

The Jefferson County Board of Commissioners met as per notification of April 29, 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 Charley Endorf with a certificate honoring him for his service. Others present were Endorf's wife Kay, Jim Carpenter, veteran service officer and Doug Kapke and Mark Grummert, veterans board. Schoenrock presented Endorf with a patriotic decoration made by Rory Rosener.

Mary Banahan, assessor present.

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

Banahan presented tax list corrections #3869 for approval.

Moved by Schoenrock, seconded by Schwab to approve tax list correction #3869 as presented. Call of vote: Schoenrock, Schwab, Dux voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried.

Moved by Schwab, seconded by Schoenrock to go out of board of equalization at 9:21 a.m. Call of vote: Schwab, Dux, Schoenrock voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried.

Luke Bonkiewicz, Nebraska Association of County Officials representative provided updates, resources provided by NACO, discussed upcoming events/workshops and provided a county fact sheet for the board to review.

Jason Eyer, highway supervisor and Terry Blas, highway supervisor assistant present. Eyer presented a right-of-way permit for Great Plains Communication for fiber installation around the Reynolds and Thompson areas per maps attached to the permit and a permit for Brandon Pohlmann for a driveway on the south side of section 28-4-4 along 721 road roughly 1980' from the southwest section corner on the north side of the road.

Moved by Schoenrock, seconded by Schwab to approve the right-of-way permit for Great Plains Communications as presented. Call of vote: Dux, Schoenrock, Schwab voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried.

Moved by Schoenrock, seconded by Schwab to approve the right-of-way permit for Brandon Pohlmann in section 28-4-4 as presented. Call of vote: Schoenrock, Schwab, Dux voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried.

The board reviewed change order 1 with Speece Lewis and ME Collins for the culvert project C-48(465) decreasing the cost by \$6,084.22.

Moved by Schoenrock, seconded by Schwab to approve change order 1 for project C-48(465) as presented. Call of vote: Schwab, Dux, Schoenrock voting aye. Nay none. Motion carried.

Blas reported the PWF bridge work is completed and the bridge should be open later today. The approaches are temporary surfaces, as the rest of the road project is on track to be bid out this summer.

Problem road areas were discussed and upcoming armor coating of the Endicott/Jansen road, the road going into Rock Creek Station State Historical Park, ECP east road and a small stretch in Steele City are slated for this summer. The department would like to hire 2 additional employees to get staffing back up. The State road department will loan some equipment to assist with cutting out the holes. The department is now working 4 – 10 hours days. Ideally, the armor coating will be done in June or July. May 19<sup>th</sup> there will be a sign workshop presentation at the road department. The board plans to attend.

Alexia Borch gave a presentation on a new program "We The Village" as part of the Southeast Nebraska Collaborative. This program is for parents age 25 and younger to connect with other young parents to share experiences and build parenting skills. Sessions are scheduled for May and June.

The board discussed a request by DHHS to clarify the county's intentions for the space currently occupied by DHHS due to an updated statute 68-130 which states: Until June 30, 2028, counties shall maintain, at no additional cost to the Department of Health and Human Services, office and service facilities used for the administration of the public assistance programs as such facilities existed on April 1, 1983. The county board of any county may request in writing that the department review office and service facilities provided by the county for the department to determine if the department is able to reduce or eliminate office and service facilities within the county. The department shall respond in writing to such request within thirty days after receiving the request. The final decision with respect to maintaining, reducing, or eliminating office and service facilities in such county shall be made by the department, and the county may reduce or eliminate office and service facilities if authorized by such final decision. The board reviewed the current lease which shows 830 sq ft of space provided at no charge and 1716 sq ft rented for \$1720.42 per month for July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 and \$1772.03 per month for July 1, 2027 to June 30, 2028.

The board also discussed the leased office space for diversion and attendance support staff with Benchmark which is due to expire June 30, 2026 of 696 sq ft for \$551.00 per month. Casson offered a 6-month lease to terminate 12-31-26 to allow the board to negotiate future lease terms depending on what happens with the county attorney position for 2027 to 2031. The consensus at this time was to continue the DHHS lease as is and to review/approve the 6-month lease with Benchmark at the next board meeting.

The board discussed the additional county match request for Region 5 Systems of \$2,250.00. Schwab reported Seward County denied it and Gage and Saline approved the additional match requests. The board acknowledged the county budgeting struggles, but also the importance of the services provided by Region 5 to the community.

Moved by Schoenrock, seconded by Dux to approve the additional county match of \$2,250.00. Call of vote: Dux, Schoenrock voting aye. Schwab nay. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve April 21, 2026 minutes
2. Reappoint C.J. Forsgren to the planning and zoning board and Brandon Pohlmann and Brian Hennerberg to the board of adjustment for 3-year terms ending 9-30-2028.
3. Approve Resolution 2026-03 - authorizing chairman to sign the Preliminary Engineering Services Supplemental Agreement No. 2 between Jefferson County and Speece Lewis Engineers for the Steele City West Project BRO-7048(18).

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

The board reviewed claims and payroll.

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

**General Fund – Payroll \$152,462.53**

3rd Street Body & Glass Llc.	Services	\$150.00
Aln Lawn Care & Landscaping	Services	\$120.00
Amazon Capital Services	Supplies	\$24.70
American Family Life Assurance Co	Insurance	\$171.21
Ameritas Life Ins Corp-Retirement	Retirement	\$22,116.17
Ameritas Life Insurance Corp-Dental	Insurance	\$1,326.05
Ameritas Vision	Insurance	\$425.94

Arnold Motor Supply-Auto Value Prts	Supplies	\$32.38
Bravebe Child Advocacy Center	Services	\$2,640.00
Card Service Center-Eisenhauer	Supplies	\$1,465.00
Charter Communications	Services	\$1,838.85
Cidnet	Services	\$300.00
Colonial Ins	Insurance	\$23.35
Constellation New Energy Gas Div.	Services	\$1,789.99
Culligan Of Crete	Supplies	\$108.00
Darci Pesek	Services	\$157.91
Das State Acct.-Central Finance	Services	\$972.36
Datashield Corporation	Services	\$49.03
Dept Of Correctional Services	Services	\$9,325.32
Dixon County Court	Services	\$425.92
Eakes Office Solutions	Supplies	\$2,801.23
Echo Electric	Supplies	\$500.00
Election Systems & Software, Inc	Services	\$3,103.22
Erin M.Mccartney, Trustee	Insurance	\$313.00
Fairbury Dental Associates,Pc	Services	\$190.00
Fairbury Journal News	Services	\$2,475.89
Farm & Home Publishers, Ltd	Services	\$165.00
First Wireless, Inc.	Services	\$2,943.00
Fraternal Order Of Police #86	Union	\$561.78
Grainger	Supplies	\$509.42
Grey Group	Services	\$995.00
Gropp Law & Mediation	Services	\$8,328.00
Guardian Rfid-Codex Corp	Supplies	\$749.00
Gworks	Services	\$9,564.50
Heartland Bank	Tax	\$45,013.15
Heartland Bank-Hsa	Insurance	\$735.00
Holiday Inn - Kearney,Ne	Services	\$389.85
Hometown Leasing	Services	\$454.15
Jeff Co Employee Med Benefit Plan	Insurance	\$572.50
Jefferson Co Atty Special Trust Acc	Services	\$16.00
Jefferson Comm Health & Life-Clinic	Services	\$6,248.26
Jill R. Cunningham Attorney At Law	Services	\$4,027.87
Kramer Oil	Supplies	\$147.38
Kristina Riggle	Services	\$20.02
Little Blue Public Water Project	Services	\$42.00
Medica Insurance	Insurance	\$29,088.83
Meininger Fire Protection,Inc.	Services	\$350.00
Microfilm Imaging Systems,Inc.	Services	\$187.50
Mutual Of Omaha-Life	Insurance	\$943.52
Naco	Services	\$125.00
Nebr Dept Of Revenue	Tax	\$6,697.87
Pollman Llc	Services	\$13,063.42
Rebecca Anderson	Services	\$1,683.00
Riverside Technologies Inc.	Services	\$13,035.60
Stop Stick Ltd	Services	\$2,229.00
Swanson Services Corp.	Supplies	\$598.51
Van Borkum Co	Supplies	\$254.75
Van Diest Supply Company	Supplies	\$1,830.50
Verizon Wireless	Services	\$2,091.70
Windstream	SERVICES	\$1,341.62
Woods & Aitken Llp	Services	\$516.00
<b>Highway Fund – Payroll \$35,226.98</b>		
Ameritas Life Ins Corp-Retirement	Retirement	\$2,372.76
Ameritas Life Insurance Corp-Dental	Insurance	\$283.59
Arnold Motor Supply-Auto Value Prts	Supplies	\$1,487.97
Auto Repair Plus	Supplies	\$791.63
Beatrice Sand & Gravel	Supplies	\$28,518.57
Bell Bank Equipment Finance	Services	\$2,982.88
Black Hills Energy	Services	\$107.44
Charter Communications	Services	\$82.52
Constellation New Energy Gas Div.	Services	\$79.79
Fastenal Company	Supplies	\$204.61
Haddan Lime Products Llc	Supplies	\$376.20
Heartland Bank	Tax	\$2,598.68
Heartland Bank-Hsa	Insurance	\$125.00
Ibew Local Union 1536	Union	\$137.37
Jeff Co Employee Med Benefit Plan	Insurance	\$7.50
Jefferson County Treasurer	Services	\$25,143.75
John Deere Financial-Parts	Supplies	\$292.19
Kenneth R Krause	Services	\$64.00
Max I. Walker Uniform & Uniform & Appare	Supplies	\$190.99
Medica Insurance	Insurance	\$8,824.47
Midwest Service & Sales Co	Services	\$7,368.00
Mutual Of Omaha-Life	Insurance	\$165.49
Nebraska Child Support Payment Cent	Services	\$397.39
Newman Traffic Signs	Supplies	\$31.56
Norris Public Power Dist	Services	\$72.27
Theodore Beard	Services	\$202.69
<b>Stp Hwy Street Buyback Prog</b>		
Jason Riddle	Services	\$4,100.00
<b>Communication Equipment Sinking</b>		
Charter Communications	Services	\$1,220.78
<b>Fair Fund – Payroll \$322.08</b>		
Ameritas Life Ins Corp-Retirement	Retirement	\$12.85
Heartland Bank	Tax	\$24.64
<b>911 EM Services – Payroll \$246.17</b>		
Ameritas Life Ins Corp-Retirement	Retirement	\$16.62
Heartland Bank	Tax	\$18.05
<b>911 Wireless Service</b>		
Century Link	Services	\$3,605.09
<b>Highway Bonds</b>		

Bok Financial	Services	\$25,143.75
<b>Fair Building</b>		
Holly's Home Improvements, Llc	Services	\$2,627.90
<b>Ambulance Fund – Payroll \$26,296.28</b>		
Ameritas Life Ins Corp-Retirement	Retirement	\$1,751.10
Ameritas Life Insurance Corp-Dental	Insurance	\$127.16
Bound Tree Medical Llc	Supplies	\$593.87
Danko Emergency Equipment Company	Supplies	\$3,893.28
Grainger	Supplies	\$126.88
Heartland Bank	Tax	\$1,993.06
Medica Insurance	Insurance	\$3,642.41
Mutual Of Omaha-Life	Insurance	\$77.69
Verizon Wireless	Services	\$210.23

Schoenrock represented Jefferson County at the Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging board meeting yesterday in Beatrice, noting they are dealing with budget issues.

Schoenrock reported Blue Valley Community Action and Public Health Solutions are working on the community health assessment. BVCA is having a public celebration of their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary tomorrow in Conrad Park downtown.

Schwab will represent Jefferson County at the APACE and Region 5 Systems board meetings in Lincoln.

Schwab also noted that Project Upstream is planning a group meeting in July.

Charley Endorf stopped in to thank the board for honoring him as veteran of the month earlier.

Dux asked for public comment. Bruce Jung commented that the road condition issues by Rock Creek Station was what he wanted to discuss on behalf of the park superintendent, area residents and himself. Jung also noted the speed limit has created safety concerns and would like the road department to consider lowering the limit to 35 mph from the Endicott/Jansen road to the park entrance. The board phoned Blas, who indicated that a speed study would need to be done before any action could be taken. Judy Elder read a statement to the board with communication as the topic.

John McKee, emergency manager present. Schoenrock left the meeting but was present via phone for the telephone interviews with potential planning and zoning committee appointees. There are 4 positions available which includes an alternate spot. 1 candidate had to reschedule due to a work conflict. The board phoned Justin Bennett, Lacey Lange and Dave Bruns. 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? Additional potential candidates will be interviewed on May 19<sup>th</sup>. No decision will be made on appointments until a later date.

Travis Arnold, maintenance supervisor led Dux, Schwab and Riggle to view of the DHHS office space and the probation office space as well as an alternate small meeting space by the elevator on the third floor.

Correspondence Listing \*Note - all fees listed below have been deposited by the Treasurer into the appropriately noted funds. Received: **General:** \$150.00 telephone reimbursement – State of Nebraska; \$1670.31 May '26 DHHS rent – State of Nebraska; \$1515.84 April '26 fees – Jennifer Galbraith, deputy clerk of the district court; \$443.00 April '26 fees – Kristina Riggle, county clerk; \$243.22 sales tax commissary sales – Nick Georgi, sheriff. **911 Emergency Services:** \$15.00 Unite Private Networks; \$12.00 Granite Telecommunications; \$30.00 Bandwidth, Inc; \$3.00 Ooma, Inc; \$2.00 Greenfly Networks – all for 911 surcharges. **Tourism:** \$1624.62 February '26 lodging tax – State of Nebraska. **Ambulance:** \$20,000.00 May '26 patient income – Greg Neemann, ambulance director. **Misc:** Tax Equalization and Review Commissioner – notice of hearings Ayars Family Hunting Preserve case 23A 0451, 23A 0452 & 23A 0453; Dick Newton case 24R 0787; Jane A. Paul case 24R 0788.

Meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

I, Kristina Riggle, County Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a correct report of the meeting of May 5, 2026. Witness my hand and official seal on May 5, 2026.

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Kristina Riggle, County Clerk

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Michael T. Dux, Chairman