

August 26, 2025,

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at 9:05 a.m. in the Supervisors Room, County Courthouse, Central City, NE, with Kreachbaum, Jarecke, Dexter, Wiegert, Placke, Weller, Kucera present. 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 Wiegert to convene as Board of Supervisors at 9:05 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes
Agenda: Moved Dexter, second Wiegert to approve the agenda. Roll Call: All Ayes

Minutes: Moved Dexter, second Wiegert to approve the minutes from August 12, 2025 as published. Roll Call: All Ayes

Meeting Reports: August 19th-Bader Park, Weller; August 13th-SCEDD zoom, August 21-budget workshop, Dexter; August 20th-Long Term Care and August 21-Placke; August 12-CNACP zoom, August 19-CNACP and August 20-Long Term Care, August 21-workshop -Jarecke; August 14-NACO salary study in Lincoln, August 21-workshop-Kreachbaum; August 21-workshop; August 21-workshop and August Region III-Kucera.

Officials Reports: Anna with Zelle reported she has been working with Captain Bauer with a personnel issue and the first round of performance reviews will begin after the board meeting. Treasurer Gilg stated she transferred \$200,000.00 from Inheritance to the General Fund instead of the \$300,000.00 allotted from Resolution 2025-11. Highway Superintendent Kunze provided a personnel health update. Bader Park Bridge repair move in is set for next week. Clerk Strobel stated two of the office employees are in Grand Island for training on new election software and the Assessor's office will remain closed until around noon on Friday.

Andy Forney with D.A. Davidson appeared before the board to explain a more detailed parameter in regards to bonds for roads and Long-Term Care.

Moved Weller, second Jarecke to approve the SDL Application for Broadway Social/DBA Timber Creek for a wedding reception at Riverside Park Dance Pavillion October 25th 5:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. October 26th. Roll Call: All Ayes

Highway Superintendent Kunze introduced Jeff Vap with TMJ Auctions. Vap explained the process in auctioning off any of the road department surplus. It was also asked if the Sheriff's Department could also use this avenue to surplus vehicles, in which it was stated that would be feasible.

Moved Kreachbaum, second Dexter to approve the roads department surplus items at the discretion of the Highway Superintendent Kunze. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Weller, second Dexter to approve the chairwoman to sign Resolution 2025-15 to propose road closure of 10th Road between V Road and W Road. Roll Call: All Ayes

Kunze had a presentation in regards to the IWORQ Software. A software that could have the roads employees have the capability to have all work orders available on tablets. The software would be helpful with organization and projects done in a timely manner. The software program cost is \$6500.00 a year. Discussion with Treasurer Gilg in reference to the drainage tax. No action taken.

Surveyor Mike Meyer handed out a new bridge contract for the board to review. Contract will be presented at the next meeting for approval.

Township, fire districts and agricultural society have sent resolutions for a preliminary tax request for fiscal year 2025-2026. Moved Jarecke, second Dexter to approve a .03 levy allocation for all political subdivisions subject to county levy authority. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Wiegert, second Jarecke to approve the payroll as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes
Budget talk continued with reducing the Roads Department bituminous surfacing from \$1,100,000.00 to \$500,000.00 and structures, pipes, etc. from \$550,000.00 to \$500,000.00. Road Buyback Program requesting \$1,314,112.36. It was mentioned most increases in budgets were due to salary increases and insurance costs rising. \$90,000.00 was budgeted for Human Resource/Administrator positions in the General Fund.

Kucera informed the board she would not be able to attend the after-recess session. Moved Placke, second Dexter to recess at 12:06 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Kreachbaum, second Jarecke to reconvene at 1:41 p.m. Roll Call: Ayes-Jarecke, Weller, Kreachbaum, Wiegert, Placke & Dexter. Absent-Kucera.

Discussion on budgets resumed. \$550,000.00 cash reserve in General Fund and \$200,000.00 cash reserve in the Roads Department Fund has been designated. It was decided not to add the potential Long-Term Care Bond into the budget until the next fiscal year. The \$356,185.00 engineering fees for Long-Term Care will be budgeted out of Inheritance Fund. Roads bituminous surfacing changed from \$500,000.00 to \$850,000.00. General Miscellaneous Transfer Fund increased from \$320,906.00 to \$620,906.00. Total certified valuation \$2,383,011,233.00. Total property tax request authority \$6,287,949.69; Total actual property tax request \$6,243,806.02. Unused property tax request authority created for future years \$44,143.67.

Moved Jarecke, second Kreachbaum to approve the Notice of Hearing and Budget Summary to be published. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Jarecke, second Kreachbaum to approve the Treasurer, Assessor, Clerk, Election Commissioner, Register of Deeds, Board of Supervisors, Planning & Zoning, Extension Office, Sheriff, Jail, Building & Grounds, District Court, Juvenile Diversion, Attorney, County Shop, Noxious Weed, Veteran Service Officer, Surveyor. Roll Call: All Ayes

Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Jarcke, second Wiegert to adjourn at 2:11 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

/s/Carolyn Kucera, Chairwoman

/s/Trisha L Fate-Strobel, County Clerk