

Bridgeport, Nebraska  
Tuesday, February 24, 2026

The Morrill County Board of Commissioners met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:30 A.M., Tuesday, February 24, 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 February 19, 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 February 19, 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 transfer of funds, Delinquent Tax List Notice and BOE Tax list corrections and the minutes of the February 10, 2026 meeting. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Correspondence was received and read.

The Commissioners reviewed the following claims:

#### GENERAL FUND

Acme Tools, supplies, \$287.88; American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$1,726.55; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$9,598.78; Bayard Automotive, Repairs, \$210.00; Black Hills Chemical, Supplies, \$68.19; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$1,585.55; Bomgaars Supply Inc, Repairs & Supplies, \$30.85; Capital Business Systems, Data Processing Costs, \$173.50; Century Business Products, Supplies, \$244.35; Century Link, Service, \$80.75; ChannelBound, LLC, IRS filings, \$1250.00; Charter Communications, Service, \$169.99; City of Bridgeport, Service, \$3,121.17; Clerk of District Court, Court Cost, \$252.00; 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, \$6,083.90; Cozad Signs, LLC, Decals Tahoe, \$650.00; Dept of Rev/Property Assmt Division, Contract Labor/Training, \$3,889.26; Dept of Revenue, State Tax, \$4,289.30; Joanie Dudden, Insurance reimbursement, \$2835.54; Eakes Office Solutions, Supplies, \$249.64; Rhonda R. Flower Attorney at Law, Court Appt Council, \$90.00; Holly Hjelmstad, Phone, \$40.00; Bryan Hoerler, Meals, \$12.29; Hometown Leasing, Lease, \$30.48; Susan Kelly, Phone, \$40.00; Kone, Service, \$345.42; Medical Air Services Assn, Insurance, \$476.00; Meritain, Insurance, \$34,803.84; Morrill County Court, \$158.00; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$2,477.79; Morrill County Health Plan, Insurance, \$35,762.68; Morrill County Health Plan, Vision, \$485.00; Morrill County Highway Dept, Fuel, \$253.51; NACA, Dues, \$100.00; NE Weed Control Association, Registration/Training, \$150.00; NE Child Support, Child Support, \$274.16; \$236.31; Norfolk Inn & Suites, Lodging, \$260.00; Nossaman Pettitt Law Firm, PC LLO, Court Appointed Council, \$660.14; Sarah Paisley, Mileage/Registration, \$115.40; Candace Panas, Mileage, \$45.73; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$797.91; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$15,885.93; Principal Life, Life Insurance, \$504.20; Retchless Technologies, Contract Labor, \$3,000.00; Jared Reynolds, Reimbursement, \$25.00; Scotts Bluff Co Detention Center, Boarding, \$630.00; Secretary of State-Elections, Supplies, \$20.00; Sonny's Super Foods, supplies, \$3.90; State of NE-Dept of Admin, Data Processing Costs & Equip, \$288.00; Story County Sheriff's Office, Service of Process, \$44.00; Valley Tire & Service LLC, Supplies, \$52.89; Xesi Document Solutions, Equip Lease, \$272.84; General Employees, Salaries, \$56,396.13

#### ROAD/BRIDGE FUND

American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$713.32; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$3,990.49; Bomgaars Supply Inc, Supplies, Repairs & Tools, \$1331.76; Dana Cadwallader, Phone, \$40.00; Century Link, Service, \$138.81; Charter Communications, Service, \$119.99; Contractors Material, Supplies, \$91.61; Corporate Payment Systems, supplies, \$6.08; Colonial Life Insurance, Insurance, \$22.16; Dept of Rev, State Tax, \$2,001.81; Fat Boys Tire & Auto, Tires, \$460.50; Filter Care of NE, Supplies, \$38.00; Ronald G. Franklin, Phone, \$40.00; Bryan Hoerler, Phone, \$40.00; Heigel's Field Service, Repairs, \$2945.00; Hometown Leasing, Lease, \$121.30; Medical Air Service Assoc, Insurance, \$266.00; Meritain Health, Insurance, \$18,022.47; Justin Mitchell, Phone, \$40.00; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$1,139.47; Morrill County Health Plan, Health Insurance, \$17,551.37; Morrill County Health Plan, Vision, \$271.60; NPPD, Service, \$90.30; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$625.00; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$7,434.52; Principal Life, Life Insurance, \$262.52; PT Hose & Bearings, Supplies, \$167.97; Red Barn Shop LLC, Parts,

\$594.22; Swanston Equipment Corp., Parts, \$1590.27; Kurt Tremain, Registration CDL, \$700.00; David Zwirn, Phone, \$40.00; Road Employees, Salaries, \$25,647.64.

#### VISITORS PROMOTION FUND

Billie Mitchell, Website Domain, \$348.00; Morrill County Highway Dept, Road Maintenance, \$1500.00; Omaha Publication, Magazine Ad, \$3,525.00; Oregon Trail Community Foundation, 2026 Membership, \$500.00; Western Nebraska Tourism Coalition, Dues, \$319.23.

#### 911 FUND

Century Link, Service, \$101.58; State of NE- Dept of Admin Services, Service, \$213.00.

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: January – I Cardenas, Co Sheriff, C Panas, Co Clerk, L McCoy, Co Treasurer and S Kelly, Clerk of District Court.

A Federal Transit Administration Title VI Program Agreement was received from Travis Rodak, Public Transit Director. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve and authorize Chairman Metz to sign the agreement. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Robin Stuart, Hospital Administrator, presented the January Financials to the Board. Total patient service revenue was approximately \$4.1 million. Home Health and Chimney Rock Medical Center revenues were down but they remain on budget. Expenses were lower compared to the prior year. Repairs increased due to ambulance maintenance; however, those costs were not included in the county and city contract. Cash on hand increased compared to last year and decreased slightly from the prior month due to the State-directed payment program, with reimbursement expected by the end of the month. Overall operations were reported as going well and noted the Valentine's fundraiser was successful and well attended.

The Commissioners formally honored Kathy Brandt for her distinguished years of outstanding dedication and service to Morrill County. In recognition of her exceptional commitment and public service, she was presented with the Admiral in the Great Navy of the State of Nebraska award, the highest honorary civilian distinction of the State of Nebraska, signed by Governor Jim Pillen.

The Board reported on meetings they had attended. Josh reported attending a hospital board meeting and a special meeting at the Aging Office, with the regular meeting scheduled for Friday. Susanna reported attending the Region I Emergency Management meeting. Employee evaluation for Holly Brandt was done; she received positive remarks and was reappointed for another year as Regional Administrator. The Financial Director was also appointed for another year. It was noted that the By-laws will be amended to change the involvement with board authority in hiring and firing. She also attended the Region I Human Development meeting. Jeff went to Fair Board meeting and met with the fundraising committee; they wanted to know how building project was coming. We set County Government Day to April 8<sup>th</sup> and have both schools scheduled for it. Preparations will be made and a schedule will be sent out in the coming weeks. Discussion was made about changing the minutes process to wait to be published till approved at next meeting.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Metz adjourned the meeting at 8:15 A.M. Next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 10, 2026.

/s/Jeff Metz, Chairman

ATTEST

/s/Candace D. Panas, County Clerk

**Board of Equalization**  
Tuesday, February 24, 2026

The Morrill County Board of Equalization met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:45 A.M., Tuesday, February 24, 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 February 19, 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 February 19, 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.

Chairman Metz, opened the public hearing at 7:42 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 Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to return to regular session at 7:45 A.M. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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

ATTEST:

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