

Bridgeport, Nebraska
Monday, November 10, 2025

The Morrill County Board of Commissioners met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:30 A.M., Monday, November 10, 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 November 6, 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 November 6, 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 deletion of transfer of funds and the approve the minutes of the October 28, 2025 meeting. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Correspondence was received and read.

The Commissioners reviewed the following claims:

GENERAL FUND

Allo Communications, Service, \$1,363.63; Ameritas Life Insurance Corp, Retirement, \$9,095.78; Brennan Andrew, Phone, \$40.00; Bayard Automotive LLC, Repairs, \$403.36; Benchmark Government Solutions LLC, Meals, \$36.85; Best Plumbing Heating & Cooling LLC, Repairs, \$730.65; Black Hills Energy, Service, \$76.69; Kathy Brandt, Meals, Mileage & Phone, \$506.67; Bridgeport New-Blade, Publishing, \$490.96; Ismael Cardenas, Phone, \$40.00; City of Bridgeport, Service, \$121.08; Brandon Collins-Flamig, Phone, \$40.00; Colonial Life, Insurance, \$179.63; Timothy Conrad, Phone, \$40.00; Credit Management Services Inc, Garnishment, \$29.07; Country Catering, Meals, \$144.00; Country Inn & Suites, Lodging, \$220.00; Crowne Plaza, Lodging, 259.90; Culligan of Scottsbluff, Service, \$129.00; Dept of Revenue, State Tax, \$6,586.17; Eakes Office Solutions, Supplies, \$315.40; Shauna Faessler, Phone, \$40.00; Daniel Flores, Phone, \$40.00; Grand Slam Solutions LLC, Contract Labor, \$1,500.00; Carrie Harless, Election, \$90.00; Hometown Leasing, Equip Lease, \$86.68; Ideal Linen, Jail Laundry, \$289.95; Jackson Garage, Service, \$81.22; Kaiser Tire, Repairs, \$681.47; Koke's Auto, supplies, \$29.96; Andrew Lawson, Phone, \$40.00; LPI, Printing & Publishing, \$151.75; Tim Marquez, Phone, \$40.00; Loretta C. McCoy-Co Treas, Misc, \$25.09; Lori McCoy, Phone, \$40.00; Seth McLaughlin, Phone, \$40.00; Jeff Metz, Phone, \$40.00; Microfilm Imaging Systems, Equip Rental, \$161.00; MIPS Inc, Data Processing Costs & Supplies, \$2925.44; Morrill County Hospital, Medical, \$1000.00; Morrill County Community Hospital, Training & Board of Prisoners, \$2529.00; Morrill County Court, Court Costs, \$301.00; Morrill County Highway Dept, Fuel, \$259.70; NE Child Support, Child Support, \$274.16; NACO, Dues, \$2264.58; Rose Nelson, Phone & Mileage, \$439.00; Nossaman, Pettitt Law Firm PC LLO, Court Appointed Counsel, \$295.20; Linda O'Bannon, Election, \$126.00; Judy Ogard, Election, \$168.00; Zeth Patterson, Phone, \$40.00; Patty Wax General Service, Mngr, \$1,000.00; PEAC Solutions, Equip Lease, \$567.85; Jason Perkins, Phone, \$40.00; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$16,364.36; Travis Rodak, Rent, \$675.00; Cecilia Sanchez, Election, \$168.00; Sandhills Repairs, Equipment Repairs, \$1746.90; Scotts Bluff Co. Detention Center, Boarding contract, \$1600.00; Donna Stuart, Election, \$182.00; Thomas Reuters-West, County Law, \$1260.00; U.S. Postal Service, Service Contract, \$106.00; Vision Care Direct, Ins, \$60.72; Wex Bank, Fuel, \$501.21; General Employees Salaries, \$72,519.96.

ROAD/BRIDGE FUND

Allo Communications, Service, \$109.74; Ameritas Life Ins Corp, Retirement, \$3,810.04; Bayard Automotive LLC, Repairs, \$244.70; Caterpillar Financial Services Crop, Equip Lease, \$5,153.05; Century Link, Service, \$141.81; Contractors Materials Inc., Tools & Signs, \$101.50; Colonial Life Insurance, Insurance, \$22.16; Crowne Plaza Kearney, Lodging, \$259.90; Dept of Rev, State Tax, \$3,687.36; Dooley Oil Inc, Oil, \$2179.15; Filter Care of NE, LLC, Equipment, \$150.35; Floyd's Truck Center Inc, Repairs, \$655.23; Frank Parts Co, Repairs, \$62.65; Heigel's Field Service, Repairs, \$39,935.00; Ideal Linen, Supplies, \$455.60; Kaiser Tire, Repairs, \$170.00; Koke's Auto Farm Truck, Repairs & Supplies, \$424.67; Lawson Products Inc., Supplies, \$91.89; Menards, Repairs & Supplies, \$772.48; Morrill Hardware, Supplies, \$2774.40; NMC Exchange, LLC, Repairs, \$3413.25; Platte Valley Bank, Federal Withholding, Social Security & Medicare, \$7,704.39; Powerplan, Repairs, \$821.74; Rocky Mountain Air Solutions, Supplies, \$324.60; Sapp Bros. Inc, Fuel, \$19035.29; Village of Broadwater, Service, \$128.20; Vision Care Direct, Ins., \$41.40; Wyoming Machinery, Repairs, \$516.77; 21st Century Equip LLC, Repairs, \$3198.95; Road Employees Salaries, \$33,867.10.

W911 FUND

Century Link, Service, \$240.89.

HOSPITAL BOND

BOK Financial, Bond Pmt, \$186,227.50.

COURTHOUSE BUILDING FUND

Kone, Repairs, \$3,488.80.

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.

The Quarterly report for the Road Department was received, reviewed and placed on file.

Loretta McCoy, County Treasurer, presented the list of Distress Warrants submitted to the Morrill County Sheriff for collection for the years 2024 and prior. She issued 74 distress warrants, and the total amount owed including penalty, interest and fees totals 92,988.52. This number is down from last year, when over 100 warrants were issued. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman to approve Distress Warrants. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz.

Sarah Paisley and Ashley Fenning, Extension Educators, presented the Constitution draft from the state office, noting that some changes may need to be added to the bylaws to clarify that the board recommends new members and the Commissioners have the final approval. A vote on the draft will take place on December 9, 2025, board meeting, and Scottsbluff County and Morrill County will move to separate boards. This change is due to difficulty achieving quorums and the travel burden on members. Once separated, they will meet quarterly in person, with executive meetings continuing as needed to pay claims. Metz asked whether the Extension Office could hold training to educate residents on noxious weeds and proper poisons for prairie dog control, as he has received questions from constituents. Sarah stated that they will discuss this topic at their fall conference in a few weeks.

Tim Marquez, Veteran's Service Officer, presented Memorandum of Understanding between the Nebraska Department of Veteran's Affairs and Morrill County. Tim also reported that he will be giving Veteran's Day presentations at the Bayard, Bridgeport, and Gering schools, as well as at Skyview Nursing Home, where he will do a flag presentation. The Son's of the Legion will hold their pancake feed on November 11, 2025 at the Legion beginning at 4:30 p.m. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman to approve Memorandum of Understanding. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Year End Certification for Bryan Hoerler, County Highway Superintendent, was received. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman to authorize Chairperson Jeff Metz, to sign the Year-End Certification certifying that Bryan Hoerler is the Morrill County Highway Superintendent for the year 2025 and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2025-36

SIGNING OF THE

YEAR-END CERTIFICATION OF COUNTY HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Whereas: State of Nebraska Statutes, Section 39-2303, and 39-2501 through 39-2505 detail the requirements that must be met in order for a county to qualify for an annual Incentive Payment; and

Whereas: The State of Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) requires that each county must annually certify (by December 31st of each year) the appointment(s) of the County Highway Superintendent(s) to the NDOT using the Year-End Certification of County Highway Superintendent form; and

Whereas: The NDOT requires that such certification shall also include a copy of the documentation of the county highway superintendent's appointment, i.e., meeting minutes showing the appointment of the County Highway Superintendent by their name as it appears on their License (if applicable), their License Number (if applicable) and Class of License (if applicable), the type of appointment, i.e., employed or under contract (consultant, or interlocal agreement with another county and/or incorporated municipality), and the beginning date of the appointment; and

Whereas: The NDOT also requires that such Year-End Certification of County Highway Superintendent form shall be signed by the County Board Chairperson and shall include a copy of a resolution of the County Board authorizing the signing of the Year-End Certification of County Highway Superintendent form by the County Board Chairperson.

Be it resolved that the County Board Chairperson of Morrill County is hereby authorized to sign the attached Year-End Certification of County Highway Superintendent form(s).

Adopted this 10th day of November, 2025 at Bridgeport, Nebraska

County Board Members

/s/Jeff Metz

/s/Susanna Batterman

/s/Josh Schmidt (S E A L)

Attest:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt

County Clerk

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

Rose Nelson gave a farewell speech following her recall election. She reflected on inheriting a disorganized Assessor's office in 2009 and the work she put into restoring integrity, including adjusting all property records from that year. She noted she repeatedly requested assistance from the Nebraska Department of Property Tax Assessment but never received it. Rose highlighted her use of the mapping system was to promote transparency and serve the public. She closed by thanking all Morrill County employees individually for their support over the years.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt to go into Executive Session, according to Ne. Statue 84-1410(a) at 8:41 a.m. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. The board asked that the County Attorney, Kirk Fellhoelter, Property Tax Administrator, Sarah Scott, Allison Rauch and Chelsey Fessler remain. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to return to regular session at 9:50 A.M., with no action taken. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Chairman Metz asked whether to move into executive session with James Cawley or keep the discussion public; James chose to keep it public. Metz asked about the changes made to boundary lines on the mapping system for F2 Land & Cattle vs McKay, which occurred in October 2021 and March 2022. James confirmed he handles all mapping and acknowledged he changed the boundary lines based on a survey he said he received. When Metz requested proof, James provided a Survey recorded by Carl Gilbert. Metz pointed out that the mapping lines did not match the survey. James explained that the mapping is just a tool and that while he updates the mapping system, no actual property boundaries in MIPS were changed for property values. Metz expressed disbelief, saying the map lines clearly did not match the survey and then a fence was put up using those mapping lines.

Metz stated in the absence of an elected Assessor in the office, the County Board will assume management of the Assessor's office as of today. The County will partner with Nebraska Property Assessment when they get us a contract on December 21, 2025 and they will name an interim Assessor at that time. Property Assessment will be here to assist and oversee operations in the Assessor's office starting today. Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt to approve and adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION #2025- 37

WHEREAS, after a Recall Election held on November 4, 2025, of the County Assessor, the Assessor was removed, it is now necessary to appoint an interim Assessor,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Morrill County Board of Commissioners appoints itself as the Office Manager until an appointment of an interim Assessor can be made.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 10th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2025.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/Jeff Metz

/s/Susana Batterman

(SEAL) /s/Josh Schmidt

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk

Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman, to approve and adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION #2025 - 38

WHEREAS, after a Recall Election held on November 4, 2025, of the County Assessor, the Assessor was removed, it is now necessary to advertise for and appoint a new Assessor,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Morrill County Board of Commissioners will now advertise for the position of the Morrill County Assessor. The applicants must hold an Assessor's Certificate with the State of Nebraska. Alternatively, the County is searching for an Office Manager for appointment who can obtain an Assessor's Certificate prior to appointment as Morrill County Assessor.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Morrill County Commissioners will accept applications for the position of Morrill County Assessor or Office Manager, until December 5, 2025.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 10TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2025.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/Jeff Metz

Chairman

/s/Susana Batterman

Board Member

/s/Josh Schmidt

Board Member

ATTEST:

/s/Kathleen L. Brandt, County Clerk

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

Chairman Metz announced that the Board has requested a state audit of the Assessor's office, which will be conducted very soon. They have also ordered an investigation into issues that have occurred within that office regarding McKay vs. F2 Land and Cattle, LLC. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman to issue and sign a formal notice to James Cawley, it reads as follows:

November 10, 2025

Morrill County Commissioners
606 L. Street
Bridgeport, NE 69336

To: James Cawley

This is formal notice that you are being placed on a paid leave of absence pending an investigation into an alleged dishonesty regarding the alteration of County GIS maps as it related to the case McKay vs. F2 Land and Cattle, LLC.

/s/Jeff Metz, Chairman, Morrill County Board of Commissioners

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

The Board reported on meetings they had attended. Schmidt said he had no meetings but some coming up. Batterman said she had Region 21 Emergency Management, they are waiting for federal funds to help pay for bills and she has several meetings this week. Metz attended CAPWN meeting and met with an architect for the fair building. He invited the board to attend an upcoming Fire District meeting on December 4, 2025 to discuss getting on the ballot in May to start a Mill Levy for Fire District. Caleb Johnson will be in attendance to give guidance on how to proceed.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Metz adjourned the meeting at 10:18 A.M. Next meeting will be Friday, November 21, 2025.

/s/Jeff Metz, Chairman

/s/Candace D. Panas, Office Clerk

Board of Equalization
Monday, November 10, 2025

The Morrill County Board of Equalization met in an open and public regular meeting at 7:37A.M., Tuesday, November 10, 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. Notice of such meeting having been published in the Bayard Transcript and the Bridgeport News-Blade on November 6, 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 November 6, 2025. On roll call Commissioners Jeff Metz, Chairman, Susanna Batterman and Josh Schmidt were present. Absent: None. Loretta McCoy, County Treasurer, 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 Statute #77-1233.04(6) at 7:37 A.M. Yeas: Batterman, Schmidt and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Loretta McCoy, County Treasurer, met with the Board regarding the Tax List Corrections #2025 – 60-63, that the Assessor gave to her to change. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman to approve Tax-List Correction #2025-62 & 2025-63. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman & Metz. Nays: None. Motion Carried. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Batterman to approve Tax-List Correction #2025-60 & 2025-61. Yeas: Batterman. Nays: Schmidt & Metz. Motion Failed.

Motion was made by Batterman, seconded by Schmidt, to return to regular session at 7:41 A.M. Yeas: Schmidt, Batterman and Metz. Nays: None. Motion carried.

/s/Jeff Metz, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/Candace D. Panas, Office Clerk