

Bridgeport, Nebraska
Tuesday, May 13, 2025

The Morrill County Board of Commissioners met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:30 A.M., Tuesday, May 13, 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 having been published in the Bayard Transcript and the Bridgeport News-Blade on May 8, 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 May 8, 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 present. Candace Panas, Office Clerk, recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the Agenda, with the addition of Resolution for Grant Fund and the deletion of transfer of funds, and approve the minutes of the April 22, 2025 meeting. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Correspondence was received and read.

The Commissioners reviewed the following claims:

GENERAL FUND

Action Communications Inc, Repairs, \$461.89; Allo Communications, Service, \$1,379.12; American Family Life, Insurance, \$1,284.28; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$8,629.69; Brennan Andrew, Phone, \$40.00; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$177.04; Bomgaars Supply Inc, Law Enforcement Costs, \$158.98; Kathy Brandt, Phone, \$40.00; Bridgeport New-Blade, Publishing & Supplies, \$360.08; Capital Business Systems Inc, Copier Lease, \$78.26; Ismael Cardenas, Phone & Repairs, \$78.50; Jose Carrillo, Repairs, \$300.00; Cenex Fleet Fueling, Fuel, \$2,308.48; Century Link, Service, \$80.75; Charter Communications, Service, \$169.99; Cheyenne County Sheriff, Boarding Contract, \$700.00; City of Bridgeport, Service, \$2,094.56; Clerk of District Court, Court Costs, \$36.00; Brandon Collins-Flamig, Phone, \$40.00; Colonial Life, Insurance, \$179.63; Culligan of Scottsbluff, Service, \$63.00; Rhett Dye, Phone, \$40.00; Eakes Office Solutions, Supplies, \$156.13; Shauna Faessler, Phone, Supplies & Fuel, \$84.59; Daniel Flores, Phone, \$40.00; Galls, LLC, Uniforms, \$66.49; Garden County Sheriff, Boarding Contract, \$450.00; Grand Slam Solutions LLC, Contract Labor, \$1,500.00; GWorks, GIS, \$9,896.00; Hometown Leasing, Equip Lease, \$56.20; Steven R. Hutchinson, Landscape & Supplies, \$940.00; Ideal Linen/Bluffs Facility Solutions, Laundry-Prisoners, \$231.96; Jackson's Garage LLC, Repairs, \$79.61; Kaiser Tire, Repairs, \$1,318.47; Kone Chicago, Repairs, \$319.23; Andrew Lawson, Phone, \$40.00; Audrey M. Long, Public Defender, \$4,687.00; LPI, Publishing, \$151.75; Tim Marquez, Phone, Meals & Mileage, \$618.43; Lori McCoy, Phone, Postage & Mileage, \$424.99; Seth McLaughlin, Phone, \$40.00; Jeff Metz, Phone, \$40.00; Microfilm Imaging Systems, Equip Rental, \$161.00; Mid-American Research Chemical, Law Enforcement Costs, \$208.93; MIPS Inc, Data Processing, \$2,810.46; Morrill County Clerk, Filing Fees, \$10.00; Morrill County Community Hospital, Board of Prisoners, \$871.00; Morrill County Court, Court Costs, \$362.00; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$2,218.63; Morrill County Highway Dept, Fuel, \$255.60; NACO, Registrations, \$700.00; NE Child Support, Child Support, \$274.16; \$236.31; NE Law Enforcement Training Center, Training Costs, \$525.00; NE Print Works LLC, Supplies, \$208.71; NE Total Office, Supplies, \$216.71; NE Weed Control Assoc, Registration, \$150.00; Rose Nelson, Phone, \$40.00; NIRMA, CPR Cert, \$1,053.00; Norfolk Lodge & Suites, Lodging, \$250.00; Nossaman, Pettitt Law Firm PC LLO, Court Appointed Counsel, \$723.69; Zeth Patterson, Phone, \$40.00; Patty Wax General Service, Mngr, \$1,000.00; Jason Perkins, Phone, \$40.00; Lisa Peters, Supplies, \$46.72; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$1,072.91; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$14,382.56; Pritchard & Abbott Inc, Appraisal, \$4,500.00; RAVE Wireless Inc, Code Red, \$1,020.87; Retchless Technologies LLC, Contract, \$1,500.00; Travis Rodak, Rent, \$675.00; Scotts Bluff County Sheriff's Dept, District Court Costs, \$31.14; Snell Services Inc, Service, \$780.00; State of NE-Dept of Admin, Service, \$751.60; Thompson Reuters-West, Law Library, \$865.00; Town & Country Advertising, Publishing, \$79.00; Ricky Trevino, Phone, \$40.00; Wex Bank, Fuel, \$288.59; XESI Document Solutions, Equip Rental, \$209.84; General Employees Salaries, \$68,998.75.

ROAD/BRIDGE FUND

Allo Communications, Service, \$111.80; American Family Life, Insurance, \$663.73; Ameritas Life Ins Corp, Retirement, \$3,207.49; B & C Steel Corp, Steel Products, \$547.25; Bayard Automotive, Repairs, Tires & Supplies, \$121.89; Big State Industrial Supply Inc, Supplies, \$143.88; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$1,618.97; Bomgaars Supply Inc, Supplies, Repairs & Tools, \$1,222.22; Bridgeport News-Blade, Publishing \$28.53; Capital Business Systems Inc, Equip, \$505.59; Caterpillar Financial Services Crop, Equip Lease, \$5,153.05; Century Link, Service, \$138.74; City of Bayard, Service,

\$310.64; City of Bridgeport, Service, \$469.91; Colonial Life Insurance, Insurance, \$22.16; Fat Boys Tire & Auto, Tires, \$39.66; Frank Parts Co, Repairs, \$63.96; GWorks, Data Processing Supplies, \$549.00; Harbor Freight Comm Acct, Tools, \$152.84; Heigel's Field Service, Repairs, \$515.00; Ideal Linen/Bluffs Facility Solutions, Supplies, \$227.80; KBK Trucking LLC, Gravel, \$30,198.04; Koke's Auto Farm Truck, Repairs, Supplies & Tools, \$1,042.05; Menards, Repairs, \$12.47; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$1,077.64; NMC Exchange LLC, Repairs, \$313.80; Thomas N. Panas, Supplies, \$64.00; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$625.00; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$5,834.72; Powerplan, Repairs, \$3,980.36; PT Hose & Bearing, Repairs, \$123.23; Quill LLC, Supplies, \$121.89; Rocky Mountain Air Solutions, Supplies, \$715.41; Village of Broadwater, Service, \$131.40; Westco, Fuel, \$13,969.39; Road Employees Salaries, \$28,511.03.

VISITORS PROMOTION FUND

Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce, Advertising, \$500.00.

HEALTH INSURANCE FUND

Morrill County Health Fund, Health Claims, \$94,796.18.

ARPA FUNDS

Independent Plumbing & Heating Inc, Repairs, \$12,507.93.

LATCF FUND

Independent Plumbing & Heating Inc, Repairs, \$10,108.07; Motorola Solutions Inc, Equip, \$31,872.60.

911 FUND

Century Link, Service, \$82.62.

W911 FUND

Century Link, Service, \$11,425.27; 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

See separate minutes for Board of Equalization.

Received, reviewed and placed on file the April minutes of the Visitors Committee meeting. Discussion was held about the by-laws and suggested some items that need to be added to them. They suggested that Kirk Fellhoelter, County Attorney, draw up the new by-laws with the changes they want.

Rose Nelson, County Assessor, is proposing to contract Stanard Appraisal to conduct a re-valuation of the Bridgeport Ethanol Plant. They would take new measurements and assign an updated value to the property. The cost of this contract with Stanard Appraisal is \$3,200. Rose believes the county may be missing out on taxable value that should be included. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt to approve the contract with Stanard Appraisal. Yeas: Batterman and Metz. Nays: Schmidt. Motion carried.

Letters were received from Allo and Nextlink Internet asking for support for Broadband. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman to approve and sign letters of support for Allo and Nextlink Internet. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Loretta McCoy, County Treasurer, presented a resolution that needs adopted showing that Morrill County has people contributing monetarily to the Fairground Building. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2025-10 APPLYING FOR GRANT FUNDS

Whereas, Morrill County, Nebraska, is applying for Grant Funds for the Construction of a Building for the Morrill County Fairgrounds, it is necessary to pass a resolution stating that Morrill

County Residents have donated monies to help pay for this building. There is a committee in charge of soliciting donations and collecting these funds. Chairman of the County Board has been reporting these donations to the County Board.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 13th day of May, 2025.

Morrill County Board of Commissioners

/s/Jeff Metz

Chairman

/s/Susanna Batterman

Board Member

/s/Josh Schmidt

Board Member

(S E A L)

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt

County Clerk

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

Sarah Paisley, Extension Educator, gave an update on the 4-H position. They recently hired an individual but after a week on the job didn't think it was for them so the position is open again so they will be advertising. Sarah gave an update for Ashley Fenning, plans are underway to start a Tai Chi stretching program for Senior's at the Prairie Winds Community Center. The team has also been promoting the food loss and waste program and will be reaching out to Bridgeport and Bayard schools to explore ways to reduce food waste. There was discussion about purchasing a vehicle for the Extension Office to facilitate travel to schools. However, a challenge exists because two counties cannot jointly title the vehicle. The Commissioners want to confirm with our insurance provider that the vehicle can still be covered even if it's not being driven by a county employee, and that it's acceptable for the vehicle to be owned and insured by us but stored in a different county. They asked our County Attorney, Kirk Fellhoelter, to contact NIRMA regarding this matter and to draft an interlocal agreement with Garden County outlining how we will be reimbursed for gas and mileage. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the purchase of a vehicle for the Extension Office, not to exceed \$16,000. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt, Metz. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Bryan Hoerler, Road Superintendent, reported that BNSF identified two crossings west of Bayard that need replaced. BNSF would like joint responsibility with the county in replacing them. The Commissioners stated that the county is not interested in helping them repair the crossings. Bryan also mentioned he has talked with the City of Bridgeport to store our chip sealing equipment in their building, if they allow us to store it there and they would help city with their streets. He also mentioned he talked with Travis Rodak and his dad has a building that they could use as well.

The Board reported on meetings attended. Schmidt said he attended an Aging Office meeting. He stated that they hired Deputy Director, Samantha Williams. She has worked there for five years so she will learn everything Cheryl does. They discussed new insurance options for employees. They will have a higher deductible plan but will cost less for employees. He was unable to make the PADD meeting. Metz expressed significant disappointment with PADD's lack of productivity. Batterman reported on Panhandle Public Health District and that they too discussed insurance options for employees. She went to Region 1 Behavioral Health meeting, and mentioned they will use the old hospital building in Kimball County for a crisis center. Batterman also attended the Region 21 meeting, where it was mentioned that the county might have to contribute additional funds since the expected funding didn't come through. The shortfall may be divided among the five counties. They also reviewed their preliminary budget to ensure it stays on track. Metz attended the Community Action meeting, and reported they have concerns that Head Start funding might be excluded from the next budget cycle. He mentioned that Alliance, Nebraska, is getting a Migrant Head Start facility, which will operate during the summer and could accommodate up to 49 children.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Metz adjourned the meeting at 9:49 A.M. Next meeting will be Tuesday, May 27, 2025.

/s/Jeff Metz, Chairman

/s/Candace Panas, Office Clerk

Board of Equalization

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

The Morrill County Board of Equalization met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:45 A.M., Tuesday, May 13, 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 May 8, 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 May 8, 2025. On roll call Commissioners Jeff Metz, Chairman, Susanna Batterman and Josh Schmidt were present. Absent: None. Rose Nelson, County Assessor, was present. Candace Panas, Office 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 7:45 A.M. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Rose Nelson, County Assessor, presented Tax List Corrections #2025 – 13 & 14. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve and sign the above corrections. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to return to regular session at 7:58 A.M. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

/s/Jeff Metz, Chairman

Attest:

/s/Candace Panas, Office Clerk

