

Bridgeport, Nebraska
Tuesday, April 28, 2026

The Morrill County Board of Commissioners met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:30 A.M., Tuesday, April 28, 2026 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 Bayard Transcript on April 23, 2026. 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 23, 2026. 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. Candace D. Panas, County Clerk, recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the Agenda with deletion of Tax List Correction from Board of Equalization and the minutes of the April 14, 2026 meeting. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Correspondence was received and read.

The Commissioners reviewed the following claims:

GENERAL FUND

American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$1,763.11; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$8,730.81; AT&T Mobility, Service, \$392.45; BAAS 24hr Towing, LLC, Towing, \$1,246.20; Bayard Transcript, Publication, \$293.56; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$739.74; Bomgaars Supply Inc, Repairs & Supplies, \$43.13; Capital Business Systems, Inc., Supplies, \$252.78; Ismael Cardenas, Registration, \$350.00; Century Business Products, Supplies, \$148.73; City of Bridgeport, Service, \$2,403.29; Colonial Life, Insurance, \$209.37; Corporate Payment Systems, U S Bank, Data Processing Equip, Meals, Fuel, Dues, Uniforms, Board of Prisoners, Law Enforcement Costs, Supplies & Misc., \$3,553.47; Crites, Shaffer, Connealy, Etc., Attorney's Fees, \$250.00; Dept of Revenue, State Tax, \$3,775.20; Dollar General, Supplies, \$7.30; Election Systems & Software Inc, Ballots & Coding, \$4,198.21; Henne Family Funeral & Cremation, Autopsy Transport, \$1,810.00; Holly Hjelmstad, Phone, \$40.00; Holiday Inn Kearney, Lodging, \$419.85; Jamie Holloway, Ballot Prep, \$700.00; Jackson's Garage LLC, Service, \$82.47; Susan Kelly, Phone & Uniform, \$88.00; LPI Digital, LLC, Advertisement, \$161.25; Madelung Law Office, Attorney Fees, \$40.00; Tim Marquez, Cell Phone, \$40.00; Medical Air Services Assn, Insurance, \$476.00; Microfilm Imaging Systems, Equipment Rent, \$344.00; Mid-States Org Crime Inf Center, Training, \$100.00; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$2,430.46; Morrill County Health Plan, Insurance, \$34,661.16; Morrill County Health Plan, Vision, \$504.40; NE Public Health Envi Lab, Blood Draw, \$105.00; NE Child Support, Child Support, \$274.16; \$236.31; Nossaman Pettitt Law Firm, PC LLO, Court Appointed Council, \$1,239.03; Panhandle Association of Co Assessors, Dues, \$125.00; Karen Peterson, Meals, \$73.88; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$647.91; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$14,280.10; Principal Life, Life Insurance, \$262.29; Rave Wireless, Civil Defense, \$1,020.87; Scottsbluff Co Detention Center, Inmate Boarding, \$41.84; Scottsbluff Sheriff's Office, Serve of Process, \$537.60; State of NE-Dept of Admin, Data Processing Costs & Equip, \$537.60; Thompson Reuters-West, Sub Charges, \$995.00, Valley Tire & Service LLC, Fuel Co Vehicle, \$86.83; Xesi Document Solutions, Equip Lease, \$198.72; General Employees, Salaries, \$50,609.45.

ROAD/BRIDGE FUND

American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$713.32; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$3,994.54; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$992.88; Bomgaars Supply Inc, Supplies, Repairs & Tools, \$2,009.29; Dana Cadwallader, Phone, \$40.00; Century Link, Service, \$138.36, 141.64; Charter Communications, Service, \$119.99; City of Bayard, Service, \$274.05; Colonial Life Insurance, Insurance, \$22.16; Corporate Payment Systems, U S Bank, Meals & Fuel, \$211.65; Crowne Plaza Kearney, Lodging, \$679.80; Dept of Rev, State Tax, \$2,051.39; Dooley Oil Inc, Oil & Shop, \$2,344.66; Fat Boys Tire & Auto, Tire Mounting, \$81.60; Ronald G. Franklin, Phone, \$40.00; Heigels Field Service, Part & Labor, \$3,160.00; Bryan Hoerler, Phone, \$40.00; Jamie Holloway, Contract Labor, \$684.00; KBK Trucking LLC, Gravel, \$66,275.44; Medical Air Service Assoc, Insurance, \$266.00; Justin Mitchell, Phone, \$40.00; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$1,177.29; Morrill County Health Plan, Health Insurance, \$18,157.34; Morrill County Health Plan, Vision, \$291.00; NPPD, Service, \$83.19; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$700.00; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$7,412.66; Principal Life, Life Insurance, \$133.90; PT Hose & Bearings, Parts, \$2,145.49;

Rocky Mountain Air Solutions, Cylinder Rentals, \$352.19; WPCI, Drug Testing, \$156.00; David Zwirn, Phone, \$40.00; Road Employees, Salaries, \$25,643.42.

HEALTH INSURANCE CLAIM FUND

Morrill County Community Hospital, Rebate Reimbursement, \$117,843.25.

911 FUND

Century Link, Service, \$81.00.

W911 FUND

Century Link, Service, \$247.39.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, 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: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Board of Equalization

See separate minutes for Board of Equalization.

The following 2026 monthly reports were received, reviewed and placed on file: March – I Cardenas, Co Sheriff, C Panas, Co Clerk, L McCoy, Co Treasurer and S Kelly, Clerk of District Court.

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

A Subdivision of property was received from Matthew J. Huck. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve the subdivision and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 2026-12

RESOLUTION APPROVING INSTRUMENT EFFECTING SUBDIVISION TO REAL ESTATE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the present record owners Matthew J. Huck

have applied for approval of an instrument effecting the subdivision of the ___part of the Northeast One-Quarter of Section 4, Township 20 North, Range 52 West of the 6th P.M., Morrill County, Nebraska_____

below-described premises located in Morrill County, Nebraska.

A TRACT OF LAND SITUATED IN GOVERNMENT LOT 1, OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 20 NORTH, RANGE 52 WEST OF THE 6TH P.M., MORRILL COUNTY, NEBRASKA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 4, THENCE WESTERLY ON THE NORTH LINE OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 4, ON AN ASSUMED BEARING OF N87°46'39"W, A DISTANCE OF 458.31 FEET, THENCE BEARING S63°17'48"W, A DISTANCE OF 227.79 FEET, THENCE BEARING S60°05'03"E, A DISTANCE OF 530.65 FEET, THENCE BEARING S73°44'08"E, A DISTANCE OF 199.41 FEET, TO THE POINT OF INTERSECTION WITH THE EAST LINE OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 4, THENCE BEARING N01°25'35"E, ON SAID EAST LINE OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER, A DISTANCE OF 405.21 FEET, TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, SAID TRACT CONTAINING AN AREA OF 3.93 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO Sec. 23-372 R.R.S., et seq., the Board of County Commissioners of Morrill County, Nebraska, does hereby authorize and permit subdivision of the following described real estate in Morrill County, Nebraska:

NOTE: Any driveway, grading or culvert to be at owner expense.

NOTE: The Morrill County Zoning Administrator has reviewed the zoning and land use and has determined its compliance with Morrill County Zoning Regulations.

NOTE: Publication of this document for the newspapers and filing fees at owner expense.

Passed and approved this 28th day of April, 2026

/s/Jeff Metz
Chairman, County Board

/s/Susanna Batterman
Member, County Board

/s/Josh Schmidt
Member, County Board

ATTEST: (SEAL)

/s/Candace D. Panas
County Clerk

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

Loretta McCoy, County Treasurer, presented a Resolution to transfer funds into the Road Fund for \$150,000.00. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the transfer and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2026-13
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 \$150,000.00 into the Road Funds.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 28th day of April, 2026.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/Jeff Metz
Chairman

/s/Susanna Batterman
Board Member

/s/Josh Schmidt
Board Member

(S E A L)

ATTEST:

/s/Candace D. Panas
County Clerk

Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. McCoy also presented a Fair Ground claim from Rod Laucomer who paid an invoice to the Fire Marshall. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman to approve the claim to Rod Laucomer in the amount of \$2,767.23. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

John Erickson, County Assessor, presented a proposed transition from the county's current GIS platform to Schneider Geospatial's Beacon to modernize GIS and public access services. The system would improve public access for parcel, tax and property information. It would also help with managing property valuation protests and help public access comparable properties. He stated they have recently expanded to Nebraska, and multiple counties have transitioned to Beacon. He noted he must notify the current GIS vendor by May 1 of his intent not to renew. If approved, the Beacon system is expected to go live July 1. Current GIS costs are approximately \$14,000 annually; Beacon would cost about \$26,000 in the first year (including a one-time setup fee) and approximately \$22,000 - \$23,000 annually thereafter. Loretta McCoy reported hearing feedback at a Treasurers meeting that some users are not satisfied with the Beacon system. Rose Nelson also noted similar concerns and suggested reaching out to other counties using the system to gather their input and experiences. The Commissioners stated to look into the issues, and ultimately the decision will be left to him to determine what best suits his office.

Caleb Johnson, with J13 Enterprises LLC, presented legislative updates on several bills. LB1219 did not advance and was declassified; it will not be an issue this year but may be revisited next year. He also touched on the Inheritance Tax Bill and discussion that is happening with it. Johnson presented an engagement letter for budget preparation, reflecting a slight increase due to inflation. The agreement increased from \$3,500 to \$3,900 under a three-year contract, with the rate locked in for the term. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman to approve the Letter of Engagement for Budget Preparation for a three-year agreement. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board reported on meetings they had attended. Josh reported no meetings but noted a hospital meeting scheduled for today. Susanna reported no meetings. Metz attended the Box Butte County Road petition hearing with Bryan Hoeler regarding the road closure involving Box Butte County Road and Morrill County Road 117; no decision was made. Metz also met with Andy Benavides and Rod Laucomer regarding progress on the exhibit hall, noting they are waiting for plumbing blueprints.

During public comment, Sue Wiggins raised concerns about the Fire District initiative on the ballot, questioning who determines ballot wording and noting it is confusing when it does not state 'for' or 'against' but instead uses yes/no language. Candace responded that the wording followed the resolution passed at the Rural Fire meeting and that the ballot must follow that wording exactly. John Erickson reported that the county vehicle is being taken in for air conditioning repair.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Metz adjourned the meeting at 8:36 A.M. Next meeting will be on Monday, May 11, 2026.

/s/Jeff Metz, Chairman

ATTEST

/s/Candace D. Panas, County Clerk

Board of Equalization
Tuesday, April 28, 2026

The Morrill County Board of Equalization met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:36 A.M., Tuesday, April 28, 2026 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 Bridgeport News-Blade and the Bayard Transcript on April 23, 2026. 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 23, 2026. 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. Candace D. Panas, County Clerk, recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to enter into Board of Equalization, according to Ne Statute #77-1233-04(6) at 7:36 A.M. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Loretta McCoy, County Treasurer, presented resolution to authorize a strike on property taxes for the years 2001-2009. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve the strike on taxes from 2001-2009 on parcel # 200090464 and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-11

Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Morrill County, Nebraska that the County Treasurer of said Morrill County, Nebraska is hereby authorized and directed to strike Property Tax per section 77-7138, Revised Statute of Nebraska, from the Tax List of Morrill County, Nebraska.

A list of all persons and amounts involved is attached. The years covered are 2001-2009 and older unless otherwise noted. Tax only; no interest or fees are shown. The total base amount involved is: \$5860.52.

Passed and approved the 28th day of April, 2026.

/s/Loretta McCoy
Morrill County Treasurer

/s/Jeff Metz
County Commissioner

/s/Susanna Batterman
County Commissioner

/s/Josh Schmidt
County Commissioner

Attest: (Seal)
/s/Candace D. Panas
Morrill County Clerk

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

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to return to regular session at 7:39 A.M. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

/s/Jeff Metz, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/Candace D. Panas, County Clerk

