

Bridgeport, Nebraska
Tuesday, February 10, 2026

The Morrill County Board of Commissioners met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:30 A.M., Tuesday, February 10, 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 February 5, 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 5, 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 Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve the Agenda with deletion of Board of Equalization, the adding of reports on meeting attended and approve the minutes of the January 27, 2026 meeting. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Correspondence was received and read.

The Commissioners reviewed the following claims:

GENERAL FUND

Accelerated Receivables Solution, Garnishment, \$224.51; Action Communications, Inc., Auto Lease, \$10,236.71; Alarm Security Technicians, Building Repairs, \$134.00 Allo Communications, Service, \$1,508.04; American Family Life, Insurance, \$1726.55; Ameritas Life Ins. Corp, Retirement, \$9709.93; Brennan Andrew, Phone, \$40.00; Bayard Transcript, Publishing, \$268.16; Bob Benton, Repairs, \$22.50; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$389.30; Bridgeport Family Dental, Inmate Medical, \$131.00; Bridgeport New-Blade, Publishing, \$531.15; Capital Business Systems Inc, Equip Lease, \$166.50; Ismael Cardenas, Phone, \$40.00; Cenex Fleet Fueling, Fuel, \$3,183.70; City of Bridgeport, Service, \$125.02; CAN Surety, Notary Bond, \$40.00; Brandon Collins-Flamig, Phone, \$40.00; Colonial Life, Insurance, \$209.37; Timothy Conrad, Phone, \$40.00; Culligan of Scottsbluff, Service, \$129.00; D C Concrete & Tile, LLC, Snow Removal, \$600.00; Dollar General, Supplies, \$67.80; Eakes Office Solutions, Supplies & Lease, \$222.97; John Erickson, Phone, \$40.00; Shauna Faessler, Phone, \$40.00; Daniel Flores, Phone, \$40.00; Grand Slam Solutions LLC, Contract Labor, \$1,500.00; Hometown Leasing, Equip Lease, \$56.20; Ideal Linen, Jail Laundry, \$289.95; Jackson's Garage LLC, Vehicle Service, \$80.86; Kaiser Tire, Repairs, \$1,076.72; Andrew Lawson, Phone, \$40.00; Legacy Cooperative, Repairs, \$173.01; Audrey M. Long, Public Defender, \$4,968.22; Tim Marquez, Phone, \$40.00; Seth McLaughlin, Phone, \$40.00; Jeff Metz, Phone, \$40.00; Microfilm Imaging Systems, Equip Rental, \$75.00; MIPS Inc, Data Processing Costs, \$3147.81; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$2377.79; NE Child Support, Child Support, \$274.16; \$236.31; NE Total Office, Supplies, \$62.94; Nein Pharmacy, Meds, \$36.98; Candace Panas, Phone & Notary, \$72.50; Zeth Patterson, Supplies Reimbursement, \$33.84; Patty Wax General Service, Mngr, \$1,000.00; PEAC Solutions, Equip Lease, \$606.43; Jason Perkins, Phone, \$40.00; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$797.91; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$16,517.87; U.S. Postal Service - Quadient, Postage, \$10,000.00; Travis Rodak, Rent, \$675.00; Wex Bank, Fuel, \$177.08; General Employee Salaries, \$55,686.40.

ROAD/BRIDGE FUND

Allo Communications, Service, \$111.40; American Family Life, Insurance, \$713.32; Ameritas Life Ins. Corp, Retirement, \$3954.04; Bayard Automotive LLC, Repairs & Tools, \$1,186.92; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$3795.32; Capital Business Systems, \$303.55; Caterpillar Financial Services Crop, Equip Lease, \$5,153.05; Century Link, Service, \$141.64; Colonial Life, Insurance, \$22.16; Frank Parts Company, Supplies, \$52.50; Floyd's Truck Center, Repairs, \$5,281.37; Heigel's Field Repair, Repairs, \$890.00; Ideal Linen, Supplies, \$305.82; Koke's Auto, Repairs, \$553.31; Lawson Products, Supplies, \$137.00; Morrill County Health Fund, Emp Share, \$1,139.47; NMC, LLC, Repairs, \$4,726.19; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$625.00; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$7,347.44; Power Plan, Parts, \$1,347.06; Quill LLC, Supplies & Equip, \$45.98; Rocky Mountain Air Solutions, Supplies, \$352.19; Sapp Bros. Inc, Fuel, \$7,284.31; Swanston Equipment Corp., Supplies, \$2515.46; Village of Broadwater, Service, \$145.40; Walter Field Repair, Repairs, \$835.97; 21st Century Equip LLC, Repairs, \$1.41; Road Employee Salaries, \$25,413.96.

BRIDGE BUYBACK FUND

Menards, Supplies, \$367.13.

W911 FUND

Century Link, Service, \$488.28; Frontier, Service, \$34.19.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, that the above claims 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

No minutes for Board of Equalization.

Loretta McCoy, County Treasurer, presented a Resolution to transfer funds into the Road Fund for \$100,000.00. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve the transfer and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2026-06 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 \$100,000.00 into the Road Funds.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 10th day of February, 2026.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/Jeff Metz
Chairman

/s/Susanna Batterman
Board Member

(S E A L)

/s/Josh Schmidt
Board Member

ATTEST:

/s/Candace D. Panas
County Clerk

Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. McCoy also presented the Notice of Delinquent Property Tax Sale that she will be publishing in the newspaper for three weeks. A claim from the fair account in the amount of \$2500 was presented to pay Rod Laucomer for architectural services related to the exhibit hall at the fairgrounds. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the report and authorize payment of the \$2500 contract to Rod Laucomer. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt & Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Sarah Paisley and Ahley Fenning, Extension Educators, presented the Annual Report for 2025. The report reviews the individuals representing the Board and each educator, along with summaries of their annual reports and activities within their respective areas. They discussed various programs offered, including a babysitting course, and noted the strong turnout for Tai Chi in Broadwater. Recommendations for Alexis Corman and Eric Stevens were presented to appoint them to the Extension Board. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt to approve appointment of Alexis Corman and Eric Stevens to the Extension Board. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt & Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Chairman Metz brought up that they will need to put a plan together for bids for a construction manager for the exhibit hall project. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve advertising for Fairgrounds Construction Manager and to adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-07

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

WHEREAS Neb. Rev. Stat. § 39-2808 through § 39-2824 sets forth that a County may solicit and execute a design-build contract, progressive design-build contract, or a construction manager-general contractor contract for a public project.

WHEREAS Morrill County desires to solicit design-builders for a design-build contract to erect the Exhibit Hall and associated construction for the Morrill County Fairgrounds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS that Morrill County shall solicit Requests for Proposal (RFP) for a design-build contract for the Morrill County Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall, and all work associated therewith, subject to the terms and conditions set forth therein, and to include all requirements as set forth by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 39-2817 and Neb. Rev. Stat. § 39-2818;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT PURSUANT TO Neb. Rev. Stat. § 39-2817, said RFP shall be published in a newspaper of statewide circulation at least thirty days prior to the deadline for receiving the request for qualifications, and sent by first-class mail to any construction manager upon request;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the County shall draft the RFP and publish it in accordance with the aforementioned statutory authority;

DATED THIS 10th DAY OF February, 2026

COUNTY OF MORRILL, NEBRASKA

/s/Jeff Metz

Jeff Metz, Chairperson
Morrill County Board of Commissioners

/s/Susanna Batterman

Susanna Batterman, Board Member
Morrill County Board of Commissioners

/s/Josh Schmidt

Josh Schmidt, Board Member
Morrill County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

/s/Candace D. Panas

Candace Panas, County Clerk

Bryan Hoerler, County Highway Superintendent, presented quotes for FirstNet devices to replace radios used in the road maintainers. He explained the devices function like a cell phone but provide better signal in areas with poor service and operates like a push-to-talk radio, allowing communication with all staff or individual foreman. He noted that FirstNet has numerous towers in the area, which may improve coverage. The cost for 20 devices would be \$0.99 per unit; however, surcharges and fees for the radio portion would total approximately \$579.80 per month. Bryan also stated that during a storm event, FirstNet would deploy a mobile unit, as county road personnel would be considered a priority. The devices include GPS capabilities to track locations. The Board recommended requesting a trial period to determine effectiveness in areas with limited service before we enter a contract.

The Board reported on meetings they had attended. Schmidt reported that he did not have any meetings but stated that he talked to Bridgeport Public Schools about County Government Day. Batterman attended the Panhandle Public Health annual meeting and the Community Health Improvement meeting to discuss community improvement. She also attended Region I Advisory Board and Foundation Board meetings. The board received opioid grant funding and will allocate \$2,500 each to send Jason and Stephanie Perkins to South Carolina for training on working with incarcerated individuals experiencing drug-related crises. Additionally, the Attorney General has signed the contract for the Crisis Stabilization Center, allowing the project to proceed. The board also allocated \$100,000 of the grant towards a mobile crisis unit, which is expected to be operational in the coming weeks. Metz attended CAPWN Board meeting, which oversees a health and dentistry clinic and coordinates with other counties to accept inmates as needed. Services are income-based, and Milo Cardenas, Morrill County Sheriff, will review whether the county could save money using the clinic. He also attended the Fire District meeting, where a mill levy increase will appear on the May ballot, projected to generate \$360,000 annually.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Metz adjourned the meeting at 8:28 A.M. Next meeting will be Tuesday, February 24, 2026.

_____, Chairman

_____, County Clerk