

The Jefferson County Board of Commissioners met as per notification of April 1, 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 Riggle, county clerk, media and public in attendance. Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.

The board honored veteran of the month Dennis Traeger with a certificate honoring him for his service. Others present were Traeger's nephew Dana and Dana's wife Susan, Jim Carpenter, veteran service officer and Doug Kapke and Mark Grummert, veterans board. Rory Rosener presented Traeger with a patriotic decoration he made.

Schoenrock read a statement honoring Thomas Jefferson for whom our county is named.

" The American founder and patriot for whom our county is named, Thomas Jefferson, was born in this month of April, on April 13, 1743 on the edge of the Virginia wilderness. It was the season of white dogwood and honeysuckle blossoms speckling the dark forests of the Piedmont. He died on July 4, 1826, at his beloved Monticello above Charlottesville. He, along with fellow founding father John Adams, died on the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. What he accomplished, what he stood for, and the importance of his life even to us in this ensuing generation, in his 83 years in mortality is remarkable, and of enduring importance to the American experiment. He wrote the script for his own tombstone as follows: Here was buried Thomas Jefferson, Author of the Declaration of American Independence, Of the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom, And Father of the University of Virginia.

He did not think it important enough to mention that he had been elected a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses, Elected Governor of Virginia, Served as the first American Ambassador to France, the first American Secretary of State, Vice President, And twice elected as the third President of the United States.

He and his family endured many hardships and made many sacrifices in his over 60 years of service to his fellow citizens. His service was an indispensable bedrock of the foundation of American independence and formation of the government which has served the United States of America now for nearly 250 years.

May his example of service, courage and dedication be an example and beacon to us in our time in our service to our fellow citizens."

Leroy Bast, treasurer and Mary Banahan, assessor present.

Moved by Dux, seconded by Schwab to go into board of equalization at 9:11 a.m. Call of vote: Dux, Schoenrock, Schwab voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried.

Banahan presented tax list corrections #3855 to #3862 for approval.

Moved by Schoenrock, seconded by Schwab to approve tax list corrections #3855 to #3862 as presented. Call of vote: Schoenrock, Schwab, Dux voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried.

Bast presented vehicle exemptions for Kids Connection on a 2010 Ford Econoline van and vehicle exemptions for VSL Fairbury on a '06 Ford Truck; '14 Dodge van; '15 Dodge van; '06 Ford van and a '13 Ford truck.

Moved by Schwab, seconded by Schoenrock to approve the vehicle exemptions for Kids Connection and VSL Fairbury as presented. Call of vote: Schwab, Dux, Schoenrock voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried.

Moved by Dux, seconded by Schwab to go out of board of equalization at 9:17 a.m. Call of vote: Dux, Schoenrock, Schwab voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried.

Dux reported he, Bast and Riggle met and discussed the draft audit report with the auditor last week with minimal findings.

Dux represented Jefferson County at the RC&D meeting in Red Cloud and there are planned electronic and household hazardous waste collection events being finalized, with more details to come soon.

Consent Agenda

1. Approve March 24, 2026 minutes
2. Approve Special Designated Liquor Licenses for Tooley's to serve alcohol on 5-29 & 5-30-26 for races; 7-9-26, 7-10-26 & 7-11-26 for races; 8-15-26 for races and 12-31-26 for a wedding all at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds.
3. Sign engagement letter for Woods & Aitken for Case CI26-25

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

Dux will represent Jefferson County at the next super board meeting Thursday at the '47 gym.

The board reviewed claims and payroll.

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

General Fund – Payroll \$150,953.77

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| 3rd Street Body & Glass Llc. | Services | \$150.00 |
| American Family Life Assurance Co | Insurance | \$171.21 |
| Ameritas Life Ins Corp-Retirement | Retirement | \$21,755.54 |
| Ameritas Life Insurance Corp-Dental | Insurance | \$1,331.45 |
| Ameritas Vision | Insurance | \$420.44 |
| Angela L. Driver/Midwest Court Re | Services | \$136.95 |
| Anything Electric | Services | \$335.00 |
| Apco International | Services | \$580.00 |
| Arnold Motor Supply-Auto Value Prts | Supplies | \$36.99 |
| At & T Mobility | Services | \$132.52 |
| Beatrice Sand & Gravel | Supplies | \$75.95 |
| Card Service Center-Eisenhauer | Supplies | \$594.83 |
| Card Service Center-Jeff Nelson | Supplies | \$182.64 |
| Card Service Center-Mckee | Supplies | \$817.01 |
| Card Service Center-Mckee | Supplies | \$757.07 |
| Charter Communication | Services | \$278.18 |
| Charter Communications | Services | \$1,560.89 |
| Cidnet | Services | \$300.00 |
| Colonial Ins | Insurance | \$23.35 |
| Constellation New Energy Gas Div. | Services | \$4,660.01 |
| Darci Pesek | Services | \$113.06 |
| Das State Acct.-Central Finance | Services | \$972.37 |
| Dixon County Court | Services | \$395.79 |
| Eakes Office Solutions | Supplies | \$639.16 |
| Election Systems & Software, Inc | Services | \$2,427.32 |

| | | |
|--|---------------|-------------|
| Erin M.Mccartney, Trustee | Insurance | \$174.00 |
| Erin M.Mccartney, Trustee | Insurance | \$139.00 |
| Fairbury Dental Associates,Pc | Services | \$696.00 |
| Fairbury Journal News | Services | \$687.65 |
| Fraternal Order Of Police #86 | Union | \$589.19 |
| Galls | Supplies | \$516.95 |
| Gerdes-Meyer Funeral Home | Services | \$1,400.00 |
| Grainger | Supplies | \$55.15 |
| Heartland Bank | Insurance | \$44,300.12 |
| Heartland Bank-Hsa | Insurance | \$735.00 |
| Hometown Leasing | Services | \$454.15 |
| Jeff Co Employee Med Benefit Plan | Insurance | \$572.50 |
| Jefferson Co Highway Dept | Supplies | \$205.80 |
| Kristine M Riekenberg,Ct Reporter | Services | \$8.30 |
| Leroy Bast | Reimbursement | \$105.85 |
| Little Blue Public Water Project | Services | \$42.00 |
| Marvin Planning Consultants,Inc. | Services | \$900.00 |
| Medica Insurance | Insurance | \$29,639.71 |
| Mips Inc | Services | \$3,616.25 |
| Murray Law,Pc Llo | Services | \$5,274.05 |
| Mutual Of Omaha-Life | Insurance | \$954.75 |
| Nebr Dept Of Revenue | Tax | \$6,579.41 |
| Paper Tiger Shredding | Services | \$51.00 |
| Precision Signs & Graphics | Supplies | \$875.00 |
| Quadient Leasing Usa,Inc | Supplies | \$1,105.56 |
| Rebecca Anderson | Services | \$5,053.56 |
| Shawna Lindblad | Reimbursement | \$107.02 |
| Sheriff Petty Cash Fund | Services | \$15.00 |
| Swanson Services Corp. | Supplies | \$643.95 |
| Time Clock Plus, Llc | Services | \$1,455.25 |
| Uline | Supplies | \$2,942.47 |
| Verizon Wireless | Services | \$2,091.91 |
| Windstream | Services | \$1,636.31 |
| Highway Fund – Payroll \$33,708.27 | | |
| Ameritas Life Ins Corp-Retirement | Retirement | \$2,270.25 |
| Ameritas Life Insurance Corp-Dental | Insurance | \$283.59 |
| Arnold Motor Supply-Auto Value Prts | Supplies | \$1,537.95 |
| Beatrice Sand & Gravel | Supplies | \$18,160.94 |
| Bell Bank Equipment Finance | Services | \$2,982.88 |
| Bryce B Huss | Reimbursement | \$500.00 |
| Charter Communications | Services | \$82.54 |
| Constellation New Energy Gas Div. | Services | \$886.36 |
| Das State Acct.-Central Finance | Services | \$400.00 |
| Eakes Office Solutions | Supplies | \$76.17 |
| Farmers Cooperative | Services | \$27,458.62 |
| Goebel Construction Inc | Supplies | \$2,274.35 |
| Heartland Bank | Tax | \$2,484.11 |
| Heartland Bank-Hsa | Insurance | \$125.00 |
| Ibew Local Union 1536 | Union | \$137.37 |
| Interstate Power Systems | Services | \$5,722.68 |
| Jeff Co Employee Med Benefit Plan | Insurance | \$7.50 |
| Larkins Ace Hardware | Supplies | \$595.30 |
| Max I. Walker Uniform & Uniform & Appare | Supplies | \$197.54 |
| Medica Insurance | Insurance | \$8,824.47 |
| Mutual Of Omaha-Life | Insurance | \$165.49 |
| Nebr Dept Of Roads | Services | \$56,963.01 |
| Nebraska Child Support Payment Cent | Insurance | \$212.77 |
| Nebraska Child Support Payment Cent | Insurance | \$184.62 |
| Norris Public Power Dist | Services | \$258.86 |
| Paper Tiger Shredding | Services | \$17.00 |
| Petersen's Plumbing & Heating | Services | \$699.71 |
| Fair Fund – Payroll \$314.76 | | |
| Ameritas Life Ins Corp-Retirement | Retirement | \$6.42 |
| Heartland Bank | Tax | \$24.08 |
| Preservation Modernization | | |
| Mips Inc | Services | \$197.03 |
| 911 Emergency Services – Payroll \$246.17 | | |
| Ameritas Life Ins Corp-Retirement | Retirement | \$16.62 |
| Constellation New Energy Gas Div. | Services | \$0.83 |
| Heartland Bank | Tax | \$18.05 |
| 911 Wireless Service | | |
| Century Link | Services | \$3,608.23 |
| EM Perf Grant | | |
| Brinc Drones,Inc. | Services | \$17,813.50 |
| Ambulance Fund – Payroll \$26,752.37 | | |
| Alan Rosenthal | Reimbursement | \$32.00 |
| Ameritas Life Ins Corp-Retirement | Retirement | \$1,712.00 |
| Ameritas Life Insurance Corp-Dental | Insurance | \$109.81 |
| Bound Tree Medical Llc | Supplies | \$440.97 |
| Heartland Bank | Tax | \$2,029.28 |
| Medica Insurance | Insurance | \$3,091.53 |
| Mutual Of Omaha-Life | Insurance | \$66.46 |
| Southeast Community College-Continu | Services | \$4,524.00 |
| Twin Rivers Ford | Services | \$43.88 |
| Verizon Wireless | Services | \$210.29 |

Schwab will represent Jefferson County at the APACE and Region 5 Systems board meetings April 13th.

Jason Eyer, highway supervisor, Terry Blas, highway supervisor assistant and Tim Farmer, highway superintendent present.

Eyer presented a permit for oversize/overweight from Wardcraft Homes to move a house through the county on or about April 7, 2026.

Moved by Schoenrock, seconded by Schwab to approve the oversize/overweight permit for Wardcraft Homes as presented. Call of vote: Dux, Schoenrock, Schwab voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried.

Moved by Schoenrock, seconded by Schwab to open the 1- & 6-year road hearing at 9:32 a.m. Call of vote: Schoenrock, Schwab, Dux voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried.

Farmer presented the 1- & 6-year road plan for review/approval. Farmer went through the summary of projects and noted newly added projects.

Dux closed the 1 & 6 road plan hearing at 10:02 a.m.

Moved by Schwab, seconded by Schoenrock to approve the 1- & 6-year road plan. Call of vote: Dux, Schoenrock, Schwab voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried.

Laura Bedlan, development services director, Kelly Davis, City of Fairbury mayor and Gregg DeFrain, Fairbury water superintendent present to discuss the bridge replacement on the north side of the fairgrounds along 4th street affecting a 14" water main line. Davis noted this is the only feed to the City right now. Discussion included adjusting the location of the new box, adjusting the location of the water line, cost constraints – estimate was roughly \$300,000 to \$400,000 to relocate the water line, changing the angle of the wings to accommodate the line, looking for funding to assist, cost share or a loan between the county and the city. The county will discuss with the contractor, and the city will send to the engineer and state to get a more accurate cost and options. The city and county will keep working together to get a solution to enable the contractor to build the box next year as the county was awarded bridge match funding to help complete this project.

Farmer opened and read the sealed bids received for gravel, rock and culvert bids.

Hard Rock Quarries, Barneston, Ne. – all prices per ton - screenings \$15.50; screened 5/8" \$28.00; screened 3/4" \$30.00; screened 1" no bid; screened 1 1/2" \$28.50.

Haddan Lime Products, Fairbury, Ne. – screenings, 5/8", 3/4", 1", 1 1/2" all \$22.00 per ton.

Beatrice Sand & Gravel, Fairbury, Ne. – screenings \$17.30, 5/8" \$30.00, 3/4" \$30.00, 1" \$30.00, 1 1/2" \$29.00.

Pit price – per ton – Alex pit \$23.80, New pit \$23.80; delivered prices vary per precinct from \$27.62 to \$33.99.

Metal Culverts, Jefferson City, MO. – round price per foot range – 12" \$13.53 up to 96" \$272.25. 60"x40' \$13805.90, 72" x 40' \$16,993.80, 84" x 40' \$22,652.10, 96" x40' \$27,264.95.

Ace/Eaton, 4740 E 39th St., Kearney, Ne – round price per foot range 12" \$15.26 up to 96" \$348.00. 60"x40' \$15,160.00, 72"x40' \$18,200.00, 84"x40' \$23,550.00, 96"x40' \$28,000.00. Full detailed bid sheets are available for review in the clerk's office.

Moved by Dux, seconded by Schoenrock to approve all of the gravel, rock and culvert bids as presented. Call of vote: Schwab, Dux, Schoenrock voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried.

Eyer and Blas reported the Endicott/Jansen road and the paved road to Rock Creek Station is needing repairs. Blas will contact Hall Brothers to see what ideas they have for repairing, as the county only has the ability currently to do cold mix. Other problem road areas were discussed.

The board discussed Resolution 2026-02 to adopt the proposed updated zoning regulations and end the solar moratorium. Others present were John McKee, em/pz/weed, Hannes Zetzsche, attorney with Baird Holm, Bill Glenn, Doug Brown and Gale Pohlmann. Schoenrock recommended the board consider a middle of the road compromise to protect farm ground but allow some solar development. Dux noted he had not had any negative feedback from his area. Dux asked for public comment. Comments were heard from all in attendance and included the definition and map of prime farmland; not being too restrictive as to prevent any solar development, % of prime farm land that could be used, waivers, compact area for solar farms vs. sprawled out across the county, terrain not suitable for solar, capping total acres on a county level, not section level for solar development on a first come, first serve basis, land returning to productive use if the solar is removed, concerns about the thoroughness of the review process, noting a lot of the work was done by McKee and the consulting firm, concerns about the moratorium continuing and the reviewing process taking too long.

Schwab noted again concerns on the review process by the planning and zoning committee and the board of commissioners and felt more oversight was needed and that she was not ready to approve the whole zoning regulation document. If solar could be split out, she could make a decision on that, but the county attorney has advised against that. Schwab noted it was the board's duty to give a thorough review of all regulations, and she felt that had not been the case, so she would not vote to approve all the zoning regulations.

Moved by Dux, seconded by Schoenrock to approve Resolution 2026-02 adopting zoning regulations with the 3-24-26 redline changes with the additional changes of no more than 25% of prime farmland and adding a voluntary waiver option in Article 10, 6. B. as attached to the resolution and lifting the solar moratorium. Call of vote: Schoenrock, aye, Schwab, nay, Dux aye. Motion carried.

Schoenrock noted the board recognizes there is work ahead to address zoning regulations and to address the planning and zoning committee members. The county board needs to reappoint/appoint planning and zoning committee members.

McKee presented the annual weed report review and summary.

Moved by Schoenrock, seconded by Schwab to approve the annual weed report summary as presented and have the chairman sign. Call of vote: Schwab, Dux, Schoenrock voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried.

Brad Eisenhauer, IT Dept discussed the need for an updated firewall and provided a quote from Riverside Technologies off of state bid for FortiGate and 3-year support for \$6517.80 x 2 Totalling \$13035.60.

Moved by Schoenrock, seconded by Schwab to approve the quote from Riverside Technologies FortiGate firewall with 3-year support for \$13,035.60 off of state bid. Call of vote: Dux, Schoenrock, Schwab voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried.

Eisenhauer will draft a technology update plan by budget season for future technology needs.

Dux asked for public comments. Pohlmann encouraged the board to approve the \$2250 additional funding request of Region 5 Systems above the required match to assist Region 5 with continuing to provide valuable services to the clients in the community. The item is on a future agenda.

Correspondence Listing *Note - all fees listed below have been deposited by the Treasurer into the appropriately noted funds. Received: **General:** \$5043.00 Feb. '26 reimbursement shared services – Saline County, Ne; \$150.00 Feb. '26 telephone reimbursement DHHS – State of Nebraska; \$1670.31 courthouse rent April '26 DHHS – State of Nebraska; \$257.07 March '26 fees – Krisina Riggle, county clerk; \$3733.75 March fees – Jennifer Galbraith, deputy clerk of the district court; \$1400.00 reimbursement county burial – Guardian. **Ambulance:** \$15,000.00 patient income March '26 – Greg Neemann, ambulance director. **Misc:** Nirma – reported coverage letter; Alliance for the future of agriculture in Nebraska informational letter.

Meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

I, Kristina Riggle, County Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a correct report of the meeting of April 7, 2026. Witness my hand and official seal on April 7, 2026.

Kristina Riggle, County Clerk

Michael T. Dux, Chairman