

Bridgeport, Nebraska  
Tuesday, March 10, 2026

The Morrill County Board of Commissioners met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:30 A.M., Tuesday, March 10, 2026 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 March 5, 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 March 4, 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 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 transfer of funds and approve the minutes of the February 24, 2026 meeting. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Correspondence was received and read.

The Commissioners reviewed the following claims:

#### GENERAL FUND

Allo Communications, Service, \$1,380.22; American Family Life, Insurance, \$1726.55; Ameritas Life Ins. Corp, Retirement, \$9,194.39; Brennan Andrew, Phone, \$40.00; Bayard Transcript, Publishing, \$790.20; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$406.52; Kathy Brandt, Election prep, \$75.00; Bridgeport News-Blade, Publishing, \$733.21; Capital Business Systems Inc, Equip Lease, \$88.58; Ismael Cardenas, Phone, \$40.00; City of Bridgeport, Service, \$128.23; Brandon Collins-Flamig, Phone, \$40.00; Colonial Life, Insurance, \$209.37; Timothy Conrad, Phone, \$40.00; Culligan of Scottsbluff, Service, \$150.00; Digital Documents & Labels, Supplies, \$285.20; Rhett Dye, Phone, \$40.00; Eakes Office Solutions, Supplies & Lease, \$89.84; John Erickson, Mileage, \$46.10; Shauna Faessler, Phone & Fuel, \$50.01; Daniel Flores, Phone, \$40.00; Foxster Opco, LLC, Annual Contract, \$3930.00; Grand Slam Solutions LLC, Contract Labor, \$1,500.00; Hometown Leasing, Equip Lease, \$30.48; Ideal Linen, Jail Laundry, \$231.96; Kaiser Tire, Repairs, \$232.98; Koke's Auto Farm Truck, Repairs, \$59.46; Andrew Lawson, Phone, \$40.00; Audrey M. Long, Public Defender, \$4,968.22; Marshall & Swift/Boeckh, LLC, Subscription, \$442.07; Lori McCoy, Phone- Dec, Jan, Feb, \$120.00; Seth McLaughlin, Phone, \$40.00; Jeff Metz, Phone, \$40.00; Microfilm Imaging Systems, Equip Rental, \$75.00; MIPS Inc, Data Processing Costs, \$8,845.23; Morrill County Community Hospital, Inmate meals, \$2,137.50; Morrill County Court, Court Costs, \$1,185.00; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$2,430.46; Morrill County Highway Dept, Public Transit-Fuel, \$286.14; NACEB, Dues, \$100.00; NDOT, Reimbursement, \$4,625.00; NE Child Support, Child Support, \$274.16; \$236.31; NE Public Health Environmental Lab, Law Enforcement Cost, \$210.00; NE Law Enforcement Training Center, Lodging, \$75.00; NE State Patrol Interagency Billing, Data Processing, \$4,369.00; NE Total Office, Supplies, \$71.26; Nossaman Pettitt Law Firm, Pc LLO, Legal Services, \$6235.32; Candace Panas, Phone, \$40.00; Zeth Patterson, Phone, \$40.00; Patty Wax General Service, Mngr, \$1,000.00; PEAC Solutions, Equip Lease, \$606.43; Jason Perkins, Phone, \$40.00; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$647.91; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$15,008.38; Retchless Technologies, Data Processing Contract, \$3,000.00; Jared Reynolds, Reimbursement, \$68.48; Travis Rodak, Rent, \$675.00; Scotts Bluff County Sheriff's Dept, Service of Process, \$29.92; Sonny's Super Foods, Supplies, \$3.90; State of NE-Dept of Admin Services, Data Processing, \$537.60; Dr. Gage Stermensky LLC, Law Enforcement Costs, \$1,250.00; Valley Tire & Service, Fuel, \$42.75; Vision Care Direct, Vision Insurance, \$88.32; Wex Bank, Fuel, \$347.94; General Employee Salaries, \$52,861.27.

#### ROAD/BRIDGE FUND

Allo Communications, Service, \$110.77; American Family Life, Insurance, \$713.32; Ameritas Life Ins. Corp, Retirement, \$4,010.01; Bayard Automotive LLC, Repairs & Tools, \$322.69; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$3,632.962; Capital Business Systems, \$231.92; Caterpillar Financial Services Crop, Equip Lease, \$11,148.86; Century Link, Service, \$141.64; City of Bayard, Service, \$589.68; City of Bridgeport, Service, \$457.43; Colonial Life, Insurance, \$22.16; Frank Parts Company, Supplies, \$54.85; Harbour Freight, Supplies, \$142.89; Ideal Linen, Supplies, \$227.80; Koke's Auto Farm Truck, Parts, \$1,532.57; Menards, Supplies, \$177.52; Morrill County Health Fund, Emp Share, \$1,177.29; NMC, LLC, Repairs, \$467.41; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$700.00; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$7,467.25; Quill LLC, Supplies & Equip, \$289.16; Rocky Mountain Air Solutions, Supplies, \$352.19; Sapp Bros. Inc, Fuel, \$13,730.69; Sonny's Super Foods, Supplies, \$25.97; Village of Broadwater, Service, \$145.40; Vision Care Direct, Vision Insurance, \$46.92; Road Employee Salaries, \$25,721.64.

## HEALTH INSURANCE CLAIM FUND

Morrill County Health Fund, Insurance Claims, \$75,847.55.

### 911 FUND

Century Link, Service, \$81.00, Prairie States Communications, Repair, \$129.92.

### W911 FUND

Century Link, Service, \$240.87, \$247.39; Frontier, Service, \$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 February minutes of the Tourism Board meeting were received, reviewed and placed on file.

Loretta McCoy, County Treasurer, presented Tax Sale Report. She reported that the Morrill County Public Tax Sale was held on March 2, 2026, with 13 investors in attendance. A total of 75 parcels were sold, totaling \$79,395.35 in taxes collected. 132 parcels remain, totaling \$51,508.69 in unpaid taxes. Discussion was held regarding \$633.94 in taxes that may not have been correctly included on the list. The property had taxes owed at the time of sale, and the new owners did not pay them. The County will investigate on who the title company was that closed the property to determine why the taxes were not paid. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to accept the Tax Sale Report. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Susan Kelly, Clerk of the District Court, introduced the new Clerk Magistrate, Jenifer Gompert. Gompert previously served in Scotts Bluff County and began working for Morrill County on January 5. She stated she lives in Kimball and that everything is going well. The Board invited her to participate in County Government Day on April 8, and she agreed to take part.

Kenny Liebsock, from NMC, gave a detailed presentation on the VisionLink Premier system and its potential use for the county road department's equipment. VisionLink Premier is a fleet management system that allows county road departments to track equipment location, monitor machine health, schedule maintenance, and analyze usage data to improve efficiency and reduce repair and operation cost. It provides different reports to help determine if equipment is overused, underused, or sitting idle too often. It displays equipment's movement history, monitors engine hours, fault codes and machine warnings which helps the shop know what repairs may be needed before a breakdown occurs. The County currently has 11 pieces of equipment that would require hardware installation to use VisionLink Premier. The cost is \$800 per machine for installation and hardware, with an annual subscription fee of \$200 per machine. This would total approximately \$8,800 upfront for installation and hardware and about \$3,000 per year for the subscription. Kenny stated he was hopeful he could reduce the annual subscription and installation cost which could bring the total cost to approximately \$9,400 instead of \$11,800. The board agreed the system would be beneficial for the County and approved moving forward with the agreement. Kenny will follow up with Bryan regarding the contract and final pricing.

The Board reported on meetings they had attended. Josh reported attending the Aging Office meeting in February and March and noted an upcoming Safety Committee meeting. Susanna reported on the Advisory Board meeting for Region I Behavioral Health. Jim, who is facilitating the Crisis Stabilization Unit in Kimball, provided an update and stated the project is progressing well. He also explained the Mobile Crisis Unit and how it will be operated. They will attend our upcoming District meeting to provide an overview. Discussion was also held regarding the Juvenile Detention Center and a presentation on how counties can celebrate the Bicentennial. Metz reported attending the Extension Board meeting, the first one since becoming Morrill County Extension. Several appointed board members will need approval from the board, and Sarah will bring forward recommendations. Metz also attended a Zoning Board meeting and the Bayard School Board meeting, where it was reported the school district may lose some state aid and is considering budget cuts, including discussion regarding softball. Metz also discussed a road closure meeting in Box Butte County scheduled for the 18<sup>th</sup>, noting the petition had received enough signatures and requesting Bryan attend the meeting. Discussion was held regarding County Government Day scheduled for April 8 and ensuring preparations are in order.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Metz adjourned the meeting at 8:53 A.M. Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 24, 2026.

/s/Jeff Metz, Chairman

/s/Candace D. Panas, County Clerk

**Board of Equalization**  
Tuesday, March 10, 2026

The Morrill County Board of Equalization met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:45 A.M., Tuesday, March 10, 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 March 5, 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 March 4, 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 Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to enter into Board of Equalization, according to Ne Statute #77-1233-04(6) at 7:40 A.M. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

John Erickson, County Assessor, presented Tax List Correction #2026-01. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt to approve Tax List Correction #2026-01. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Chairman Metz, opened the public hearing at 7:43 A.M. for Vehicle Tax Exemption. Loretta McCoy, County Treasurer, presented an Exemption for Camp Rock Inc. Hearing no public comment, Chairman Metz close the Public Hearing at 7:44 A.M. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the Vehicle Tax Exemption. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to return to regular session at 7:45 A.M. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

/s/Jeff Metz \_\_\_\_\_, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/Candace D. Panas \_\_\_\_\_, County Clerk