

Bridgeport, Nebraska
Tuesday, August 26, 2025

The Morrill County Board of Commissioners met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:30 A.M., Tuesday, August 26, 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 August 21, 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 August 21, 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 deletion of Board of Equalization and approve the minutes of the August 11, 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, \$1,260.39; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$8,474.62; AT & T Mobility, Service, \$385.77; Bayard Automotive LLC, Repairs, \$210.00; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$242.78; Bomgaars Supply Inc, Supplies & Repairs, \$162.77; Cynthia J. Brandt, Court Reporter, Law Enforcement Costs, \$305.50; Kathy Brandt, Mileage, \$137.20; Bridgeport News-Blade, Publishing, \$6.34; Capital Business Systems, Data Processing Costs, \$137.25; Century Business Products, Supplies & Equip, \$341.72; Century Link, Service, \$80.75; City of Bridgeport, Service, \$3,749.88; Colonial Life, Insurance, \$179.63; Dept of Revenue, State Tax, \$3,944.22; Eakes Office Solutions, Supplies, \$315.40; Elmshaeuser Law, Court Appointed Counsel, \$100.00; Shauna Faessler, Phone & Reimb, \$50.00; Ashley Fenning, Meals, \$67.95; Go To Communications Inc, Service, \$94.81; Holly Hjelmstad, Phone, \$40.00; Bryan Hoerler, Meals, \$13.23; Kaiser Tire, Repairs, \$104.99; Susan Kelly, Phone, \$40.00; Kone Chicago, Contract, \$319.23; Audrey M Long, Elliott Law PC, Public Defender, \$4,833.62; MC Schaff & Assoc Inc, Surveying, \$300.00; Medical Air Services Assn, Insurance, \$476.00; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$2,156.42; Morrill County Health Plan, Insurance, \$29,190.34; Morrill County Highway Dept, Fuel, \$275.60; NE Child Support, Child Support, \$274.16; \$236.31; Sarah Paisley, Supplies, \$119.87; Candace D. Panas, Mileage, \$106.40; Zeth Patterson, Phone, \$40.00; Lisa Peters, Mileage, \$106.40; Physicians Lab P C, Autopsy, \$3,050.00; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$1,072.91; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$14,162.45; Principal Life, Life Insurance, \$248.00; Mary Ann Randall, Mileage, \$106.40; Scotts Bluff County Sheriff's Dept, Law Enforcement Costs, \$41.36; State of NE-Dept of Admin, Data Processing Costs & Equip, \$1,039.60; U S Bank, Data Processing Equip, Registration, Phone, Postal Service, Board of Prisoners, Supplies & Misc, \$6,649.46; Valley Tire & Service LLC, Fuel, \$112.52; XESI Document Solutions, Equip Lease, \$378.99; General Employees, Salaries, \$69,111.48.

ROAD/BRIDGE FUND

American Family Life Insurance, Insurance, \$663.73; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$3,273.54; Black Rock Material & Supply LLC, Asphalt, \$164,032.68; Bomgaars Supply Inc, Supplies, Repairs & Tools, \$614.94; Dana Cadwallader, Phone, \$40.00; Capital Business Systems Inc, Equip, \$222.59; Century Link, Service, \$133.44; Charter Communications, Service, \$119.99; City of Bayard, Service, \$202.72; Colonial Life Insurance, Insurance, \$22.16; Dept of Revenue, State Tax, \$1,736.67; Fat Boys Tire & Auto-Scottsbluff, Tires, \$11,820.00; Ronald G. Franklin, Phone, \$40.00; Garrett Tires & Treads, Tires, \$541.00; Grainger, Repairs, \$76.57; Harbor Freight, Tools, \$17.99; Bryan Hoerler, Phone, \$40.00; Medical Air Service Assoc, Insurance, \$224.00; Menards-Scottsbluff, Repairs, \$43.98; Michael Todd Industrial Supply, Repairs, \$7,098.50; Justin Mitchell, Phone, \$40.00; Morrill County Health Plan, Emp Share, \$1,080.56; Morrill County Health Plan, Health Insurance, \$15,348.82; NE Public Power Dist, Service, \$123.85; Platte Valley Bank, HSA Accts, \$625.00; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$6,006.00; Principal Life, Life

Insurance, \$115.32; PT Hose & Bearing, Repairs, \$5.40; Sonny's Super Foods, Supplies, \$7.98; Swanston Equip Corp, Repairs, \$2,247.86; Todd's Body & Frame Shop LLC, Misc, \$6,864.07; U S Bank, Testing Fees, \$25.00; Village of Broadwater, Service, \$134.60; WPCI, Testing Fees, \$188.00; David Zwirn, Phone, \$40.00; Road Employees, Salaries, \$29,098.23.

OPIOID RECOVERY FUND

Nein Pharmacy, Medical-Prisoners, \$83.95.

911 FUND

Century Link, Service, \$100.94.

BUILDING FUND

U S Bank, Repairs, \$111.39.

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

No Agenda items for Board of Equalization.

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

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

The August minutes of the Veteran's Board meeting were received, reviewed and placed on file.

Robin Stuart, Hospital Administrator, presented the July Financial report to the Board of Commissioners. She said they had more swing beds for July. She said they had to pay the State \$200,000, but will receive \$800,000 for the fall quarter. She said this happens every quarter.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to re-appoint Kay Anderson to the Panhandle Public Health Board as a Spirited Citizen. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Anderson. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Chairman Metz, opened the Public Hearing for the Zoning Board's recommendation of approving a Conditional Use Permit for a Class IV Feedlot for Kevin Hall, Hall Feedyard LLC. Steve and Sue Wiggins were present, and said Hall did not get a Building Permit from the County. Metz explained that a lot of buildings, etc are put up without a permit, and they are a tool for the Assessor to be able to add buildings, etc. Metz said that they had the approval of the Department of Environment & Energy, which comes to the Commissioners. Wiggins asked what the fine was for not getting the permit here, and Metz said it is \$50.00. Steve said they were worried about Indian Creek and protecting the water. He said Hall has moved the creek south of the feedlot. Hearing no further comments, Chairman Metz closed the Public Hearing at 8:16 A.M. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve the Conditional Use Permit for a Class IV Feedlot for Kevin Hall, Hall Feedyard LLC. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Caleb Johnson, Budget preparer, presented the budgets that have been submitted and the amount that has to be cut in order to not exceed the limit that was \$32,718. Anything over that amount would require a special hearing with the pink postcard. The Board made cuts to most of the individual budgets. Johnson presented a resolution that would allow for petty cash for some of the offices. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the petty cash funds and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 2025-24

AUTHORIZATION/RE-AUTHORIZATION OF PETTY CASH FUNDS

WHEREAS: Neb. Rev. Stat. §23-106(2) (Reissue 2007) authorizes the Morrill County Board of Commissioners to establish Petty Cash Funds, and

WHEREAS: That statute requires that the Morrill County Board of Commissioners set the amount of money to be carried in such Petty Cash Funds and

WHEREAS: That statute also requires that the Morrill County Board of Commissioners set the dollar limit of any expenditure from petty cash funds.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT

- 1. The Morrill County Board authorizes/re-authorizes the following Petty Cash Funds and lists the amount to be carried in each fund and the dollar limit of any expenditure from petty cash funds

| Petty Cash Fund | Amount to carry in Fund | Dollar Limit of Expenditures From Fund |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Clerk | \$100.00 | \$100.00 |
| Clerk of District Court | \$100.00 | \$100.00 |
| Veteran’s Aid | \$2,250.00 | \$2,250.00 |
| Health Insurance | \$250,000.00 | \$250,000.00 |
| County Court Magistrate | \$100.00 | \$100.00 |

Dated this 26th day of August, 2025.

MORRILL COUNTY NEBRASKA,
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
Morrill County Clerk

Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. Johnson said he will set the Public Hearing for the budget on September 23, 2025.

Brody Retchless, Retchless Technologies, LLC, explained to the Board that our Firewall is getting old and we need to replace it soon. He said the one he is looking at would be around \$3,000. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the purchase of a Firewall. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Kathy Brandt, County Clerk, presented a resolution for the Commissioners to order a Special Election for the recall of the County Assessor. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to order a Special Election to be held on November 4, 2025 to recall or not recall the County Assessor and to adopt the following resolution:

COUNTY OF MORRILL
RESOLUTION #2025 – 25

RESOLUTION ORDERING A RECALL ELECTION AND SETTING THE DATE
THEREOF TO BE HELD FOR MORRILL COUTNY ASSESSOR ROSE M. NELSON

BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF MORRILL COUNTY, NEBRASKA:

WHEREAS, a petition has been filed with the County Clerk of Morrill County, Nebraska requesting the recall of Rose M. Nelson, County Assessor; and

WHEREAS, According to the County Clerk of Morrill County, Nebraska, on August 13, 2025 sufficient signatures have been verified on the recall petition, and according to the county Clerk, the recall petition has been found to sufficient; and

WHEREAS, the ballot shall read as follows:

Shall Rose M. Nelson, be removed from the office of Morrill County Assessor?

- o Yes
- o No

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MORRILL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute 832-1306, the governing body of the County of Morrill does hereby order a recall election to be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, which date is not less than fifty(50) days prior to the election.

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER that a copy of this resolution shall be provided to the County Clerk of Morrill County, Nebraska in compliance with Nebraska Rev. Statute §32-952 et seq.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Board of Commissioners of Morrill County, Nebraska has passed and adopted this resolution on this 26th day of August, 2025.

/s/Jeff Metz

Chairman of the Board

(S E A L)

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt

County Clerk

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

Sarah Paisley, Extension Educator, presented the numbers from the Fair. She said some numbers were up and some down. She gave the comparison to Garden County Fair. She said there were 9 from Morrill County that went to State Fair. She said that she had taken 12 youth from Cheyenne and Garden County to participate in the Citizenship Washington Focus Trip.

A Subdivision of property was received from Harvey D. Jr, & Dee A. Stricker. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve the subdivision and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2025 – 26

RESOLUTION APPROVING INSTRUMENT EFFECTING SUBDIVISION TO REAL ESTATE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the present record owners Harvey D. Stricker, Jr. & Dee A. Stricker have applied for approval of an instrument effecting the subdivision of the below-described premises located in Morrill County, Nebraska.

NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO Sec. 23-372 R.R.S, et seq., the Board of County Commissioners of Morrill County, Nebraska, does hereby authorize and permit subdivision of the following described real estate in Morrill County, Nebraska: A PARCEL OF LAND KNOWN AS PARCEL 1, CONTAINING 1.45 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, IN THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 22 NORTH, RANGE 52 WEST, OF THE 6TH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN MORRILL COUNTY, NEBRASKA, SAID PARCEL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS;

COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 22 NORTH, RANGE 52 WEST, OF THE 6^H PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, THENCE ON THE WEST LINE OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 21, SOUTH 01° 59' 24" WEST, A DISTANCE OF 844.47 FEET, TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, THENCE DEPARTING SAID WEST LINE OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 21, SOUTH 87° 52' 18" EAST, A DISTANCE OF 205.19 FEET;
THENCE, SOUTH 03° 09' 02" WEST, A DISTANCE OF 182.88 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 85° 01' 55" WEST, A DISTANCE OF 103.12 FEET;
THENCE SOUTH 07° 46' 52" WEST. A DISTANCE OF 259.66 FEET;
THENCE SOUTH 51° 26' 27" WEST, A DISTANCE OF 52.61 FEET;
THENCE NORTH 82° 51' 06" WEST, A DISTANCE OF 33.09 FEET, TO A POINT ON THE WEST LINE OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 21;
THENCE ON SAID WEST LINE, NORTH 01° 59' 24" EAST, A DISTANCE OF 485.39 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.
THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED PARCEL CONTAINS 1.45 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED PARCE IS SUBJECT TO COUNTY ROAD RIGHT OF WAYS.

AND THE FOLLOWING ACCESS EASEMENT FOR LEGAL ACCESS TO PARCEL 1 DESCRIBED ABOVE;

A 30.00 FEET WIDE ACCESS EASEMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF PARCEL 1, IN THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 22 NORTH, RANGE 52 WEST, OF THE 6TH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN MORRILL COUNTY, NEBRASKA, SAID EASEMENT BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 22 NORTH, RANGE 52 WEST, OF THE 6TH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, THENCE ON THE WEST LINE OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 21, SOUTH 01° 59' 24" WEST, A DISTANCE OF 1329.86 FEET, TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING;

THENCE DEPARTING SAID WEST LINE OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 21, SOUTH 82° 51' 06" EAST. A DISTANCE OF 33.09 FEET;

THENCE NORTH 51° 26' 27" EAST, A DISTANCE OF 52.61 FEET;

THENCE NORTH 07° 46' 52" EAST, A DISTANCE OF 259.66 FEET;

THENCE NORTH 85° 01' 55" EAST. A DISTANCE OF 30.76 FEET;

THENCE SOUTH 07° 46' 52" WEST, A DISTANCE OF 278.47 FEET;

THENCE SOUTH 51° 26' 27" WEST, A DISTANCE OF 77.27 FEET;

THENCE NORTH 82° 51' 06" WEST. A DISTANCE OF 43.03 FEET;

THENCE NORTH 01° 59' 24" EAST, A DISTANCE OF 30.12 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED EASEMENT IS SUBJECT TO COUNTY ROAD RIGHT OF WAY.

THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED EASEMENT IS SUBJECT TO LOW LINE CANAL RIGHT OF WAY.

NOTE: Any driveway, grading or culvert to be at owner expense.

NOTE: The Morrill County Zoning Administrator has reviewed the zoning and land use and has determined its compliance with Morrill County Zoning Regulations.

NOTE: Publication of this document for the newspapers and filing fees at owner expense.

Passed and approved this 26th day of August, 2025.

/s/Jeff Metz
Chairman, County Board

(S E A L)

/s/Susanna Batterman
Member, County Board

/s/Josh Schmidt
Member, County Board

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt
County Clerk

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

Bryan Hoerler, County Highway Superintendent, and Tom Thompson, representing NMC, met with the Board to discuss a purchase through Southwell of a 2018 CAT12M3 Grader. Hoerler explained that since this is through Southwell, the County does not have to do the bidding process, because Southwell takes care of that. He said that the cost of the grader would be \$125,000, the trade-in is \$32,500, so total would be \$92,500 and it would be delivered today. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt to approve the purchase of the 2018 Grader. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Loretta McCoy, County Treasurer, presented the Uncollected Distress Warrants. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to accept the Uncollected Distress Warrant report. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. McCoy presented a resolution to transfer funds in the amount of \$200,000 to the Road Fund. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve the transfer and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2025-27
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 \$200,000.00 into the Road Fund.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 26th day of August, 2025.

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.

An application for a Special Designated Liquor License for September 26 & October 4, 2025 was received from the Flyover Brewing Company for events at the Pumpkin Patch at BE Farms. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the Special Designated Liquor Licenses for the Flyover Brewing Company. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board discussed the possibility of giving money to the Bayard and Broadwater Fire Departments for their ambulance service. Schmidt said that both of these departments provide backup to the Bridgeport department. The Board said they will decide at a later date.

The Board reported on meetings they had attended. Schmidt reported that he had attended the Aging Office of Western Nebraska meeting. He said things are going well. He gave the numbers of meals and the costs. Batterman had been unavailable for her meetings. Metz reported on the Fair Board meetings. Metz said he had attended the Bayard School District meeting and the Hospital Board meeting.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Metz adjourned the meeting at 11:16 A.M. Next meeting will be Tuesday, September 9, 2025.

/s/Jeff Metz,Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt,County Clerk

