

Bridgeport, Nebraska
Tuesday, April 22, 2025

The Morrill County Board of Commissioners met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:30 A.M., Tuesday, April 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 April 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 April 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 the May Mental Health Proclamation and the deletion of the Transfer of Funds and the minutes of the April 8, 2025 meeting. 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; American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$1,306.80; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$8,477.69; B & S Body Shop, Repairs, \$1,000.00; Bayard Automotive LLC, Repairs, \$80.61; Bayard Transcript, Publishing, \$72.00; Benchmark Government Solutions LLC, Meals, \$55.80; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$858.36; Bob Barker Co Inc, Provisions, \$567.00; Bobbin Heads, Uniforms, \$914.00; Bomgaars Supply Inc, Supplies, \$112.93; Kathy Brandt, Meals & Mileage, \$78.77; Bridgeport News-Blade, Publishing, \$6.34; Capital Business Systems, Inc, Data Processing Costs & Equip Lease, \$175.36; Ismael Cardenas, Registration, \$40.00; Cenex Fleet Fueling, Fuel, \$2,700.36; Century Business Products, Equip & Supplies, \$308.34; Century Link, Service, \$80.75; Clerk of District Court, Court Costs, \$180.00; Brandon Collins-Flamig, Meals, \$116.71; Colonial Life, Insurance, \$179.63; Country Catering, Meals, \$1,050.00; Crites, Shaffer, Connealy, Etc PC LLO, Court Appointed Counsel, \$1,080.00; Dept of Revenue, State Tax, \$4,012.68; Eakes Office Solutions, Supplies, \$295.60; Elmshaeuser Law, Court Appointed Counsel, \$80.00; Gall's LLC, Uniforms, \$164.37; Holly Hjelmstad, Phone, \$40.00; Kaiser Tire, Repairs, \$105.00; Susan Kelly, Phone & Uniforms, \$80.00; Koke's Auto Farm Truck, Repairs, \$19.96; Kamry Kramer, Contract Labor, \$1,523.80; Dan Krentz, Repairs, \$700.00; Medical Air Services Assn, Insurance, \$462.00; Microfilm Imaging Systems, Equip Rental, \$86.00; Morrill County Community Hospital, Board of Prisoners, \$1,485.50; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$2,283.11; Morrill County Health Plan, Insurance, \$31,093.51; NE Child Support, Child Support, \$274.16; \$236.31; NE Clerk of Dist Ct Assn, Registration, \$525.00; NE Law Enforcement Training Center, Training, \$525.00; Nein Pharmacy, Medical-Prisoners, \$42.38; Rose Nelson, Mileage, \$56.00; Nossaman, Pettitt Law Firm, PC, LLO, Court Appointed Counsel, \$3,361.60; Sarah Paisley, Meals, Supplies & Mileage, \$274.57; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$1,172.91; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$14,068.11; Principal Life, Life Insurance, \$247.10; Regional Care Inc, Health Insurance, \$28,317.79; Rhonda R. Flower, Atty, Court Appointed Counsel, \$1,032.50; Rodriguez-Fletcher Clinical Social Work, Juvenile Costs, \$250.00; Scotts Bluff County Sheriff's Dept, Law Enforcement Costs, \$167.62; Sonny's Super Foods, Board of Prisoners, Supplies & Misc, \$118.47; State of NE-Dept of Admin, Data Processing Costs, \$288.00; Dr. Gage Stermensky, LLC, Juvenile Costs, \$1,125.00; U S Bank, Data Processing Equip, Law Enforcement Supplies, Furniture, Lodging, Dues, Meals, Supplies & Misc, \$4,297.65; Valley Tire & Service, Fuel, \$86.10; XESI Document Solutions, Equip Rental, \$178.94; General Employees, Salaries, \$68,569.47.

ROAD/BRIDGE FUND

American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$663.73; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$3,191.86; B & C Steel Corp, Steel Products, \$422.09; Bridgeport News-Blade, Publishing, \$369.20; Dana Cadwallader, Phone, \$40.00; Capital Business Systems Inc, Equip, \$201.43; Century Link, Service, \$133.56; Charter Communications, Service, \$119.99; Colonial

Life Insurance, Insurance, \$22.16; Dept of Rev, State Tax, \$1,565.40; Fat Boys Tire & Auto, Repairs, \$736.56; Filter Care of NE LLC, Repairs, \$39.40; Floyd's Truck Center Inc, Repairs, \$374.81; Ronald G. Franklin, Phone, \$40.00; Bryan Hoerler, Phone, \$40.00; KBK Trucking LLC, Gravel, \$18,590.62; Koke's Auto Farm Truck, Supplies & Repairs, \$115.25; Lawson Products Inc, Supplies, \$465.35; Lee's Service Inc, Tires, \$540.00; Matheson Tri-Gas Inc, Supplies, \$42.88; Medical Air Service Assoc, Insurance, \$224.00; Menards, Supplies & Tools, \$47.37; Justin Mitchell, Phone, \$40.00; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$1,077.64; Morrill County Health Plan, Health Insurance, \$15,348.82; NE Public Power, Service, \$74.19; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$625.00; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$5,803.72; Principal Life, Life Insurance, \$115.32; PT Hose & Bearing, Repairs, \$297.63; Regional Care Inc, Insurance, \$13,988.94; Rocky Mountain Air Solutions, Supplies, \$183.71; Ryan Shultz-Mill Iron Land & Cattle, Util Permit, \$50.00; U S Bank, Fuel & Meals, \$189.38; David Zwirn, Phone, \$40.00; Road Employees, Salaries, \$28,372.07.

911 FUND

Century Link, Service, \$101.10; GeoComm Inc, Service, \$4,409.00.

W911 FUND

Century Link, Service, \$556.43.

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: March – I Cardenas, Co Sheriff, K Brandt, Co Clerk, L McCoy, Co Treas and S Kelly, Clk of Dist Ct.

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

Two resignations from the Morrill County Fair Board were received from Tyler Franklin and Jaslyn Livingston. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to accept their resignations and to thank them for all they have done for the Fair Board. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to appoint Sean Houchin and Will Preston to the Fair Board, to finish the terms of Franklin and Livingston. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Robin Stuart, Hospital Administrator, met with the Board. She presented the March Financials for the hospital. Stuart said revenue was down 7% below projections. She said it is hard to budget because of services that go to Regional West. She said they are waiting for \$428,000 from Medicare/Medicaid. She said Amber will take over the MedSpa in July on her own. She said Dr. Van Winkle will be full time in July taking over for Dr. Johnson and Sheri Cooper will replace Tracy Ellis. Discussion was held about RCI Insurance. Stuart said that RCI is taking 6 to 9 months to repay them. She said the CFO at Regional West has to approve it. This will be discussed at renewal time.

Bryan Hoerler, County Highway Superintendent, met with the Board. He said he passed his re-certification for Bridge Inspection. He said it qualifies him to inspect bridges across the U.S. He said that Justin Mitchell is certified also. Metz asked how the lease was working out on the motor grader. Hoerler said it's been good. Metz said we might do that in the future. Metz asked if Hoerler had spent all of the money for gravel out of his budget. Hoerler said he did. Fuel bids were received and opened from Legacy, WestCo and Sapp Brothers. Dan Vanzee, from Sapp Brothers was present. The bid for Legacy Cooperative was for unleaded up to 10,000 gallons at \$2.701 per gallon, Diesel up to 70,000 gallons \$2.685 per gallon, #1 Deisel \$3.03 – \$3.53 price will vary. The bid from Westco was for unleaded 85 octane E10 up to 10,000 gallons for \$2.795 per gallon, Diesel up to 70,000 gallons for \$2.515 per gallon, #1 Deisel \$3.015. The bid for Sapp Bros was for Unleaded up to 10,000 gallons at \$2.92 per gallon and E10 \$2.65 per gallon, Diesel up to 70,000 gallons at \$2.55 per gallon, and 50/50 blended Deisel at \$2.70 per gallon. Hoerler recommended WestCo because of not having to change anything. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to accept the bid from Sapp Brothers. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Travis Rodak, Public Transit Director, had sent a resolution to the Board for approval to apply for funds for the Public Transit. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve and adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-09

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CHAIRPERSON AND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF MORRILL, NEBRASKA, as follows

WHEREAS there are funds available under Section 5311 of the Federal Transit Act and for the Nebraska Public Transportation Assistance Program, and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Morrill County Board of Commissioners hereby instructs the Director of Morrill County Public Transit to apply for said funds. Said fund are to be used for the Morrill County Public Transit transportation operations in the FY 2025-2026 and FY 2026-2027 Application for Public Transportation Assistance.

Introduced and passed the 22nd day of April, 2025 by the Morrill County Board of Commissioners.

COUNTY OF MORRILL, NEBRASKA

/s/Jeff Metz
Chairman, Morrill County Board

/s/Susanna Batterman
Board Member

(S E A L)

/s/Josh Schmidt
Board Member

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt
County Clerk

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

Caleb Johnson met with the Board regarding the upcoming budget year that he will be preparing. He talked about upcoming bills that could effect the budget if they are passed. He talked about LB 34, 211 & 468. He said most will not come out of committee. He will be sending out budgets to be returned by May 15, 2025.

The Board reported on meetings they had attended. Schmidt said he had not attended any because of being gone. Batterman reported meeting with Jack Berg regarding the tourism and she will meet with them at Chimney Rock on Tuesday. Metz said he attended the Hospital and Fair Board meetings.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Metz adjourned the meeting at 9:20 A.M. Next meeting will be Tuesday, May 13, 2025.

/s/Jeff Metz, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk

Board of Equalization

Tuesday, April 22, 2025

The Morrill County Board of Equalization met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:35 A.M., Tuesday, April 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 April 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 April 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 7:35 A.M. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Rose Nelson, County Assessor, presented Tax List Correction #2025-12. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve and sign the above correction. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to return to regular session at 7:43 A.M. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

/s/Jeff Metz, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk