

Bridgeport, Nebraska
Tuesday, July 8, 2025

The Morrill County Board of Commissioners met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:30 A.M., Tuesday, July 8, 2025 in the Commissioners' room at the Courthouse. Chairperson Metz announced that the new Open Meetings Law was posted on the wall of the Commissioners' room. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Notice of such meeting having been published in the Bayard Transcript and the Bridgeport News-Blade on July 3, 2025. Copies of the Agenda, kept continuously current were available from the County Clerk's office and were e-mailed to each of the Commissioners on July 2, 2025. On roll call Commissioners Jeff Metz, Chairman, Susanna Batterman and Josh Schmidt were present. Absent: None. Some of the elected and appointed officials were present. Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk, recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the Agenda, with the addition of the Visitors' Committee minutes, Treasurer's Unpaid Tax Report & Semi-annual Statement and approve the minutes of the June 24 & June 25, 2025 meetings. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Correspondence was received and read.

The Commissioners reviewed the following claims:

GENERAL FUND

Accelerated Receivables Solutions, Garnishment, \$223.09; Allo Communications, Service, \$1,400.65; American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$1,284.38; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$8,689.03; Brennan Andrew, Phone, \$40.00; Benchmark Govt Solutions LLC, Meals, \$68.70; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$66.41; Kathy Brandt, Phone, \$40.00; Bridgeport New-Blade, Publishing, \$174.39; Ismael Cardenas, Phone, \$40.00; City of Bridgeport, Service, \$1,861.11; Brandon Collins-Flamig, Phone & Uniform, \$180.05; Colonial Life, Insurance, \$179.63; Culligan of Scottsbluff, Repairs & Service, \$129.00; Dept of Revenue, State Tax, \$4,084.76; Docu-Shred LLC, Service, \$90.00; Rhett Dye, Phone, \$40.00; Eakes Office Solutions, Supplies, \$179.25; Shauna Faessler, Phone, \$80.00; Daniel Flores, Phone, \$40.00; Grand Slam Solutions LLC, Contract Labor, \$1,500.00; Holyoke, Snyder, Longoria, Etc, PC, Court Appointed Counsel, \$1,476.87; Hometown Leasing, Equip Lease, \$56.20; Ideal Linen/Bluffs Facility Solutions, Laundry-Prisoners, \$239.96; Justice Data Solutions Inc, Data Processing, \$3,200.00; Kaiser Tire, Repairs, \$208.00; Andrew Lawson, Phone, \$40.00; Madelung Law Office, Court Appointed Counsel, \$590.00; Tim Marquez, Phone, \$40.00; Lori McCoy, Phone, \$40.00; Seth McLaughlin, Phone, \$40.00; Jeff Metz, Phone, \$40.00; Microfilm Imaging Systems, Equip Rental, \$161.00; MIPS Inc, Data Processing & Supplies, \$3,281.68; Morrill County Community Hospital, Medical-Prisoners, \$1,000.00; Morrill County Court, Court Costs, \$318.00; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$2,243.63; NE Child Support, Child Support, \$274.16; \$236.31; Rose Nelson, Phone, \$40.00; NIRMA, Insurance, \$78,993.00; PEAC Solutions, Equip Lease, \$1,212.86; Jason Perkins, Phone, \$40.00; Platte Valley Bank HSA Accts, \$1,072.91; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$14,415.59; Quadient Leasing USA Inc, Equip Lease, \$1,905.00; Region 21 Emergency Mngmt, Quarterly, \$14,517.19; Travis Rodak, Rent, \$675.00; US Treasury, Form 720, \$373.52; Joe G. Viola, Prior Service, \$132.00; Vision Care Direct, Insurance, \$425.80; Wex Bank, Fuel, \$420.86; General Employees Salaries, \$69,902.96.

ROAD/BRIDGE FUND

Allo Communications, Service, \$110.26; American Family Insurance, Insurance, \$663.73; Ameritas Life Ins Corp, Retirement, \$3,189.51; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$348.32; Caterpillar Financial Services Crop, Equip Lease, \$5,153.05; City of Bayard, Service, \$183.64; City of Bridgeport, Service, \$568.46; Colonial Life Insurance, Insurance, \$22.16; Dept of Revenue, State Tax, \$1,615.67; Filter Care of NE LLC, Repairs, \$39.40; Harbor Freight Comm Acct, Tool s, \$17.15; Harmony Inn & Suites, Lodging, \$321.00; Heigel's Field Service, Repairs, \$36,178.50; Kaiser Tire, Tires, \$472.08; Lawson Products Inc, Supplies, \$412.21; Lussetto Machine Inc, Repairs, \$1,060.53; Menards, Repairs, \$523.51; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$1,077.64; Ne Dept of Rev-Motor Fuels Div, Fuel Tax, \$256.00; Dept of Revenue, State Tax, \$1,615.67; NE Public Power District, Service, \$73.34; NIRMA, Insurance, \$80,726.00; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$625.00; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$5,846.86; Powerplan, Repairs, \$995.21; PT Hose & Bearing, Repairs, \$1,246.22; Quill LLC, Supplies, \$177.66; Rocky Mountain Air Solutions, Supplies, \$334.75; Sapp Bros. Inc, Fuel, \$17,378.14; Simon, Asphalt, \$2,326.50; Vision Care Direct, Insurance, \$252.20; 21st Century Equip LLC, Repairs, \$800.38; Road Employees Salaries, \$28,351.18.

VISITOR’S PROMOTION FUND

Bayard Museum, Promotion, \$2,000.00; Bridgeport Museum, Promotion, \$2,000.00; Broadwater Museum, Promotion, \$2,000.00; Jenson Oilfield Service, Repairs, \$349.50; Morrill County Highway Dept, Rd Mntnce, \$1,500.00; Oregon Trail Community Foundation, Dues, \$500.00; Scottsbluff Screenprinting & Emb, Brochures, \$1,129.35; Walker Spraying, Weed Control, \$250.00; Waste Connections Inc, Garbage, \$150.00; Western Nebraska Tourism Coalition, Dues, \$319.23.

MORRILL COUNTY HEALTH FUND

Morrill County Health Plan, Claims, \$160,314.39.

W911 FUND

Century Link, Service, \$247.39; Frontier, Supplies, \$34.19.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, that the above claims be approved and checks drawn on the various funds, delinquent personal property taxes deducted where owing. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Board of Equalization

See separate minutes for Board of Equalization.

The June minutes of the Visitors’ Promotion meeting were received, reviewed and placed on file.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to go into Executive Session at 8:15 A.M., in accordance with Ne Statute #84-1410(a) to discuss negotiations for the ambulance. The Board asked the County Attorney and the County Sheriff to remain. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to return to regular session, with no action taken, at 8:35 A.M. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Kathy Brandt, County Clerk, presented a resolution that had to be enacted transferring funds from W911 to E911 before the end of June. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the transfer as of June 30, 2025 and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2025-16
TRANSFER OF FUNDS

WHEREAS, a portion of the W911 monies need to be transferred into the E911 Fund, it is necessary to transfer those monies into the E911 Fund before the end of the budget year. The Morrill County Board of Commissioners orders the County Treasurer to transfer the funds in the amount of \$35,000.00 into the E911 Fund.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 30th day of June, 2025.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/Jeff Metz
Chairman

/s/Susanna Batterman
Board Member

/s/Josh Schmidt
Board Member

(S E A L)

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt
County Clerk

Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Loretta McCoy, County Treasurer, presented the Unpaid Tax Report to the Commissioners. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to accept the Unpaid Tax Report. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. McCoy presented the Semi-Annual Statement for

January 1 through June 30, 2025. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to accept the Semi-Annual Statement. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. a resolution regarding the interest earned for the Fairground account. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to adopt the following resolution regarding interest:

RESOLUTION #2025 – 17

WHEREAS, The Revised statutes of Nebraska, Sec 77-2315 provides that the interest earned on all county funds shall be credited to the General Fund and,

WHEREAS, interest earned on a fund which shall not have been commingled with any other fund for investment purposes, the interest received shall be credited to the fund from which the investment shall have been made and,

WHEREAS, The Morrill County Board of Commissioners has received grant money for the reconstruction of the Fairgrounds and money received from this grant cannot be commingled with any other fund and,

WHEREAS, a separate checking account has been opened to prevent the grant money from being commingled with any other fund.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Morrill County Board of Commissioners directs the Treasurer of Morrill County to keep all interest earned from the Fairgrounds Grant checking account to be credited to the Fairgrounds Grant Fund Accounting Code number 2605-51001.

Passed and approved this 8th day of July, 2025.

Morrill County Board of Commissioners

/s/Jeff Metz
Chairman

/s/Susanna Batterman
Board Member

/s/Josh Schmidt
Board Member

(S E A L)

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt
County Clerk

Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. McCoy also presented a resolution to transfer \$200,000 into the Road Fund. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the transfer and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2025 – 18
TRANSFER OF FUNDS

WHEREAS, the Road Fund monies were put into the General Fund at levy time, it is necessary to transfer those monies into the proper funds. The Morrill County Board of Commissioners orders the County Treasurer to transfer the funds in the amount of \$200,000.00 into the Road Fund

PASSED AND APPROVED this 8th day of July, 2025.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/Jeff Metz
Chairman

/s/Susanna Batterman
Board Member

/s/Josh Schmidt
Board Member

(S E A L)

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt
County Clerk

Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. McCoy reported on the claims for the Fairground account. She had a claim for them to the City of Bridgeport for a transformer. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the claim to the City. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board reported on meetings they had attended. Batterman reported on the Visitors' Committee meeting. Schmidt had no meetings. Metz reported on the CAPWN meeting and that the lawsuit regarding Dr. Gage had been dropped. He also reported on the Hospital meeting.

The Board recessed for 30 minutes.

Board of Equalization

See separate minutes for Board of Equalization.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Metz adjourned the meeting at 3:30 P.M. Next meeting will be Tuesday, July 22, 2025.

/s/Jeff Metz,Chairman

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt,County Clerk

Board of Equalization

Tuesday, July 8, 2025

The Morrill County Board of Equalization met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:42 A.M., Tuesday, July 8, 2025 in the Commissioners room at the Courthouse. Chairperson Metz announced that the Open Meetings Law was posted on the wall of the Commissioners' room. Notice of such meeting having been published in the Bayard Transcript and the Bridgeport News-Blade on July 3, 2025. Copies of the Agenda, kept continuously current were available from the County Clerk's Office and were e-mailed to each of the Commissioners on July 2, 2025. On roll call Commissioners Jeff Metz, Chairman, Susanna Batterman and Josh Schmidt were present. Absent: None. Rose Nelson, County Assessor was present. Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk, recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to enter into Board of Equalization, according to Ne Statute #77-1233.04(6) at 7:42 A.M. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Rose Nelson, County Assessor, presented Tax List Corrections #2025 – 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 & 20. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve and sign above corrections. Yeas: Schmidt & Batterman. Nays: Metz. Motion carried. Nelson also presented two Homestead Exemptions that missed the deadline. She explained that the Commissioners can approve them but it has to be done before July 20, 2025. The Exemptions were on Doug Kizzire and Cathryn Richman. Nelson explained that Richman's husband is 65, but she is not and he is not listed on the deed. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve the Homestead Exemption for Doug Kizzire. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to deny the Homestead Exemption for Cathryn Richman. Yeas: Batterman and Metz. Nays: Schmidt. Motion carried. Nelson presented Over & Under Valuations and Clerical Errors. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve the Over & Under Valuations and Clerical Errors. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman (abstaining from her own) and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Nelson explained the Sales Price versus Assessed Value to the Commissioners.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to return to regular session at 8:14 A.M. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to enter into Board of Equalization, according to Ne Statute #77-1233.04(6) at 9:20 A.M. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Kathy Brandt, Morrill County Clerk, swore in the County Board, the Assessor and her deputy.

Protestors were sworn in.

Protests were heard from Roger Schmidt, Sherry Loomis, Janice Schwenke, Loretta McCoy, Kathy Tourney and Jama & Richard Oenning. Britni McCarthy was not present, but they reviewed her protest.

The Board recessed at 11:40 A.M.

The Board reconvened at 3:40 P.M.

Protestors were sworn in.

Protests were heard from Mitzi Teton, Steve Erdman, Shawna Kettleman and Tyler Kettleman.

The Board reviewed the Damaged Real Property for Kristie Mitchell. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve Damaged Real Property for Kristie Mitchell and set the value at \$0. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board recessed at 4:45 P.M.

Wednesday, July 9, 2025

The Board reconvened at 7:30 A.M. On roll call, Jeff Metz, Chairman, Susanna Batterman and Josh Schmidt were present. Rose Nelson, County Assessor, and James Cawley, Deputy Assessor, were present. Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk, recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

Protestors were sworn in.

Protests were heard from the following: Travis & Tina Sparks, Jared & Kelly Dean, Darrell Kraupie for the Neighborhood, Ed & Nadine McNabb, Allan & Diann Kreman, Jeannie Tyree, John Bishop, and Mark Heigel.

The Board recessed for lunch at 11:50 A.M.

The Board reconvened at 1:40 P.M.

Protestors were sworn in.

Protests were heard from the following: Mark Heigel, Deanne Bilby, Stan Tavenner and Steven & Otilio Torres.

The Board reviewed the protests for those who did not attend the hearings: Brian & Jodi Markheim, Burke Cattle Co., Chad Anderson, Jeff & Amy Nichols, Marilyn Radke, Scott Miller, Christopher & Mackenzie Buskirk and Jared Barr.

Final Decisions on these protests will be made at the Commissioners' meeting on July 22, 2025. Josh Schmidt excused himself from the meeting at 3:00 P.M.

Motion was made by Metz, seconded by Batterman, to return to regular session at 3:20 P.M. Yeas: Metz and Batterman. Nays: None. Motion carried

There being no further discussion, Chairman Metz adjourned the meeting at 3:23 P.M.

/s/Jeff Metz Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk

