

The Jefferson County Board of Commissioners met as per notification of May 13, 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.

Consent Agenda:

- 1. Approve May 5, 2026 minutes
- 2. Review/approve Benchmark lease for 7-1-26 to 12-31-26
- 3. Review/approve Letter of Engagement for Blobaum & Busboom, P.C. to prepare the budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2027

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

Dux represented the county at the RC&D meeting yesterday in Red Cloud. Electronic recycling will be held 9-11-26 at the road department, with more details to come. A household hazardous waste event is tentatively planned in Hebron at the road department on 8-21-26, comprising a 6-county area.

Schoenrock represented the county at the Blue Valley Community Action 60th anniversary events in Fairbury May 6th and Beatrice May 13th. Thursday, Schoenrock represented the county at the Public Health Solutions board meeting in Crete with budget reviews and community health assessments were discussed.

Schwab represented the county at the APACE and Region 5 Systems board meetings and will represent the county at the SENDD board meeting June 18th.

Greg Neemann, ambulance director, reported 34 calls so far this month which matches the calls for this time last year. One staff member is in training in Minnesota, as that was the timeliest class group offered by SCC, and they will be there for 3 months. There will be a new full-time hire in June and another part-time EMT that is starting training this week. Unit 1 problem is resolved as it was moisture getting in a fuse box. Jeff Nelson, is going to try to relocate the fuse box. The department was approved for the Nebraska Rural Health Workforce Incentive Program which is estimated to add roughly \$75,000 of income to the ambulance department. Details on how the process will work are still being sorted out. The Stryker service agreement is outdated. A one-year renewal will be \$13,273.90. A quote to replace the 3 monitors is \$147,535.89 including a \$7500 trade in allowance per monitor. Styker does offer payment options. If we change monitor brands, then we will be compatible with area departments and hospitals. Neemann needs to buy more pagers as he cannot account for all that have been issued in the past. He is now tracking all equipment issued. The monitors would be paid for in the next budget year, if approved. The board will consider at a later date. Neeman requested a closed session for personnel.

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 personnel with Neemann and Joe Casson, county attorney at 9:34 a.m. Call of vote: Schoenrock, Schwab, Dux voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried.

Moved by Schwab, seconded by Schoenrock to go out of closed session at 9:45 a.m. Call of vote: Schwab, Dux, Schoenrock voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried. No action taken.

Cole Bodfield, attorney present to discuss Resolution 2026-04 regarding the Village of Harbine and Village of Diller accept the tax levy of the Diller Rural Fire District #6. Casson indicated the commissioners did not need to hold a public hearing as indicated in the Resolution. Both villages have signed an interlocal agreement with Diller Rural Fire District #6.

Moved by Dux, seconded by Schwab to approve Resolution 2026-04 as presented. Call of vote: Dux, Schoenrock, Schwab voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried.

Jeff Nelson, I.T. Dept. reported the fiber line is being hung. There was some storm damage to some equipment at the towers, however no structural damage was noted. He is done equipping one new patrol vehicle and the second vehicle here and ready to start.

Matt Kasik, CEO of APACE and Patrick Kriefels, Regional Administrator of Region 5 Systems gave annual reports/updates on each agency. APACE does not request county funding. Region 5 Systems has statutorily required funding of \$14,454 and an additional county funding request of \$2250 for Jefferson County.

Melanie Stormer, chief probation officer – district 1 and Chris Reece, problem solving court coordinator gave annual reports and overview of the Southeast Nebraska Adult Drug Court and presented an interlocal agreement between Saline, Jefferson, Thayer, Fillmore and Gage Counties and a funding request for Jefferson County of \$1746.67 for FY 26-27.

Moved by Dux, seconded by Schwab to have the chairman sign the interlocal agreement with Saline, Jefferson, Thayer, Fillmore and Saline Counties for the Southeast Nebraska Adult Drug Court as presented. Call of vote: Schoenrock, Schwab, Dux voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried.

Kylie Rohr, deputy assessor and Mary Banahan, assessor presented a contract with Central Plains Valuation to reappraise rural residential 840 parcels for \$107,200. Input is included and to be completed before March 10, 2027. Rohr and Banahan noted this leaves office staff free to complete in-office requirements and provides a consistent, expert reappraisal. Schwab noted she had researched some other counties processes and staffing vs Jefferson County which had a higher parcel # to staff ratio. Banahan noted Mips offers this service but was as much or higher and estimated project start date was at least 2 to 3 years from now. The board will continue this after lunch.

John McKee, emergency manager present. Telephone interviews with the remaining potential planning and zoning committee appointees were held. There are 4 positions available which includes an alternate spot. The board phoned Christina Koenig, Susan Thomas and Garrett Epp. Each candidate was presented with the following questions: 1. The role can involve several hours of reading and meetings. Are you realistically able to commit? 2. Any foreseeable conflicts with regular meetings? 3. What would your process look like to review a meeting packet? 4. What is the role of the planning commission vs the county board? 5. What would you do if personal views differ from regulations? 6. How would you balance agriculture with countywide fairness? 7. Optional – How would you feel if the board made a different decision? The board will consider candidates after the lunch break today.

The board reviewed claims and payroll.

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

General Fund – Payroll \$150,773.35		
At & T Mobility	Service	\$132.52
Auto Value-Do Not Use This-Use Fby	Supplies	\$41.98
Barnas Drug Inc.	Service	\$27.38
Benchmark Title Co	Service	\$551.00
Bryan Medical Center	Service	\$2,982.90
Bryan Physician Network	Service	\$457.08
Card Service Center-Mary Banahan	Supplies	\$31.25
Card Service Center-Brad Eisenhauer	Supplies	\$438.97
Card Service Center-Jeff Nelson	Supplies	\$100.00
Card Service Center-John McKee	Supplies	\$371.80
Cash-Wa Distributing	Supplies	\$3,756.00
Cidnet/Encartele,Inc.	Service	\$600.00
Clia Laboratory Program	Service	\$248.00
Comfort Inn Grand Island	Service	\$264.50
Crowne Plaza-Kearney	Service	\$639.80
Culligan Of Crete	Supplies	\$284.95
Cypress Solutions	Service	\$325.00
Werner,Daniel,L	Service	\$490.20

Des Moines Stamp Mfg Co	Supplies	\$61.00
Detectachem,Inc.	Service	\$635.88
Eakes Office Solutions	Supplies	\$1,274.26
Echo Electric	Service	\$200.00
Fairbury Journal News	Service	\$423.83
Fairbury Light & Water Dept	Service	\$4,178.76
Galls	Supplies	\$1,554.10
Holiday Inn Express & Suites Lin.Ai	Service	\$208.00
Hometown Leasing	Service	\$145.58
Jeff Meyer	Service	\$73.29
Jefferson Co Clk Of District Court	Service	\$39.00
Jefferson Co Highway Dept	Supplies	\$250.88
Jefferson Comm Health & Life-Clinic	Service	\$14,312.00
Jefferson County Sheriff	Service	\$422.87
Jefferson County Treasurer	Service	\$1,070,326.16
Jill R. Cunningham Attorney At Law	Service	\$50.00
Casson,Pc,Joseph	Service	\$788.76
Klawn	Service	\$135.00
Kraviec Maurstad Law,Pc,Llo.	Service	\$3,000.00
Rohr,Kylie	Service	\$55.37
Larkins Ace Hardware	Supplies	\$284.09
Lynn Peavey Company	Service	\$213.85
Microfilm Imaging Systems,Inc.	Service	\$112.50
Mips Inc	Service	\$3,820.25
Murray Law, Pc Llo	Service	\$7,942.95
Naco (Dues)	Service	\$125.00
Neb Emergency Medicine Pc	Service	\$188.45
Netwrix	Supplies	\$9,289.46
Nirma	Service	\$5,000.00
Nrin-Ne Regional Interoperability N	Service	\$4,800.00
Nsa/Poan Conference	Service	\$645.00
Owens Educational Services Inc	Service	\$825.00
Paper Tiger Shredding	Service	\$51.00
Phoenix Supply	Supplies	\$165.00
Pictometry International Corp.	Service	\$40,000.00
Pinnacle Bank	Supplies	\$1,698.58
Protex Central Incorporated	Service	\$480.00
Psychological Resources	Service	\$1,000.00
Quadient Postage Funding Supplies	Supplies	\$2,000.00
Radiology Associates	Service	\$79.18
Ray's Apple Market	Supplies	\$106.72
Anderson,Rebecca	Service	\$1,420.00
Saline Co Sheriff	Service	\$500.00
Saline County Treasurer	Service	\$433.00
Sarpy County Sheriff's Department	Service	\$11.44
Starr Plumbing Llc	Service	\$237.47
State Chemical	Supplies	\$421.91
Swanson Services Corp.	Supplies	\$745.04
T.O Hass Tire & Auto # 5129	Service	\$343.88
Eickman,Tad D.	Service	\$1,653.60
Roelfs,Terri	Service	\$54.00
The Mcbattas Group	Supplies	\$675.00
Twin Rivers Ford	Service	\$220.94
Tyler Technologies,Inc.	Service	\$475.94
U.S.Bank-Voyager-Sheriff	Supplies	\$5,900.24
Unmc Accounts Receivable	Service	\$134.40
Van Borkum Co	Supplies	\$1,060.60
Van Diest Supply Company	Supplies	\$876.90
Verizon Wireless	Service	\$2,091.70
Verizon Wireless	Service	\$2,091.66
Veterans Service Office	Service	\$995.52
Vigilnet America Llc	Service	\$1,092.00
Windstream / Enterprise Pin 5821	Service	\$591.01
Windstream	Service	\$97.72
American Family Life Assurance Co	Insurance	\$171.21
Ameritas Life Ins Corp-Retirement	Retirement	\$21,854.27
Ameritas Life Insurance Corp-Dental	Insurance	\$1,326.05
Ameritas Vision	Insurance	\$425.94
Colonial Ins	Insurance	\$23.35
Erin M.Mccarteny, Trustee	Insurance	\$139.00
Erin M.Mccarteny, Trustee	Insurance	\$174.00
Fraternal Order Of Police #86	Union	\$561.78
Heartland Bank-Txs	Tax	\$44,166.89
Heartland Bank-Fairbury-Hsa	Insurance	\$735.00
Jeff Co Employee Med Benefit Plan	Insurance	\$572.50
Medica Insurance	Insurance	\$29,088.83
Mutual Of Omaha-Life	Insurance	\$943.52
Nebr Dept Of Revenue	Tax	\$6,669.13
Highway Fund - \$35,189.50		
A Street Auto Parts Inc	Supplies	\$14.54
Beatrice Sand & Gravel	Supplies	\$39,991.51
Bowman Consulting Group Ltd	Service	\$40,890.68
Daykin Lumber Company	Supplies	\$75.00
Fairbury Light & Water Dept	Service	\$467.32
Fairbury Transfer Station	Service	\$14.00
Farmers Cooperative	Service	\$16,406.83
Interstate Power Systems	Service	\$2,818.21
Kramer Oil	Supplies	\$9,121.69
Larkins Ace Hardware	Supplies	\$200.66
Nmc, Llc	Service	\$1,046.75
Paper Tiger Shredding	Service	\$17.00
Pinnacle Bank Hwy	Service	\$54.99
Powerplan	Service	\$146.39
R And R Auto Parts	Supplies	\$715.92

Titan Machinery	Service	\$152.25
Village Of Daykin	Service	\$63.42
Village Of Plymouth	Service	\$32.00
Ameritas Life Ins Corp-Retirement	Retirement	\$2,372.76
Ameritas Life Insurance Corp-Dental	Insurance	\$283.59
Heartland Bank-Txs	Tax	\$2,596.03
Heartland Bank-Fairbury-Hsa	Insurance	\$125.00
Ibew Local Union 1536	Union	\$180.29
Jeff Co Employee Med Benefit Plan	Insurance	\$7.50
Medica Insurance	Insurance	\$8,824.47
Mutual Of Omaha-Life	Insurance	\$165.49
Nebr Child Support Payment Center	Insurance	\$212.77
Nebr Child Support Payment Center	Insurance	\$184.62
Hbp Hwy Bridge Buyback Prog Fund		
Jjk Construction, Llc	Service	\$123,077.98
Straight Line	Service	\$1,454.00
Communication Equipment Sinking Fund		
Windstream	Service	\$185.39
Equipment Vehicle Sheriff		
Precision Signs & Graphics	Supplies	\$838.00
Fair Fund – Payroll \$902.29		
Black Hills Energy	Service	\$124.75
Constellation New Energy Gas Div.	Service	\$327.04
Fairbury Journal News	Service	\$174.32
Fairbury Light & Water Dept	Service	\$1,116.22
Jefferson County Treasurer	Service	\$4,000.00
Slama,Lyle	Service	\$683.91
Precision Signs & Graphics	Supplies	\$170.50
Windstream	Service	\$3.62
Ameritas Life Ins Corp-Retirement	Retirement	\$26.07
Heartland Bank-Txs	Tax	\$69.03
Preservation / Modernization		
Mips Inc	Service	\$197.03
911 Em Services – Payroll \$246.17		
Ameritas Life Ins Corp-Retirement	Retirement	\$16.62
Heartland Bank-Txs	Tax	\$18.05
Emergency Management Perf Grant		
Fairbury Light & Water Dept	Service	\$75.34
Tourism		
Fairbury Chamber Of Commerce	Service	\$2,150.00
Fairbury Journal News	Service	\$170.00
Flagship Publishing Inc.	Service	\$1,600.00
Flood Communications Kutt,Kwbe&Kgmt	Service	\$440.00
Ne Games & Parks Lincoln	Service	\$400.00
Neta-Lincoln	Service	\$125.00
Ambulance Fund – Payroll \$28,725.86		
Bound Tree Medical Llc	Supplies	\$146.99
Card Services - Gregory Neemann	Supplies	\$248.00
M & D Auto Service	Service	\$4,042.99
Maatschs Oil Company	Supplies	\$280.11
One Billing Solutions	Service	\$5,770.90
U.S.Bank-Voyager Ambulance	Supplies	\$1,723.26
Ameritas Life Ins Corp-Retirement	Retirement	\$1,923.90
Ameritas Life Insurance Corp-Dental	Insurance	\$127.16
Heartland Bank-Txs	Tax	\$2,178.93
Medica Insurance	Insurance	\$3,642.41
Mutual Of Omaha-Life	Insurance	\$77.69

McKee presented an emergency declaration for Jefferson County due to the unprecedented windstorm event occurring May 16, 2026. Chairman Dux signed the declaration.

McKee and Travis Arnold, maintenance reported on the storm and various storm damages. Arnold requested to see about removing the remaining two statues from on top of the courthouse in the near future, as one fell during this storm. The board agreed to remove the other two when possible. Display options were discussed, depending on the condition of the statues.

The board recessed at 12:26 p.m. The board reconvened at 1:09 p.m.

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 for general assistance at 1:10 p.m. Call of vote: Dux, Schoenrock, Schwab voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried.

Moved by Dux, seconded by Schoenrock to go out of closed session at 1:28 p.m. Call of vote: Schoenrock, Schwab, Dux voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried. No action taken.

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 for personnel at 1:29 p.m. Call of vote: Schwab, Dux, Schoenrock voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried.

Moved by Dux, seconded by Schoenrock to go out of closed session at 1:52 p.m. Call of vote: Dux, Schoenrock, Schwab voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried. No action taken in closed session.

After consideration, the board will appoint to the planning and zoning committee – Lacey Lange, member; Christina Koenig, alternate member; Susan Thomas, member – all with terms ending September 2028 and Dave Bruns, member to fulfill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ethan Thorp with a term ending September 2026.

Moved by Schwab, seconded by Schoenrock to appoint the planning and zoning members as stated. Call of vote: Dux, Schoenrock, Schwab voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried.

Banahan and Rohr returned and discussion continued on the Central Plains Valuation contract. Last year the budgeted amount was \$90,500 for 700 parcels. This new contract would be \$107,200 for 840 parcels. The board asked them to find cost savings within the budget to offset the additional amount being spent. Banahan noted \$60,000 was budgeted for Jerry Knoche, but she believes they have only spent around \$5,000 this year.

Moved by Schwab, seconded Schoenrock to approve the contract with Central Plains Valuation for \$107,200 as presented. Call of vote: Schoenrock, Schwab, Dux voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried.

Banahan handed out information on the report of damaged property process.

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:** \$5043.00 from Saline County for shared services; \$8,644.68 from Kristina Riggle, April 2026 fees from Register of Deeds office. **911 Emergency Services:** \$2.00 from Compliance Solutions; \$3.00 from Compliance Solutions; \$1.00 from Simple Voip; \$8.00 from Compliance Solutions – all for 911 surcharges. **Misc:** Reg of Deeds doc stamp fees for April 2026.

Meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

I, Kristina Riggle, County Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a correct report of the meeting of May 19, 2026. Witness my hand and official seal on May 19, 2026.

Kristina Riggle, County Clerk

Michael T. Dux, Chairman