

April 28, 2026

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 9:05 a.m. in the Supervisors Room, County Courthouse, Central City, NE, with Kreachbaum, Jarecke, Dexter, Wiegert, Placke, Weller, Kucera, Clerk Strobe 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.

Moved Kreachbaum, 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.

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

Moved Jarecke, second Dexter to approve the minutes from April 14, 2026 as published. Roll Call: All Ayes

Meeting: 4-H Building Committee, April 20-Kreachbaum, Wiegert: NIRMA in Kearney, April 23-Wiegert, Dexter, Kucera, Placke; Central District Health, April 20-Wiegert; Long Term Care April 15-Kreachbaum: Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership, April 21-Jarecke; Merrick County Museum Grand Opening, April 18-Jarecke, Placke; Good Life/Senior Center, April 27-Placke; Kucera had a phone call with a representative from Keystone Pipeline April 15.

Officials Reports: Assessor Myers informed the board the assessor's office will be closed May 5<sup>th</sup> all day and part of the day on May 6<sup>th</sup> due to training in Kearney for new programming. Sedlacek has been working on employee personnel issues. Clerk Strobel said the office has been very busy with election and returned ballots. Treasurer Gilg wanted to remind people to get taxes paid and County Attorney Kunz will be attending a conference along with Deputy County Attorney Luzum in Kearney May 6 through May 8. Highway Superintendent Kunze stated there was an accident with a loader on Monday morning and it has been turned into NIRMA.

Elaine Menzel, Legal Counsel for (NACO) Nebraska Association of County Officials visited with the board regarding legislative updates and provided handouts for the board.

Melissa Van DeWalle provided the update on Long Term Care. Litzenberg was awarded the Trailblazer Grant in the amount of \$5200.00 that will be used toward activities for the residents. The company handling the removal for the asbestos is waiting on a timeline from Sampson. Tyson Benner commented he reached out to RDG regarding some complaints he had with the confusion on the asbestos two separate bids and the handling of the fire marshal. Bids for the renovation on Long Term will be received through May 8<sup>th</sup> and presented at the May 12<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Benner explained John Sohl with RDG Planning & Design had questions for the county from Sampson after the walk through with other subcontractors. Benner went over the questions with his answers he will present, the board will review and make any updates if needed within 24 hours. The on-site irrigation wells were part of the discussion and need to decide what will be done after the demolition is completed.

Moved Kreachbaum, second Wiegert to open the Public Hearing at 10:00 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

Discussion with Planning & Zoning administrator Betka and Charlie White with Aurum Capital Ventures by phone of the possibility of a Data Center in Merrick County, Section 11, Township 15, Range 4. Justin Sunday with Polk County Rural Public Power District stated it is recommended for approval, he also mentioned if rates did increase it would not be due to the center. White stated the taxable valuation would be approximately \$300,000,000.00. Charlie White mentioned if anyone in the public would like to speak to him about the data center, they are more than welcome to contact him. Hillary Betka recommended to table any action on the data center to ensure the correct information on the data center has been received. Placke absent at 10:38 a.m.

Moved Kreachbaum, second Dexter to close the Public Hearing at 10:47 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes  
Moved Jarecke, second Dexter to table any action on the data center per the request of Hillary Betka with Planning & Zoning. Roll Call: All Ayes

The county fuel acquisition procedure was discussed with Kunze and it was decided to continue purchasing the fuel with the entity to which has the lower cost at the time of purchase.

Highway Superintendent Kunze told the board the Clarks Northwest Bridge Replacement Project on 22<sup>nd</sup> and AA Bridge letting will be read publicly on Friday, May 8, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. for the construction and removal of the existing bridge.

One- and Six-Year Plan amendment will be placed on the May 12 agenda due to the incorrect structure number provided.

General Gross: \$98,968.31, Net: \$70,042.18; Roads Gross: \$39,796.78, Net: \$30,079.60; Juvenile Diversion Gross: \$4139.03, Net: \$2937.51.

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

Moved Jarecke, second Dexter to adjourn at 11:17 a.m. followed by the jail inspection. Roll Call All Ayes

/s/Carolyn Kucera, Chairwoman

/s/Trisha L Fate-Strobel, County Clerk