

Bridgeport, Nebraska
Tuesday, April 8, 2025

The Morrill County Board of Commissioners met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:30 A.M., Tuesday, April 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 April 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 April 3, 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' Promotion minutes and the deletion of subdivision of property, and approve the minutes of the March 25, 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; Allo Communications, Service, \$1,373.21; American Family Life, Insurance, \$1,261.96; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$8,611.41; Brennan Andrew, Phone, \$40.00; Bayard Transcript, Subscription & Publishing, \$137.36; Bomgaars Supply Inc, Repairs, \$33.87; Kathy Brandt, Phone, \$40.00; Bridgeport New-Blade, Publishing & Supplies, \$587.84; Ismael Cardenas, Phone, \$40.00; Charter Communications, Service, \$169.99; Brandon Collins-Flamig, Phone, \$40.00; Colonial Life, Insurance, \$179.63; Culligan of Scottsbluff, Service, \$297.50; Dana F. Cole & Co LLP, Audit, \$21,112.00; Dollar General, Board of Prisoners & Supplies, \$423.35; Rhett Dye, Phone, \$40.00; Eakes Office Solutions, Supplies, \$527.42; Shauna Faessler, Phone, \$40.00; Daniel Flores, Phone, \$40.00; Grand Slam Solutions LLC, Contract Labor, \$1,500.00; Holyoke, Snyder, Longoria, Etc PC, Court Appointed Counsel, \$2,797.92; Hometown Leasing, Equip Lease, \$56.20; Ideal Linen/Bluffs Facility Solutions, Laundry-Prisoners, \$231.96; Kaiser Tire, Repairs, \$104.00; Koke's Auto Farm Truck, Law Enforcement Supplies, \$17.98; Andrew Lawson, Phone, \$40.00; Audrey M. Long, Public Defender, \$4,687.00; Marlin Leasing Corp, Equip Lease, \$212.96; Tim Marquez, Phone & Mileage, \$611.20; Lori McCoy, Phone, \$120.00; Seth McLaughlin, Phone, \$40.00; Mediation West, Misc, \$100.00; Jeff Metz, Phone, \$40.00; Microfilm Imaging Systems, Equip Rental, \$75.00; MIPS Inc, Data Processing, \$2,810.46; Mobius Communications Co, Service, \$58.50; Morrill County Court, Court Costs, \$353.00; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$2,283.11; Morrill County Highway Dept, Fuel, \$193.12; NE Child Support, Child Support, \$274.16; \$236.31; NE Print Works LLC, Supplies, \$66.64; NE Total Office, Supplies, \$777.21; Rose Nelson, Phone, \$40.00; Nossaman, Pettitt Law Firm PC LLO, Court Appointed Counsel, \$5,345.62; Patty Wax General Service, Mngr, \$1,000.00; Jason Perkins, Phone, \$40.00; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$1,172.91; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$14,267.27; Quadient Leasing USA Inc, Equip Lease, \$1,905.00; Region 21 Emergency Management, Quarterly, \$17,141.96; Retchless Technologies LLC, Contract, \$1,500.00; Travis Rodak, Rent, \$675.00; Sandhills Repair, Repairs, \$533.50; Sonny's Super Foods, Board of Prisoners, Medical-Prisoners & Supplies, \$29.12; State of NE-Dept of Admin, Service, \$537.60; Ricky Trevino, Phone, \$40.00; USDA Aphis, Pest Control, \$833.45; Wex Bank, Fuel, \$701.83; General Employees Salaries, \$69,000.84.

ROAD/BRIDGE FUND

Allo Communications, Service, \$109.40; American Family Life, Insurance, \$663.73; Ameritas Life Ins Corp, Retirement, \$3,188.00; Bayard Automotive, Repairs, Tires & Supplies, \$1,147.95; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$3,213.13; Bomgaars Supply Inc, Supplies, Repairs & Tools, \$1,019.77; Dan Carmine, Gravel, \$50,000.00; Caterpillar Financial Services Crop, Equip Lease, \$5,153.05; Century Link, Service, \$136.64; City of Bayard, Service, \$406.59; City of Bridgeport, Service, \$495.57; Colonial Life Insurance, Insurance, \$22.16; Contractors Materials Inc., Repairs, \$23.00; Garrett Tires & Treads, Tires, \$6,696.00; Ideal Linen/Bluffs Facility Solutions, Supplies, \$226.24; Inland Truck Parts & Service, Repairs, \$276.36; Lawson Products Inc, Supplies, \$54.60; Matheson Tri-Gas Inc, Supplies, \$19.20; Menards, Supplies, \$132.66; Mid-American Research Chemical, Supplies, \$363.84; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$1,077.64; NE Assoc of Co Eng Hwy Supt, Registration, \$160.00; NE Dept of Rev/Motor Fuels, Fuel Tax, \$351.00; NMC Exchange LLC, Repairs, Parts & Blade, \$5,062.59; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$625.00; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$5,793.26; Powerplan, Repairs, \$5,674.89; Rocky Mountain Air Solutions, Supplies, \$448.25; Sonny's Super Foods, Supplies, \$6.95; Steve's Truck & Equip, Repairs, \$50.00; Kurt Tremain,

Registration, \$300.00; Village of Broadwater, Service, \$134.60; Westco, Fuel, \$19,834.60; Road Employees Salaries, \$28,337.82.

VISITORS PROMOTION FUND

Omaha Publications, Advertising, \$3,415.00.

HEALTH INSURANCE FUND

Morrill County Health Fund, Health Claims, \$87,006.69.

W911 FUND

Century Link, Service, \$487.92.

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 Quarterly report for the Road Department was received, reviewed and placed on file.

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

Steve Hutchinson presented his contract for the landscaping and fertilizing. The amounts were the same as last year, \$730 per month for the landscaping and \$1,050 for the fertilizing, which includes 3 applications. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve and sign the contracts with Steve Hutchinson. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Jack Berg, President of the Visitors' Committee met with the Board, to present the list of the re-appointments and new members to be appointed. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt to approve the re-appointment of Jack Berg, Billie Mitchell, Loren Pospisil and Marlene Yeager, to 4 year terms ending in 2029 and the re-appointment of Bernie Miller for a 2 year term ending in 2027 and the new appointments of Carrie McCasland and Tonya Verbeck for a 2 year term ending in 2027. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. Metz said they would like to appoint Susanna Batterman, to be a liaison to this board. Motion was made by Metz, seconded by Schmidt, to appoint Susanna Batterman as the liaison to the Visitors' Promotion Board. Yeas: Metz, Schmidt and Batterman. Nays: None. Motion carried. Berg said he would like to take \$50,000 of the Tourism money and put it in CD's so they could earn some interest for the project of lighting up Court House and Jail Rocks. The Board told Berg to hold off on the CD's until they can find out more about this. The Board asked about the lighting project. Berg said that the State Historical Society is in favor of it and so is the Tourism industry in Nebraska. The Board asked if they will help pay for this project and he said they will not, but they are helping them apply for grants. He said there have been funds donated by people in the amount of \$4,700 and if the project doesn't go, it will be returned to the donors. The Board said they thought it would be a good idea if the Tourism Board held a public meeting to see if everyone is in favor of this and to hear from those who are not. The Board asked if people could apply for funds from the Tourism Board. Berg said they could and they are in the process of developing an application for doing that. Metz mentioned the Keno Funds that have to be applied for. Batterman said she felt that the State Historical Society should put money in. Schmidt said he likes the idea of lighting it up, but he has had some calls from those against it. Metz said he thinks a public meeting to hear the pros and cons should be their next step.

Sarah Paisley, Extension Educator, met with the board. She said as of 7-1-2025, counties will have to take on insurance, repairs, etc for state owned vehicles. She said the state will have no money for car funds. She said she was paid \$1,700 in mileage for using her own vehicle. Metz said he's mad at the state over this vehicle deal. He said we should buy a car and share expenses with Garden County. Milo Cardenas, County Sheriff, said the county could purchase a vehicle from the State like he and Hoerler do. Paisley said Garden County is on board with sharing expenses. Metz told the County Attorney to draw up an agreement with Garden County for cost sharing. Schmidt said he thought we should buy the car and have Garden County pay gas and repairs. The Board said they will look at something for \$25,000 or less.

Loretta McCoy, County Treasurer, presented a resolution to transfer funds to the Road Department. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to transfer \$150,000 into the Road Fund and to adopt the following resolution: