

Bridgeport, Nebraska
Tuesday, June 24, 2025

The Morrill County Board of Commissioners met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:30 A.M., Tuesday, June 24, 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 June 19, 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 June 19, 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 and the minutes of the June 10, 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; Action Communications Inc, Supplies, Repairs & Equip, \$1,640.65; American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$1,284.38; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$8,602.90; Brennan Andrew, Phone, \$40.00; AT & T Mobility, Service, \$385.77; Bayard Automotive LLC, Repairs, \$57.30; Black Hills Chemical & Janitorial, Supplies, \$68.09; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$361.84; Blake's Automotive, Repairs, \$39.83; Bomgaars Supply Inc, Supplies, \$61.95; Capital Business Systems, Inc, Data Processing Costs, \$175.36; Cenex Fleet Fueling, Fuel, \$2,747.32; Century Business Products, Equip & Supplies, \$382.07; Century Link, Service, \$80.75; City of Bridgeport, Service, \$697.26; Colonial Life, Insurance, \$179.63; Comfort Inn, Lodging-Clerk, \$269.90; Crowne Plaza-Kearney, Lodging-Assess, \$144.95; Dept Correctional Services, Auto, \$14,000.00; Eakes Office Solutions, Supplies, \$524.93; Kirk Fellhoelter, Phone & Reimburs, \$2,160.00; Ashley Fenning, Meals & Lodging, \$162.05; Finance & Acctng-Dept of Health. Gen Assist, \$9.50; Galls LLC, Supplies, \$417.91; Hansen's Locksmithing, Repairs, \$566.71; Stacie Lynn Harden, Contract Labor, \$516.00; Holly Hjelmstad, Phone, \$40.00; Holyoke, Snyder, Longoria, Etc PC, Court Appointed Counsel, \$2,017.30; Steven R. Hutchinson, Contract Labor, \$730.00; Jackson's Garage LLC, Repairs, \$106.22; Kaiser Tire, Repairs, \$122.99; Susan Kelly, Phone & Uniforms, \$90.00; Logoz LLC, Supplies, \$222.00; Lori McCoy, Phone, Meals & Mileage, \$795.29; Medical Air Services Assn, Insurance, \$476.00; Menards-Scottsbluff, Furniture, \$7,997.50; Morrill County Community Hospital, Board of Prisoners, \$1,473.50; Morrill County Fair Board, Fair Exp, \$30,294.04; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$2,243.63; Morrill County Health Plan, Insurance, \$30,084.99; Morrill County Highway Dept, Fuel, \$183.81; Nationwide Mngmt Services Inc, Subscription, \$500.00; NE Child Support, Child Support, \$274.16; \$236.31; NE Law Enforcement Training Center, Lodging, \$150.00; NE Total Office, Supplies & Furniture, \$1,029.35; Rose Nelson, Supplies, \$30.17; Nossaman, Pettitt Law Firm, PC, LLO, Court Appointed Counsel, \$1,794.48; Sarah Paisley, Fuel, Meals, Supplies & Equip, \$779.66; Zeth Patterson, Reimburse, \$48.82; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$1,072.91; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$14,243.07; Principal Life, Life Insurance, \$248.00; Regional Care Inc, Health Insurance, \$28,266.05; Rixstine Recognition, Supplies, \$354.02; Sandhills Repair, Repairs, \$974.84; Smith, King & Simmons PC, Court Appointed Counsel, \$120.00; Sonny's Super Foods, Board of Prisoners, \$11.49; Susan D. Sparks, Contract Labor, \$1,330.00; State of NE-Dept of Admin, Data Processing Costs, \$1,039.60; Stemfinity, LLC, Supplies, \$3,917.95; Stryker Sales LLC, Misc, \$396.00; Town & Country Advertising, \$79.00; Uline, Furniture, \$2,488.74; U S Bank, Data Processing Equip, Registration, Phone, Supplies & Misc, \$7,172.83; Valley Tire & Service LLC, Fuel, \$66.14; XESI Document Solutions, Equip Lease, \$126.54; General Employees, Salaries, \$68,921.55.

ROAD/BRIDGE FUND

American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$663.73; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$3,191.01; Bomgaars Supply Inc, Supplies & Repairs, \$1,546.04; Dana Cadwallader,

Phone, \$40.00; Dan Carnine, Gravel, \$50,000.00; Century Link, Service, \$272.45; Charter Communications, Service, \$119.99; Colonial Life Insurance, Insurance, \$22.16; Ronald G. Franklin, Phone, \$40.00; Bryan Hoerler, Phone, \$40.00; KBK Trucking LLC, Gravel, \$18,571.27; Medical Air Service Assoc, Insurance, \$224.00; Justin Mitchell, Phone, \$40.00; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$1,077.64; Morrill County Health Plan, Health Insurance, \$15,348.82; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$625.00; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$5,850.40; Principal Life, Life Insurance, \$115.32; Red Barn Shop LLC, Repairs, \$13,765.16; Regional Care Inc, Insurance, \$14,013.60; Simon, Asphalt, \$966.90; U S Bank, Fuel, \$36.29; Westco, Fuel, \$2,765.28; David Zwirn, Phone, \$40.00; Road Employees, Salaries, \$28,364.51.

LATCF FUND

Action Communications Inc, Supplies, \$3,921.78.

911 FUND

Century Link, Service, \$182.10.

W911 FUND

Century Link, Service, \$797.05.

COURTHOUSE BUILDING FUND

U S Bank, Repairs, \$219.98.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, 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: Schmidt, Batterman 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: May– I Cardenas, Co Sheriff, K Brandt, Co Clerk, L McCoy, Co Treas and S Kelly, Clk of Dist Ct.

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

Tim Marquez, Veteran's Service Officer, introduced Steve McKean, who is replacing Gary Tyree on the Veteran' Service Board. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the appointment of Steve McKean to the Veteran's Service Board. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Robin Stuart, Hospital Administrator, presented the May Financials to the Board. Robin said they are down three providers, but there will be new ones starting in July. She said the Cattlemen had donated money to the hospital and they will provide a new service, a Breast Coil Enhancement, with the equipment they will purchase. She said it will provide a more in depth look, if something is found in a mammogram. Stuart also presented the 25-26 Budget. She also said that the Foundation will purchase equipment for them. She said they are discontinuing the 911 Service, as it is not feasible. The Ambulance service was also discussed and Stuart said she is meeting with the City of Bridgeport regarding this matter.

Sarah Paisley, Extension Educator, met with the Board. She had the Interlocal Agreement with Garden County for the vehicle Morrill County had purchased. Metz said he had attended their meeting yesterday. Garden County agreed to pay half of the \$14,000 for the vehicle and to pay for half of the maintenance, gas and repairs. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve and sign the Interlocal Agreement with Garden County for the 2017 Dodge Caravan. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Travis Rodak, Public Transit Director, had presented a 5311 Agreement for FY 2026 – FY 2027. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to designate Travis Rodak as the Transit Manager for this project and have the Chairman sign the 5311 Agreement and to adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION #2025-14
SIGNING OF 5311 PROGRAM AGREEMENT
PI2546

Whereas: Morrill County in compliance with Nebraska law, Subrecipient has established and is operating, or is interested in establishing and operating, a local transit system of a type that may be eligible for certain State and Federal Transit funding, and;

Whereas: FTA Section 5311 funding is available to reimburse local transit expenses or costs generally related to capital, planning and operating costs of a local transit system, including but not limited to more specifically acquisition of rolling stock (vehicles), facility and vehicle maintenance, payroll, insurance, training and other eligible expenses, and

Whereas: Morrill County as a sub-recipient of Federal and State Aid funding is charged with the responsibility of expending said funds in accordance with Federal and State laws, rules, regulations, policies and guidelines applicable to the funding of the Federal-aid project; and

Whereas: Morrill County and Nebraska Department of Transportation wish to enter into a Program Agreement to provide Federal and State funding for Fiscal Year 2026 and 2027 to support rural public transportation services.

Be It Resolved: by Morrill County that

Following through inspection of the NDOT 5311 Program Agreement,

Jeff Metz, Chairman-Morrill County Board of Commissioners

is hereby authorized to sign the attached FY2026/2027 5311 Program Agreement between Morrill County and Nebraska Department of Transportation.

NDOT Project Number: RPT-C621 (227)

NDOT Control Number: 51425T

NDOT Project Description: 5311 FTA Program Funding

Adopted this 24th day of June, 2025 at Bridgeport, Nebraska

IN WITNESS WHEREOF: the Parties hereby execute this Agreement pursuant to lawful authority as of the date signed by each party.

EXECUTED by Subrecipient this 24th day of June, 2025

WITNESS:	MORRILL COUNTY
<u>/s/Kathleen L. Brandt</u> Morrill County Clerk	<u>/s/Jeff Metz</u> Chairman, County Board

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

Loretta McCoy, County Treasurer, presented a resolution to transfer funds in the amount of \$125,000 to the Road Fund. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the transfer and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2025-12
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 24th day of June, 2025.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/Jeff Metz
Chairman

(S E A L)

/s/Susanna Batterman
Board Member

/s/Josh Schmidt
Board Member

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk

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

Christina Mulloy, representing the Building Champions Committee for the Fairgrounds, requested approval of a Special Designated Liquor License for July 19 & July 25, 2025. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the License. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Elaine Menzel, Legal Counsel for NACO, met with the Board to give an update on NACO business. She said the District meeting will be in September, the Legislative Workshop will be on October 9, 2025 in Beatrice and the NACO Conference in Kearney will be on December 17 – 19, 2025. Menzel talked about the Legislative Session and that the Inheritance Tax bill LB 468 failed to advance from General File. She said it didn't advance because they wanted a replacement source of income if Inheritance Tax goes away. She said it be introduced again next session. Menzel said that there is a new Open Meeting Poster. Menzel also discussed the Elected Officials Salary Study that will be going out soon. She discussed the salaries for County Board Members. Metz discussed benefits that we give to employees and elected officials. Metz said he appreciates what Elaine does for the counties.

The Board reported on meetings they had attended. Schmidt reported on the Safety Committee meeting. He said they are going to have the lines in the parking lot painted and there is one of the barriers that is broken. He said Milo needs new cameras for the impound lot. Batterman said that she went to the Aging Office meeting and they are still trying to fill the ombudsman position. She said that they discussed Senior Citizens needing an advocate. Metz reported on the Building Champions meeting, the Fair Board and 4-H Council meetings. He also attended the Garden County Commissioners meeting.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Metz recessed the meeting at 9:23 A.M.

Board of Equalization

See separate minutes for Board of Equalization.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Metz adjourned the meeting at 1:18 P.M. Next meeting will be Tuesday, July 8, 2025.

/s/Jeff Metz, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk

Board of Equalization

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

The Morrill County Board of Equalization met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:38 A.M., Tuesday, June 24, 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 June 19, 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 June 19, 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 Schmidt, seconded by Metz, to enter into Board of Equalization, according to Ne. Statue #77-1233.04(06) at 7:38 A.M. Yeas: Schmidt, Metz and Batterman. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Rose Nelson, County Assessor, presented Over & Under Valuations. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve and sign the above Over & Under Valuations. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to return to regular session at 7:50 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(6) at 9:36 A.M. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk swore in the Board of Equalization, including the three Commissioners, the Assessor and her Deputy.

Protestors were sworn in.

Protests were heard from the following: #17-Ernest & Rachelle Eversole; #7-16-Rodney & Kathy Terrell Family Trust; #21-Amador Vergil; #4-Billie Borges & #18-19-Roland & Melinda Peters.

The Board recessed for lunch at 11:45 A.M.

The Board resumed the meeting at 1:02 P.M.

Protestors were sworn in.

Protests were heard from the following: #3-Stacy Mau;

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to return to regular session at 1:17 P.M. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Board of Equalization

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

The Morrill County Board of Equalization met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:31 A.M., Wednesday, June 25, 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 June 19, 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 June 19, 2025. On roll call Commissioners Jeff Metz, Chairman, and Susanna Batterman were present. Absent: Josh Schmidt

Rose Nelson, County Assessor, was present. Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk, recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Metz, to enter into Board of Equalization, according to Ne. Statue #77-1233.04(06) at 7:31 A.M. Yeas: Schmidt, Metz and Batterman. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Protestors were sworn in.

Protests were heard from the following: #6-Gary Oltmann, #2-Peter G. Lapaseotes.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Metz, to return to regular session at 9:58 A.M. Yeas: Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Chairperson Metz adjourned the meeting at 10:01 A.M.

/s/Jeff Metz,Chairman

Attest:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt,County Clerk

