

Bridgeport, Nebraska
Tuesday, January 14, 2025

The Morrill County Board of Commissioners met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:30 A.M., Tuesday, January 14, 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 Transcript Gate LLC and the Bridgeport News-Blade on January 9, 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 January 9, 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. Candace Panas, Office Clerk, recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the Agenda with the deletion of Transfer of Funds and the minutes of the December 23, 2024 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, \$1,297.14; American Family Life, Insurance, \$1,070.84; \$1,261.96; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$8,538.36; \$8,769.28; Brennan Andrew, Phone, \$40.00; Bayard Transcript, Publishing, \$160.60; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$1,254.17; Bomgaars Supply Inc, Supplies, \$54.94; Kathy Brandt, Phone, \$40.00; Bridgeport New-Blade, Publishing, \$30.25; Jeanne Camara, Mileage, \$324.95; Capital Business Systems Inc, Service, \$38.11; Ismael Cardenas, Phone, \$40.00; Cenex Fleet Fueling, Fuel, \$2,374.59; Charter Communications, Service, \$169.99; City of Bridgeport, Service, \$3,086.55; Clerk of Dist Court, Court Costs, \$103.00; Brandon Collins-Flamig, Phone, \$40.00; Colonial Life, Insurance, \$218.21; \$179.63; Comfort Inn-Kearney, Lodging, \$874.65; Crowne Plaza-Kearney, Lodging, \$1,239.55; Culligan of Scottsbluff, Service, \$44.00; Dept of Revenue, State Tax, \$4,521.98; Rhett Dye, Phone, \$40.00; Shauna Faessler, Phone, \$40.00; Daniel Flores, Phone, \$40.00; Garrett Tires & Treads, Lease, \$1,944.44; Grand Slam Solutions, LLC, Contract Labor, \$1,500.00; Holiday Inn Express-North Platte, Lodging, \$220.00; Holiday Inn-Kearney, Lodging, \$499.80; Hometown Leasing, Equip Lease, \$56.20; Ideal/Bluffs Facility Solutions, Laundry-Prisoners, \$216.84; Indoff LLC, Supplies, \$301.98; Andrew Lawson, Phone, \$40.00; Legacy Cooperative, Lease & Repairs, \$202.69; Audrey M. Long, Public Defender, \$5,330.85; Marlin Leasing Corp, Leased Equip, \$1,027.58; Tim Marquez, Phone, \$40.00; Lori McCoy, Phone & Mileage, \$409.17; Seth McLaughlin, Phone, \$40.00; Mediation West, Misc, \$335.00; Jeff Metz, Phone, \$40.00; Microfilm Imaging Systems, Equip Rental, \$75.00; MIPS Inc, Data Processing & Supplies, \$3,386.68; Mobius Communications Co, Service, \$58.50; Morrill County Community Hospital, Board of Prisoners & Medical-Prisoners, \$2,304.50; Morrill County Court, Court Costs, \$345.00; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$2,168.63; \$2,233.11; Morrill County Highway Dept, Fuel, \$195.96; MPDA Bridgeport LLC, Medical-Prisoners, \$262.00; NACO, Registrations, \$320.00; NE Assoc of Co Assess, Dues, \$100.00; NE Child Support, Child Support, \$274.16; \$236.31; \$274.16; \$236.31; NE Dist Ct Clks Assoc, Dues, \$50.00; NE Total Office, Supplies, \$204.24; NE Weed Control Assoc, Registration, \$150.00; Rose Nelson, Phone & Mileage, \$418.55; Zeth Patterson, Phone, \$40.00; Patty Wax General Service, Mngr \$1,000.00; Jason Perkins, Phone, \$40.00; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$1,022.91; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$14,680.32; \$14,888.62; Quadient Leasing USA Inc, Equip Lease, \$1,905.00; Region 21 Emergency Mngmt, Quarterly, \$10,165.66; Retchless Technologies LLC, Contract, \$1,500.00; Travis Rodak, Rent, \$675.00; Samples Dean Law LLC, Court Appointed Counsel, \$1,810.00; Secretary of State, Supplies, \$20.00; Sonny's Pharmacy, Medical-Prisoners, \$19.95; Sonny's Super Foods, Supplies, \$21.51; State of NE-Dept of Admin, Service, \$537.60; Ricky Trevino, Phone, \$40.00; Wex Bank, Fuel, \$402.11; XESI Document Solutions, Equip Lease, \$290.82; General Employees Salaries, \$68,528.83; \$69,901.79.

ROAD/BRIDGE FUND

Allo Communications, Service, \$108.83; American Family Life, Insurance, \$651.52; \$663.73; Ameritax Life Ins Corp, Retirement, \$3,289.26; Bayard Automotive, Repairs & Supplies, \$1,665.14; Best Plumbing, Heating & Cooling, Inc, Repairs, \$88.51; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$3,277.02; Bomgaars Supply Inc, Supplies, Tools & Repairs \$266.40; Bridgeport News-Blade, Publishing, \$44.00; Capital Business Systems Inc, Equip, \$194.43; Caterpillar Financial Services Crop, Equip Lease, \$5,153.05; Century Link, Service, \$129.10; City of Bayard, Service, \$458.47; City of Bridgeport, Service,

\$581.70; Colonial Life Insurance, Insurance, \$22.16; \$222.16; Crowne Plaza-Kearney, Lodging, \$419.85; Dept of Revenue, State Tax, \$1,675.04; Fat Boys Tires & Auto, Tires & Supplies, \$1,381.80; Floyd's Truck Center Inc, Repairs, \$305.88; Harbor Freight Comm Acct, Supplies & Tools, \$1,447.08; Ideal/Bluffs Facility Solutions, Supplies, \$224.68; Inland Truck Parts & Service, Repairs, \$4,090.92; Koke's Auto Farm Truck, Equip, Repairs & Supplies, \$196.96; Lawson Products Inc, Supplies, \$180.24; Menard's-Scottsbluff, Tools, \$102.35; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$1,099.72; \$1,024.72; NE Child Support, Child Support, \$156.00; \$156.00; NE Dept of Rev/Motor Fuels Div, Fuel Tax, \$677.00; NMC Exchange LLC, Repairs & Supplies, \$13,747.30; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$450.00; \$625.00; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$5,912.39; \$5,876.39; PT Hose & Bearing, Repairs, \$443.36; Rocky Mountain Air Solutions, Supplies, \$282.20; Village of Broadwater, Service, \$10.00; Westco, Fuel, \$13,626.09; Road Employees Salaries, \$29,237.94; \$29,380.22.

HEALTH FUND

Morrill County Health Fund, Claims, \$63,896.78.

LATCF FUND

Motorola Solutions Inc, Radio Equip, \$34,164.30.

W911 FUND

Action Communications Inc, Service, \$3,885.38; Century Link, Service, \$487.78; Frontier, Service, 68.38.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, that the above claims 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.

REORGANIZATION MEETING JANUARY 14, 2025

January-reorganizational meeting-2nd Tuesday (Sec. 23-153, R.S. Nebr. 1943)
(The Veteran's Service Officer does not have to be re-appointed by this board. His board does that.)

Bridgeport, Nebraska
Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Met: January 14, 2025
Published: January 9, 2025
E-Mailed: January 9, 2025

Approve Agenda

The Board proceeded to organize according to Section 23-153, 1943 Revised Statutes of Nebraska.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to nominate Jeff Metz to serve as Chairman of said Board for the year 2025. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Metz, seconded by Schmidt, that Susanna Batterman serve as First Vice Chairperson of said Board for the year 2025. Yeas: Metz, Schmidt and Batterman. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Metz, that Josh Schmidt serve as Second Vice Chairperson of said Board for the year 2025. Yeas: Batterman, Metz and Schmidt. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, that the following Commissioners serve as representatives from Morrill County on the following Boards for the year 2025:

Schmidt, Aging Office of Western NE, Safety Committee, Veteran's Board, Morrill County Community Hospital Liaison and PADD.

Metz, CAPWN, Morrill County Fair Board and Morrill/Scotts Bluff County Extension Board.

Batterman, Region 21 Emergency Management, Panhandle Public Health Board, Region I Behavioral Health Board and County Sick Leave Bank Committee and Region I Office of Human Development.

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

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, that the vote of the Morrill County Commissioner representative, to any of the boards outlined above, is made with full power and authority as if made by the County Board as a unit. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to re-appoint Judy Oltmann as principal and Gary Oltmann as alternate Morrill County Representatives to the Aging Office of Western Nebraska Advisory Council for the year 2025. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, that Bryan Hoerler, who holds a Class A License, Number S-1361, be re-appointed as County Highway Superintendent for the year 2025. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, that Travis Rodak be re-appointed as Public Transit Director for the year 2025. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, that Bryan Hoerler be re-appointed as the Weed Superintendent for Morrill County for the year 2025. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, that Bill Dean be appointed as Zoning Administrator for Morrill County for the year 2024. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to appoint, the following to serve as members of the Morrill County Safety Committee for the year 2023: Milo Cardenas, Bryan Hoerler, Susan Kelly, Loretta McCoy, Tim Marquez, Rose Nelson, Zeth Patterson, Mary Ann Randall, Jared Reynolds & Josh Schmidt. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to adopt the following holidays for the year 2025:

New Year's Day – January 1, 2025, (Wednesday)
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - January 20, 2025 (3rd Monday)
President's Day - February 17, 2025 (3rd Monday)
Arbor Day - April 25, 2025 (Last Friday)
Memorial Day - May 26, 2025 (Last Monday)
Independence Day - July 4, 2025 (Friday)
Labor Day – September 1, 2025 (1st Monday)
Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day – October 13, 2025 (2nd Monday)
Veterans' Day - November 11, 2025 (Tuesday)
Thanksgiving Day - November 27, 2025 (Thursday)
Day after Thanksgiving - November 28, 2025 (Friday)
Christmas Day – December 25, 2025 (Thursday)

IF SUCH HOLIDAY FALLS ON A SUNDAY, THE FOLLOWING MONDAY SHALL BE A HOLIDAY. IF SUCH HOLIDAY FALLS ON A SATURDAY, THE PRECEDING FRIDAY SHALL BE A HOLIDAY. THE OBSERVED HOLIDAY FOR THE COUNTY MAY BE AMENDED BY RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY BOARD, OR BY DECLARATION OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNTY BOARD TO BE RATIFIED BY RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY BOARD AT A LATER DATE. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the banks in Morrill County and NPAIT as depositories and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION FOR BANKING #2025-01

WHEREAS, there are five banks in Morrill County, Nebraska, to wit: BMO, Nebraska Bank, Platte Valley Bank and Wells Fargo Bank Nebraska, NA, all in Bridgeport, Nebraska, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that the County Treasurer deposit in each bank a sum in excess of the capital stock and surplus in each of said banks,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY BOARD of Morrill County, Nebraska, that the County Treasurer of Morrill County, Nebraska, be and hereby is authorized to deposit in BMO, Nebraska Bank, Platte Valley Bank and Wells Fargo Bank Nebraska, NA, all in Bridgeport, Nebraska and NPAIT, or each of said banks a sum in excess of the capital stock and surplus of each bank provided each of said banks secures the deposit by pledge of the assets of the Bank as provides in Section 77-2318.01 R.R.S., 1943. The County Treasurer shall be allowed to invest on the County's behalf during the year. The Morrill County Treasurer shall receive a timely report as required by statute as to the market values and positions of each security that is pledged.

Said Resolution was passed and adopted this 14th day of January, 2025.

MORRILL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/Jeff Metz
Chairperson

(S E A L)

/s/Susanna Batterman
Board Member

/s/Josh Schmidt
Board Member

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt
Morrill County Clerk

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

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, designating the Bridgeport News-Blade and the Transcript Gate LLC as the official newspapers for Morrill County for the year 2024 and they are to publish the official proceedings and the statutory rate for such publication shall be in accordance with statutes of Nebraska and said rate shall be divided between the official newspapers as follows: the Bridgeport News-Blade, a ½ share and the Transcript Gate LLC a ½ share. In addition, the County's Website shall be designated for the minutes in their entirety and for meetings notices. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Metz, to set the per diem limit for meals at \$50.00 and receipts must accompany the claim. If the meal allowance is for a day meeting, and not an overnight trip, the employee's/official's W-2 form will reflect these meals as a benefit. Yeas: Batterman and Schmidt Nays: Metz. Motion carried.

Mileage rates will be the same as the IRS rates. If you are using a county-owned vehicle, you will be able to charge fuel. If you are taking your personal vehicle to a county meeting, you may charge mileage.

Metz discussed an increase in salary for Bill Dean as Zoning Administrator, as he will be working more with the solar and wind projects this year. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to increase from \$500 to \$600 per month starting in January. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Trent McVicker, from the Fair Board presented an option to purchase a tent and flooring for fair since building won't be completed by then. The tent size is 60' x 100' and the flooring comes in 4' x 100' strips which includes 15 total. The total cost for the Tent and Flooring is \$16,600. The tent has only been used twice for Governor events and has been wrapped and itemized with all parts accounted for. The tent comes with steel beam frames and the walls can be rolled up or down. Assembly only takes around 5 hours with 2 people and could possibly be rented out to regain profits. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the purchase of Tent & Flooring for fair. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Loretta McCoy presented the Semi-Annual Statement from July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to accept the Semi-Annual report. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board reported on meetings they attended. Schmidt stated that he was sworn in with Susan Kelly on January 9th. He attended the Aging Office meeting; they are implementing Director reviews with talks about hiring an Assistant position. They've served 102 meals in Bayard and 162 meals in Bridgeport this past month. Batterman said she just attended the NACO Health and Human Service Committee meeting in Kearney. They met with some current and incoming Senators on the importance of Mental Health and possible increase of funding for it. Metz attended CAPWN meeting, stated that they had grant money to purchase a building in Alliance for Head Start. He stated he attended the fund raising meeting and that Lewis Coulter has been doing a great job, they've been getting in many small donations.

The Board and Elected and appointed officials discussed County Government Day, to possibly be in April.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Metz adjourned the meeting at 8:50 A.M. Next meeting will be Tuesday, January 28, 2025.

/s/Jeff Metz, Chairman

Attest:

/s/Candace Panas . Office Clerk

Board of Equalization
Tuesday, January 14, 2025

The Morrill County Board of Equalization met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:50 A.M., Tuesday, January 14, 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 have been published in the Transcript Gate LLC and the Bridgeport News-Blade on January 9, 2025. Copies of the Agenda kept continuously current were available from the County Clerk's Office and were emailed to each of the Commissioners on January 9, 2025. On roll call Commissioners Jeff Metz, Chairman, Susana Batterman and Josh Schmidt were present. Absent: None. Loretta McCoy, County Treasurer, and Rose Nelson, County Assessor were present. Candace Panas, Office Clerk, recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to enter into Board of Equalization, according to Ne. Statue #77-1233.04(06) at 7:50 A.M. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Chairman Metz, opened the Public Hearing at 7:52 A.M. for Vehicle Tax Exemption. Loretta McCoy, presented an exemption for Cornerstone Fellowship Church in Bayard. Hearing no public comment, Chairman Metz closed the Public Hearing at 7:53 A.M. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve the Vehicle Tax Exemption. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Rose Nelson, County Assessor, presented Tax List Correction # 2025- 01 & 02. Nelson said that homes on wheels that can't be on Real Estates taxes. They will need to purchase license plates through the Treasures office every year, but they would be listed under RV/camper. She stated that even though they are hooked up to a well and septic system they are still classified as a camper. When she does inspections, she will be making sure they have a license plate on them and are up to date. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve and sign the above corrections. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to return to regular session at 7:55 A.M. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

/s/Jeff Metz _____,Chairman

Attest:

/s/Candace Panas _____,Office Clerk

