

August 25, 2026

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, August 25, 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 on 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 Dexter, second Placke to approve the agenda. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Jarecke, second Wiegert to approve the minutes from August 11, 2026 as published. Roll Call: Weller, Jarecke, Wiegert, Placke, Dexter and Kucera. Abstain-Kreachbaum.

Meetings: Long Term Board August 12-Jarecke, Placke; CNCAP August 18-Jarecke; Bader Park August 18-Weller; Institute of Excellence August 18-Placke; Conference call with SCEDD regarding grant application August 14-Dexter and Kucera; CABT-August 18-Dexter; NIRMA August 20th and 21st-Kucera.

Officials Reports: Sheriff Westman informed the board child abuse intake has increased, SRT training was held in St. Paul August 19th; August 20 two new graduated from the training center; Captain Bauer has passed his paramedic classes; currently housing three inmates for Nance County; an update on arrests having been made was also given; Highway Superintendent Kunze state the paving projects are completed and the new motor grader operator has started his employment. Treasurer Gilg updated the board in regards to the status of the DMV being available, Gilg is also posting a job opening.

Clerk Fate said her office has completed the petition process and is currently working on budget and preparing for the General Election. Attorney Kunz visited with Doug Reeves at his residence and clarified a few options for the drainage problem that was discussed during public comment at the last board meeting.

During public comment Brad Wells thanked the board for their assessment consideration. Wells also passed around handouts to the board for budget consideration.

Jeff Trumble with Long Term Care said the construction is moving along with asbestos removal to be set to be done the end of the week; they are still waiting on a part for the chiller and the two new boilers should arrive next week. Melissa Vandewalle provided updates on Long Term Care with staff and room rate increase and the status of a law suit that is in mediation with the courts. Tyson Benner told the board the SCEDD Grant is program he would like to revisit but with the timing it will not work right now.

Hillary Betka, Hamilton County Planning & Zoning presented the Interlocal with a 5% increase and reevaluate next June.

Moved Jarecke, second Dexter to approve the chairwoman to sign the Interlocal with Hamilton County for the Planning & Zoning position. Roll Call: All Ayes

SDL applications were presented for approval: Merrick County Ag Society for September 19 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. September 20th for Good Life Rescue swap meet, car show and demo derby; Bootlegger Inc for October 24 from 3:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. for a birthday party. Both events to be held at the Merrick County Fairgrounds. Moved Weller, second Kreachbaum to approve both SDL applications as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes

Removal of the tree on the west side of courthouse was discussed due to being damaged several times since April because of weather conditions and it appears to be diseased. Doug Maw presented three quotes he received for tree and stump removal: Scott Brandenburg \$3020.00, Gabe Thompson \$4800.00, D & S Tree Service for tree removal \$900.00 and Craig Malasek for stump removal \$150.00. Moved

Jarecke, second Dexter to approve the tree and stump removal quotes from D & S Tree Service and Craig Malasek. Roll Call: All Ayes

After discussion continued regarding chairs for the second floor, it was decided to replace some of the chairs previously donated from the old hospital. This is due to breakage and overcrowding during hours the DMV is present.

Township road adjustment was discussed with Highway Superintendent Kunze, the townships as a whole would see ten miles total in deduction. Classifications will stay the same. Interlocal agreements need to be looked into. Average motor grader cost is \$124.28/hr. (labor, oil, grease, etc.).

Moved Placke, second Wiegert to open the Public Hearing 10:02 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

Highway Superintendent Kunze would like to add two projects to the One- and Six-Year plan-Project C61304 bridge on 7th and O and Project C61305 bridge on 5th road both of which have been closed.

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

Moved Jarecke, second Kreachbaum to approve the One- and Six-Year Program Amendment as presented by Kunze. Roll Call: All Ayes

Kunze held a power point presentation showing the digitizing of sign inventory that has been worked on for the last two summers by a high school student. This program will help update and record all signage in Merrick County.

Andy Forney with D.A. Davidson informed the board when the bond purchase agreement for Long Term Care is signed a wire transfer for \$3,875,000.00 will be deposited September 17, 2026. The first initial interest payment will be June 15, 2027 and interest/principal payment will be December 2027 for the 25-year bond. Road bonds were also discussed with Forney explaining the statute with rural road districts by proposing a project resolution which outlines the boundaries of where improvements will happen and then approve the resolution at a different meeting. Kunze then stated there are 22 bridges that need to be addressed throughout the county. Road bonds are limited to 20 years. No action taken at this time.

Moved Jarecke, second Placke to approve Resolution 2026-16 setting the levy for Townships, Fire Districts and Ag Society as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes

Ag Society	General Fund	\$112,500.00	\$2,578,201,625.00	0.004364
	Total	\$112,500.00		0.004364
Townships	Central	\$9,183.60	\$78,949,176.00	0.011632
	Chapman	\$35,000.00	\$197,478,732.00	0.017723
	Clarksville	\$28,571.20	\$367,157,035.00	0.007782
	Lone Tree	\$36,300.00	\$350,676,407.00	0.010351
	Loup	\$20,400.00	\$213,777,806.00	0.009543
	Mead	\$24,489.60	\$171,865,908.00	0.014249
	Midland	\$43,000.00	\$142,063,820.00	0.030268
	Prairie Creek	\$60,000.00	\$218,570,275.00	0.027451
	Prairie Island	\$1,632.64	\$54,164,879.00	0.003014
	Silver Creek	\$20,000.00	\$200,498,741.00	0.009975
	Vieregg	\$32,000.00	\$237,993,659.00	0.013446
				0.155435
Fire District				

Central City FD			
General	\$100,000.00	\$676,610,330.00	0.014780
Bond Fund	\$175,000.00	\$676,610,330.00	0.025864
Total	\$275,000.00		0.040644
Chapman FD			
General	\$79,982.00	\$338,640,395.00	0.023619
Sinking	\$16,240.00	\$338,640,395.00	0.004796
Total	\$96,222.00		0.028414
Clarks FD			
General	\$43,500.00	\$457,705,184.00	0.009504
Sinking	\$24,500.00	\$457,705,184.00	0.005353
Total	\$68,000.00		0.014857
Palmer FD			
General	\$36,000.00	\$270,010,543.00	0.013333
Sinking	\$36,000.00	\$270,010,543.00	0.013333
Bond Fund	\$49,000.00	\$270,010,543.00	0.018147
Total	\$121,000.00		0.044813
Platte Valley FD			
General	\$27,000.00	\$171,052,882.00	0.015785
Sinking	\$27,000.00	\$171,052,882.00	0.015785
Total	\$54,000.00		0.031569

Inventories presented for approval from the following offices: Attorney, Assessor, Building and Grounds, Child Support, Clerk, District Court, Election Commissioner, Jail, Juvenile Diversion, Probation, Sheriff, Supervisors, Treasurer, Veterans Service Office. Moved Jarecke, second Wiegert to approve inventories as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes

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

Moved Dexter, second Jarecke to adjourn at 12:43 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

/s/Carolyn Kucera, Chairwoman

/s/Trisha L Fate, County Clerk