

Bridgeport, Nebraska
Monday, May 11, 2026

The Morrill County Board of Commissioners met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:30 A.M., Monday, May 11, 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 on May 6, 2026 and the Bridgeport News-Blade on May 7, 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 May 6, 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 Board of Equalization, discussion of new drop box and approve the minutes of the April 28, 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, \$1,429.51; American Family Life, Insurance, \$1,763.10; Ameritas Life Ins. Corp, Retirement, \$9,039.97; Bayard Automotive, Towing Fee, \$185.00; Bayard Transcript, Publishing, \$260.88; Blake's Automotive, Oil Change, \$40.03; Bridgeport Family Dental, Inmate Medical, \$1,190.00; Bridgeport New-Blade, Publishing, \$1,129.25; Century Link, Service, \$80.75; Cenex Fleet Fueling, Fuel, \$3,389.04; Capital Business Systems Inc, Equip Lease, \$44.29; Charter Communications, Service, \$169.69; Culligan of Scottsbluff, Service, \$150.00; John Erickson, Phone, \$120.00; Colonial Life, Insurance, \$209.37; Shauna Faessler, Phone, \$40.00; Galls, LLC, Uniforms, \$385.15; Grand Slam Solutions LLC, Contract Labor, \$1,500.00; Holiday Inn Kearney, Conference, \$389.85; Hometown Leasing, Equip Lease, \$30.48; Steve Hutchinson, Landscaping, \$715.00; Ideal Linen, Jail Laundry, \$316.66; Intoximeters Inc, Supplies, \$373.00; Jackon's Garage, Car Repair, \$759.95; Kaiser Tire, Repairs, \$789.97; Audrey M. Long, Public Defender, \$5,288.22; Jeff Metz, Phone, \$40.00; Microfilm Imaging Systems, Equip Rental, \$75.00; MIPS Inc, Data Processing Costs, \$2,925.41 Morrill County Community Hospital, Inmate meals & Contract, \$2,463.50; Morrill County Court, Court Costs, \$294.00; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$2,430.46; Morrill County Highway Dept, Public Transit-Fuel Assessor-Fuel, \$351.40; NE Auditor of Public Accounts, State Audit, \$9,995.50; Nein Pharmacy, Inmate Medical, \$80.29; NE Child Support, Child Support, \$274.16; \$236.31; Sarah Paisley, Mileage, \$274.77; Candace Panas, Phone, \$40.00; Patty Wax General Service, Mngr, \$1,000.00; PEAC Solutions, Equip Lease, \$606.43; Karen Peterson, Mileage, \$33.93; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$647.91; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$14,827.86; Pritchard & Abbott Inc, Appraisal, \$4500.00; Retchless Technologies, Data Processing Contract, \$3,000.00; Travis Rodak, Rent, \$675.00; Sonny's Super Foods, Supplies, \$62.50; Telecomm West, Internet Service, \$55.00; U.S. Postal Service, Box Rent, \$162.00; Valley Tire & Service, Fuel, \$83.02; Vision Care Direct, Vision Insurance, \$88.32; Wex Bank, Fuel, \$254.58; General Employee Salaries, \$51,732.04.

ROAD/BRIDGE FUND

Allo Communications, Service, \$110.79; American Family Life, Insurance, \$713.32; Ameritas Life Ins. Corp, Retirement, \$4,002.98; AT&T Mobility, Service, \$251.40; Bayard Automotive LLC, Repairs & Tools, \$695.46; Bridgeport News-Blade, Publishing, \$886.33; Caterpillar Financial Services Crop, Equip Lease, \$11,148.86; Colonial Life, Insurance, \$22.16; Century Link, Service, \$143.46; City of Bridgeport, Service, \$421.86; Day & Night Plumbing, Building Repair, \$355.00; Eakes Office Supplies, Supplies, \$61.48; Filter Care of NE, Labor, \$84.75; Floyds Truck Center, Parts, \$266.90; Frank Parts Company, Supplies, \$99.83; Garrett Tires & Treads, Repairs, \$250.00; Harbor Freight, Tools, \$99.99; Hometown Leasing, Copier Lease, \$121.30; Ideal Linen, Supplies, \$108.62; Inland Truck Parts, Parts, \$984.30; Kaiser Tire, Parts, \$20.00; KBK Trucking, Gravel, \$36,261.01; Koke's Auto Farm Truck, Parts, \$2,043.34; Lee Services, Service, \$2,543.25; Legacy Cooperative, Supplies, \$331.38; Menards, Supplies, \$47.98; Morrill County Health Fund, Emp Share, \$1,177.29; NMC, LLC, Repairs, \$173.61; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$700.00; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$7,430.05; Rocky Mountain Air Solutions, Supplies, \$374.06; Sapp Bros. Inc, Fuel, \$13,834.90; Simons, Cold Mix, \$2,658.15; Steve's Truck & Equip., Parts, \$120.00; Village of Broadwater, Service, \$145.40; Vision Care Direct, Vision Insurance, \$46.92; 21st Century Equip, Supplies, \$440.36; Road Employee Salaries, \$25,700.51.

W911 FUND

Action Communications Inc, Radio Equipment, \$867.13, Century Link, Service, \$47.04.

W911 FUND

Century Link, Service, \$240.87, 34.19.

HOSPITAL BOND FUND

Bok Financial, Bond Payment, \$5,237.50.

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 with Schmidt abstaining from Lee's Service claims. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Board of Equalization

No Agenda items for Board of Equalization.

Loretta McCoy, County Treasurer, presented a Resolution to transfer funds into the Road Fund for \$100,000.00. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the transfer and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2026-14
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 \$100,000.00 into the Road Funds.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 11th day of May, 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 claims for the fair account to Rod Laucomer, Architect Contract, \$1,000.00 and State of Nebraska amended Grant Award Contract extension which will extend our grant contract through October 31, 2026. They will email the document for Chairman Metz to sign electronically to renew extension. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman to approve and pay the listed claim. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz.

Milo Cardenas, Sheriff, provided updates on Fourth of July Bicentennial hamburger feed. He stated that they had been approached about having a bounce house at the event but had concerns regarding liability. The event is planned to run from approximately 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday July 4th. They would like to coordinate with the fire departments and pending city approval, close the street behind the courthouse for a fire truck parade with water toys and water balloon activities.

Region 1 Behavioral Health Authority submitted a request for the Board to consider approving and signing a proclamation recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month. The request noted the importance of raising awareness, promoting mental health well-being and supporting community education efforts throughout the Nebraska Panhandle. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt to approve and authorize Chairman Metz to sign the May Mental Health Month Proclamation. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt & Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board reported on meetings they had attended. Josh reported attending the Hospital Board meeting where the Hospital hired a new CFO. Susanna went to Region 21 Emergency Management meeting where they discussed preliminary budgets, events of the fire, and lack of support from NEMA.

She stated Ron Leal requested permission to buy a pickup to replace his suburban and found one that fits in the budget. Jeff attended the CAPWN board meeting where they discussed remodeling a building they bought for seasonal Head Start, though code requirements have created challenges. Jeff also attended a meeting in Box Butte County regarding the proposed closure of the Box Butte and Morrill County Road requested by Amanda Kildow.

During public comments, Milo Cardenas, discussed contacting the company responsible for the distress warrant regarding the Towers account. The company stated they had not received the payment amount. Loretta stated that she needed the correct address to send the statement but will reach out to get that information. Ashley Fenning, stated the 4-H team got nominated for the Teamwork award.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Metz adjourned the meeting at 8:08 A.M. Next meeting will be Tuesday, May 26, 2026.

/s/Jeff Metz _____, Chairman

/s/Candace D. Panas _____, County Clerk