

Bridgeport, Nebraska
Thursday, January 15, 2026

The Morrill County Board of Commissioners met in an open and public Special meeting at 9:00 A.M., Thursday, January 15, 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 January 8, 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 January 8, 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. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Two applicants for the County Assessor's job were received by John Erickson and Jeanne Camara. Chairman Metz thanked the applicants for their applications and interest in the Assessor's position. He stated that interviews would be held today, and after reference checks and further discussion of applications, the Board will make its decision at the January 27, 2026 meeting. He asked if applicants wished to be interviewed in Executive Session. Concerns were raised that interviews do not meet the criteria for executive session, as they are not for personnel matters or to prevent needless injury to an individual. After discussion, the Board agreed to conduct the interviews in open session and enter into executive session only if necessary.

John Erickson was the first applicant to be interviewed. The board thanked him for his interest and noted his resume was impressive. After a series of interview questions from the Board, a motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to go into Executive Session at 9:43 A.M., in accordance with Ne. Statute 884-1410(1) for protection of the public interest and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. They ask that John Erickson and Kirk Fellhoelter, County Attorney, remain present. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman & Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to return to regular session with no action taken at 10:06 A.M. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt & Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Jeanne Camara was the second applicant to be interviewed. The Board thanked her for her interest and her commitment to the Assessor's office along with her impressive resume. After a series of interview questions from the Board, a motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to go into Executive Session at 10:46 A.M., in accordance with Ne. Statute 884-1410(1) for protection of the public interest and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. They ask that Jeanne Camara and Kirk Fellhoelter, County Attorney, remain present. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman & Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to return to regular session with no action taken at 11:13 A.M. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt & Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

During public comment, Sue Wiggins discussed focus on how Assessor's Office is to inspect properties without trespassing and about whether the County could use drones to inspect properties. Concerns were noted by the Board that homeowners may perceive drone use as intrusive or attempt to damage them. The Board expressed hope that property owners understand the benefits of allowing the Assessor access to properties to ensure accurate and fair inspections.

There being no further discussion, Chairperson Metz adjourned the meeting at 11:18 A.M.

/s/Jeff Metz, Chairperson

ATTEST:

/s/Candace D. Panas, County Clerk