

May 26, 2026

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, May 26, 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.

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

Moved Jarecke, second Wiegert to approve the minutes from May 12, 2026 as published. Roll Call: All Ayes

Meetings: Central District Health-May 18-Wiegert; Personnel May 12-Wiegert, Kreachbaum, Jarecke; Ne Dept of Roads in Lincoln May 15-Kreachbaum; Mid-Plains Behavioral Health May 20-Kreachbaum; Long Term Care May 20-Kreachbaum, Placke, Jarecke; CNCAP May 19-Jarecke; Extension Board May 12-Kucera; Damaged real property webinar- May 20-Placke, Dexter.

Officials Reports: Mayers informed the board valuation notices will be sent out using MIPS full service. Out of 7800 parcels, 5740 notices will be mailed. Highway Superintendent Kunze stated the Bader Park Bridge is completed and more tires being dumped on 3rd and B Road. Kunze is also looking into the possibility of raising the permit fees. Clerk Strobel stated the new county website should be going live on June 1. Palmer School Bond Special Election will be July 14 with ballots being mailed June 22.

Melissa Vandewalle provided an update on Long Term Care.

Sharon Hueftle with SCEDD furnished the 2025 annual report along with the active projects in Merrick County.

Chief Probation Officer Carrie Rodriguez and Chief Deputy Probation Officer Morgan Campbell provided a booklet to the board outlining the services provided to Merrick County for juveniles and adults. Budget requested for 2026-2027 is down \$328.74 for a total ask of \$14,026.47. Rodriguez also asked the board for consideration of two more pull alarms in their office in which the board will look into the cost and process.

Moved Weller, second Dexter to approve the Interlocal Agreement: Adult Drug Court Probation District 5 Merrick County and Hamilton County, Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Placke, second Dexter to open the Public Hearing at 10:11 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

Highway Superintendent Kunze explained he would like to amend the One- & Six-Year Plan for projects C61 (301) Bridge/Gunbarrel Road \$100,000.00; C61 (302) Resurfacing/21st Road, Between X Road and U Road \$950,000.00 and C61 (303) Culvert Replacement/6th Road \$50,000.

Moved Dexter, second Placke to close the Public Hearing at 10:14 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Jarecke, second Kreachbaum to approve the One- & Six-Year Plan Amendment as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes

Resolution 2026-5: Directing the disbursement of money from county funds for refunds necessary due to the decrease in valuation for Green Plains Central City LLC for tax years 2021-2025 per findings and order on confession of judgement of the NE Tax and Equalization and Review Commission. Tax Corrections 4827, 4828, 4829, 4830 and 4831. Moved Jarecke, second Dexter to approve the chairwoman to sign Resolution 2026-5. Roll Call: All Ayes

Highway Superintendent Kunze presented the bids received from Vontz Paving and Werner Construction on May 22 for the 21st Road and X Road Asphalt Overlay project. Vontz Paving, Inc total bid price:

\$789,637.50; Werner Construction total bid price: \$849,497.00. Moved Jarecke, second Kreachbaum to accept Vontz Paving, Inc bid. Roll Call: All Ayes

Discussion continued on the asbestos abatement procedure at the old hospital and Long-Term Care. Moved Kreachbaum, second Placke to approve Environmental Services bid of \$87,200.00 for Task 1 and Task 2 for the asbestos abatement at the Long-Term Care Facility. Roll Call: Ayes-Wiegert, Dexter, Jarecke, Kreachbaum, Placke, Kucera. Nays-Weller. Motion Carried with a 6-1 vote.

Discussion continued regarding the bids received for the upgrade to Long-Term Care and the old hospital. Phase 1 and Phase 2 includes sitework, decoupling & HVAC upgrades along with the old hospital building demolition. Moved Kreachbaum, second Dexter to approve the bids received by Sampson Construction for Phase 1 and Phase 2 in the amount of \$2,893,208.00. Roll Call: Ayes-Placke, Jarecke, Kreachbaum, Dexter and Kucera. Nays-Wiegert and Weller. Motion carried 5-2.

General Gross: \$95,835.80, Net: \$68,082.70 Roads Gross: \$37,522.01, Net: \$28,44.76; Juvenile Diversion Gross: \$4,074.84, Net: \$2,890.08.

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

Moved Placke, second Kreachbaum to adjourn at 11:14 a.m. Roll Call All Ayes

/s/Carolyn Kucera, Chairwoman

/s/Trisha L Fate-Strobel, County Clerk