

Bridgeport, Nebraska  
Tuesday, July 22, 2025

The Morrill County Board of Commissioners met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:30 A.M., Tuesday, July 22, 2025 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 the Bayard Transcript, on July 17, 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 July 17, 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 also present. Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk, recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the Agenda, with the addition of re-appointment to Hospital Board and the minutes of the July 8 & 9, 2025 meetings. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Correspondence was received and read.

The Commissioners reviewed the following claims:

#### GENERAL FUND

Accelerated Receivables Solutions, Garnishment, \$223.09; Aging Office of Western NE, Annual, \$2,642.00; American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$1,284.38; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$8,485.25; AT & T Mobility, Service, \$385.77; B & S Body Shop, Repairs, \$48.50; Bayard Automotive LLC, Repairs, \$210.00; Bob Benton, Repairs, \$246.00; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$227.62; Bomgaars Supply Inc, Supplies & Repairs, \$166.37; Cynthia J. Brandt, Court Reporting, \$298.90; Kathy Brandt, Mileage, \$56.00; Bridgeport News-Blade, Publishing, \$140.00; Capital Business Systems, Data Processing Costs, \$716.36; Cenex Fleet Fueling, Fuel, \$2,608.51; Century Business Products, Equip, \$123.58; Century Link, Service, \$80.75; Charter Communications, Service, \$169.99; City of Bridgeport, Service, \$3,398.95; Clerk of District Court, Court Costs, \$72.00; Colonial Life, Insurance, \$179.63; Shauna Faessler, Mileage & Fuel, \$575.40; First Call Communications, Service, \$380.00; Go To Communications Inc, Service, \$127.35; Holly Hjelmstad, Phone, \$40.00; Holyoke, Snyder, Longoria, Etc PC, Court Appointed Counsel, \$1,370.80; Hometown Leasing, Equip Lease, \$60.96; Susan Kelly, Phone, \$40.00; Koke's Auto Farm Service, Repairs, \$19.96; Audrey M Long, Elliott Law PC, Public Defender, \$4,845.00; Marshall & Swift/Boeckh LLC, Appraisal, \$383.95; Mediation West, Misc, \$50.00; Medical Air Services Assn, Insurance, \$476.00; Mobius Communications Co, Service, \$58.50; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$1,962.50; Morrill County Health Plan, Insurance, \$30,084.99; Morrill County Highway Dept, Fuel, \$310.05; NE Child Support, Child Support, \$274.16; \$236.31; Nein Pharmacy, Medical-Prisoners, \$30.90; Nossaman, Pettitt Law Firm, PC, LLO, Court Appointed Counsel, \$587.15; Panhandle Dist Assoc, Dues, \$350.00; Zeth Patterson, Phone, \$40.00; PJ Sand & Gravel LLC, Repairs, \$200.40; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$1,072.91; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$13,967.80; Principal Life, Life Insurance, \$239.98; Region I Behavioral Health, Mental Health Service, \$15,502.00; Retchless Technologies LLC, Contract Labor, \$1,500.00; Snell Services Inc, Repairs, \$734.14; State of NE-Dept of Admin, Data Processing Costs & Equip, \$502.00; Transwest Ford, Repairs, \$157.50; US Postal Service, Box Rent, \$100.00; U S Postal Service(Quadient), Postage, \$10,000.00; U S Bank, Data Processing Equip, Registration, Phone, Postal Service, Board of Prisoners, Supplies & Misc, \$2,237.78; USDA Aphis, Contractual Pest Control, \$1,600.74; Valley Tire & Service LLC, Fuel, \$60.47; XESI Document Solutions, Equip Lease, \$194.49; General Employees, Salaries, \$67,990.49.

#### ROAD/BRIDGE FUND

American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$663.73; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$3,274.26; Bayard Automotive LLC, Repairs, \$152.27; Bridgeport News-Blade, Publishing, \$44.00; Dana Cadwallader, Phone, \$40.00; Capital Business Systems Inc, Equip, \$201.43; Century Link, Service, \$271.80; Colonial Life Insurance, Insurance, \$22.16; Frank Parts Co, Repairs \$253.86; Ronald G. Franklin, Phone, \$40.00; Bryan Hoerler, Phone, \$40.00; Ideal Linen/Bluffs Facility Solutions, Supplies, \$263.68; Kaiser Tire, Tires, \$142.00; Koke's Auto

Farm Truck, Repairs & Supplies, \$958.71; Lee's Service Inc, Tires, \$71.00; Medical Air Service Assoc, Insurance, \$224.00; Menards-Scottsbluff, Culverts, \$2,007.95; Justin Mitchell, Phone, \$40.00; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$1,012.50; Morrill County Health Plan, Health Insurance, \$15,348.82; NE Public Power Dist, Service, \$108.55; NMC Exchange LLC, Repairs, \$8,613.84; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$625.00; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$5,977.01; Principal Life, Life Insurance, \$115.32; U S Bank, Repairs, \$341.42; Village of Broadwater, Service, \$131.40; WPCI, Testing Fees, \$234.00; David Zwirn, Phone, \$40.00; Road Employees, Salaries, \$29,104.61.

#### 911 FUND

Century Link, Service, \$100.94.

#### W911 FUND

Century Link, Service, \$796.40.

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 2025 monthly reports were received, reviewed and placed on file: June– I Cardenas, Co Sheriff, K Brandt, Co Clerk, L McCoy, Co Treas and S Kelly, Clk of Dist Ct.

The June minutes of the Morrill/Scotts Bluff County Extension meeting were received, reviewed and placed on file.

Robin Stuart, Hospital Administrator, presented the June Financial report for the Hospital. She explained how the Medicaid payment goes back to 2023 and should be caught up by 2027. Robin also presented a letter from the Hospital Board for re-appointing Roger Eirich to a Six Year term. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the re-appointment of Roger Eirich to a Six Year term on the Hospital Board. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. The Commissioners presented a resolution authorizing the funding for an emergency ambulance service. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the County donating \$150,000, if plan goes through with the City, to the Ambulance service and to adopt the following resolution:

#### **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FUNDING OF AN EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE RESOLUTION #2025-19**

WHEREAS, the Morrill County Community Hospital has announced that it will no longer be providing an emergency ambulance service for the Bridgeport area beginning October 1, 2025, and

WHEREAS, the Morrill County Commissioners, the Morrill County Community Hospital Board, and the City of Bridgeport have entered into conversations regarding the future of the emergency ambulance service for the Bridgeport area; and

WHEREAS, the Morrill County Commissioners, the Morrill County Community Hospital Board, and the City of Bridgeport are working on establishing a volunteer emergency medical services program for the Bridgeport area; and

WHEREAS, the Morrill County Commissioners desire an emergency ambulance service continue for the Bridgeport area;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED; that Morrill County will pay \$150,000 to the Morrill County Community Hospital for the continuation of emergency ambulance services for the Bridgeport area until July 1, 2026. Such funding will be paid on October 1, 2025. This funding will be contingent upon (1) the Morrill County Community Hospital Board agreeing to continue the ambulance services until July 1, 2026, and (2) the City of Bridgeport also contributing \$150,000 for the continuation of emergency ambulance services for the Bridgeport area.

Dated at Bridgeport, Nebraska, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2025.

/s/Jeff Metz  
Chairman, Morrill County Board of Commissioners

(S E A L)

Attest:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt  
Morrill County Clerk

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

The Board evaluated Bryan Hoerler, County Highway Superintendent.

The Board evaluated Zeth Patterson, Custodian.

Joanie Dudden, Deputy County Treasurer, presented a resolution to transfer funds in the amount of \$50,000 to the Road Fund. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve the transfer and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2025-20  
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 \$125,000.00 into the Road Fund.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 24<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2025.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/Jeff Metz  
Chairman

/s/Susanna Batterman  
Board Member

(S E A L)

/s/Josh Schmidt  
Board Member

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk

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

Brody Retchless, d/b/a Retchless Technologies LLC, met with the Board to renew his contract for July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Retchless said because of the scope of the work, he is asking for \$3,000 per month. He said there is a lot of updating that needs to be done to keep up with new technology. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve the IT contract with Retchless at \$3,000 per month. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None: Motion carried.

Kathy Brandt, County Clerk, presented an Engagement Letter for the Audit with Dana F. Cole, LLP. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt to approve and sign the Engagement Letter with Dana F. Cole, LLP. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board reported on meetings they had attended. Schmidt reported that he had attended the Hospital Board meeting. Batterman had no meetings. Metz reported on a lot of Fair Board meetings. Metz said he had visited with Caleb Johnson, Budget person, regarding a meeting they will have with the Bridgeport Fire District Board.

**Board of Equalization**

See separate minutes for Board of Equalization.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Metz adjourned the meeting at 10.29 A.M.  
Next meeting will be Monday, August 11, 2025.

/s/Jeff Metz,Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt,County Clerk

**Board of Equalization**  
Tuesday, July 22, 2025

The Morrill County Board of Equalization met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:41 A.M., Tuesday, July 22, 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 Bayard Transcript and the Bridgeport News-Blade on July 17, 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 July 17, 2025. On roll call Commissioners Jeff Metz, Chairman, Susanna Batterman and Josh Schmidt were present. Absent: None. Rose Nelson, County Assessor, was present. Kathleen L. Brandt, 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. Statue #77-1233.04(06) at 7:41 A.M. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Rose Nelson, County Assessor, presented Clerical Errors on Todd Eichthaler and Shawn Weibert. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve the Clerical Errors. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Property Valuation Protests.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to return to regular session at 8:22 A.M. Yeas; Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to enter into Board of Equalization, according to Ne. Statue #77-1233.04(06) at 9:19 A.M. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed all of the Property Valuation Protests.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to make changes to the following protests:

#32-Deanne M. Bilby; #46-John Bishop; #4-Billie Borges; #51-Bridgeport Independent Living, LLC; #37-Burke Cattle Co; #55-Christopher & Mackenzie Buskirk; #42-Jerod Dean; #48-Save Erdman; #17-Ernest & Rachelle Eversole; #27-31-Mark Heigel; #49-Sherry L. Hutson; #41-Shawna Kittlemann; #40-Tyler Kittlemann; #34 & 35-Allan & Diann Kreman; #2-George Lapaseotes LLC; #5-Brian P. & Jodi L. Markheim; #3-Stacy & Mary Mau; #44-Eddy G. & Nadine M. McNabb; #50-Scott Miller; #45-Jeffrey T. & Amy N. Nichols; #56-Richard L. & Jama L. Oenning; #6-Gary Oltmann; #53-Travis & Tina Sparks; #52-Stanley R. Tavenner; #36-Mitzi K.E. Teten; #1-Kathy Tourney, Trustee, Wildcat Mountain Trust; #38-Russell, Joyce & Jeannine Tyree; and #21-Amador Vergil.

Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt (Abstaining from #51-Bridgeport Independent Living, LLC) and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to make no changes to the following protests:

#43-Chad Steven Anderson; #58-Jared Barr-Dollar General; #33-Allan & Diann Kreman; #59-Britni McCarty; #57-Richard L. & Jama L. Oenning; #18-19-Roland Peters/Melinda Stevens Peters; #47-Marilyn Radke; #39-Jeanne Tyree & Joyce Russell; #22-25-Roger & Troy Schmidt; #26-Janice L. Schwenke Trust; #7-16-Rodney & Kathy Terrell Family Trust; and #20-Steven & Otilio Torres.

Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz (Abstaining from #59-Britni McCarty). Nays: None. Motion carried.

Loretta & Rodney McCoy, Protest #54 withdrew their protest. No action taken.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to return to regular session at 10:27 A.M. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

/s/Jeff Metz, Chairman

Attest:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk

