

March 24, 2026

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at 9:05 a.m. in the Supervisors Room, County Courthouse, Central City, NE, with Kreachbaum, Jarecke, Dexter, Wiegert, Placke, Weller, Kucera, Clerk Strobel and County Attorney Kunz present. Tyson Benner, Kirsten Fasbender, Albin Ziembra, Dan Baker and Jeff Kuta were also 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.

Moved Kreachbaum, second Wiegert 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.

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

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

Meeting: Central District (NACO) in Kearney March 19-Wiegert, Kreachbaum, Jarecke, Weller, Placke; Central District Health March 16-Wiegert; 4-H Pancake Feed March 19-Jarecke, Weller, Placke and Kucera; Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership March 17-Jarecke; Bader Park March 17-Weller; Long Term Care March 18-Placke; Cody Lawson with 1 to 1 Technologies and Ed Dexter met March 17; Extension Board March 10 and Mid-Nebraska Individual Services March 18-Kucera.

Officials Reports: Sedlacek has been working with the employee personnel; Clerk Strobel stated the ballots will be ordered today and Deputy Clerk Crouch has been working on the NPERS audit; Sheriff Westman stated there was a baptism held at the jail March 23; Highway Superintendent Kunze provided updates on the box culverts north of Palmer, 4<sup>th</sup> road and G Road. Box Culvert on Ormsby road the demolition will start today. Bader Park Bridge project has been delayed due to water issues.

Tyson Benner speaking on behalf of Katie Benner, informed the board there will be a candidate forum on April 12<sup>th</sup> at the Performing Arts Center from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. for anyone wanting to meet the opposed candidates.

Kirsten Fasbender wanted to address the board with her concerns regarding an email that she had sent out previously to which there was no follow up from the board members. Fasbender also extended her appreciation to Attorney Kunz, Sheriff Westman and Captain Bauer for meeting with her regarding questions she had for the department.

Melissa Vandewalle provided an update on Long Term Care. Vandewalle also commented on possibly getting volunteers from the school to help clean up the abandoned side of the old hospital. Placke stated she would reach out to Dean Hartwig for the weeds. Tyson Benner stated B2 Environmental and RDG have been working together regarding the asbestos. Bids are expected to arrive by April 22, 2026.

Moved Weller, second Jarecke to approve Resolution 2026-3 directing transfer of funds from general to roads to revise Resolution 2025.20. Roll Call: All Ayes

Discussion was held regarding concern with fueling up the county vehicle. The clerk will apply for a Pinnacle Bank Visa to be left with the vehicle keys for the driver to have while occupied.

Moved Kreachbaum, second Placke to recess for 25 minutes at 9:32 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Dexter, second Kreachbaum to resume the Board of Supervisors at 9:57 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes  
General Gross: \$93,386.43, General Net: \$66,937.72; Roads Gross: \$37,408.69, Roads Net: \$28,356.47; Juvenile Diversion Gross: \$4,076.63, Juvenile Diversion Net: \$2,890.82.

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

Moved Kreachbaum, second Placke to open the Road Closure Hearing at 10:00 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes  
Highway Superintendent Kunze stated the bridge on the mile of Y Rd between 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> has failed. This is a minimum maintenance road. Discussion continued with how to keep the road open without a lot of cost to the county. Jeff Kuta, Dan Baker and Albin Ziemba approached the board with their concerns with the closing of the road and how the closure would affect them as this is on or near their property.

Moved Placke, second Dexter to close the Public Hearing at 10:27 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Jarecke, second Placke to table the road closure indefinitely. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Dexter, second Wiegert to open the 10:15 a.m. Amended Budget Hearing at 10:32 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

Highway Superintendent Kunze stated \$389,763.82 had not been budgeted as revenue or as an expense due to the fact not knowing what the dollar figure would end up. This is the County Bridge Match Program reimbursement.

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

Moved Placke, second Dexter to adjourn at 10:36 a.m. Roll Call All Ayes

/s/Carolyn Kucera, Chairwoman

/s/Trisha L Fate-Strobel, County Clerk