

Bridgeport, Nebraska  
Tuesday, September 23, 2025

The Morrill County Board of Commissioners met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:30 A.M., Tuesday, September 23, 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. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Notice of such meeting having been published in the Bridgeport News-Blade and the Bayard Transcript, on September 18, 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 September 18, 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 also 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 deletion of the Transfer of Funds and approve the minutes of the September 9, 2025 meeting. 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; American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$1,260.39; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$8,644.82; AT & T Mobility, Service, \$385.77; B & S Body Shop, Repairs, \$49.50; Bayard Transcript, Publishing, \$326.16; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$215.91; Blake's Automotive, Repairs, \$146.11; Bomgaars Supply Inc, Supplies, \$290.89; Kathy Brandt, Mileage, \$22.40; Bridgeport News-Blade, Publishing & Supplies, \$103.59; Capital Business Systems, Data Processing Costs, \$137.25; Century Business Products, Supplies & Equip, \$272.96; Century Link, Service, \$80.75; City of Bridgeport, Service, \$2,841.66; Clerk of Dist Court, Court Costs, \$39.00; Colonial Life, Insurance, \$179.63; Dept of Revenue, State Tax, \$4,001.09; Jose Dominguez/Dominguez Construction, Repairs, \$500.00; Eakes Office Solutions, Supplies, \$162.03; Go To Communications Inc, Service, \$94.81; Holly Hjelmstad, Phone, \$40.00; Holyoke, Snyder, Longoria, Etc PC, Court Appointed Counsel, \$140.00; Hometown Leasing, Equip Lease, \$56.20; Steven R. Hutchinson, Contract Labor, \$730.00; Intab LLC, Election Supplies, \$39.85; Susan Kelly, Phone, \$40.00; Koke's Auto Farm Truck, Repairs, \$54.97; Marshall & Swift/BOECKH, LLC, Registration, \$688.20; Lori McCoy, Mileage & Phone, \$141.60; Medical Air Services Assn, Insurance, \$476.00; Meritain Health, Insurance, \$32,875.67; Microfilm Imaging Systems, Equip Rental, \$86.00; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$2,256.42; Morrill County Health Plan, Insurance, \$30,683.96; Morrill County Health Plan, Vision, \$426.80; NACO, Registration, \$160.00; NE Child Support, Child Support, \$274.16; \$236.31; Norfolk Inn & Suites, Lodging-Weed Supt, \$250.00; Sarah Paisley, Meals, Repairs & Mileage, \$79.66; PIP Marketing Signs & Print, Election Supplies, \$4,459.98; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$1,072.91; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$14,473.34; Principal Life, Life Insurance, \$248.00; Quadient Leasing USA Inc, Equip Lease, \$1,905.00; Ramada by Wyndham, Lodging-Ext, \$55.00; Region 21 Emergency Mngmnt, Quarterly, \$12,015.89; Scotts Bluff County Detention Center, Boarding Contract, \$810.00; Secretary of State-Election Div, Supplies, \$120.00; Jonathan Seng, Repairs, \$781.06; State of NE-Dept of Admin, Data Processing Costs & Equip, \$1,039.60; U S Bank, Data Processing Equip, Registration, Uniforms, Phone, Board of Prisoners, Lodging, Supplies & Misc, \$4,008.93; Valley Tire & Service LLC, Fuel, \$29.53; XESI Document Solutions, Equip Lease, \$223.42; Yellow Robe Consulting, Juvenile Costs, \$1,800.00; General Employees, Salaries, \$70,221.64.

#### ROAD/BRIDGE FUND

American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$663.73; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$3,342.51; Bomgaars Supply Inc, Supplies, Repairs & Misc, \$267.03; Dana Cadwallader, Phone, \$40.00; Century Link, Service, \$139.15; Charter Communications, Service, \$119.99; Chimney Rock Public Power Dist, Misc, \$673.40; Colonial Life Insurance, Insurance, \$22.16; Dept of Revenue, State Tax, \$1,704.78; Fat Boys Tire & Auto-Scottsbluff, Tires, \$177.68; Ronald G. Franklin, Phone, \$40.00; Harbor Freight, Supplies & Tools, \$253.94; Bryan Hoerler, Phone, \$40.00; Kaiser Tire, Tires & Repairs, \$925.18; Lee's Service Inc, Tires, \$35.00; Medical Air Service Assoc, Insurance, \$238.00; Meritain Health, Ins, \$17,410.28; Justin Mitchell, Phone, \$40.00; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$1,080.56; Morrill County Health Plan, Health Insurance, \$16,336.47; Morrill County Health Plan, Vision, \$252.20; NE Public Power Dist, Service, \$113.12; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$625.00; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$6,178.64; Principal Life, Life

Insurance, \$120.60; Simon, Asphalt, \$10,329.00; Steve's Truck & Equip, Repairs, \$75.00; Thompson Glass Inc, Repairs, \$100.00; David Zwirn, Phone, \$40.00; Road Employees, Salaries, \$29,711.21.

#### 911 FUND

Century Link, Service, \$100.94.

#### BUILDING FUND

GeoComm Inc, Misc, \$4,690./00.

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

#### Board of Equalization

See separate minutes for Board of Equalization.

The following 2025 monthly reports were received, reviewed and placed on file: August – I Cardenas, Co Sheriff, K Brandt, Co Clerk, L McCoy, Co Treas and S Kelly, Clk of Dist Ct.

The August minutes of the Morrill/Scotts Bluff County Extension meeting were received, reviewed and placed on file.

Chairman Jeff Metz opened the Public Hearing for the Property Tax Request for the Morrill County 2025-2026 Tax Request at 8:00 A.M.

Chairman Jeff Metz opened the Public Hearing for the Morrill County 2025-2026 Budget at 8:15 A.M.

Ryan Patterson was unable to attend the meeting. Metz did ask if we could draw up a waiver for people that want to use the Fair grounds. Fellhoelter said he could draw it up.

The Board reported on meetings they had attended. Schmidt reported on the Hospital meeting and that they are 8% below their budget. He said the meeting with the Hospital and the City and their resolutions, made the one the County adopted null and void. He said the Hospital will evaluate once a month to see their needs for the Ambulance Service. Batterman said that Frank Lussetto said they would like to thank the County for their partnership in this. Batterman reported on the Panhandle Public Health meeting where they adopted their budget. She said they will not be overseeing the licenses for marijuana growers. She said she attended the Region I Behavioral Health meeting, which was short. Metz said he attended the Public Hearing for the Bayard School District #21 for the pink postcard. He said the cost per student there is \$29,000. He said they have had this pink postcard for three years now. Metz also attended the Building Champions meeting and the Fair Board meeting. He said they are moving ahead with the new plan for the Fair building that is in compliance with the Fire Marshall. He also attended the Extension meeting and since they are one commissioner short, they questioned whether that would change the budget. He said they need to split this by county and hopes by the end of the year, it will be separate. He said he had many phone calls with the Hospital Board.

Jeff Metz, Chairman of the Board, recessed the meeting at 8:45 A.M.

The County Board reconvened at 8:51 A.M. (See separate minutes for the Budget) On Roll Call Commissioners Jeff Metz, Chairman, Susanna Batterman and Josh Schmidt were present. Some of the Elected and appointed officials were present. Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk, recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

Hearing no comments from the Public, Chairman Metz closed the Public Hearings for setting the Tax Request for Morrill County for budget year 2025-2026 and the County's Budget for 2025-2026 at 8:52 A.M.

Chairman Metz asked to go into Executive Session. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to enter into Executive Session, at 9:12 A.M. to discuss a contract. 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 9:55 A.M. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Metz thanked everyone for keeping their budgets at the 2.5% increase.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Metz adjourned the meeting at 9:57 A.M. Next meeting will be Tuesday, October 14, 2025.

/s/Jeff Metz,Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk

**Board of Equalization**  
Tuesday, September 23, 2025

The Morrill County Board of Equalization met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:46 A.M., Tuesday, September 23, 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. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Notice of such meeting having been published in the Bridgeport News-Blade and the Bayard Transcript, on September 18, 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 September 18, 2025. On roll call Commissioners Jeff Metz, Chairman, Susanna Batterman and Josh Schmidt were present. Absent: None. Rose Nelson, County Assessor, and Kirk Fellhoelter, County Attorney, were 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 7:46 A.M. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Kirk Fellhoelter, County Attorney, presented a Confession of Judgement on Jared & Kelly Dean for the 23-24 Tax year at \$524,400 based off of the appraisal. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to confess judgement on Jared & Kelly Dean, based on appraisal. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to return to regular session at 7:51 A.M. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

/s/Jeff Metz, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk

Bridgeport, Nebraska  
Tuesday, September 23, 2025

The Morrill County Board of Commissioners met in an open and public special meeting at 9:00 A.M., Tuesday, September 23, 2025 in the Commissioners' room at the Courthouse for the purpose of setting the Property Tax Request for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year and at 9:05 A.M. for the purpose of adopting the County Budget for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year. Chairman Metz announced that the Open Meetings Law was posted on the wall in the Commissioners' room. Notice of such meeting and public hearing notice having been published in the Bridgeport News-Blade and the Bayard Transcript, on September 18, 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, September 18, 2025. On roll call Commissioners Jeff Metz, Chairperson, Susanna Batterman and Josh Schmidt were present. Absent: None. Some of the elected and appointed officials were also present. Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk, recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the Agenda. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Public Hearing for setting the Property Tax Request was held at 8:00 A.M. There being no comments from the public, Chairman Metz closed the Public Hearing at 8:52 A.M.

Motion was made by Schmidt seconded by Batterman, to approve the Property Tax Request and to set the levy at .297974 for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2025-30  
PROPERTY TAX REQUEST 2025-2026

WHEREAS, Nebraska Revised statute 77-1632 and 77-1633 provides that the Governing Body of Morrill County passes by a majority vote a resolution setting the property tax request; and

WHEREAS, a special public hearing was held as required by law, to hear and consider comments concerning the property tax request.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the property tax request be set as follows for each Morrill County Fund which directly receives property taxes as all or a portion of its revenue.

1. The 2025-2026 property tax request for the General Fund be set at \$4,273,982.42, which is different than the 2024-2025 Property Tax asking of \$4,159,401.20.
2. The 2025-2026 property tax request for the Hospital Bond Fund be set at \$179,011.86, which is different than the 2024-2025 Property Tax asking of \$174,541.31.
3. The total assessed value of property differs from last year's total assessed value by **7.03%**.
4. The tax rate which would levy the same amount of property taxes as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of property, would be **.290008**, per \$100 of assessed value.
5. The Morrill County Board of Commissioners proposes to adopt a property tax request that will cause its tax rate to be .297974 which is different than the 2024-2025 tax rate of .310390, per \$100 of assessed value.
6. Based on the proposed property tax request and changes in other revenue, the total operating budget of the Morrill County Board of Commissioners will **increase** compared to last year's operating budget by **0.90%**.
7. A copy of this resolution be certified and forwarded to the County Clerk on or before October 15, 2025.

Dated this 23rd day of September, 2025.

**MORRILL COUNTY NEBRASKA  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

/s/Jeff Metz  
Chairman

/s/Susanna Batterman  
Board Member

(S E A L)

/s/Josh Schmidt  
Board Member

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt  
Morrill County Clerk

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

Chairman Metz opened the public hearing for the 2025-2026 Morrill County Budget at 8:15 A.M. Copies of the budget were available for the public. There being no comments from the public, Chairman Metz closed the public hearing at 8:52 A.M.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to adopt the 2025-2026 Budget and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 2025-31  
MORRILL COUNTY BUDGET DOCUMENT  
RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION AND APPROPRIATIONS

WHEREAS, A proposed County Budget for the Fiscal year of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. prepared by the Budget Making Authority, was transmitted to the Morrill County Board of Commissioners on or about the 1<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2025;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Morrill County, Nebraska as follows:

SECTION 1. That the budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, as categorically evidenced by the Budget Document be, and the same hereby is, adopted as the Budget for Morrill County for said fiscal year.

SECTION 2. That the offices, departments, activities and institutions herein named are hereby authorized to expend the amounts herein appointed to them during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.

SECTION 3. That the income necessary to finance the appropriations made and expenditures authorized shall be provided out of the unencumbered cash balance in each fund, revenues other than taxation to be collected during the fiscal year in each fund, and tax levy requirements for each fund.

Dated this 23rd day of September, 2025.

**MORRILL COUNTY NEBRASKA  
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  
Morrill County Clerk

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

There being no further discussion, Chairman Metz adjourned the meeting at 9:02 A.M.

/s/Jeff Metz, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk

