

May 27, 2025,

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at 9:05 a.m. in the Supervisors Room, County Courthouse, Central City, NE, with Kreachbaum, Jarecke, Dexter, Wiegert, Placke, Kucera, Weller, County Clerk Strobel and County Attorney Kunz present.

Notice of the meeting was given thereof by publications in the Republican Nonpareil and The Palmer Journal and the Merrick County Website. Proof of publication is filed in the Clerk's Office. Copies of the agenda were given to each Supervisor and kept current and available to the public at the County Clerk's Office.

Chairwoman Kucera declared the meeting was preceded by publicized notice and having acknowledged and identified the location of the posting of the current copy of the Open Meetings Act, called the meeting to order and in open session at 9:05 a.m. Moved Kreachbaum second Kreachbaum to convene as Board of Supervisors at 9:05 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

Agenda: Moved Dexter, second Jarecke to approve the agenda. Roll Call: All Ayes

Minutes: Moved Weller, second Wiegert to approve the minutes from May 13, 2025 as published. Roll Call: All Ayes

Meeting Reports: Dexter-met with Five Nines May 14th; Placke-Senior Center meeting May 20; TERC Hearing in Lincoln May 21; Jarecke-CNCAP meeting May 21, TERC Hearing May 21; Kreachbaum-Emergency Manager meeting May 13, NE DOT meeting in Lincoln May 16, Extension interviews May 19, Mid-Plains Center and Long-Term Care May 21; Wiegert-interview for Extension position and attended St. Paul City Council meeting May 19; Kucera-Extension Board meeting May 13, Region III May 23rd.

Officials Reports: Assessor Myers informed the board valuation notices will be mailed out by June 1, the office is utilizing the MIPS mail service which provides a lower postal rate. 7836 active parcels 5546 residents will be receiving the notices. Myers also provided information on the TERC hearing which was held in Lincoln May 21 on three parcels belonging to Verna Zmek, in which Randy Zmek is protesting. Clerk Strobel mentioned the clerk's office will be closed, Thursday, June 5 for the office to attend meetings in Kearney. It was suggested by NACO to have current employees attend as updates to payroll and claims processing; Register of Deeds and election ware will be implemented in the near future. Carrie Rodriguez, Chief Probation Office for District 5 provided a booklet on services provided and expenses paid incurred by Merrick County clients. Expenses paid by the state for Merrick County in 2024 was \$1,018,834.85. District 5 budget request for Merrick County is \$14,355.21.

Casey Muzic, Executive Director for Midland Area Agency on Aging, appeared before the board for the annual funding request in the amount of \$11,002. The funding request helps provide congregate meals and home delivered meals to Merrick County clients.

Melissa Vandewalle provided an update on Long-Term Care.

Hilary Betka, Planning and Zoning explained the future solar energy system resolution.

Moved Jarecke, second Weller to approve the chairwoman to sign Resolution 2025-6 Moratorium on zoning regulations for future commercial solar energy systems. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Placke, second Dexter to approve the chairwoman to sign Resolution 2025-7 directing the disbursement of money from the Inheritance Fund in the amount of \$493.96 to Carla J. Johnson, PR for the Estate of Curtis R. Carlson for refunded taxes. Roll Call: All Ayes

Bernie Glos with Twin Loups appeared before the board regarding the title transfer for the Reclamation District.

Moved Weller, second Placke to approve the chairwoman to sign Resolution 2025-8 in support of Twin Loups Reclamation District title transfer of federal facilities to local ownership. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Wiegert, second Jarecke to approve the Special Designated Liquor license applications for Scotty's LLC-October 4-Riverside Park Pavilion, October 11-Riverside Park Pavilion and October 11-Merrick County Fairgrounds; Merrick County Ag Society-Merrick County Fairgrounds, July 26 thru July 30. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Placke, second Dexter to approve the transfer of ownership to Merrick County from the Supreme Court for the courtroom sound equipment. Roll Call: All Ayes

Grand Island Clean Community contribution request was dispersed. No action taken at this time. Mitch Elliot with RDG Planning and Design provided two plan options for Long-Term Care. Option 1: Total area-22,415 sq ft, 487 square ft per bedroom, 46 resident bed licensures with renovations improvements including HVAC/plumbing & electrical conversion-estimated cost: \$6,630,000. Option 2: Total area-28,615 sq/ft and 622 sq ft per bedroom, 46 resident bed licensures with renovation and improvements including HVAC/plumbing & electrical conversion-estimated cost: \$6,668,000.00. These do not include the demolition of the old hospital.

Anna Sedlacek, Human Resources, stated two individuals had been interviewed and two more applications were received over the weekend. Advertisement for the position will also be posted locally as well as University of Lincoln. Sedlacek, stated she would like to receive more clarification on the Absentee/Tardy policies before moving forward with the final draft of the handbook.

Discussion regarding the budget focused on possibly budgeting for a county vehicle which would be used primarily by the assessor for valuations instead of using a personal vehicle. This vehicle could also be used for other offices to attend meetings out of town if available.

Moved Jarecke, second Dexter to approve the payroll as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Jarecke, second Dexter to adjourn at 11:43 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

/s/Carolyn Kucera Chairwoman

/s/Trisha L Fate-Strobel, County Clerk