

July 28, 2026

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, July 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 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 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 Dexter, second Placke to approve the agenda. Roll Call: All Ayes

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

Meetings: Central District Health July 20-Wiegert; CNCAP July 22-Jarecke; Land Use webinar July 23rd-Placke; MNIS July 14-Kucera; 4H Building July 20-Wiegert, Kreachbaum; Tax Protest Hearings July 14 and July 21 Kreachbaum, Wiegert, Jarecke, Dexter, Kucera.

Officials Reports: Highway Superintendent Kunze is going to be conducting interviews for an employee and informed the board of a bridge that went out on Saturday causing road closure. Clerk Fate stated the office is working on processing petitions and starting the General Election process.

Melissa Vandewalle with Long Term Care provided an update on Long Term Care and informed the board the asbestos removal is going well. Tyson Benner mentioned Sampson should be at Long Term this week. Placke received an email from Andy Forney with DA Davidson stated they are ready to lock in rates for the bond to not exceed the \$3.8 million project fund.

Treasurer Gilg presented the summary of uncollected taxes for 2023, 2024 and 2025. Gilg also presented the Semi-Annual Report.

Moved Placke, second Dexter to approve NACO to facilitate printing and mailing of the Joint Public Hearing post cards through the State Print Shop. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Kreachbaum, second Wiegert to approve the SDL application for a wedding reception September 19 at the Merrick County 4H Building from 1:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. for Dub's Pub. Roll Call: All Ayes

Highway Superintendent Kunze informed the board he will need to amend the One- & Six-Year Plan due to the bridge that buckled on Saturday morning. The bridge is located just North of O Road on 7th Road and is approximately 3/4 mile south of the Archer Zion Church on 7th Road.

Moved Kreachbaum, second Jarecke to approve the sick time donation for Extension Office as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Kreachbaum, second Wiegert to approve the FY 26-27 EPC Agreement and the county match request from Region 3 Behavioral Health Services. Roll Call: All Ayes

Highway Superintendent Kunze presented bids that were opened on July 27, 2026 for Structure #C006100102 bridge replacement with a culvert. Project was bid with two separate Special Plans: Special Plan No 1-CMP and Special Plan No 2-RCBC. Engineer's Estimate: Plan 1-\$187,400, Plan 2-\$209,415.00. Diamond Engineering Co: Plan 1-\$142,650.65, Plan 2-\$172,727.75; A & R Construction: Plan 1-\$162,426.61, Plan 2-\$179,608.66; Van Kirk Contracting: Plan 1-\$165,312.40, Plan 2-\$171,325.60; Husker Grading: Plan 1-180,861.00, Plan 2-No Bid; Nielsen Contracting: Plan 1-\$202,935.80, Plan 2-\$236,742.40; M.E. Collings Contracting: Plan 1-\$248,289.12, Plan 2-\$254,931.50. Special Plan 1-CMP would be a concrete tub culvert structure with a 50-year life span; Special Plan 2-RCBC would be a concrete box culvert with a 100-year life span. Moved Weller, second Dexter to accept the low bid for Special Plan 2-RCBA from Van Kirk Brothers for \$171,325.60. Roll Call: All Ayes

Jerad Reimers provided an update from Congressman Smith's office.

Moved Placke, second Dexter to approve the surplus of a 2020 Ford Explorer from the sheriff's department to TMJ Auctions. Roll Call: All Ayes

Discussion on townships involved past due accounts, uncashed checks, gravel rates and the future of townships. Outstanding township balances as of June 30, 2026: Loup \$41,875.82, Midland \$39,365.93, Prairie Creek \$75,987.75 and Vieregg \$72,587.41. Uncashed check totals as of June 30, 2026: Clarksville \$15,373.57, Loup \$7,972.65 and Midland \$2,609.61. Gravel rates for 2026-2027 will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Moved Placke, second Dexter to move into Executive Session for the protection of the public interest at 10:43 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Wiegert, second Dexter to move out of Executive Session at 11:34 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes
2026-2027 Budget discussion continued with the board going over Juvenile Diversion budget request.

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

Weller absent at 12:19 p.m.

Moved Kreachbaum, second Dexter to adjourn at 12:40 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

/s/Carolyn Kucera, Chairwoman

/s/Trisha L Fate, County Clerk