

The Jefferson County Board of Commissioners met as per notification of March 18, 2026 in the Fairbury Journal News and on the newspaper and county website. The agenda was emailed, posted by the commissioner's room, posted on the board's hallway monitors and on the Jefferson County website. Michael Dux, chairman, Mark Schoenrock and Danielle Schwab commissioners, Kristina Riggie, county clerk, media and public in attendance. Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.

The safety committee met prior to the board meeting in the commissioner's room.

Consent Agenda

1. Approve March 10, 2026 minutes
2. Approve special designated liquor licenses for Side Trek Bar to serve alcohol at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds for races on 5-16-26; 6-13-26; 6-20-26; 7-9-26; 7-10-26; 7-11-26 and 8-8-26.
3. Approve special designated liquor licenses for the Fairbury Chamber of Commerce to serve alcohol on 7-10-26 & 7-11-26 for fair concerts at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds.

Moved by Schwab, seconded by Schoenrock to approve the consent agenda. Call of vote: Dux, Schoenrock, Schwab voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried.

The board reviewed claims and payroll.

Moved by Schwab, seconded by Schoenrock to approve claims and payroll as presented. Call of vote: Schoenrock, Schwab, Dux voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried.

General Fund – Payroll \$150,808.95

A.R.E. Pest Control	Services	\$150.00
American Family Life Assurance Co	Insurance	\$85.49
Ameritas Life Ins Corp-Retirement	Retirement	\$22,067.72
Ameritas Life Insurance Corp-Dental	Insurance	\$1,326.05
Ameritas Vision	Insurance	\$425.94
Benchmark Title Co	Services	\$551.00
Black Hills Energy	Services	\$642.94
Card Service Center-Eisenhauer	Supplies	\$1,081.56
Card Service Center-Jeff Nelson	Supplies	\$79.00
Card Service Center-Mckee	Supplies	\$817.01
Cidnet	Services	\$1,200.00
Colonial Ins	Insurance	\$23.35
Dens Meat Distributing	Supplies	\$324.50
Dixon County Court	Insurance	\$378.76
Eakes Office Solutions	Supplies	\$128.35
Election Systems & Software, Inc	Supplies	\$91.98
Erin M.Mccartney, Trustee	Insurance	\$139.00
Erin M.Mccartney, Trustee	Insurance	\$174.00
Fairbury Light & Water Dept	Services	\$4,899.25
Fancy Stitching	Supplies	\$260.00
Fireguard Incorp	Services	\$209.55
Fraternal Order Of Police #86	Union	\$561.78
Geo Comm, Inc.	Services	\$5,807.50
Gregory D. Kratz,Kratz Law Office L	Services	\$2,086.50
Gropp Law & Mediation	Services	\$8,328.00
Heartland Bank	Fed Tax	\$45,243.41
Heartland Bank-Hsa	Insurance	\$735.00
Hometown Leasing	Services	\$557.33
Jeff Co Employee Med Benefit Plan	Insurance	\$572.50
Jefferson Comm Health & Life-Clinic	Services	\$12,967.38
Jefferson County E.M.	Supplies	\$408.00
Jefferson County Sheriff	Services	\$1,028.25
Jefferson County Treasurer	Services	\$58,369.99
Kraviec Maurstad Law,Pc,Llo.	Services	\$3,000.00
Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker	Services	\$110.00
Medica Insurance	Insurance	\$29,639.71
Murray Law,Pc Llo	Services	\$1,363.90
Mutual Of Omaha-Life	Insurance	\$954.10
Naco	Services	\$40.00
Ne.Clerks Of District Court Assoc.	Services	\$75.00
Nebr Dept Of Revenue	Tax	\$6,853.36
Nebraska State Patrol Interagency B	Services	\$174.00
Nelson,Clark&Timan,P.C.	Services	\$1,307.00
Norfolk Lodge & Suites	Services	\$260.00
Phoenix Supply	Supplies	\$633.75
Pinnacle Bank	Services	\$2,024.53
Quadient Finance Usa,Inc	Supplies	\$2,019.54
Quill Corp	Supplies	\$126.15
Ram Exterminators Llc	Services	\$56.00
Region V Systems	Services	\$6,957.84
Rr Donnelley	Services	\$78.62
Saline County Treasurer	Services	\$433.00
Swanson Services Corp.	Supplies	\$873.39
The Mcbattas Group	Supplies	\$226.00
Twin Rivers Ford	Services	\$861.85
Van Borkum Co	Supplies	\$1,109.66
Van Diest Supply Company	Supplies	\$3,000.00

Highway Fund – Payroll \$36,147.33

3rd Street Body & Glass Llc.	Services	\$142.50
Ace Irrigation & Mfg Co Inc	Supplies	\$35,293.30
Ameritas Life Ins Corp-Retirement	Retirement	\$2,434.90
Ameritas Life Insurance Corp-Dental	Insurance	\$283.59
Beatrice Sand & Gravel	Supplies	\$17,137.96
Black Hills Energy	Services	\$90.05
Bowman Consulting Group Ltd	Services	\$62,168.69
Caterpillar Financial Services Co	Services	\$22,193.85
Deere Credit,Inc.	Services	\$6,358.85
Fairbury Light & Water Dept	Services	\$973.86
Fairbury Transfer Station	Services	\$25.40
First Bank Of Nebraska	Services	\$2,914.82
Haddan Excavating	Supplies	\$625.00
Haddan Lime Products Llc	Supplies	\$43,141.86

Heartland Bank	Tax	\$2,669.78
Heartland Bank-Hsa	Insurance	\$125.00
Hometown Leasing	Services	\$67.94
Ibew Local Union 1536	Union	\$137.37
Interstate Power Systems	Services	\$6,246.71
Jefferson County Treasurer	Services	\$359,486.25
Jeff Co Employee Med Benefit Plan	Insurance	\$7.50
Medica Insurance	Insurance	\$8,824.47
Mutual Of Omaha-Life	Insurance	\$165.49
Naco	Services	\$40.00
Nebraska Child Support Payment Cent	Insurance	\$276.93
Nebraska Child Support Payment Cent	Insurance	\$212.77
Nmc, Llc	Services	\$655.25
Powerplan	Services	\$1,060.59
Stanton Farm Service	Supplies	\$19.55
Steven Parker	Services	\$431.00
Surnali Llc DbA Diversified Drug Te	Services	\$330.00
Hbp Hwy Bridge Buyback		
Me Collins Construction	Services	\$33,041.09
Highway Bridge & Trust		
Jjk Construction, Llc	Services	\$210,102.68
Me Collins Construction	Services	\$24,488.96
Equipment Reserve Donation		
Pinnacle Bank	Services	\$48.11
Communication Equipment Sinking		
Windstream	Services	\$186.82
Equipment Vehicle Sheriff		
Anderson Auto Group	Supplies	\$47,522.00
Fair Fund – Payroll \$284.40		
Ameritas Life Ins Corp-Retirement	Retirement	\$15.49
Black Hills Energy	Services	\$201.86
Constellation New Energy Gas Div.	Services	\$767.79
Fairbury Light & Water Dept	Services	\$1,111.37
Heartland Bank	Tax	\$21.76
911 EM Services – Payroll \$246.17		
Ameritas Life Ins Corp-Retirement	Retirement	\$16.62
Black Hills Energy	Services	\$51.31
Heartland Bank	Tax	\$18.05
911 Wireless Services		
Great Plains Communication Inc	Services	\$85.04
Emergency Management Perf Grant		
Fairbury Light & Water Dept	Services	\$80.17
Saline County Clerk	Services	\$23,763.50
Highway Bonds		
Bok Financial	Services	\$359,486.25
Tourism		
Flood Communications Kutt,Kwbe&Kgmt	Services	\$1,200.00
Network Consulting Services	Services	\$687.28
News Channel Nebraska	Services	\$330.00
S.E.Ne Tourism Council	Services	\$200.00
Ambulance Fund – Payroll \$30,697.37		
Ameritas Life Ins Corp-Retirement	Retirement	\$2,018.14
Ameritas Life Insurance Corp-Dental	Insurance	\$127.16
Bound Tree Medical Llc	Supplies	\$826.91
Heartland Bank	Tax	\$2,329.72
Medica Insurance	Insurance	\$3,642.41
Mutual Of Omaha-Life	Insurance	\$77.69
One Billing Solutions	Services	\$4,770.58
Panhandle Ems Education,Llc	Services	\$200.00

Schoenrock shared an informational handout from Public Health Solutions regarding Rural Health Transformation and Nebraska Initiatives to help raise awareness.

Greg Neemann, ambulance director reported 55 calls so far this month. Scheduling is getting better and he has interviews scheduled to fill two part-time EMT positions. Unit 1 had the inverter repaired by Danko. The Tempus monitor was sent off for repair and is now back in service. Neemann discussed the Stryker warranty proposal. Stryker sent a lump sum and he is requesting a breakdown of the cost. For 3-year coverage, the cost is roughly \$53,000 per year.

Brad Eisenhauer and Jeff Nelson, computer I.T. department; Randy Sandman and Brett Landenburger, Diode/Diller Telephone present. The agreement to provide fiber to the law enforcement center to support telecommunications and 911 operations was discussed. The county will need a pole attachment agreement with the City of Fairbury and will need to pay TH for hanging the fiber. Section 2.2 was clarified as to Diodes responsibilities for installation, materials, labor, ownership and handling of outages. The county attorney has approved this agreement to form. Nelson will get the pole attachment agreement to the City of Fairbury, so the project can begin.

Moved by Schwab, seconded by Schoenrock to approve the fiber agreement between Diode Cable Co/Diode Communications and Jefferson County as presented. Call of vote: Schwab, Dux, Schoenrock voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried.

Nelson has started working on outfitting the new patrol vehicle that was delivered.

Leroy Bast, treasurer gave the quarterly investment report from NPAIT. December interest was 3.789%; January interest was 3.679% and February was 3.623% and the investment balance was \$2,499,459.42.

The board had one general assistance claim to consider in closed session.

Moved by Dux, seconded by Schwab to go into closed session for the protection of the public interest and prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual if such individual has not requested a public meeting for general assistance at 9:48 a.m. Call of vote: Dux, Schoenrock, Schwab voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried.

Moved by Schoenrock, seconded by Schwab to go out of closed session at 9:56 a.m. Call of vote: Dux, Schoenrock, Schwab voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried.

Moved by Schoenrock, seconded by Schwab to approve the general assistance application for county burial as presented in closed session. Call of vote: Schoenrock, Schwab, Dux voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried.

The board reviewed the FY 26-27 Region 5 Systems required match \$14,454 and additional requested match \$2,250. Schwab cautioned the county needs to be careful with discretionary funding going forward due needing to tighten the county budget. The board delayed a decision until the May 5th board meeting.

John McKee, emergency manager/planning and zoning/weed, Baird Holm attorney, John Shephard, Marvin Planning, Joe Casson, county attorney and members of the public present.

The board reviewed Resolutions 2026-01 to approve the comprehensive plan and 2026-02 to adopt the updated zoning regulations. After much discussion including concerns from Schwab that the review was not thorough enough, Schwab and Schoenrock suggested possible changes to the solar regulations, after input from their constituents. The comprehensive plan is ready to be approved.

Moved by Schoenrock, seconded by Schwab to approve Resolution 2026-01 to adopt the comprehensive plan as submitted. Call of vote: Schoenrock, Schwab, Dux voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried.

The board continued discussion on Resolution 2026-02 to approve updated zoning regulations with redlined changes after their working meetings. Concerns again arose regarding, prime farmland definition and % allowed for solar and thoroughness of the review by the board and planning and zoning committee. Dux noted he thought the commissioners had discussed those regulations thoroughly and agreed on the proposed redline changes. Schwab wanted to know if they could pull out the solar regulations from the document. Casson advised against. Schwab noted we (as a county) need to be ag first. Dux noted the county needs to broaden the tax base somehow. Schoenrock suggested possibly going back to the specific standards that the planning and zoning committee sent to the board.

Moved by Dux to approve the updated zoning regulations with the commissioner's red line changes that have been posted since the last commissioner's meeting for public review. Motion died for lack of a second.

Dux suggested Schoenrock and Schwab figure out the way ahead. Schoenrock indicated that based on feedback he is receiving from his constituents regarding prime farmland being used for a solar project, he could support the 10% of prime farmland that was originally recommended by the planning and zoning committee. There would not be restrictions on the other lands that are not identified by the USDA as prime farmland. The recommendation of the planning and zoning committee was made after a months-long deliberative process with ample public input. Casson noted they could amend the resolution as presented to revert back to the 10% and approve it today. The board placed the discussion/possible approval of Resolution 2026-02 to adopt updated solar regulations on the next meeting agenda, April 7th at 10:45 a.m.

The board requested a closed session with Jerry Pigsley, Woods and Aitken and Casson for strategy.

Moved by Dux, seconded by Schoenrock to go into closed session for the protection of the public interest and prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual if such individual has not requested a public meeting with Jerry Pigsley and Joe Casson for strategy at 11:24 a.m. Call of vote: Dux, Schoenrock, Schwab voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried.

Moved by Schoenrock, seconded by Schwab to go out of closed session at 11:48 a.m. Call of vote: Schoenrock, Schwab, Dux voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried. No action taken.

Dux asked for public comment. None heard.

Correspondence Listing *Note - all fees listed below have been deposited by the Treasurer into the appropriately noted funds. Received: **General:** \$142.97 refund – Unifirst Corp; \$2400.00 reimbursement survey corners – NDOT; \$5043.00 reimbursement shared services – Saline County; \$500.00 money for minutes – NIRMA. **911 Emergency Services:** \$19.00 Bandwidth; \$71.00 8x8 Inc; \$1.00 Comcast IP Phone; \$3.00 Alltel Corp; \$2.00 Greenfly Networkd; \$3.00 Ooma Inc; \$2.00 Compliance Solutions; \$8.00 Compliance Solutions; \$2.00 Compliance Solutions; \$1.00 Simple Voip LLC; \$9.50 Eisner Advisory; \$1.00 Hughes Networks. **Tourism:** \$1952.96 January '26 lodging tax. **STP – Highway Bridge Buyback** - \$149295.50 – State of Nebraska. **HBP – Highway Bridge Buyback** - \$341301.92 – State of Nebraska. **Equipment Vehicle** - \$6864.00 surplus vehicle sale 2016 Tahoe – Nick Georgi, sheriff. **Ambulance:** \$15,000.00 patient income March '26 – Greg Neemann, ambulance director. **Misc:** Copies of praecipe for transcript and bill of exceptions; Certified letters – Dowdy & Corrigan – Summons Case CI 26-25; City of Fairbury pamphlet – outage notification.

Meeting adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

I, Kristina Riggle, County Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a correct report of the meeting of March 24, 2026. Witness my hand and official seal on March 24, 2026.

Kristina Riggle, County Clerk

Michael T. Dux, Chairman