

February 24, 2026

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 9:05 a.m. in the Supervisors Room, County Courthouse, Central City, NE, with Kreachbaum, Jarecke, Dexter, Wiegert, Placke, Weller, Kucera and County Clerk Strobel present. County Attorney 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.

Moved Placke, second Dexter to convene as Board of Supervisors at 9:05 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes
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.

Agenda: Moved Dexter, second Placke to approve the agenda with the exclusion of SCEDD Interlocal.
Roll Call: All Ayes

Minutes: Moved Jarecke, second Dexter to approve the minutes from February 10, 2026 as published.
Roll Call: All Ayes

Meeting Reports: February 10, personnel interview-Kreachbaum, Wiegert and Jarecke; February 6, Nebraska Dept of Roads-Kreachbaum; February 18, Long Term Care-Kreachbaum, Jarecke and Placke; February 23, 4-H Building-Kreachbaum, Wiegert; February 17, CNCAP zoom-Jarecke and Placke; February 17, Good Life Senior Center-Placke; February 10, SCEDD-Dexter; February 13, NACO chairperson workshop in Kearney-Dexter and Kucera.

Officials Reports: Anna Sedlacek-provided the board with interview questions; Treasurer Gilg-tax sale is March 2 for the 2024 tax year and down to 37 parcels. Highway Superintendent Kunze informed the board two construction projects have started.

Clerk Strobel informed the board the auditors were present February 3rd through the 5th. Sheriff Westman stated Deputy Park attends K9 and SRT training. Sheriff's department is down to three applicants to fill the two open deputy positions. Westman also stated they are in the process of hearing back from the state regarding a fully funded digital finger print scanner.

Kirsten Fasbender of Central City provided the board with packets and requested clarification and reconciliation of county owned vehicles funded by tax payer dollars.

Ken Anderson of Central City inquired about the Zelle contract and also a speaker system for board meeting. Brad Wells of Central City stated his opinion on the hiring of a county administrative position and inquired about the sheriffs' vehicles not in use. Wells also thought a different format for the expenditures would be more informative.

Melissa Van DeWalle provided an update on Long Term Care. Tyson Benne reached out to B2 Environmental and he presented their proposal. Benner also stated Long Term would pay for the \$4800.00 if the board were to with Task 1 for the beginning of the Asbestos removal.

B2E's estimated fees are for providing services on a lump sum

Task 1:- Project Scope of Work Services - \$4,800.00 (Lump Sum)

Task 2:- Ambient Daily Air Monitoring (PCM) - \$850.00 / Per Day (Lump Sum)

Task 3:- Visual / Air Clearance (PCM) - \$700.00 / Per Clearance (Lump Sum)

Moved Jarecke, second Dexter to proceed with Task One. Roll Call: All Ayes

Highway Superintendent Kunze would like to open and amend the budget for the county bridge match funding. A check has been received for \$272,000 which is 70% of the cost and 30% of the 55% of the construction costs will be reimbursed after the project is completed. Opening up the budget will allow to expend those funds for a total of \$389,763.82. Moved Jarecke, second Weller to advertise to open the budget for the additional money received for the county bridge match fund. Roll Call; All Ayes

Moved Jarecke, second Kreachbaum to approve Resolution 2026-2: Proposed Road closure between 28th Road and 29th Road. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Jarecke, second Dexter to approve the SDL application for Tri-Community Foundation for a fundraiser March 28 1:00 p.m. to midnight and March 29 12:01 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. at 2239 U Rd, Clarks, NE. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Wiegert, second Dexter to allow the roads department to surplus old tires. Roll Call: All Ayes

ARPA	General Excavating	Bridge	\$84,779.87
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Moved Wiegert, second Dexter to approve the General Excavating claim for February 2026. Roll Call: All Ayes

Discussion regarding lawn care quotes. Moved Kreachbaum, second Dexter to approve Red Carpet Lawn Care, LLC for the courthouse lawn care. Roll Call: Ayes-Placke, Jarecke, Kucera, Kreachbaum, Dexter. Nays-Wiegert and Weller. Motion carried 5-2

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

Moved Wiegert, second Dexter to move into Executive Session at 10:22 a.m. for the Board Assistant interview. Roll Call: All Ayes

Strobel absent at 10:22 a.m.

Moved Dexter, second Jarecke to move out of Executive Session at 12:17 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

Deputy County Clerk Crouch present at 12:17 p.m.

Moved Placke, second Dexter to adjourn at 12:34 p.m. Roll Call All Ayes

/s/Carolyn Kucera, Chairwoman

/s/Trisha L Fate-Strobel, County Clerk

/s/Tiffany Crouch, Deputy County Clerk