

January 13, 2026

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the Supervisors Room, County Courthouse, Central City, NE, with Kreachbaum, Jarecke, Dexter, Wiegert, Weller, Placke, County Strobel and County Attorney Kunz present. Kucera absent.

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.

Co-Chairman Dexter 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 9:00 a.m. Moved Kreachbaum, second Placke to convene as Board of Supervisors at 9:00 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

Wiegert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda: Moved Placke, second Wiegert to approve the agenda as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Minutes: Moved Jarecke, second Weller to approve the minutes from December 23, 2025 as published.

Roll Call: All Ayes

Co-Chairman Dexter called for reorganization of the Board for 2026.

Moved Wiegert, second Placke to reorganize as Board of Supervisors. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Placke, second Wiegert to appoint Carolyn Kucera as Chairwoman. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Placke, second Wiegert to appoint Ed Dexter as Co-Chairman. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Placke, second Wiegert to approve the Board of Supervisors as Board of Equalization. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Wiegert, second Kreachbaum to set the 2026 board meeting schedule for the Board of Equalization and Board of Supervisors on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at the courthouse, 1510 18th Street, Central City, NE. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Placke, second Wiegert to approve the 2026 holidays (Martin Luther King, Jr., President's Day, Arbor Day, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve open 8:00 a.m. to noon, Christmas Day and New Year's Day 2027. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Jarecke, second Kreachbaum to designate the Palmer Journal, Republican Nonpareil and the Merrick County website as the official means of publication. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Jarecke, second Kreachbaum to designate the Bank of Clarks, located in Clarks, NE, Farmers State Bank located in Silver Creek, Citizens Bank, Cornerstone Bank and Pinnacle Bank, Central City located in Central City and Pinnacle Bank-Palmer, Union Bank & Trust-Lincoln, NE, Premier Bank-Omaha and NPAIT as the county depository bank for Merrick County. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Placke, second Weller to adopt blanket bond of Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association (NIRMA) INSURED UNDER Certificate of Insurance Master Policy #N-CR0607-46, Producer NIRMA Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association, a Rick Management Pool, Lincoln, NE. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Weller, second Kreachbaum to appoint the supervisors as the Predesignated Grievance Board. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Wiegert, second Kreachbaum to appoint County Clerk Strobel as the NIRMA contact person. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Kreachbaum, second Placke to appoint Brent Kunze as Merrick County Highway Superintendent and to designate him to negotiate Right of Way agreements for Merrick County 2026. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Placke, second Kreachbaum to appoint Brent Kunze to the advisory committee for the NRD for 2026. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Kreachbaum, second Placke to appoint Jenna Church to the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Program of the East Central Region for Planning, Exercise, Training, and Interoperable Communications. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Kreachbaum, second Jarecke to set the E-911 surcharge rates at \$1.00. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Wiegert, second Kreachbaum, to allow the Co-Chairman to appoint the board members to the same committees as 2025. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Wiegert, second Placke to allow the Co-Chairman to appoint board members to the same boards as 2025. Roll Call: All Ayes

Meeting reports: Placke, Kreachbaum, Dexter-Finance Committee met December 23, December 31 and January 7 regarding the 2027-2030 Official Salary Resolution. Dexter-January 7 SCEDD housing call. Treasurer Gilg presented the fund balance listing and semi-annual report.

Melissa Van DeWalle provided an update on Long Term Care.

Tyson Benner handed out a Project Update and Summary for Long Term Care that was received from RDG.

Les Denning approached the board regarding a bond he had posted for an inmate three years ago and had yet not been returned to him. Denning was informed bond payment through a kiosk at the sheriff's department would still be handled through the courts.

Moved Kreachbaum, second Jarecke to approve the Special Designated License for Opportune Acres for a fundraiser at Solt Wagner Funeral Home February 7, 2026 from 4:00 p.m. until midnight. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Weller, second Kreachbaum to approve the new Extension Board Members, Lindsey Nelson and Wes Beck, Jr. Roll Call: All Ayes

Captain Bauer presented a Merrick County Owned Vehicle Operation policy for the newly purchased vehicle for county use. Moved Kreachbaum, second Jarecke to approve the county vehicle policy with suggested changes not specifically reflecting the sheriff department policies. Roll Call: All Ayes

Highway Superintendent Kunze provided the bid results for the 3rd Road Box Culvert and 3rd Road/Z Road Paving projects.

Moved Kreachbaum, second Jarecke to approve the bid received from Saul Ramos Construction in the amount of \$224,146.12 for the 3rd Road Box Culvert. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Kreachbaum, second Jarecke to approve the bid received from Vontz Paving for the 3rd Road/Z Road paving project. Roll Call: All Ayes

Roll Call: All Ayes

Discussion regarding the County Administrator position continued.

Moved Placke, second Jarecke to recess at 11:38 a.m. to move into Board of Equalization. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Placke, second Jarecke to reconvene at 11:40 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Placke, second Jarecke to move into Executive Session at 11:41 a.m. for personnel reasons. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Placke second Kreachbaum to move out of Executive Session at 12:05 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes
Anna Sedlacek was instructed to contact the five candidates that were suggested for the County Administrator position for possible interviews.

Moved Wiegert, second Kreachbaum to approve the December Fees as presented by District Court, County Sheriff and County Clerk offices. Roll Call: All Ayes

GENERAL	ANIMAL HEALTH INTERNATIONAL	SUPPLIES	\$604.00
	APPLIED CONNECTIVE		
	TECHNOLOGIES	MAINTENANCE	\$240.00
	JADE ARNSMEIER	MILEAGE	\$15.40
	AT&T MOBILITY	PHONE	\$1,153.08

BLUE360 MEDIA	MANUAL	\$205.53
BOMGAARS	REPAIR/SUPPLY	\$53.94
BRYAN HEALTH	PRISONER HEALT	\$435.00
CASH-WA DISTRIBUTING	PRISONER FOOD	\$1,772.56
CEDARS	JUV SERVICES	\$476.00
CENTRAL CITY MALL	FUEL	\$27.00
CENTRAL CITY MALL	PRISONER FOOD	\$169.77
CENTRAL CITY MEDICAL CLINIC	PRISONER HEALT	\$118.72
CENTURY LINK	PHONE SERVICE	\$317.68
CIDNET	SUPPLIES	\$6.00
CITIZENS BANK & TRUST COMPANY	RENTAL FEE	\$8.00
CITY OF CENTRAL CITY	OLD HOSP UTILI	\$3,150.25
CITY OF CENTRAL CITY/ UTILITIES	UTILITIES	\$2,694.78
CITY OF G.I. UTILITIES DEPT	UTILITIES	\$19.95
CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT	COURT COSTS	\$333.00
CROWNE PLAZA KEARNEY	LODGING	\$3,623.75
CULLIGAN OF GRAND ISLAND	DRINKING WATER	\$317.00
ED DEXTER	MILEAGE	\$223.86
EAKES OFFICE SOLUTIONS	SUPPLIES	\$66.82
EAKES OFFICE PLUS	SUPPLIES	\$110.19
EAKES OFFICE PLUS	SUPPLIES	\$153.98
EAKES OFFICE PLUS	CONTRACT	\$395.81
EAKES OFFICE PLUS	SUPPLIES	\$24.00
EAKES OFFICE PLUS	SUPPLIES	\$174.77
EAKES OFFICE PLUS	SUPPLIES	\$69.10
EAKES OFFICE PLUS	SUPPLIES	\$5.96
EAKES OFFICE PLUS	REPAIR	\$420.22
FAIRVIEW CEMETERY	CEMETERY MAINT	\$700.00
TRISHA FATE-STROBEL	MILEAGE/PHONE	\$146.20
FIRST CONCORD	HRA BUYDOWN	\$4,466.31
FIRST CONCORD	HRA FEES	\$252.00
FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS	PHONE SERVICE	\$64.17
GALLS, AN ARAMARK COMPANY	UNIFORM	\$285.98
SHARON GILG	PHONE	\$129.40
THERESA GOOD	MILEAGE	\$97.86
GREAT PLAINS COMMUNICATIONS	PHONE SERVICE	\$95.88
HAMILTON COUNTY CLERK	INTERLOCAL	\$59,138.47
HAMILTON TELECOMMUNICATIONS	PHONE	\$3,854.58
HD SUPPLY	SUPPLIES	\$417.56
HENNING BROTHERS LEASING	LEASE	\$280.00
HOMETOWN LEASING	LEASE	\$472.16
INTERSTATE BATTERY SYSTEM	EQUIPMENT	\$140.80
JACKSON SERVICES	RUGS SERVICE	\$1,072.09

KEN'S AUTO SERVICE	MAIN/REPAIR	\$68.28
DOUG MAW	PHONE	\$74.57
MEDICAL ENTERPRISES, INC	D&A TESTING	\$72.00
STEVE MELVIN	MILEAGE	\$255.34
MERRICK CO. HIGHWAY DEPT.	TRANSFER FUND	\$180,000.00
MERRICK CO. TREASURER	POSTAGE	\$172.66
MICROFILM IMAGING SYSTEMS, INC	MICROFILM	\$125.00
MID-NEBRASKA DISPOSAL, INC	TRASH DISPOSAL	\$192.60
MIDWEST SPECIAL SERVICES INC	TRANSPORTATION	\$173.90
DARLENE MILLER	RETIREMENT	\$192.00
NACA C/O LINDY COLEMAN	DUES	\$100.00
NACO	NACT DUES	\$75.00
NE CLERKS OF DISTRICT COURT		
ASSOC	2026 DUES	\$50.00
NE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	INSTITUTIONS	\$717.00
NE WEED CONTROL ASSOCIATION	DUES	\$165.00
NNTC	PHONE SERVICE	\$266.70
O'REILLY AUTO PARTS	SUPPLIES	\$139.98
PALSER SERVICE	FUEL	\$90.00
PINNACLE BANK-VISA	FUEL	\$114.43
PINNACLE BANK-VISA	FUEL	\$338.14
PINNACLE BANK-VISA	FUEL	\$679.36
PINNACLE BANK-VISA	FUEL	\$224.45
PINNACLE BANK-VISA	FUEL	\$149.93
PINNACLE BANK-VISA	FUEL	\$22.30
PINNACLE BANK	FUEL	\$469.75
PINNACLE BANK-VISA	SUPPLY/SUPPORT	\$652.84
PINNACLE BANK	FUEL	\$523.08
POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF		
NE	DUES	\$30.00
QUADIENT LEASING USA, INC	LEASE-POSTAGE	\$516.99
RAPID FIRE PROTECTION	EQUIP INSPECT	\$415.00
REGION 3 BEHAVIORAL	SUPPORT	\$3,080.25
TOM REIMERS	MILEAGE	\$150.80
REPUBLICAN NONPARIEL	PHONE/INTERNET	\$483.40
MARIA RODRIGUEZ	COURT SUPPLIES	\$1,488.80
ROWLEY LAW LLC	ATTY FEES	\$2,200.00
EMILY SOLL	MILEAGE	\$67.20
STATE OF NEBRASKA	PHONE SERVICE	\$1,495.60
STEHLIK LAW FIRM PC, LLO	ATTY FEES	\$1,334.75
STROMSBURG SOFT WATER	SUPPLIES	\$17.50
GLORIA TAGGE	RETIREMENT	\$156.00
THOMSON REUTERS-WEST	LAW LIBRARY	\$526.59

TOP QUALITY GLOVES	SUPPLIES	\$256.40
TRAV'S USAVE PHARMACY	PRISONER MEDS	\$189.26
TYLER TECHNOLOGIES	EQUIPMENT	\$475.94
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA - LINCOLN	RENEWAL	\$325.00
UNL PRINT & COPY SERVICES	EXHIBIT STICK	\$87.92
PINNACLE BANK	DUES/SUPPLIES	\$384.33
PINNACLE BANK-VISA	UNIFORM	\$132.00
TOM WELLER	MILEAGE	\$151.20
WHITNEY, NEWMAN, MERSCH,	ATTNY FEES	\$7,062.50
ROGER WIEGERT	MILEAGE	\$76.30
WOODS & AITKEN LLP	ATTORNEY FEES	\$438.00
ZELLE LLC	H/R ADMIN	\$10,000.00
1 TO 1 TECHNOLOGIES	SUPPLIES	\$725.13
1 TO 1 TECHNOLOGIES	CONTRACT	\$9,380.00
308 JUSTICE & MEDIATION CENTER, LLC	ATTY FEES	\$10,000.00
TOTALS		\$326,750.75

ROADS	ACE IRRIGATION & MFG., CO.	CULVERT	\$396.90
	AURORA CO-OP ELEVATOR CO.	DIESEL	\$2,069.63
	BLACK HILLS ENERGY	GAS SERVICE	\$113.29
	BOMGAARS	SUPPLIES	\$368.83
	BOSSELMAN ENERGY INC	SUPPLIES	\$9,721.18
	BUTLER COUNTY LANDFILL	TRASH DISPOSAL	\$30.00
	CORNHUSKER STATE INDUSTRIES	SIGNS	\$275.00
	CROWNE PLAZA KEARNEY	KUNZE	\$434.85
	FILTER CARE	CLEANING	\$49.50
	FIRST CONCORD-HRA FEES	HRA FEES	\$99.00
	FRONTIER COOPERATIVE	DIESEL	\$1,126.00
	GALUSHA ELECTRIC	REPAIR	\$515.46
	JIM L GRAVES	RETIREMENT	\$168.00
	GROSSHANS, INC./ROADS	REPAIR	\$334.86
	HAMILTON TELECOMMUNICATIONS	PHONE	\$120.44
	HAMILTON TELECOMMUNICATIONS	PHONE	\$34.95
	BUCKY HERMAN	LAND RENTAL	\$720.00
	INLAND TRUCK PARTS & SERVICE	REPAIR	\$412.98
	ISLAND SUPPLY WELDING CO.	SUPPLIES	\$43.88
	KELLY SUPPLY CO.	SUPPLIES	\$14.31
	MERRICK CO. TREASURER	ROAD	\$1.48
	MID-NEBRASKA DISPOSAL, INC	TRASH DISPOSAL	\$72.20
	MILLER TIRE PROS & SERVICE	TIRES	\$34,458.98
	NEBR. MACHINERY CO.	LABOR	\$3,276.30

NE MOTOR FUELS DIVISION	FUEL TAX	\$973.00
NSG LOGISTICS, LLC	ROAD SALT	\$6,723.08
LEE NEEL	UTILITIES	\$75.00
NT&T/SHOP	TELEPHONE	\$92.67
O'REILLY AUTO PARTS	SUPPLIES	\$211.05
OAK CREEK ENGINEERING	ENGINEER FEE	\$45,581.25
OMNI ENGINEERING	ASPHALT	\$2,747.50
PALMER SERVICE CENTER	DIESEL/GAS	\$2,357.01
PALSER SERVICE/ROADS	REPAIR	\$509.95
POLK COUNTY RURAL PPD	ELECTRICITY	\$103.02
RDO TRUCK CENTER COMPANY	REPAIR	\$231.26
SACK LUMBER CO./ROADS	LUMBER	\$155.94
SOUTHERN POWER DISTRICT	ELECTRICITY	\$799.31
UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY	LAND RENTAL	\$250.00
VERIZON	PHONE	\$350.90
VERIZON WIRELESS	PHONE	\$79.95
WELDON PARTS	REPAIR	\$641.37
TOTAL		\$116,740.28

OPIOID	REGION 3	SUPPORT	\$12,320.99
TOTAL			\$12,320.99

JUVENILE	FIRST CONCORD-HRA FEES	HRA FEES	\$9.00
DIVERSION	MERRICK CO. TREASURER	JV	\$1.48
TOTALS			\$10.48

K-9 FUND	CENTRAL CITY VET CLINIC	K9 CARE	\$166.22
	KIRBY K9 LLC	K9 BITE SUIT	\$1,600.00
TOTAL			\$1,766.22

ARPA	GENERAL EXCAVATION	BRIDGE	\$122,759.03
TOTAL			\$122,759.03

INHERITANCE	RDG PLANNING & DESIGN	ENGINEER FEE	\$46,790.47
TOTAL			\$46,790.47

4-H BLDG FUND	CITY OF CENTRAL CITY	UTILITIES	\$1,450.01
	MERRICK CO YOUTH & AG ED CENTER	SUPPLIES	\$220.42
TOTAL			\$1,670.43

Moved Placke, second Wiegert to pay the RDG claims out of the Inheritance Fund. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Jarecke, second Kreachbaum to approve the January claims as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes

General Gross: \$106,531.45, Net: \$75,815.52; Roads Gross: \$37,399.14, Net: \$28,428.91; Juvenile

Diversion Gross: \$4,159.79, Net: \$2,952.75. Total Gross: \$148,090.38, Net: \$107,197.18

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

Moved Kreachbaum, second Jarecke to approve the Resolution 2026-1 Official Salary as presented with the starting base salary of \$80,000.00 with a 3% increase every year. Roll Call: Ayes-None, Nays-Placke, Weller, Wiegert, Kreachbaum, Jarecke and Dexter. Motion failed.

Moved Jarecke, second Placke to approve Resolution 2026-1 for the 2027-2030 Official Salary as presented with the following changes. Base official salary to start at \$76,000.00 for 2027 with a 4% increase every year. Roll Call: Ayes-Kreachbaum, Jarecke, Placke, Dexter. Nays-Wiegert and Weller. Motion carried with a vote of 4-2.

Moved Kreachbaum, second Placke to freeze the supervisor salary for 2027 and 2028 with the current 2026 salary of \$19,841.64. Roll Call: Ayes-Jarecke, Wiegert, Kreachbaum, Placke and Dexter. Nays-Weller. Motion carried with a 5-1 vote.

Moved Wiegert, second Kreachbaum to adjourn at 1:09 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

/s/Ed Dexter, Vice-Chairman

/s/Trisha L Fate-Strobel, County Clerk