

September 22, 2026

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, September 22, 2026 at 9:05 a.m. in the Supervisors Room, County Courthouse, Central City, NE, with, Jarecke, Dexter, Wiegert, Placke, Kucera, Weller, Kreachbaum, Clerk Fate 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 9:09 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 Jarecke to approve the agenda. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Dexter, second Wiegert to approve the minutes from September 22, 2026. Roll Call: All Ayes Meetings: Problem Solving Court graduation September 14-Wiegert, Jarecke, Dexter, Weller; Central District in Kearney September 17-Wiegert, Jarecke, Dexter, Kucera, Placke; 4-H Building Committee September 21st-Wiegert, Kreachbaum; Long Term Care September 16-Kreachbaum, Jarecke and Placke; Central District Health September 21-Wiegert; Mid Plains Behavioral September 21-Kreachbaum; CNCAP September 15-Jarecke; SCEDD September 15-Dexter; Chapman Township September 21st with Brad Rice and Brent Kunze-Kucera. Kucera also mentioned NIRMA will be reimbursing the county for three individuals' expenses to include but not limited to mileage/lodging to attend the NIRMA Conference in October.

Officials Reports: Highway Superintendent Kunze mentioned he will be mailing out letters to help enforce ditch mowing per statute and he mailed out notices to townships regarding the interlocal with the county. Gunbarrel Bridge should start this week. Clerk Fate said the General Election ballots have been ordered and will be mailed out October 9th.

Melissa Vandewalle provided an update on Long Term Care. Room rates will increase January 1st from \$315 to \$315/day with staff wages increasing December 1st. Chiller replacement is still set for an October 5th shipment date.

Jordanne McNeff, Juvenile Diversion Officer, provided the board with a presentation and handout of the types of cases that are handled for both truancy and diversion. McNeff stated the importance of the program for not only the juvenile but also the parents of both Hamilton and Merrick County.

Moved Jarecke, second Placke to approve Resolution 2026-17 creating funds for Long Term Care Bonds and Renovation/Construction Costs. Roll Call: All Ayes

Treasurer Gilg requested having a third signer at this time for the Long-Term Care Bond at Cornerstone Bank. Moved Placke, second Wiegert to add Carolyn Kucera as a signer along with Sharon Gilg and Angela Weller to the Cornerstone Bank account for the Long-Term Care Bond. Roll Call: All Ayes

Highway Superintendent Kunze presented three bids that were received and opened September 18, 2026 for the project involving a bridge replacement with a concrete box culvert.

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Total Bid Price</u>	<u>Proposed Completion Date</u>
The Diamond Engineering Co, GI	\$274,133.75	Dec 18, 2026
Van Kirk Bros Contracting-Sutton	\$279,293.60	June 1, 2027
Gus Constructin, Casey, IA	\$328,573.00	Dec 4, 2026

Moved Weller, second Wiegert to accept the bid from The Diamond Engineering, Co for \$274,133.75. Roll Call: All Ayes

Discussion was held whether a Board Assistant or a Human Resource position is applicable at this time. Chairwoman Kucera reached out to Zelle to ask questions regarding how counties are charged for their services.

Moved Kreachbaum, second Wiegert to pay the NACO claim in the amount of \$125.00 Roll Call: All Ayes

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

Moved Placke, second Dexter to adjourn at 11:12 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

/s/Carolyn Kucera, Chairwoman

/s/Trisha L Fate, County Clerk