

The Webster County Board of Commissioners met at 8:30am on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, for their regular Business Meeting at the Courthouse in Red Cloud, Nebraska. The Board stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman, Dan Shipman gave notice of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act Laws. The following Board Members were present for roll call: Dan Shipman (District One), Trevor Karr (District Two), Jeff Mans (District Three), Tim Gilbert (District Four) and Gary Ratzlaff (District Five). Motion was made by Ratzlaff, seconded by Mans to approve minutes of the December 2, 2025, meeting. Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans and Karr. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None. Motion was made by Karr, seconded by Ratzlaff to pay claims and payroll for the December 16, 2025, meeting. Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans and Karr. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None.

At 8:35 am, Road Superintendent Paul Stoner met with the Board and provided an update on the feedlot road. The Board discussed possible options to help reduce dust on the road. Paul also informed the Board that the Road Department has a pile of concrete located in Cowles and that the County will collect concrete from residents within the county, provided it is properly piled and ready for pickup, as this benefits the County by obtaining usable material.

The Board also discussed the generator located in Guide Rock and the remaining steps needed to complete its installation. During the discussion, the Board contacted a Black Hills Energy employee to inquire about the installation of a gas line.

At 9:15am, County Clerk Abbey Harig met with the Board to discuss an emergency clause allowing for the issuance of checks in emergency situations. After discussion, the Board granted the County Clerk authority to issue checks in an emergency in an amount not to exceed \$5,000. A motion to approve was made by Karr and seconded by Ratzlaff. Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans and Karr. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None.

Next, Abbey presented the Bio Electronics agreements for Red Cloud Ambulance for the Board's review.

At 9:20am, Commissioner Shipman presented a proof for the sign to be made for Pleasant Hill Cemetery. The Board reviewed the proof and agreed it looked good. The sign will be constructed of steel, powder coated, and will cost \$350. A motion to proceed was made by Mans and seconded by Karr. Voting in favor were Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans, and Karr. Voting nay, absent, or abstaining: none.

At 9:30am, Hospital Administrator LaMont Cook met with the Board to provide a hospital update. LaMont discussed the hospital's financials and reported that the hospital is doing well. He also reviewed grant funding and federal funds. Mr. Cook shared information on new and upgraded services being offered, including at-home sleep studies and wound care services. An update on the Blue Hill Clinic was provided, along with discussion regarding CNA and EMT classes for high school students. Lastly, Mr. Cook gave a brief update on the nursing home, noting ongoing challenges with billing and staffing and expressing hope that it will become sustainable if operations can continue during this period.

At 10:00am, Treasurer Janet Knehans met with the Board to discuss options for a new safe for her office. Janet reported that she is price-checking and researching available options. In the meantime, the Board suggested contacting Grace's Locksmith of Hastings to perform routine maintenance and to evaluate installing a new lock on the Clerk's vault.

Next, Janet presented the completed wall mural designed by Cheyenne Knehans for the Board's review. The Board contacted Cheyenne to discuss potential changes and color options. A motion to approve the mural in sepia was made by Mans and seconded by Gilbert. Voting in favor were Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert and Mans. Voting nay: Karr. Absent, or abstaining: none.

An updated print reflecting the approved changes will be submitted at the next meeting.

At 10:35am, Katie Kulhanek with South Central Diversion Services met with the Board to present a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Community-Based Juvenile Services. Katie explained the purpose of the diversion program and how it assists juveniles within the County. She noted that the funding received for the County does not come from the County's budget; however, signing the MOU allows South Central Diversion Services to access state funding on behalf of the County. A motion to approve and sign the MOU was made by Karr and seconded by Gilbert. Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans and Karr. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None.

At 10:40am, County Clerk Abbey Harig met with the Board again to discuss budget concerns related to the County Medical/Relief Fund due to an increased number of county burial assistance claims this year. Abbey stated that she will continue to monitor the fund; however, future burial claims will be paid from the inheritance fund.

Next, Ms. Harig presented two county burial assistance claims for the Board's review. During the discussion, the Board requested that the County Attorney review additional stipulations and provide guidance on whether a residency requirement—specifically, that a resident must have lived in Webster County for one year prior to death—may be included as a condition for payment of an assistance claim. County Attorney Patrick Calkins will research this matter and report back at the next meeting. After discussion of both claims, a motion to approve the two claims was made by Ratzlaff and seconded by Mans. Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans and Karr. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None.

Lastly, Abbey then presented an agreement regarding the procurement, payment, and ownership of a new SuperMicro CSE-73 II-404B system to be used in Webster County to enhance the cybersecurity of election administration. One hundred percent of the cost will be paid through HAVA Election Security Grant funding. After reviewing, a motion was made by Karr, seconded by Gilbert to approve. Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans and Karr. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None.

At 11:10am, Sheriff Troy Schmitz met with the Board to provide an update on a Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. Sheriff Schmitz believes this will be a system the County will need to invest in and that he is in the process of obtaining cost estimates. This system would provide more accurate routing when emergency calls are received.

Total Wages - \$179,965.46

GENERAL FUND: Adams County Sheriff's Dept (Fees)-\$28.22; Ameritas Life Ins Corp (Health)-\$9,255.88; Applied Connective Technologies (Email Domain)-\$121.30; Axon Enterprises Inc (Taser Cartridges)-\$598.50; Black Hills Energy (Utility)-\$233.08; Blue Cross/Blue Shield (Premium)-\$58,893.63; Blue360 Media (Supply)-\$107.95; Business World Products (Supply)-\$96.56; City of Red Cloud (Utility)-\$5.57; Comdata Universal Mastercard (Fuel)-\$21.58; CPI (Fuel)-\$1,927.55; DAS State Accounting (Fees)-\$484.00; Das State Accounting (Teletype)-\$537.60; EFTPS (SS/FICA)-\$9,493.53; Eakes Office Solutions (Supply)-\$1,655.13; First Concord Benefits (Buydown)-\$3,084.58; First Concord Benefits Group (Fees)-\$116.61; First Concord Benefits Group (Fees)-\$259.50; Holling Plumbing (Repairs)-\$1,779.76; IAAO (Dues)-\$510.00; Law Office of Corey O'Brien (Counsel)-\$1,321.50; Lieske Law Firm (Counsel)-\$393.50; Mips Inc (Fees)-\$2,533.16; Nebr County Attorneys Assn (Dues)-\$275.00; NIRMA (CPR Training)-\$513.00; Soarin Group LLC (IT Services)-\$2,320.00; The Radar Shop (Radar Units)-\$320.00; Theobald Law Office (Counsel)-\$1,868.75; Viaero Wireless (Phones)-\$9.13; Webster County Hospital (Misc)-\$3,069.00; Webster County Hospital Clinic (Misc)-\$40.00; Woodward's Disposal Service (Utility)-\$128.00.
ROAD/BRIDGE FUND: Ameritas Life Insurance Corp (Health)-\$3,457.42; Barton Pipe & Rod (Supply)-\$38.50; Black Hills Energy (Utility)-\$106.54; Bostock Welding LLC (Repairs)-\$400.00; C&M Supply Inc (Fuel)-\$98.22; CIMCO Inc (Supply)-\$111.84; Cody Golter (Expense)-\$120.00; CPI (Fuel)-\$859.88; David Meunier (Tractor)-\$40,000.00; David Niles (Expense)-\$120.00; Deisley Excavating & Trucking LLC (Misc)-\$1,925.00; EFTPS (XX/FICA)-\$3,888.64; Eakes Office Solutions (Supply)-\$27.82; First Concord Benefits Group (Fees)-\$112.50; Fleetpride (Supply)-\$90.99; Glenwood Telecommunications (Phones)-\$103.13;

Heath Arterburn (Expense)-\$120.00; J&A Auto Supply (Supply)-\$54.32; Jim's OK Tires (Repairs)-\$160.00; Kary Winslow (Expense)-\$120.00; Ken Kort (Expense)-\$120.00; Kolton Kucera (Expense)-\$120.00; Linda Grummert (Prior Service)-\$57.00; Michael Hunt (Expense)-\$120.00; Mikel Roark (Expense)-\$120.00; Mips Inc (Fees)-\$112.25; Monica Montgomery (Expense)-\$131.10; NAPA Auto Parts (Supply)-\$92.96; NCK Quarries LLC (Supply)-\$13,431.48; Nebr Machinery Company (Repairs)-\$7,608.47; Paul Stoner (Expense)-\$120.00; Power Plan, Dept 77871 (Repairs)-\$1,739.90; R&M Disposal LLC (Utility)-\$94.00; Riley Nichols (Expense)-\$120.00; Rowdy Goos (Expense)-\$120.00; South Central Pub Power Dist (Utility)-\$1,928.28; Timm's Service (Fuel)-\$1,882.47; Village of Bladen (Utility)-\$59.53; Werner Aggregates, Inc (Supply)-\$19,456.16. MODERN RECORDS FUND: Mips Inc (Fees)-\$147.93. SELF-INSURED DENTAL FUND: Central Dental Group (Dental)-\$160.00; Sean M Daly, DDS (Dental)-\$216.00. COUNTY/MEDICAL RELIEF FUND: Adams County Dist Court (Mental Health Board)-\$500.00; Nelson-Bauer Funeral Home (Burial Assistance)-\$1,500.00. WIRELESS 911 FUND: Century Link (911 Contract)-\$1,796.63. RC AMBULANCE SERVICE #1 FUND: Black Hills Energy (Utility)-\$80.79; General Collections Co (Fees)-\$235.72; Olson Enterprises LLC (Fuel)-\$198.03. BH AMBULANCE SERVICE #2 FUND: CPI (Fuel)-\$108.20; General Collection Co (Fees)-\$134.00.

Being no further business, Chairman, Dan Shipman adjourned the meeting at 11:30am. The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at 8:30am. A current agenda and complete minutes are on file in the County Clerk's Office and at www.co.webster.ne.us.

Dated 16 day of December 2025
Webster County Board of Commissioners

Abbey Harig
Webster County Clerk