

The Webster County Board of Commissioners met at 8:30am on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, 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 Karr to approve minutes of the December 16, 2025, meeting. Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans and Karr. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None. Motion was made by Ratzlaff, seconded by Gilbert to pay claims and payroll for the January 6, 2026, 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 to present the road study regarding the proposed closure of Road 2300 between Roads A and B. Paul stated he will take the next steps in the process to close this road. He also provided an update on the feedlot road and presented an estimate of the maintenance costs incurred over the past few years. Possible options for repairing the road were discussed.

At 9:30am, the Board was scheduled to open bids for the Jail Cell Structure; however, no bids were received. County Clerk Abbey Harig will republish the notice for bids in the Hastings Tribune.

At 9:35am, County Clerk Abbey Harig met with the Board to discuss pictures for the courthouse walls once construction is complete. The Board expressed interest in displaying photographs from around the county and welcomed suggestions.

Abbey then presented the Certification of Unpaid Claims as of December 31, 2025, for the Board's review. She also presented two Annual Certifications for the Volunteer Emergency Responders Incentive Act for Red Cloud Ambulance and Blue Hill Ambulance for review and signature.

Abbey presented **Resolution 01-2026** to transfer \$249,583.70 from the County General Fund (#100) to the County Road/Bridge Fund (#300), and **Resolution 02-2026** to transfer \$38,037.30 from the County General Fund (#100) to the County Road/Bridge Construction Fund (#800), as provided for in the 2025–2026 Webster County Budget. A motion was made by Karr, seconded by Ratzlaff, to approve and sign both resolutions. Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans, and Karr. Voting nay, absent, or abstaining: None.

The Board then discussed county tax foreclosures and authorizing County Attorney Patrick Calkins to file them. A motion was made by Mans, seconded by Karr, to grant this authority. Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans, and Karr. Voting nay, absent, or abstaining: None.

An update on the courthouse mural was discussed, including a projected completion timeframe of March or April.

At 9:45am, County Attorney Patrick Calkins presented an updated Application for General Assistance for county burials. The Board reviewed the application and were happy with the revised version. Patrick also indicated he will be working on updating the policy for the County General Assistance program.

At 9:50am, Gerald Ohmstede with Trailblazer RC&D met with the Board to provide an update and request Webster County's sponsorship for 2026. This request will be presented for consideration at the next meeting.

At 9:55am, the Board reviewed the District Court report, Imprest Account, financial statements, and the Sheriff's quarterly report.

At 10:00am, Noxious Weed Superintendent Brian Pedersen met with the Board to present his annual state report and program evaluation through the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, on which he received high marks.

At 10:10am, Treasurer Janet Knehans met with the Board to present Form 457, Motor Vehicle Tax Exemption Wages, for Head Start, Webster County Community Hospital, and Webster County Community Foundation. After review, a motion was made by Mans, seconded by Karr, to approve the

forms. Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans, and Karr. Voting nay, absent, or abstaining: None.

Janet and Sheriff Troy Schmitz then both met with the Board to present distress warrants and let them know there are no outstanding distress warrants.

At 10:30am, Assessor Tami Scheuneman met with the board to discuss how to proceed with the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation TERC Hearing. Tami will talk to the State about this.

At 10:40am, Commissioner Dan Shipman discussed the potential use of the MIPS time clock program with the Board. After discussion with the Board and county employees, it was decided to contact other counties currently using this system and request copies of their policies for review.

At 11:15am, the Board discussed wages for the 2027–2030 term. After discussion, the following motions were made:

A motion was made by Gilbert to approve a 4% increase for all officials for four years. The motion was rescinded by Gilbert.

A motion was made by Gilbert to approve a 3.5% increase for all officials for four years. The motion failed for lack of a second.

A motion was made by Karr, seconded by Gilbert, to approve a 4% increase for 2027, 3.5% for 2028, and 3% for 2029 and 2030. Voting in favor: Gilbert and Karr. Voting against: Shipman. Abstaining: Ratzlaff and Mans. Absent: None. Motion failed.

A motion was made by Shipman to approve a 3.75% increase for all officials for four years. The motion failed for lack of a second.

A motion was then made by Mans, seconded by Karr, to approve a 4% increase for 2027 and a 3% increase for 2028–2030. Voting in favor: Mans, Gilbert, and Karr. Voting against: Shipman. Abstaining: Ratzlaff. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Total Wages - \$6,264.75

GENERAL FUND: Abbey Harig (Mileage)-\$99.12; Ameritas Life Ins Corp (Health)-\$60.75; Applied Connective Technologies (Email Domain)-\$121.30; AT&T Mobility (Phones)-\$535.46; Business World Products (Supply)-\$108.47; Calkins Law Office (Counsel)-\$750.00; Cheyenne Knehans (Wall Mural)-\$800.00; Cintas (Supply)-\$117.23; Coast to Coast Computer Products (Supply)-\$168.00; Culligan of Hastings (Water)-\$37.96; EFTPS (SS/FICA)-\$85.42; Eakes Office Solutions (Supply)-\$1,695.83; Essink Bros Drywall, LLC (Wall Repairs)-\$4,890.00; Farm & Home Publishers, LTD (Plat Books)-\$270.00; First Concord Benefits (Buydown)-\$79.35; First National Bank Omaha (Supply)-\$783.96; Furnas County Clerk (Attorney Expense)-\$750.65; Great Plains Communications (Phones)-\$2,315.02; Hometown Leasing (Lease)-\$329.22; J13 Enterprises, LLC (25/26 Budget Prep)-\$4,169.96; Jack's Uniforms & Equip (Uniforms)-\$315.34; Jades Sewer and Darin Cleaning (Repairs)-\$301.08; Janet Knehans (Expense)-\$101.60; Jared's Auto Expert (Repairs)-\$1,354.13; Katie Bolte (Mileage)-\$43.96; Ken Vanwey (Lawn Care)-\$800.00; LaQuinta Inn & Suites (Lodging)-\$1,874.25; Madison National Life Ins Co, Inc (Life)-\$353.37; Midland Area Agency on Aging (Handibus)-\$1,675.00; Mips Inc (Fees)-\$2,813.16; Nebr Clerk of Dist Court Assn (Dues)-\$50.00; Nebraska Sheriff's Association (Dues)-\$325.00; Nebraska State Bar Assn (Dues)-\$60.00; Patrick Calkins (Expense)-\$100.00; Region 3 Behavioral Health Services (Funding)-\$2,178.75; Soarin Group, LLC (IT Services)-\$2,320.00; South Central Pub Power Dist (Utility)-\$24.80; Sullivan Shoemaker PC LLO (Counsel)-\$1,862.23; Tami Scheuneman (Mileage)-\$100.80; Theobald Law Office (Counsel)-\$3,162.50; Webster County Sun (Publish)-\$200.48; Webster County Treasurer (Transfer)-\$249,583.70; Webster County Treasurer (Transfer)-\$38,037.30; Williams Exterminating, LLC (Pest Control)-\$88.00; Woodward's Disposal Service (Utility)-\$65.00. **ROAD/BRIDGE FUND:** Barton Pipe & Rod (Supply)-\$39.45; Black Hills Energy (Utility)-\$687.25; City of Blue Hill (Utility)-\$145.34; First National Bank Omaha (Supply)-\$27.82; Glenwood Telecommunications (Phones)-\$109.49; Great Plains Communications (Phones)-\$50.86; Hometown Market (Supply)-\$6.94; Jared's Auto Expert (Repairs)-\$905.60; John Deere Financial (Supply)-\$513.12; Landmark Implement (Lease)-\$10,000.00; LRNRD Rural Water Project

(Water)-\$26.40; Mips Inc (Fees)-\$112.25; NCK Quarries LLC (Supply)-\$17,717.74; Nebraska Machinery Company (Repairs)-\$14,152.54; Olson Enterprises LLC (Fuel)-\$9,919.26; R&M Disposal LLC (Utility)-\$94.00; Titan Machinery-Hastings (Supply)-\$642.01; Village of Guide Rock (Utility)-\$100.14; Windstream (Phones)-\$97.01. MODERN RECORDS: Mips Inc (Fees)-\$147.93. SELF-INSURED DENTAL FUND: Kory L Bumgardner DDS (Dental)-\$1,904.80; Pediatric Dental Specialists (Dental)-\$70.40; Sean M Daly DDS (Dental)-\$172.00. COUNTY MEDICAL/RELIEF FUND: NE Health & Human Services System (Beatrice/Norfolk)-\$171.00. INHERITANCE TAX FUND: Nelson-Bauer Funeral Home (Burial Assistance)-\$1,500.00; Williams Funeral Home (Burial Assistance)-\$1,500.00. WIRELESS 911 FUND: Century Link (Lumen/911)-\$1,796.63. RC AMBULANCE SERVICE #1 FUND: Bio-Electronics (Contract)-\$300.00; EFTPS (SS/FICA)-\$257.94; Great Plains Communications (Phones)-\$49.56; Matheson Tri-Gas Inc (Supply)-\$69.10; Metro-Billing Services (Billing)-\$75.00; Overhead Door (Supply)-\$193.95. BH AMBULANCE SERVICE #2 FUND: EFTPS (SS/FICA)-\$135.90; Metro-Billing Services (Billing)-\$250.00.

Being no further business, Chairman, Dan Shipman adjourned the meeting at 12:25pm. The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 20, 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 6 day of January 2026
Webster County Board of Commissioners

Abbey Harig
Webster County Clerk