/22/2025, and the Clerk, District Court, Treasurer, Attorney, and Sheriff's Report. Motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski to approve the payroll and claims dated 4/22/2025, General-\$100,843.14, Roads-\$113,042.97, Tourism Improvement Fund-\$975.00, Tourism Promotion Fund-\$1,520.00, Canine Cost-\$19,007.24, Inheritance Fund-\$23,807.12 and 911 Emergency Management-\$2,054.43, for a total of \$261,249.90, the Commissioner meeting minutes dated 4/8/2025 and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes and approve the reports from the Clerk, District Court, Treasurer, Attorney and Sheriff's Department. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski to adjourn the meeting at 12:16 pm. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting Adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be May 27, 2025.

Dated this 13th day of May, 2025.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

May 27, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 27th day of May, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 21st day of May, 2025. 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. A proof of publication is filed in 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 was present to discuss the following:

Game & Parks Three Wildlife Management Areas-Grading-Mark Feeney with Nebraska Game and Parks Wildlife Management, was present to speak with the Commissioners regarding grading roads on the following areas: Marsh Wren Wildlife Management, Leonard A. Kozial Wildlife Management and Harold Andersen Wildlife Management which would be approximately one and a half miles of roads. During discussion the Board and Mr. Feeney agreed that the County would grade each location one time per month for five months, May through September. The cost will be \$1,000.00 per month and any extra work would be billed at \$350.00 per hour. Lukasiewicz made a motion to proceed with a contract for \$1,000.00 for five months and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Mr. Feeney will have an agreement drawn up and presented at the next Board meeting for approval.

Road Projects-Janet Thomsen, Ray Hurt and Jerry Thompson were present to discuss road projects, cleaning ditches, obtaining clay, culverts, traffic counter from NIRMA, stop signs, the mulcher, repairs on equipment, curbs on county roads and using the mulcher and retriever.

Ag Society Request to Use Equipment-Jerry Thompson with the Howard County Ag Society was present to discuss using the County's payloader and motor grader during the Howard County

Fair, July 7th through July 11th and also for a bull riding event on June 21st. Urbanski made a motion to approve the Ag Society using a loader and motor grader during the fair and during the bull riding event and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Mail –

Letter from State of NE Probation District Eight

County Website Update

St. Paul Volunteer Fire and Rescue

Howard County Medical Center Invite

TERC-Findings and Order

Unfinished Business – None.

Veterans Service Budget Request-Present were Don Shuda, Veterans Service Officer, Margy Goerl, Administrative Assistant, Committee Members, Larry Kiser, Bryce Pearson, Dave Cyboron and Dale Rasmussen. Mr. Shuda updated the Board on the Veterans Cemetery in Grand Island and an invitation for the opening on July 12th at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Shuda updated the Board on the number of veterans in Howard County, (387) and the amount of assistance and funds paid in Howard County. Mr. Shuda stated he would like to keep the budget request for 2025-2026 the same as 2024-2025, at \$39,910.00. Urbanski made a motion to approve the Veterans Service budget request in the amount of \$39,910.00 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Crime Commission Grant 2025-2026 and 2024-2025 CB Amended Award-Connie Holmes-

Connie Holmes was present to discuss the new grant starting July 1, 2025. The amount of the grant(26-CB-0513) for 2025-2026 is \$49,177.00. Along with this grant one of the changes for the Howard County School Interventionist being overseen by St. Paul Public Schools instead of Livewell Counseling. The current School Interventionist is moving out of State. The school would like to keep her on as the interventionist. A Letter of Agreement between participating parties is being discussed. The Interventionist will go from a physical presence to a virtual presence effective July 1, 2025. The Commissioners had questions about this and Connie will get the answers. Urbanski made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Crime Commission Grant in the amount of \$49,177.00 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The Crime Commission approved an additional \$7,400.00 for Howard County for the current fiscal year (2024-2025), to help with the May and June expenses. The full amount of the grant (25-CB-0513) for 2024-2025 is \$53,537.00. Urbanski

made a motion to approve the additional funding in the amount of \$7,400.00 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Don Sack-Dannebrog Fire Dept. Equipment Review-Mr. Sack called this morning and asked to have this agenda item removed.

Sheriff's Dept.-Vehicle Repair Bills/Patches for Uniforms –Chief Deputy, Paul Tartaglia was present to discuss some excess vehicle repairs in the amount of \$360.44 and an invoice for uniform patches for the SRT. No money was budgeted for the SRT during this fiscal period. These are patches were for all of the entities in the SRT. The other entities have reimbursed Howard County for the cost of their patches. The monies have been deposited into the general fund. Following discussion, Urbanski made a motion to approve paying the repairs in the amount of \$360.44 and the patches in the amount of \$228.00 in a total amount of \$588.84 out of the Misc. General, Misc. Fund and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye

Public Hearing-Conditional Use Permit-Horse Training Facility- Lukasiewicz made a motion to open the public hearing at 10:00 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith, Adam Donaldson and Linna Dee Donaldson were present to discuss the Conditional Use Permit for the Horse Training Facility. Eric Blase's name was also included on the application for the permit. Mr. Blase is the current landowner. He plans to sell to the Donaldsons if the permit is approved. The Donaldson's will be able to have 30 head of livestock at the facility at one time. Another condition is to plant vegetation to control dust and a 1-year renewable duration. The Donaldson's plan to live in the current structure on the property. The Donaldson's plan to build an indoor and outdoor arenas. Following discussion and question and answer period, Lukasiewicz made a motion to close the public hearing at 10:09 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Urbanski made a motion to approve Permit 2025-18, the Conditional Use Permit for the Donaldson's Horse Training Facility with the stipulations as discussed and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Review Planning and Zoning Complaint- A complaint filed against Bob Hirschman by Jake and Amber Dizmang. After a review by Ms. Klinginsmith and the Planning & Zoning Board, no violations were found. The Commissioners are also required to review the complaint. The odor footprints were in place prior to the Dizmang's home being built. No violations were observed. The complaint will be filed in the Planning & Zoning records. No further action taken.

Hamilton Telecommunications-Phone System – Dave Thieszen and Ed Uden with Hamilton Telecommunication were present to discuss their phone systems with the Board of

Commissioners and county employees. All of the features were discussed. Proposals were provided. No action taken.

Health Insurance-Judd Allen, NACO-Judd Allen with NACO was present to discuss quotes for health insurance. Mr. Allen discussed the information needed to provide quotes. New features with Blue Cross Blue Shield and benefits offered as well as HRAs and HSAs. Deductibles and buydowns were also discussed. Lukasiewicz made a motion to have Mr. Allen go out for quotes for Blue Cross Blue Shield pool through NACO and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

First Concord –Urbanski made a motion to table this agenda item and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Approve Letter to Citizens Bank- Urbanski made a motion to approve the letter presented to be sent to Citizens Bank & Trust explaining the procedure for the postage fund and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Region 3 Budget Request- Urbanski made a motion to approve the Region 3 budget request for fiscal year 2025-2026 in the amount of \$17,220.35 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

BTS-Phone System-Jon Fischer with BTS was present to demonstrate the 2 phones that are being proposed by BTS. The Board reviewed the proposals with Mr. Fischer. Discussion was held on the number of phones and whether the County would benefit from one phone over the other. Mr. Fischer will provide us with new proposals for each of the different phones to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Re-appoint Committee Member- Veterans Service Office, Don Shuda stated that Fritz Lee would like to be re-appointed as a committee member representing the Howard County Veterans for a term of 5 years. Urbanski made a motion to approve the re-appointment of Fritz Lee and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Request for funds-PVWMA-Weed Superintendent, Rob Schultz was present to discuss the Platte Valley Weed Management Area (PVWMA). The amount of funds from the State of Nebraska may not be available to help spray the rivers in Nebraska. Mr. Schultz wanted to update the Commissioners. Mr. Schultz will be attending a meeting tomorrow on this issue.

Road Building Update/Change Order-The Board received a change order request number 006 to have Middleton Electric install additional wiring for data and plug ins in the amount of \$9,289.00. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve Change Order Number 006 in the amount of \$9,289.00 and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Letter of Support-Area Clean Community System-Urbanski made a motion to approve the letter of support for Grand Island Area Clean Community System and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

National NACO Dues-An email was received from Jon Cannon regarding the incorporation of National NACO dues and the County dues to NACO to be paid at the same time. Urbanski made a motion to approve paying the National and County NACO dues at the same time and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Twin Loups Title Transfer-Resolution 2025-10-Bernie Glos with Twin Loups Recreation District was present to discuss the resolution regarding the Twin Loups Title Transfer. Urbanski made a motion to approve the support of Twin Loups Reclamation District title transfer of federal facilities to local ownership as Resolution 2025-10 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Approve Request to Pay Claims Twice in June-Urbanski made a motion to approve paying claim twice in the month of June and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program-The County received notice that they have been approved for a Cybersecurity Grant in the amount of \$104,050.00. Lukasiewicz made a motion to accept the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant in the amount of \$104,050.00 and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Corrective Action Regarding Sanctuary County Designation-Resolution 2025-11-County Attorney, Heather Sikyta, Sheriff, Mike Hoff and Chief Deputy, Paul Tartaglia were present to discuss this agenda item. Howard County had received notice that they are still listed as a Sanctuary County. County Attorney, Heather Sikyta prepared a resolution to take corrective action regarding the Sanctuary County Designation. Providing a copy of the approved resolution should remove Howard County from the Sanctuary County list. Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-11 taking Corrective Action Regarding Sanctuary County Designation and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Sheriff Hoff will send the approved resolution to the proper parties to get Howard County removed from the list.

Executive Session-Union Negotiations –All of the Commissioners and Union Steward, Jerry Thompson were present to discuss the union negotiations. Urbanski made a motion to go into executive session regarding union negotiations at 2:30 p.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Lukasiewicz made a motion to come out of executive session at 3:20 p.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye. No action taken.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 5/27/2025, and the regular and board of equalization minutes for the Commissioner Meeting dated 5/13/2025. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to approve the payroll and claims dated 5/2&/2025, General \$261,790.74, and Roads-\$82,983.45 for a total of \$344,774.19, the Board of Equalization and Commissioner meeting minutes dated 5/13/2025 and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, 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 3:40 pm. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting Adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners will be June 10, 2025.

Dated this 27th day of May, 2025.

Kathy Hirschman

Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky

Howard County Clerk

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

June 10, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 10th day of June, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 4th day of June 2025. 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. A proof of publication is filed in 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 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 was present to discuss the following:

Contract for Game & Parks Three Wildlife Management Areas-Grading- Urbanski made a motion to approve the service agreement with Nebraska Game & Parks Commission as a year to year agreement for \$1,000.00 per month when work is performed and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, No; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Motion Carried.

State Stop Sign Resolution 2025-12-Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-12 as a Certification of Completion-Statewide Upgrading Existing Stop Sign as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Union Contract-Union Steward, Jerry Thompson and Janet Thomsen were present to go over the Union Contract to begin July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028, regarding the Road's Department only. Following discussion, Urbanski made a motion to approve the Union Contract with the modifications as presented and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, No; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Motion Carried.

Road Projects-Janet Thomsen and Jerry Thompson were present to discuss ongoing road projects. Ryan Hall from the Public was present to ask questions of the Board and Road's Department.

Mail –

Hamilton Telecommunications Monthly Report
Email regarding upcoming grant opportunities
Flyer from Pete Ricketts office
Correspondence from the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce
Email regarding Sanctuary Counties
Champlin Tire Recycling Inc.

Unfinished Business – None.

Public Hearing-Vacate Portion of 8th Avenue-Urbanski made a motion to open the public hearing at 9:00 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman outlined the process according to Nebraska State Statutes to vacate a public road and what has taken place. The Petition to vacate a portion of 8th Avenue was presented on April 8th to the Board by Isaiah and Emily Graham. Present were Isaiah and Emily Graham and Nick and Liz Busch. Those speaking during the hearing were Wayne Knapp, Marilyn Bader, Fire Chief, Mike Becker, Isaiah and Emily Graham, Jeff Sack, Nick Busch, Kay Meyer, Cherri Klinginsmith and Chris Meyer. An email from Phil Bader was read to those present at the meeting. After everyone had an opportunity to speak and questions answered, a motion was made by Urbanski to close the public hearing at 9:41 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. A decision will be made at the June 24th meeting.

Ag Society/Howard County-Land Purchase- Urbanski made a motion to table this item until the next meeting and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Administrative Office of the Courts & Probation-Agreement-Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation, (AOC), provided an agreement between the AOC and Howard County to be effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. This agreement is in the amount of \$18,603.20 to be reimbursed to the AOC for Clerk of the District Court duties performed by the Clerk Magistrate. Urbanski made a motion to approve the agreement as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

CNCAP-Cheryl Holcomb –Cheryl Holcomb, Executive Director for Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership (CNCAP) was present to discuss what CNCAP does. They are a non-profit. Ms. Holcomb stated CNCAP provides services to 72 of the 93 counties in Nebraska. Ms. Holcomb would like to have the Board write a letter of support to Congressman Adrian Smith

and Senator Deb Fischer regarding funding. The letter of support was not on the agenda and will be addressed at the next Board meeting.

Approve/Deny Phone System- Jon Fischer with BTS was present to answer any questions the Board had regarding the proposed telephone system. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the BTS' five-year agreement for 38-Force Pro 5 telephones with the understanding the license pricing could be adjusted from what is listed on the proposal and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Budget and Audit Proposals- The Board discussed the rising costs of the budget prep and audit for the County. Urbanski made a motion to approve going out for proposals for both the budget and the audit and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Purchase Proposals Ford F150-Sheriff's Dept. – Sheriff Mike Hoff and Chief Deputy, Paul Tartaglia were present providing three proposals for a replacement vehicle for the Sheriff's Department. Urbanski made a motion to approve the proposal received from Chicago Motors Inc. for a 2022 Ford F-150 Police Responder Super Crew in the amount of \$36,995.00 and the quote from Platte Valley Communications in the amount of \$25,821.80 to install lights, siren, radio, and electronics for a total of \$62,816.80 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. This will be paid out of the General Misc., Misc. account.

Drone Grant-Sheriff's Dept-The Sheriff's office applied for and received a grant from the Jack Lewis Grant in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the purchase of a drone. Urbanski made a motion to approve the grant and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Proposal for Cooling System-911 Center-Sheriff Hoff had received three proposals for a cooling system at the 911 Center. Urbanski made a motion to approve the proposal received from Wells Plumbing in the amount of \$3,645.38 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

County Building Update- Janet Thomsen stated colors were chosen for floors, baseboard, ceilings and walls in the new Road's Building. Overhead doors have been ordered. The shop floors are scheduled to be poured this week.

E911 Transfer Resolution# 2025-13-Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-13 to transfer \$4,423.27 from the (2910) 911 Emergency Management fund to Communications General and transferring \$39,809.45 from (2913) E911 Wireless Service Fund to Communications General and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

GI Area Clean Community-Budget Request-Urbanski made a motion to approve the \$2,000.00 budget request from Grand Island Area Clean Community and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Stanard Appraisal Services Contract-Neal Dethlefs- Mr. Dethlefs was present to discuss a proposal from Stanard Appraisal Services. Urbanski made a motion to accept the proposal in the amount of \$18,000.00 to review commercial properties in Howard County and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Howard County Ag Society-SDL Applications-The first SDL application is for a bull riding and concert event at the Howard County Fairgrounds on June 21st from 2:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Urbanski made a motion to approve the SDL for an event on June 21st and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

The second SDL application is for events taking place at the Howard County Fairgrounds during the Howard County Fair. The dates and times are as follows: July 7th from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; July 8th from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; July 9th from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; July 10th from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; July 12th from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; and July 13th from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the second SDL application for events taking place during the Howard County Fair and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

NIRMA Insurance Renewal-The County received a letter from NIRMA stating that the annual premium in the amount of \$135,295.00 for fiscal year 2025-2026 is due. This is a 5.85 percent decrease from last year.

BEAD Update-Ms. Hirschman has attended zoom meetings regarding the BEAD grant. This grant is currently in the scoring stage. The physical work is scheduled to start in January 2026.

SCEDD Budget Request-A memo was received from Sharon Hueftle, Executive Director for the South Central Economic Development. The 2026 dues will be \$5,000.00. In the past, the City of St. Paul received the bill for \$5,000.00 and sent an invoice to the County for \$500.00. Mr. Lukasiewicz will contact SCEDD regarding the amount and billing.

Road's Department Wage Discussion-Janet Thomsen and Jerry Thompson were present to review the wages for the Road Department workers. Urbanski made a motion to approve the Road's Worker Classification as presented and to re-visit the same at the July 8, 2025, Board Meeting, and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, No; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Motion Carried.

Executive Session-Personnel –The Commissioners and Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen were present. Urbanski made a motion to go into executive session regarding personnel at

11:39 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to come out of executive session at 11:58 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye. No action taken.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the claims dated 6/10/2025, the corrected board of equalization minutes dated 5/13/2025, and the Commissioner Meeting minutes dated 5/27/2025. The Board also reviewed the Clerk, District Court, Treasurer and Sheriff's Reports. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to approve the claims dated 6/10/2025, General \$72,576.33, and Roads-\$90,244.43, Tourism Improvement Fund-\$2,676.00, Tourism Promotion Fund-\$968.00, Canine Fund-\$5,905.00, Inheritance Tax Fund-\$241,535.57, 911 Emergency Management Fund-\$804.43, and E911 Wireless Holding Fund-\$21,000.00 for a total of \$435,709.76, the department reports, the corrected Board of Equalization minutes dated 5/13/2025 and Commissioner meeting minutes dated 5/27/2025 and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski to adjourn the meeting at 2:10 p.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 June 24, 2025.

Dated this 10th day of June, 2025.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

June 24, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 24th day of June, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 18th day of June 2025. 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. A proof of publication is filed in the Clerk's office. Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Roll Call: Jessie Urbanski, Aye; Kirt Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Kathy Hirschman, 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 was present to discuss the following:

Bridge Inspection Contract- Urbanski made a motion to approve the 2025 Bridge Inspection Contracts between Oak Creek Engineering LLC and Howard County and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye. Motion Carried.

County Road's Building Update-Concrete had been poured in the shop area last Friday. Doors have been ordered. Walls and ceilings have been painted in the office area. Working on an easement for the gas line. The well has not been drilled yet. Also discussed was an air compressor for the new building.

Roads Update-Road crews are hauling gravel and maintaining roads.

Mail –

Regional Planning Commission-
Opioid payment
First Light Child Advocacy Center
Email from Svoboda Benefit Solutions
Letter from NDEE Re: Bunker Hill Cattle Co.
Coalition Meeting Notes and copy of Agreement

Unfinished Business – None.

Public Hearing-One and Six Year Plan-Resolution 2025-14-Urbanski made a motion to open the public hearing regarding the One and Six Year Plan at 9:00 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye. Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen presented the Plan to the Commissioners. Urbanski made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:08 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-14, the One and Six Year Plan and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye.

Approve/Deny-Vacate Portion of 8th Avenue-Resolution 2025-___-Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman outlined the process according to Nebraska State Statutes to vacate a public road and what has taken place. The Petition to vacate a portion of 8th Avenue was presented on April 8, 2025, by Isaiah and Emily Graham. The road study was completed by Janet Thomsen and presented to the Board on May 13, 2025 and a public hearing was held on June 10, 2025. Present at today's meeting are Isaiah and Emily Graham and Nick Busch. Others present were County Attorney, Heather Sikyta, Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherrie Klinginsmith, and Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen. Ms. Sikyta, Ms. Klinginsmith and Ms. Thomsen answered questions asked by the Board. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the vacate of 8th Avenue between Friend and Gordon Road as described in the Petition with each one half of the road to revert back to the adjacent landowners and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Urbanski, Nay; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Abstain, due to potential conflict of interest. Motion failed for lack of a 2/3 member vote of approval. No resolution required.

Set Date for Damaged Property Protest- Urbanski made a motion to approve July 22, 2025 at 12:30 p.m. as the date to hear any Damaged Property Reports and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye.

Approve/Deny Sending Letters of Support for CNCAP- Cheryl Holcomb, Executive Director of Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership had attended the previous meeting requesting the Board to send letters of support to Congressman Adrian Smith and Senator Deb Fischer. Urbanski made a motion to approve sending the letters of support as presented and to be signed by the Board Chair and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye.

Ag Society Land Purchase- Urbanski made a motion to approve the purchase of 3.01 acres of land from the Howard County Ag Society for \$31,818.50, which includes closing costs and to have Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman sign the deed and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye.

Approve/Deny Stanard Appraisal Contract-County Assessor, Neal Dethlefs was present to discuss the Stanard Appraisal Contract. Urbanski made a motion to approve the contract as presented in the amount of \$18,000.00, (any additional properties would be charged at a set rate) to review commercial properties and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye.

Communications Update-Melissa- Chief Dispatcher, Melissa Paxton was present to inform the Commissioners on the progress of the Communications building. The electrician is working on lights, flooring is half done, IT is taking care of network items. New desks are ordered but not installed. Platte Valley is setting up radios for Nance County dispatching. Mapping is being worked on with Lumen. The air conditioner has been installed. The new generator is working. Communications will take over dispatching for Nance County on July 1, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Sheriff/Treasurer Distress Warrant-Reports-Sheriff, Mike Hoff and Treasurer, Sara Roy were present to discuss the three remaining distress warrants. These three are uncollectible. They can't be taken off the record for fifteen years. The Sheriff has collected on fifteen warrants in the amount of \$7,321.79. The Board acknowledges the distress warrants. No other action taken.

Sheriff's Dept. -Vehicle Repairs-The Sheriff's Department had some vehicle repair expenses they wished to discuss with the Commissioners. The bills will be paid out of the Sheriff's budget on July 8, 2025 which will be in the next fiscal year.

Senior Center-Howard County-Lukasiewicz reported to the Board that the Senior Center is presently operating with volunteers. An average of seventeen people have been gathering each day. Meal vouchers were discussed. Meals at the Center are currently not an option. Midland Area on Aging closed the Center on April 24, 2025. Midland Area on Aging is made up of eight counties; Howard, Hall, Merrick, Adams, Nuckolls, Clay, Webster, and Hamilton. A question that came up was what is the amount of money Midlands receives from the State of Nebraska and federal funds on behalf of Howard County. Hirschman will request what the amount of revenue is received by Midlands on behalf of Howard County.

Budget/Wage Negotiations/Letter of Engagement-Contryman's-

Budget and Wage Negotiations-Present were Assessor, Neal Dethlefs, Sheriff, Mike Hoff, Treasurer, Sara Roy and Clerk, Brenda Klanecky. Discussion was held regarding wages and budgets for employees at the courthouse and dispatcher wages. No action taken. A budget request was received from First Light. Urbanski made a motion to approve the request by First Light in the amount of \$4,000.00 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, Aye; and Hirschman, Aye.

Letter of Engagement-Urbanski made a motion to approve Contryman and Associates, PC, Letter of Engagement to prepare the financial forecast, which comprises of the forecasted County Budget Form with an estimated fee between \$3,000.00 and \$5,000.00, and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Urbanski, Aye; Lukasiewicz, and Aye; Hirschman.

Extension Budget-Maddie Prosocki-Extension Educator, Maddie Prosocki was present to discuss the extension budget for 2025-2026 with the Board.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the claims and payroll dated 6/24/2025, the Board of Equalization and Commissioner Meeting minutes dated 6/10/2025. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to approve the claims and payroll dated 6/24/2025, General \$432,262.29, and Roads-\$100,657.91, Canine Fund-\$2,534.00, 911 Emergency Management Fund-\$14,943.96, and E911 Wireless Service Fund-\$39,809.45 for a total of \$590,207.61, the Board of Equalization and Commissioner meeting minutes dated 6/10/2025 and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, 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 1:00 p.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 July 8, 2025.

Dated this 24th day of June, 2025.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

July 8, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 8th day of July, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 2nd day of July 2025. 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. A proof of publication is filed in 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 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- Tim Terjak spoke about a wood bridge on Yutan Road located in the northwest corner of Howard County. Pictures of the bridge were shown. A short discussion was held on how to repair the bridge. The bridge was last inspected in 2023 and is scheduled to be inspected in 2025. Ms. Thomsen will have the bridge checked out and repairs as needed.

County Road Discussion – Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to discuss the following: A location has been secured to park a motor grader in St. Libory. Ms. Thomsen and Jerry Thompson are working to get this in place. Also discussed were several other roads and bridges that were damaged by the heavy rains.

Road Wage Classification- The Road Worker Classifications were reviewed for two of the Road's Department employees. J. McClure and J. Thompson were reviewed and discussed. Urbanski made a motion to approve moving Mr. McClure from Road Worker II, Step 2 to Step 3 and Mr. Thompson from Road Worker II, Step 6 to Step 7 effective July 1, 2025 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, No; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Motion Carried.

Flood Update-The flood update was combined with the Disaster Declaration that are both scheduled on the agenda as separate items. Ms. Thomsen provided Mr. Wilshusen with information regarding damage to bridges and roads across the County. Several roads were discussed. A bridge located on Kimball Road was discussed which also affects Liberty and 8th Avenue. The railroad tracks located by the river bridge south of St. Paul also sustained extensive

damage. Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen and Janet Thomsen both spoke regarding these subjects. Mr. Wilshusen prepared a disaster declaration form due to heavy rain and flooding that took place on June 25th and June 26th. The declaration was signed by County Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman and County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky on June 30, 2025.

Grader Purchase- Tyler McNitt with Nebraska Machinery Company was present to discuss quotes on a used CAT motor grader and a new CAT motor grader. Ms. Thomsen had requested a quote on a motor grader for budgeting purposes this spring. Following discussion, Urbanski made a motion to move forward on the purchase of a new motor grader and financing through DA Davidson and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. It was determined that competitive bids are not required for this purchase. Mr. McNitt will provide proper paperwork to send into DA Davidson to work on the financing. Ms. Thomsen was advised to sell the equipment this purchase is replacing. Surplus equipment will be placed on a future agenda.

Culvert on Property-Bob Bogus-Bob Bogus was present to discuss flooding issues. He believes part of the issue is caused by a culvert that was installed this year. The water is not able to drain away properly and sits on his property. The Road's Department will look into a remedy for Mr. Bogus.

Mail –

Memorandum from NIRMA

Letter from Mr. and Mrs. Larry Steenson

Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)

Opioid Payments

Hamilton Monthly Report

Unfinished Business – None.

LB36-Jeff Selden- Loup Central Landfill Manager, Jeff Selden was present to discuss LB36 which was signed into law by Governor Pillen on May 20, 2025, and how it will affect our County. This is a lithium-ion and rechargeable battery recycling bill. Collection sites were discussed. Mr. Selden spoke of the dangers of fire from these batteries in the landfill. Mr. Selden stated that these batteries should never be placed in with regular trash. If someone is not sure how to dispose of these batteries, contact Mr. Selden at the landfill.

Disaster Declaration- This item was discussed during the flood updates. Urbanski made a motion to approve the signing of the Disaster Declaration and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

22% Reduction in BEAD Eligible Locations- The Federal government has cut funding on this grant and will affect areas of Howard County. It was suggested that Howard County send letters to Senator McKeon, Representative Smith, Senator Fischer, Senator Ricketts and Governor Pillen. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve sending letters to the above listed individuals regarding the BEAD Project and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. All Commissioners will sign the letters after the Clerk has prepared them.

County Road Building –Kathy Hirschman and Janet Thomsen updated the Commissioners on the County Road building. Cracks in concrete to be fixed, wall liner to be extended and larger ceiling fans will be installed. All but two of the overhead doors have been installed. Change orders will be presented to the Board at a future meeting for approval.

Svoboda Benefits-Kevin and Chad-Health Insurance- Kevin From and Chad Svoboda were present to discuss quotes for the renewal of the health insurance plan and options. No action taken.

Globe Life- Jacob Graff and Forest Caldwell were present to talk about Globe Life and optional insurance policies they service. They would like an opportunity to provide information to Howard County employees that would be interested in their products. Lukasiewicz made a motion to have the Clerk send out questionnaires for Globe Life and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Judd Allen-Health Insurance –Judd Allen and Mike Boden were present to discuss quotes for Blue Cross/Blue Shield through NACO.

Budget-Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith met with the Board to verify numbers on her department’s proposed budget.

Custodial/Maintenance-July 1-Wage Increase–Following discussion, Lukasiewicz made a motion to freeze the wage of the custodial/maintenance position for the 2025-2026 fiscal year and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Willow Rising-Budget Request- Urbanski made a motion to approve a \$4,000.00 budget request for Willow Rising and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Sheriff’s Dept.-Drone-Chief Deputy, Paul Tartaglia was present to discuss a quote received to purchase two drones for the Sheriff’s Department. These would be paid with a \$10,000.00 grant received by the Sheriff’s Department. The invoice will be approved at a future meeting.

Adams County-Mental Health Board Costs-A letter was received from the Adam’s County Attorney’s Office regarding the mental health board services. The fees will be re-structured

based upon use in the previous fiscal year. This information will be used to budget for fiscal year 2025-2026. No action taken.

Joint Public Hearing-Designate Printing Service- Urbanski made a motion to approve the designation of MIPS to facilitate the printing and mailing of the Joint Public Hearing postcards in September if needed and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Opioid Settlement Participation-Urbanski made a motion to authorize the County Clerk to sign documentation to participate in a new national opioid settlement noted as Purdue Pharma L.P. as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the claims dated 7/8/2025, and the Commissioner Meeting minutes dated 6/24/2025. The Board also reviewed the Clerk, District Court, Treasurer, Sheriff's, and Attorney's Reports. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to approve the claims dated 7/8/2025, General \$112,238.64, Roads-\$62,770.56, Inheritance Tax Fund-\$237,622.98, 911 Emergency Management Fund-\$698.76, and E911 Wireless Holding Fund-\$3,156.00 for a total of \$416,486.94, the department reports, and Commissioner meeting minutes dated 6/24/2025 and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, 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 1:16 p.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 July 22, 2025.

Dated this 8th day of July, 2025.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

July 22, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 22nd day of July, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 16th day of July 2025. 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. A proof of publication is filed in 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 during the Board of Equalization Meeting.

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 – The DA Davidson Lease-Purchase Agreement was received late yesterday afternoon by the Clerk with the amount financed being incorrect. Lukasiewicz made a motion to table the DA Davidson Lease-Purchase Agreement and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Road Foreman, Ray Hurt was present to discuss various roads, bridges and culverts with the Commissioners.

Mail –

Memo from Elaine Menzel re: Modifications to Open Meetings Act

Live Well Counsel Services-Schools-In school counseling

Unfinished Business – None.

Public Hearing-Replat Subdivision-Rolling Hills Subdivision- Urbanski made a motion to open the public hearing at 9:01 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith, was present to discuss the replat of the subdivision and answer questions from the Commissioners. Urbanski made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:16 a.m. and seconded

by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the Replat of Rolling Hills Subdivision as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Heidi Borg-Rep. Adrian Smith's Office- Heidi Borg, Agriculture Liason for Representative Adrian Smith's office was present to discuss and answer questions from the Commissioners. Some of the topics included the new soybean processing plant located in Butler County and ethanol plants in Nebraska. Ms. Borg also discussed what Rep. Smith is currently involved in. Tarriffs on gas and diesel fuel were discussed and the impact on Nebraska.

Courthouse Generator- Tim Wood with Power Tech and Pat Koperski were present to discuss the generator located in the boiler room. Mr. Wood had checked out the generator and would be able to repair the generator for approximately \$1,141.42. Also discussed was adding a plug-in for a temporary generator in the case of an electrical outage. A disconnect will be discussed with the City of St. Paul. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the quote in the amount of \$1,141.42 to repair the generator and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Absent. Mr. Urbanski stepped out of the meeting room prior to the vote.

Audit Proposals –The Board reviewed the audit proposals as presented. Urbanski made a motion to approve the proposal received from Contryman Associates PC in Grand Island and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Health Insurance- Sheriff Mike Hoff, Assessor, Neal Dethlefs and Chief Dispatcher, Melissa Paxton were present during the discussion of health insurance. No action taken.

Interlocal Agreement-Adams County/Howard County- Urbanski made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement between Adams County and Howard County regarding mental health board proceedings, effective August 1, 2025, and shall renew on July 1, 2026, and renew annually thereafter until either Party withdraws from this agreement and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Annual Asset Forfeiture-Sheriff's Department – Sheriff Mike Hoff was present to discuss the annual certification report of the Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification. Urbanski made a motion to approve the report as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

County Road Building Update- Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman updated the board on the progress of the building.

Budget- A brief discussion was held on the budget.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 7/22/2025, and the Commissioner Meeting minutes dated 7/8/2025. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to approve the payroll and claims dated 7/22/2025, General \$260,180.08, Roads-\$69,792.94, and 911 Emergency Management Fund-\$2.50, less 154.94 overpayment for a total of \$329,820.58, and Commissioner meeting minutes dated 7/8/2025 and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, 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 11:04 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 12, 2025.

Dated this 22nd day of July, 2025.

Kathy Hirschman

Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky

Howard County Clerk

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

August 12, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 12th day of August, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 6th day of August, 2025. 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. A proof of publication is filed in 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 was present to discuss the following:

Sign Study-1st and Yutan-This item should have been 21st Avenue and Yutan Road. This will be discussed at the next Commissioner meeting.

Road Personnel-Hire Worker-Ms. Thomsen and Jerry Thompson were present to discuss the possibility of hiring another road worker. After much discussion, Lukasiewicz made a motion to advertise for a full-time road worker position and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

County Road Ditches-Mowing and Irrigation-Ms. Thomsen had placed notices in the Phonograph Herald regarding Nebraska Revised Statutes §39-301 and §39-1811. It is illegal to water a public road with center pivot irrigation systems and it is the duty of the landowners to mow all weeds that can be mowed with the ordinary farm mower to the middle of all public roads and drainage ditches running along their land at least twice each year, namely, sometime in July for the first time and sometime in September for the second time.

Mail – City of St. Paul Minutes dated July 31, 2025
Unfunded/Underfunded State Mandates Survey
TERC-Order and Notice of Hearing
Highway Allocations

Opioid Payments
Thank You from Kay Placke
County Employees Retirement News
Notices from Hall County Regional Planning Director
Central District Meeting Email
Copy of Planning and Zoning Letter
Hamilton Monthly Report
Unfinished Business – None.

Public Hearing-CUP-Adam Miller-Dirt Road Development Sub.- Lukasiewicz made a motion to open the public hearing at 9:01 a.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith, Adam and Whitney Miller were present to discuss an application for a conditional use permit to install a 17' x 34' area with solar panels. Following discussion, Urbanski made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:07 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to approve the application for a conditional use permit for Adam Miller to install solar panels on his property located in the Dirt Road Development Subdivision and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Application for Ziller Subdivision-Ms. Klinginsmith and Dan Garner were present to discuss a single lot subdivision known as Ziller Subdivision owned by Douglas Petersen. Driveway access and State right of way were discussed. Urbanski made a motion to approve the Ziller Subdivision and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

County Road Building-Change Orders-Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve Change Order #7- to change ceiling fans in the shop area in the amount of \$28,397.00; Change Order #8-to change the tall liner panel from 8'0" to 16'0" in the amount of \$4,329.00; and Change Order #9 to run an electrical connection to the fuel tank as proposed in the amount of \$5,281.00 and re-locating the pressure washer receptacle and add a receptacle for a water tank pump in the amount of \$4,314.00, totaling \$9,595.00, for a grand total of \$42,321.00, and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Resolution 2025-15 -Lease-Purchase Agreement-DA Davidson-The Commissioners reviewed the lease-purchase agreement with DA Davidson (a NACO Leasing Corporation). Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-15- the lease/purchase agreement in the principal amount of \$282,000 beginning August 21, 2025-July 15, 2030 for the purchase of a motor grader as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The motor grader has been delivered and is in service.

Robert Bogus-Culvert and Road Discussion-Robert Bogus was present to discuss a ditch that trees were left in the ditch, and a culvert installed by the Howard County Roads Department in an adjoining driveway to his property, both located along Liberty Road and Rose Road north of Highway 92. Others present during the discussion were Richard Hadenfeldt, Janet Thomsen, Ray Hurt, Jerry Thompson and Cherri Klinginsmith. Mr. Bogus provided a court reporter to record the meeting during this agenda item. Mr. Bogus provided pictures which were viewed by the Commissioners. Following a lengthy discussion, it was agreed upon by all parties to try to resolve the problem by placing a flap on the culvert, located along Liberty Road, to control the flow of water. The Road's Department will get a flap ordered and install when it is received. The issues on Rose Road north of Highway 92 will be taken care of by the Roads Department.

Health Insurance Renewal-Buy out- Those present during the discussion were Janet Thomsen, Neal Dethlefs, Mike Hoff, Paul Tartaglia, Jerry Thompson and Sara Roy. The Commissioners reviewed the plans and Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve Medica Choice National Network with a \$3,000.00 deductible and a \$2,500.00 buydown, Medica Elevate Network Bryan Health and Nebraska Medicine or Medica CHI Network as the three options for employees to choose from and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Also discussed was the buyout. Employees wanting to participate in the buyout are required to provide the County with proof of other health insurance coverage. Lukasiewicz made a motion to increase the amount of the buyout from \$375.00 to \$500.00 effective September 1, 2025, and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Resolution 2025-18- Allocation of Levy Authority/Political Subdivision- Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-18- Allocation of Levy Authority/Political Subdivision as presented with an adjustment to the Howard County Agricultural Society as follows General-\$43,440.08 and Sinking-\$7,627.90 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Resolution 2025-17-Transfer Funds from General to SRT Fund-Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-17-Transfer of Funds from General to SRT Fund in the amount of \$3,350.00, and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Public Defender Contract-Sheriff Mike Hoff –Sheriff Hoff was present to discuss the Public Defender Contract. He is concerned with the number of prisoners the Sheriff's department is transporting for court dates from several different locations and that the updated system in the courtroom is not being utilized to alleviate the number of prisoners needing to be transported that could be held by zoom. The current contract was approved prior to all of the updates in

the courtroom. Sheriff Hoff will review the current contract and provide a copy of the contract to the County Attorney. This item will be placed on a future agenda.

Resolution 2025-16 -Transfer Funds from Federal Disaster Fund to Roads Fund-Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-16-Transfer Funds in the amount of \$1,073.48 from the Federal Disaster Fund to the Roads Fund and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

SRT Vehicle Storage- Sheriff Mike Hoff and Chief Deputy Paul Tartaglia were present to discuss the storage of SRT vehicles at the current Roads Building once the Road's Department moves into the new building. The SRT received an armored vehicle which they will store out at the fairgrounds for now. No decisions were made.

Sheriff's Department Pickup Purchase –Sheriff Hoff and Chief Deputy Tartaglia were present to discuss the purchase of a pickup for the Sheriff's Department. They have obtained three quotes. This item has already been added to the 2025-2026 Budget in the General Fund for a Sheriff's vehicle and radio equipment. A claim will be provided at a future meeting on the new vehicle. Hirschman asked about what they are doing with excess equipment? Discussion ensued. No action taken.

BTS Communications/Clearfly Agreement- Following discussion, Urbanski made a motion to allow the County Clerk to sign the electronic agreement with Clearfly and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network Interlocal Agreement-Lukasiewicz asked to have this placed on the agenda. The County currently has a tower on top of the courthouse that goes through NRIN but the County does not actually belong to NRIN. It was decided that no additional action was needed.

River Update/Taking Bids for Engineering Study/Lead Entity-The Commissioners discussed a listening session that took place on July 31, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. Several entities, government officials, and individual property owners were present. Mr. Lukasiewicz attended the last City of St. Paul Council meeting. He has also attended other meetings regarding this issue. The Commissioners agreed to table this item until such time as Mr. Lukasiewicz received more information.

IBEW-1597-Executive Session-Personnel-Hirschman made a motion to go into executive session at 12:00 p.m. to discuss personnel and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Present in executive session was Jerry Thompson. Hirschman made a motion to come out of executive session at 12:28 p.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. No action taken.

Budget Review- The Commissioners reviewed the budget line by line to make any adjustments prior to the budget being sent to the accountant. A few items were adjusted. No other action taken.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the claims dated 8/12/2025, and the Commissioner Meeting minutes dated 7/22/2025, Board of Equalization Minutes dated 7/15/2025 and two Board of Equalization Minutes dated 7/22/2025. The Board also reviewed the Clerk, District Court, Treasurer, and Sheriff's, Reports. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to approve the claims dated 8/12/2025, General \$75,411.18, Roads-\$174,845.69, Highway Safety Fees \$747.06, Inheritance Tax Fund-\$213,458.05, Emergency Management Fund-\$11,444.14, and E911 Wireless Holding Fund-\$6,120.06 for a total of \$482,026.18, the department reports, and Commissioner meeting minutes dated 7/15/2025 and minutes dated 7/22/2025 and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Hirschman to adjourn the meeting at 2:01 p.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 26, 2025.

Dated this 12th day of August, 2025.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

August 26, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 26th day of August, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 20th day of August 2025. 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. A proof of publication is filed in 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 was present to discuss the following items:

Jon Kuck Contract-Mr. Kuck had signed a one-year contract in September 24, 2024. Mr. Kuck said he has completed the work. Commissioners questioned whether the road needs ditches. Ms. Thomsen will inspect to make sure all work has been completed. Commissioners agreed to table until an inspection has been completed.

Excess Equipment- Ms. Thomsen provided the Commissioners with a list of surplus equipment. A 2011 John Deere 770G motor grader and a 1973 Chevrolet C-65 red dump truck. Big Iron and Adam Marshall were contacted regarding selling the equipment. The Commissioners suggested going with Big Iron. Urbanski made a motion to approve the 2011 motor grader and 1973 dump truck as surplus equipment and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Sign Study-21st and Yutan-A sign study at 21st and Yutan was discussed. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve a sign study at 21st Avenue and Yutan Road and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Estimated cost between \$400-500.

Roads Building Update and Internet Provider-Thomsen updated the Board on the progress of the roads building. Some of the work will be done in-house. Thomsen has set up a garbage

hauler. Thomsen has contacted both Viaero and Starlink regarding internet service in the new roads building. Discussed was the cost of both, the number of gigs required to run the building, and contract versus no contract. It was suggested to try Starlink.

Road Study-Gordon Road south of Hwy 58-Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith had received notification from Dan Garner who is purchasing Ziller Subdivision. Mr. Garner stated that he applied for a driveway permit through the State of Nebraska off of Hwy 58 and was denied. Mr. Garner is asking the County to approve his driveway located on Gordon Road, 205' off of Hwy 58. Urbanski made a motion to conduct a road study on Gordon Road, south of Hwy 58, and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Also discussed was hauling gravel with smaller trucks versus the semis, get a list of bridge signs that are down, and holding employees accountable. Mr. Lukasiewicz asked to add an executive session for road personnel and corrective action needed to be scheduled at the next commissioner meeting.

Mail –

Email from Larry Pelan with NIRMA regarding inspect and appraise buildings
Copy of letter from Planning and Zoning to Lukasiewicz
2025 Nebraska Pipeline Association
Order for Single Commissioner Hearing
Attorney General's Opinion on Assessor Trespass

Unfinished Business – None.

Elaine Menzel-NACO Update- Elaine Menzel was present to update the Board regarding what NACO has been involved with. NACO stands for Nebraska Association of County Officials. Some items discussed were inheritance tax, unfunded mandates, upcoming Legislative Conference, salary study from this last summer, and other County issues.

Public Defender Contract-Discussion- County Attorney, Heather Sikyta, Clerk Magistrate, Lisa Johnson, Sheriff, Mike Hoff and Public Defender, Gary Peterson were present. Discussed were the public defender contract and the use of video hearings and cutting down on the Sheriff's department having to transport several prisoners from different locations on court dates. The court room has been updated for video hearings since the public defender contract was signed. All parties discussed who sets the video hearings and what type of hearings can be held by zoom, and whose responsibility it was to request a video hearing. The Commissioners would like all of the parties present to work together to make court day more efficient and save the County money. If this subject needs to be revisited, the Commissioners are willing to meet with the parties involved.

Resolution 2025-19- County Annual Certification of Program Compliance-Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-19-County Annual Certification of Program Compliance and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Set Date for Joint Public Hearing –Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve setting the date on the Joint Public Hearing for September 17, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

River Erosion-Jeff Palik-Olsson Engineering- Present were the following: Jeff Palik with Olsson Engineering, Utility Superintendent, Matt Helzer, City Clerk, Connie Beck and Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen. Mr. Palik discussed sending a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers to apply for assistance under Section 14-Emergency Stream Bank & Shoreline Protection for a feasibility study which would pay a \$100,000.00 in federal funds towards the cost of the study and a percentage of any remaining amount. Mr. Palik stated it would be beneficial if the City of St. Paul and Howard County were to both sign the letter to make a stronger application. It was suggested that an interlocal agreement between the City and the County be established for this purpose. There would be no cost to either the City or the County at this point. If the project moves forward, the Army Corps of Engineers would be in charge of the project. Either party could back out or find other vested entities to help pay for the portion not paid by the Army Corps of Engineers. Also discussed was the liability on the County and the City for moving forward on this issue. Lukasiewicz made a motion to move forward to draft an interlocal agreement between the City of St. Paul and Howard County and a draft of a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers to apply for a Section 14 Grant regarding the Middle Loup River south of St. Paul and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The City will have an interlocal agreement drafted. Mr. Palik stated there would be no charge from Olsson's for assisting the City with drafting the letter as he is representing the City as their engineer. This item will be placed on the September 23, 2025 Agenda.

Annual Certification Form-Federal Street & Bridge Buyback- The FY2025 Allotment for Street Buyback is \$127,542.20 and the Bridge Buyback is 106,650.84. Urbanski made a motion to approve the Annual Certification Form-Federal Street and Bridge Buyback and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

County Government Day-Chuck Schmid –Urbanski made a motion to approve County Government Day to be held on Monday, October 20, 2025 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

County/City Dispatch Agreement- Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman met with City Councilmember, Katie Kowalski regarding the County/City Dispatch Agreement. It was agreed that the City of St. Paul would pay Howard County \$3,481.65 per month for dispatch services effective October 1,

2025. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the agreement between the City and County for dispatch services in the amount of \$3,481.65, effective October 1, 2025, and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Resolution 2025-20-Appoint Special Prosecutor for Inheritance Tax Matters-Josh Salter with Heather Sikyta's office was present to explain the purpose for the resolution. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-20-Appoint Special Prosecutor for Inheritance Tax and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Lawn Edging Quote-Urbanski made a motion to re-evaluate the lawn edging in the spring and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

County Inventories-Urbanski made a motion to approve the County Inventories as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Real Estate Inventory-Urbanski made a motion to approve the real estate inventory for Howard County as presented with one minor change and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Principal and Lincoln Financial-Renewals-Urbanski made a motion to approve the renewal of Principal Dental and Vision Insurance and the Lincoln Financial Long Term Disability Insurance effective October 1, 2025 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Budget- A brief discussion was held on the budget. The budget will need to be published by September 12, 2025.

Set Budget Hearing Date-Lukasiewicz made a motion to set the Budget Hearing for September 23, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 8/26/2025, and the Commissioner Meeting minutes dated 8/12/2025. Motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski to approve the payroll and claims dated 8/26/2025, General \$267,251.82, Roads-\$91,601.10, and 911 Emergency Management Fund-\$2.50 for a total of \$358,855.42, and Commissioner meeting minutes dated 8/12/2025 and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, 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 11:45 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 9, 2025.

Dated this 26th day of August, 2025.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair
ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

September 9, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 9th day of September, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 3rd day of September, 2025. 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. A proof of publication is filed in 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 was present to discuss the following:

Sign Study-6th and Gordon-Oak Creek Engineering performed a Sign Study at the intersection of 6th Avenue and Gordon Road on August 25, 2025. The recommendation is for "Stop" and "Stop Ahead" signs to be placed on the North and South approaches and "Cross Road" signs on the East approach. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the recommendations from Oak Creek Engineering and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Randy Thomsen-20th Avenue and Hardy Road -Randy Thomsen was present to discuss a road located on 20th Avenue with his driveway into a pasture on top of a hill. Mr. Thomsen suggested placing a culvert in the problem area. After further discussion and looking at pictures of the area, the Commissioners and Mr. Thomsen agreed to have the County place mud rock instead to see if that would remedy the situation. Mr. Thomsen had asked about the County cutting out trees along the edge of the road. The Board Chair explained according to Nebraska State Statute, it is the landowner's responsibility to take care of the trees in the right of way.

Gordon Rd. north of 8th Avenue- Ms. Thomsen stated that Gordon Road north of 8th Avenue, according to County records is still considered a county road. She talked to the landowner who had placed a gate across the road. The landowner had talked to the State of Nebraska and the

State records do not show this being a county road. There are other roads within the county and the subject road that may need to be closed. Several different roads were discussed. Ms. Thomsen will discuss the process with the County Attorney.

Review Employee Applications-Commissioners reviewed the applications presented by Ms. Thomsen. Lukasiewicz made a motion to table the application reviews until the September 23rd meeting and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Road Building Update-Ms. Thomsen updated the Commissioners on the progress of the Road's Building. Currently, the concern is they will not have adequate internet coverage for phone service. Ms. Thomsen has contacted Century Link or possibly going with a landline. Painting is being done in the office area and the electricity is on in the building. County Surveyor, Tim Aitken re-marked the boundaries of the property. The road's department will install posts to mark the locations. Some of the shelving has been ordered.

Mail – Central District Meeting Agenda-September 18, 2025

NIRMA Annual Membership Meeting Information

Hamilton Monthly Report

Notice of Appeal-TERC

Nebraska Broadband Update

Unfinished Business – None.

Public Hearing-CUP Renewal Application-John Ropp-Kimball Kalf Ranch- Urbanski made a motion to open the public hearing at 9:00 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cheri Klinginsmith was present to discuss the application for the renewal of a 1-year conditional use permit. The conditional use permit is for 1,000 head of calves weighing 500 pounds or less. Discussed were possible drainage issues which was noted that the land in question is not in a floodplain. Also discussed were farm feedlots versus commercial feedlots. Following discussion, Urbanski made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:30 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the renewal application for a conditional use permit for John Ropp with Kimball Kalf Ranch to run perpetual with the land and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Approve Kathy Hirschman to sign Public Notice of Exemptions 2025-Urbanski made a motion to approve the Kathy Hirschman signing the Public Notice of Exemptions for 2025 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Loup Basin Public Health Dept.-Amanda Jeffres-Amanda Jeffres and Stephanie Gideon were present to talk to the Board about the Loup Basin Public Health Dept. Ms. Jeffres and Ms. Gideon provided the Commissioners with a background on how the Health Department started and has continued to grow and the programs available.

Execution Session-Road Personnel and Corrective Actions- Urbanski made a motion to go into executive session regarding road personnel at 9:58 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Those present in executive session were the three Commissioners and Janet Thomsen. Urbanski made a motion to come out of executive session at 10:49 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. No action taken.

Budget-The Commissioners reviewed the budget documents. Discussion was held. The Public Hearing regarding the 2025-2026 Budget will be heard on September 23, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

County Burial Application-Wilcox- The Board reviewed the application. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the County Burial Application for Wilcox and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Review Interlocal Agreement-City of St. Paul; Resolution 2025- The Board reviewed the Interlocal Agreement with the City of St. Paul, the Resolution and the letter to the Army Corps. Of Engineers drafted by the City of St. Paul. Utility Superintendent, Matt Helzer was present during the discussion. Mr. Helzer wanted to know if the Commissioners had any changes to the documents presented. County Attorney, Heather Sikyta had reviewed the documents and approved of the content. The City of St. Paul will act on this item at their September 15, 2025 Council Meeting. The Commissioners will act on this item at their September 23, 2025 meeting.

Consideration and Action of Blase Zoning Violations- Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cheri Klinginsmith was present along with County Attorney, Heather Sikyta by phone to discuss the Blase Zoning Violations. Discussed were the timelines dating back to January 2022. Currently, Blase Farms is out of compliance with the Howard County Zoning Regulations. After further discussion, Urbanski made a motion to approve County Attorney, Heather Sikyta sending a letter to Blase Farms requesting to either apply for a Conditional Use Permit for a Class I Commercial Feedlot or remove all cattle permanently from all properties no later than October 28, 2025, and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the claims dated 9/9/2025, and the Commissioner Meeting minutes dated 8/26/2025. The Board also reviewed the Clerk, District Court, Treasurer,

and Sheriff's, Reports. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to approve the claims dated 9/9/2025, General \$134,542.64, Roads-\$87,959.89, Tourism Improvement Fund \$100.00, Inheritance Tax Fund-\$143,634.75, and Emergency Management Fund-\$6,174.75, for a total of \$373,117.19, the department reports, Commissioner meeting minutes dated 8/26/2025, and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, 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 11:36 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 23, 2025.

Dated this 9th day of September, 2025.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

September 23, 2025

Meeting is open to the public and held at the

Howard County Courthouse

612 Indian Street, 2nd Floor

St. Paul NE 68873

- 1:00**
- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call**
 - 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
 - 3. Open Meeting Law: Posted on wall in Commissioners**
 - 4. Public Comment –**

Five minutes allotted per person to speak. 10 minutes allotted per group to speak on same topic. By law no action or vote will be take on non-agenda items.

- 5. Public Hearing –2025-2026 Budget**

- 6. ADJOURN**

The board of Commissioners reserves the right to adjourn into executive session per Section 84-1410 of the NE Revised Statutes. A copy of the agenda will be kept on file in the Clerk's office.

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

September 23, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 23rd day of September, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 17th day of September, 2025. 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. A proof of publication is filed in 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- Kirt Lukasiewicz stated that the Sons of the American Legion donated \$1,000.00 to the Senior Center.

County Road Discussion –Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to discuss the following items: Update on new maintenance building. Office area is complete, Hamilton Telecommunications has agreed to provide fiber for internet service to the building for no extra cost, and the well and septic are moving forward. Other supplies were also discussed.

Review Employee Applications- No additional applications have been received since the September 9th meeting. All of the Commissioners agreed that they would like to hold off hiring any additional road workers at this time.

Jon Kuck Contract-Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen and Jon Kuck were present. Mr. Kuck had signed a one-year contract on September 24, 2024, to extend a portion (200 foot) of Gordon Road which was previously classified as a minimum maintenance road. Mr. Kuck was required to up-grade the road according to the Nebraska Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards of rural roads RL3 and gravel the road. Ms. Thomsen stated that Mr. Kuck had met all of the requirements and signs have been placed. Urbanski made a motion to approve that the Jon Kuck contract has been fulfilled and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Ms. Thomsen will submit the change in classification from a minimum maintenance road to a local road.

Mail-

Copy of response letter from County Attorney for Audit

Copy of response letter from NIRMA for Audit

Copy of letter from County Attorney to Blase Farms

NDEE letter-Dugan Cattle Co. LLC Renewal

Email from the Extension Office regarding 4H Week

Precision Drone Solutions – No one showed up to do a presentation.

Subdivision Application-Meadow View Estates-Justin & Mari Boehler-Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith and Mari Boehler were present to discuss the Meadow View Estates. Mr. and Mrs. Boehler wish to split the subdivision into one large lot where their residence is and divide the remainder into 4-3 acre lots to sell. Howard Greeley has approved the electrical plan. 911 signs were discussed but currently there is no policy in place. The Commissioners suggested that 911 addresses be placed at the entrances to each of the properties. Urbanski made a motion to approve the multi-lot subdivision as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Subdivision Application-MG Subdivision-Elizabeth Gardino-Liz Gardino was present along with Ms. Klinginsmith regarding the MG Second Subdivision. Following discussion, Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the MG Second Subdivision as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Amend Annual Certification Form-Hwy Supt., Janet Thomsen- The FY2025 Allotment for Street Buyback is \$127,542.20 and the Bridge Buyback is 106,650.84. The allocation expended between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025, has been amended to \$257,227.82. Urbanski made a motion to approve the amended Annual Certification Form-Federal Street and Bridge Buyback and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Road Study-Gordon Road south of Hwy 58-Ms. Thomsen presented a road study on Gordon Road south of Highway 58 in Howard County, Nebraska. Discussion was held regarding pros and cons of opening the road as a local road. Lukasiewicz made a motion that the Commissioners have received the road study and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Interlocal Agreement/Letter to Army Corps of Engineers-City/County- Resolution 2025-21- Present were the following: Utility Superintendent, Matt Helzer, City Clerk. The Commissioners reviewed the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the City of St. Paul, Nebraska and Howard County, Nebraska to create a separate legal entity and joint agency to prepare and submit an application to the USACE regarding the Middle Loup River stabilization project. Urbanski made a motion to approve the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Resolution No. 2025-21-A resolution approving the interlocal agreement with the City of St. Paul, Nebraska, for the creation of the City of St. Paul/Howard County Joint Middle Loup River Stabilization Agency; allow the Board Chair and County Clerk to authorize and execute the Agreement on behalf of Howard County; and, the Board of Commissioners retain the authority over all agency actions that obligate financially or contractually. Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2025-21 as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

The Commissioners reviewed a letter drafted and signed by the City of St. Paul to request assistance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to request assistance under Section 14 to have a feasibility study in an area located on the Middle Loup River south of St. Paul, NE and an additional letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding the Notification of the City of St. Paul/Howard County Joint Middle Loup River Stabilization Agency. Urbanski made a motion to approve the letters as present to request financial assistance under Section 14 and provide additional information as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

County Tax Sales-Sara Roy, Treasurer- Treasurer, Sara Roy was present to discuss a list of delinquent taxes according to LB77-1918. The Treasurer had mailed out letters to those on the list. If left unpaid a tax certificate would be issued on each of the properties. Lukasiewicz made a motion for the Treasurer to proceed with the process and provide a resolution at the next Commissioner meeting on October 14, 2025 and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Mary Bejot-Buhrman Subdivision-Mary Bejot and Theresa Buhrman were present to discuss Bell Street which was dedicated at the time the Buhrman Subdivision was approved in 2005. Ms. Bejot questioned why Bell Street was created and dedicated. No one has been able to provide an answer. Ms. Bejot owns Lot 1 and her brother owns Lot 2 in the subdivision. Bell Street has been maintained as a driveway and maintained by the owners of the lots. The County has not maintained the street since it was dedicated. Ms. Bejot would like Bell Street to be a driveway with an easement access into Lot 2. The County Attorney, Planning and Zoning and Highway Superintendent were all present. All parties agreed it would be in the best interest of Ms. Bejot to go through the road vacate process with the vacated road reverting to the Lot 1 Buhrman Subdivision owners. Ms. Bejot will present a petition to vacate Bell Street.

Copier Agreement-Roads Dept.-The current copier is at the end of the five-year contract with Eakes. Eakes proposed a renewal with the current copier. Ms. Thomsen had gone out for an additional proposal. The Clerk's office has an additional copier with one year left on the

contract with Eakes. The Clerk's office has received a new printer/copier/scanner from the Secretary of States office, as well as additional scanners. The Clerk's office will provide the Road's Department two scanners as well as transferring the contract on the copier. The monthly payment on the contract is less than the two proposals received. These items will be changed to the Roads Department inventory.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 9/23/2025, and the Commissioner Meeting minutes dated 9/9/2025. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to approve the payroll and claims dated 9/23/2025, General \$246,924.86, and Roads-\$73,315.63, for a total of \$320,240.49, and Commissioner meeting minutes dated 9/9/2025 and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Recess-Urbanski made a motion to recess the Commissioner Meeting at 11:02 a.m. and to reconvene following the public hearing at 1:00 p.m. to discuss the County Budget for 2025-2026 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Reconvene-Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman, reconvened the Commissioner meeting at 1:50 p.m. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski; Aye.

2025-2026 Budget and Set Tax Levy-Resolution 2025-22- Urbanski made a motion to adopt the 2025-2026 fiscal year Budget as Resolution 2025-22 and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Resolution 2025-23 -Approve 2025-2026 Property Tax Request and Final Tax Rate- Commissioner Hirschman stated the property tax request for 2025-2026 is in the amount of \$2,550,597.75. The final tax rate will be 0.142393 per \$100.00 of assessed value. Copy of Resolution 2025-23 is on file in the Clerk's office for review. Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-23, the Property Tax Request in the amount of \$2,550,597.75 and the final tax rate of 0.142393 per \$100.00 of assessed value and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Approve 1% Restricted Funds- No longer required. No action taken.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to adjourn the meeting at 2:12 p.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 October 10, 2025.

Dated this 23rd day of September, 2025.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk

HOWARD COUNTY SPECIAL BOARD MINUTES

Howard COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

November 7, 2025

The Howard County Board of Commissioners of Howard County, Nebraska, met in special session at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, November 7, 2025, in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Courthouse in St. Paul, Nebraska.

Chairman Hirschman called the meeting to order, and Commissioners present for roll call were Kirt Lukasiewicz, Kathy Hirschman, and Jessie Urbanski. Also present is County Clerk Brenda Klanecky.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Hirschman also 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. Notice of the special meeting was given thereof on the 6th day of November, 2025. Copies of the agenda were posted in the courthouse, post office, Citizens Bank & Trust and Homestead Bank.

There was no public comment.

Resolution 2025-27-Transfer General Fund to Road Fund If Needed –Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-27 to transfer up to \$400,000.00 from the General Fund to the Roads Fund if needed and authorize the County Clerk and County Treasurer to take actions necessary to transfer such funds and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to adjourn the special meeting at 8:56 a.m. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Meeting adjourned.

Dated this 7th day of November, 2025

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Commissioners

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

November 12, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 12th day of November, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 5th day of November, 2025. 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. A proof of publication is filed in 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- Mr. Lukasiewicz suggested doing an employee evaluation on a current employee. This was not on the agenda and will be placed on a future agenda.

County Road Discussion- Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to discuss the following: Current repairs on Road's Department equipment and gravel.

Mail-

National Opioid Settlements Payment
Hamilton Monthly Report
NACO Annual Conference Agenda-Draft

Unfinished Business- None.

Open Sealed Bids on Dozer-Road's Dept- The sealed bids were received and opened from the following:

Travis Hedman-	2007 Cat D6KXL-5582 Hours- \$78,000.00
NMC Cat-	2020 Cat D5K2LGP-1325 Hours- \$132,500.00
Murphy Tractor (2 bids)-	2023 John Deere 650P-1456 Hours- \$170,000.00
	2017 John Deere 650K-5628 Hours- \$89,000.00

Colt Shafer with Murphy Tractor was present along with Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen during the bid opening. After much discussion, Lukasiewicz made a motion to deny all

of the sealed bids for a dozer and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The consensus was leasing a dozer for a month at a time and combining projects that would require the use of a dozer would be fiscally more feasible than purchasing a dozer. Ms. Thomsen will contact all of the bidders.

Vacate 5 Over U Subdivision-Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith, was present to discuss a single lot subdivision application which was approved by the Commissioners on May 13, 2025. The applicants failed to record the plat with the Register of Deeds within 90 days. Lukasiewicz made a motion to vacate the 5 Over U Subdivision and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Road Building- Well and Septic Quotes-Possible Action-Jon Kuck and Janet Thomsen were present for this agenda item. The Commissioners received estimates to drill a well and the plumbing to the building as well as install the septic tank and plumbing to the building. Estimates were received from Mid Plains Construction Co. - \$69,800.00 for a 6 inch well and septic, Hansen Well Service & Drilling for a 6 inch well-\$28,326.56 (this does not include the septic tank and installation) and Hansen Well Service & Drilling for a 4 inch well-\$18,245.54 plus Jon's Plumbing for septic tank and installation)-\$19,520.95 for a total of \$37,766.49. Another well drilling company was contacted and was not interested in the project. Discussion ensued whether there was a need for a 6 inch well versus a 4 inch well. It was decided that a 4 inch well would be sufficient. Urbanski made a motion to approve the estimate received from Hansen Well Service & Drilling/Jon's Plumbing for a 4 inch well in the amount of \$37,766.49, (sales tax was removed), and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Rasmussen Mechanical Proposal on Repairs-Urbanski made a motion to approve the quote in the amount of \$1,983.00 from Rasmussen Mechanical to replace two butterfly valves for the boilers as presented and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Open Sealed Bids on Surplus Cars-Sheriff's Dept.-The Commissioners reviewed the sealed bids for Sheriff's vehicles described as a silver 2017 Dodge Charger and a gray 2013 Dodge Charger. One bid was received on each vehicle. Austen Friedrichsen sent in sealed bids on both vehicles. The 2013 Dodge Charger-\$600.00 and 2017 Dodge Charger-\$200.00. Urbanski made a motion to accept the bids as received and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye. The buyer will be notified.

Executive Session-Land Negotiation- All of the Commissioners were present to discuss land negotiations. Urbanski made a motion to go into executive session regarding land negotiations at 8:42 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and

Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to come out of executive session at 8:50 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye. No action taken.

Executive Session-Employee Evaluation/Personnel- All of the Commissioners and Janet Thomsen were present. Urbanski made a motion to go into executive session regarding employee evaluation/personnel at 10:29 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Urbanski made a motion to come out of executive session at 11:27 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; Urbanski, Aye. No action taken.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the claims dated 11/12/2025, and the Commissioner Meeting minutes dated 10/28/2025. The Board also reviewed the Clerk, District Court, Treasurer, and Sheriff's Reports. Motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski to approve the claims dated 11/12/2025, General \$78,183.61, Roads-\$148,297.54, Tourism Improvement Fund-\$950.00, 911, Emergency Management Fund-\$3,316.69, and SRT Law Enforcement Fund-\$469.90 for a total of \$231,217.74, minus claim number 25110064 to Platte Valley WMA in the amount of \$1,000.00 (this claim will be pulled until more information is obtained), meeting minutes dated 10/28/2025, and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes, and reports received from the Clerk, District Court, Treasurer and Sheriff. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, 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 11:27 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 November 25, 2025.

Dated this 12th day of November, 2025.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

November 25, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 25th day of November, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 19th day of November, 2025. 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. A proof of publication is filed in 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- Tim Terjak was present to express concerns on a minimum maintenance road located on Yutan Road. Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen stated that they are finishing on a road project and would be starting on the bridge next, weather permitting.

County Road Discussion –Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen was present to discuss the following items: Ms. Thomsen stated that the well has been drilled. Also discussed were extra hydrants on the outside of building. Septic and leach field are done.

Trees- County Attorney, Heather Sikyta provided the Commissioners with Nebraska State Statutes regarding trees. This includes the County and the Landowner responsibilities. A tree policy was discussed.

Road Workers Probation/Compensation-The Commissioners discussed two Road Workers that have completed new employee probation. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve moving Rawlings from a Road Worker 1 Step 1 to a Road Worker 1 Step 1B and Hettinger from a Road Worker 1 Step 5 to Road Worker 1 Step 6 and take both individuals off of probation, effective November 16, 2025, and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Mail-

Receipt for sale of Sheriff's vehicles

Assist Application-Emergency Manager for fire extinguisher expenses

Appoint Extension Board Member/Holiday Closure Extension Office-December 25th through January 2nd

– Maddie Prosocki, Extension Educator was present to discuss the Extension Board Members. Currently, Justin Wells, Denise Rathman and Chandra Kosmicki serve on the Board. Ms. Prosocki recommends re-appointing Chandra Kosmicki. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the re-appointment of Chandra Kosmicki to the Extension Board and Hirschman seconded. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Also discussed was the Extension office being closed from December 22, 2025 to January 2, 2026. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the Extension office being closed from December 22, 2025 to January 2, 2026 and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Public Hearing-CUP Application Eric Blase and Adam Blase-Class 1 Commercial Feeding

Operation- 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. The Planning and Zoning Board reviewed the application at their November 19, 2025 meeting. Chris Kreikmeier, Engineer, Gunner Buchhammer, Attorney and Blase's employee, Cassidy Van Meter were present at the Planning and Zoning meeting. The Planning and Zoning Board made a motion to table the conditional use permit and remove all of the cattle within 30 days. Those present and speaking at the Commissioner meeting are Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cheri Klinginsmith, Howard County Attorney, Heather Sikyta, Terry Spilinek, Gunner Buchhammer, Cassidy Van Meter and Chris Kreikmeier. Planning and Zoning had received a Conditional Use Permit for a Class 1 Commercial Feeding Operation on October 28, 2025. A detailed site plan was not included with the application. If a detailed site plan and any and all other requested information is submitted by December 23rd, the Planning and Zoning Board could review the application at their January 21st meeting. Otherwise, a public hearing would be heard at a later date based on when the information is received. Following a question and answer period, Urbanski made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:38 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Lukasiewicz made a motion to agree with the decision made by the Planning and Zoning Board and table the Conditional Use Permit Application for Eric Blase and Adam Blase, Class 1 Commercial Feeding Operation until additional information is submitted as requested and that all cattle be removed from the corner lots with all access to the pens denied effective December 19, 2025, until said conditional use permit is approved and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Approve/Deny Todd Wojtalewicz Claim-The Commissioners reviewed the claim received from Todd Wojtalewicz. Mr. Wojtalewicz and Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen were present to discuss the claim. Urbanski made a motion to approve the purchase of 3350 cubic yards of clay and cost of seeding on Gordon Road in the amount of \$9,820.00 and seconded by

Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. The claim will be paid out of the Road Buyback Program on December 9, 2025.

Vacate Rasmussen and Sons Administrative Subdivision- Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith was present along with Dale and Deb Rasmussen. The Rasmussen's would like to revert the land as it was previously. Urbanski made a motion to approve the vacate of Rasmussen and Sons Administrative Subdivision and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Resolution 2025-28-Moratorium for all permits on Solar and Wind Energy Projects- Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith and County Attorney, Heather Sikyta was present to discuss the resolution. After discussion, Urbanski made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-28, Moratorium for all permits on Solar and Wind Energy Projects and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Legal Shield-Approve/Deny Additional Benefits- Ann Giebler with Legal Shield had recently spoke with the Road's Department. She stated some of the employees showed an interest in a gun supplement for those who carry concealed weapons. She would like to add this benefit to the plan and is seeking permission to do so. There is no cost to the County. Urbanski made a motion to approve the added benefit of a gun supplement for those who carry concealed weapons and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Car Repairs-Sheriff's Department-Sheriff Mike Hoff was present to discuss auto repairs on the Sheriff Department's fleet of vehicles. Four of the vehicles need to have repairs done. Discussed were the budget and repairs needing to be done on each of the vehicles. One of the vehicles has been in the repair shop numerous times and still is not fixed. How to proceed was discussed.

Employee Evaluation-Executive Session-Urbanski made a motion to go into executive session to discuss an employee evaluation at 11:30 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. Those present in executive session are the three Commissioners. Urbanski made a motion to come out of executive session at 11:56 a.m. and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye. No action taken.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 11/25/2025, and the Commissioner Meeting special minutes dated 11/7/2025 and regular minutes dated 11/12/2025. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to approve the payroll and claims dated 11/25/2025, General \$251,270.48, and Roads-\$73,315.63, for a total of \$324,586.11, and Commissioner meeting minutes dated 11/7/2025 and 11/12/2025 and

authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, 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 11:58 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 December 14, 2025.

Dated this 25th day of November, 2025.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

December 9, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 9th day of December, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 3rd day of December, 2025. 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. A proof of publication is filed in 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 was present to discuss the following:

Road Worker Personnel/Compensation-Discussion was held regarding two Road Workers. Lukasiewicz made a motion to deny compensation increases for Road Worker personnel and seconded by Hirschman. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Nay.

County Building Update-Ms. Thomsen provided the Board with an update on the building. Mid-Plains is hoping to turnover the keys by the end of this week. Some concrete approaches need to be completed. The fuel tank has been moved out to the new shop and has been hooked up. One of the overhead doors has been having issues. It appears the pad and eyes are not working properly. The County will continue to monitor the door. Plumbers are finishing up and the contractor will clean up the site. There will be a one-year warranty as of the final walk through.

County Bridge Match Program-Howard County had eight proposals accepted for the County Bridge Match in the amount of \$1,035,000.00. The County's portion of the match could be paid through the Bridge Buyback Fund. Discussed was the amount of funds available and a payment that will be received in March 2026. The County would have three years to complete the projects.

Trees-Ms. Thomsen asked how she should handle trees? She was told to proceed as she currently has been doing until the County has a Tree Policy in place.

Mail –

Letters from Candidates seeking positions on NACO Board
Hamilton Monthly Report
Zelle Human Resource Solutions Letter

Unfinished Business – None.

Tim Terjak-Dirt Work/Compensation-Tim Terjak was present to discuss road maintenance to be completed on a portion of Yutan Road. Locates have been completed for the road work. Approximately 1,040 feet of fencing has been removed on Mr. Terjak's property on the east side of the road. The County will be able to use dirt on Mr. Terjak's property to repair the road. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the compensation to Tim Terjak for 560 tons of dirt at \$2.00 per ton in the amount of \$1,120.00, to be paid out of the Road Buyback fund and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Emergency Manager Updates-Emergency Manager, Allen Wilshusen was present to update the Board on the following items: Code Red, Salamander ID badges, weather alert radios, EMPG grants (these were affected by the government shutdown), weather service update and the fire drill held at the courthouse.

Official Salaries-Those present for the discussion were County Assessor, Neal Dethlefs, County Treasurer, Sara Roy, County Sheriff, Mike Hoff and County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky regarding official salaries for years 2027, 2028, 2029, and 2030. Salaries will need to be set by January 15, 2026. This item will be discussed at the next Commissioner meeting. The Commissioners would like the officials to put some numbers together to present.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the claims dated 12/9/2025, and the Commissioner Meeting minutes dated 11/25/2025. The Board also reviewed the Clerk, District Court, Treasurer, and Sheriff's Reports. Motion was made by Lukasiewicz and seconded by Urbanski to approve the claims dated 12/9/2025, General \$120,906.09, Roads-\$106,114.76, Road Buyback Program Fund-\$9,820.00, Emergency Management Fund-\$1,379.63, and SRT Law Enforcement Fund-\$3,832.73 for a total of \$242,053.21, meeting minutes dated 11/25/2025, and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes, and reports received from the Clerk, District Court, Treasurer and Sheriff. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, 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 11:31 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 December 23, 2025.

Dated this 9th day of December, 2025.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

December 23, 2025

A Meeting of the Howard County Board of Commissioners was convened in open and public session on the 23rd day of December, 2025, in the Boardroom, Howard County Courthouse, St. Paul, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof on the 17th day of December, 2025. 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. A proof of publication is filed in 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, Ray Hurt were present to discuss various County roads and maintenance work done in the last 45 days.

Tim Terjack-discuss Yutan Rd/Davis Creek-The Commissioners, Ms. Thomsen, Mr. Hurt and Tim Terjack discussed progress made on Yutan Rd. and work that needs to be completed on the bridge area. Rip rap, pilings, and bridge condition were among the other items discussed.

Road Dept. Maintenance Software- Mr. Lukasiewicz has been looking into software for the Road Department to use. Discussed were the costs and what the software can do. The Commissioners will continue to work on what the County currently has and what they would require.

County Building Update- Ms. Thomsen did a walk through with the fire marshal. Miscellaneous items to be finished up in the new building were discussed. The Road's department will begin moving items into the new building the day after Christmas.

Mail-

Vital II Correspondence-Is the County Interested

CNCAA Christmas Card

Assist Award Notification-Emergency Manager

NIRMA-Cybersecurity Best Practices

Planning and Zoning Letter to Floodplain Landowners in Howard County

Connie Holmes-Crime Commission Grant- Connie Holmes, Executive Director of Central Nebraska Council on Alcoholism and Addictions was present to discuss the applications for Community-Based Aid allocated to Howard County for fiscal year 2026-2027 and an Enhancement Community-Based Aid grant. Motion was made by Urbanski to approve the applications for the Community-Based Aid Grant for fiscal year 2026-2027 in the amount of \$34,693.00 and the Enhancement CBA Grant in the amount of \$17,115.00 and approve Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman signing the applications and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Arlan Johnson-Approve Hospital Board Member-Howard County Medical Center CEO, Arlan Johnson was present to discuss the re-appointment of a hospital board member. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to approve the re-appointment of Dan Nielsen to a seven-year term on the hospital board. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Petition to Vacate Road-Bell Street located in St. Libory- The Commissioners reviewed the Petition to vacate Bell Street located in the Buhrman Subdivision in St. Libory. Highway Superintendent, Janet Thomsen stated that the County has not maintained Bell Street. Lukasiewicz made a motion to have Ms. Thomsen perform a road study on Bell Street and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Administrative Subdivision-Allan Griebel- Planning and Zoning Administrator, Cherri Klinginsmith was present to discuss an application for the administrative single lot subdivision application for Allan Griebel. Following discussion, Urbanski made a motion to approve the Allan Griebel Subdivision and seconded by Lukasiewicz. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

NIRMA-Property Inspection/Appraisal Update- The Commissioners reviewed the appraisal update on the County properties insured by NIRMA. Following discussion, Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the appraisal update as presented and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Rob Schultz-Weed Management Area Update-Loup River Spraying-Weed Superintendent, Rob Schultz was present to discuss spraying on the area rivers in the past few years for phragmites. Mr. Schultz would like the support of the County to get more funding from the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Schultz asked about the \$1,000.00 claim that had previously been submitted. Mr. Schultz was advised to re-submit the claim and the Commissioners would review it.

Brennan's Lawn Care Inc.-The Commissioners reviewed a fertilizer estimate from Brennan's Lawn Care Inc. Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve the fertilizer estimate from Al Brennan in

the amount of \$1,580.00 and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Sheriff's Dept.-Discuss Patrol Car and Impound Yard- Sheriff, Mike Hoff and Chief Deputy, Paul Tartaglia were present to discuss patrol cars and an impound yard. The Sheriff's department is currently looking at a lease agreement to obtain patrol cars. The cars would be completely outfitted and the Sheriff's department would need to install the radio system. Following discussion, the consensus of the Commissioners agreed that the Sheriff's department look into a leasing program and bring the information back to the Commissioners. An impound yard was also discussed. A number of different options will be looked into.

Resolution 2025-29-County Attorney Part-time/Private Practice-Lukasiewicz made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-29, changing the position of County Attorney from a full-time position to a part-time position and allow the County Attorney to have a private practice if they wish and seconded by Urbanski. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, Aye.

Official Salaries-County Attorney, Heather Sikyta, Treasurer, Sara Roy, Sheriff, Mike Hoff, Assessor, Neal Dethlefs and County Clerk, Brenda Klanecky were present for the discussion. A general consensus was reached. A resolution with the amounts will be drafted with the Clerk and Board Chair working on the amounts based on the discussion. Officials will be able to review the amounts prior to the next meeting. Salaries will need to be set for the officials for years 2027, 2028, 2029 and 2030 by the next meeting.

Consent Agenda - The Board reviewed the payroll and claims dated 12/23/2025, and the Commissioner Meeting and regular minutes dated 12/9/2025. Motion was made by Urbanski and seconded by Lukasiewicz to approve the payroll and claims dated 12/23/2025, General \$253,601.18, and Roads-\$73,637.25, for a total of \$327,238.43, and Commissioner meeting minutes dated 12/9/2025, and authorize Board Chair, Kathy Hirschman to sign the minutes. Roll Call: Lukasiewicz, Aye; Hirschman, Aye; and Urbanski, 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 12:24 p.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 January 13, 2025.

Dated this 23rd day of December, 2025.

Kathy Hirschman
Howard County Board Chair

ATTEST:
Brenda Klanecky
Howard County Clerk