

The Webster County Board of Commissioners met at 8:30am on Tuesday, February 3, 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). A motion was made by Ratzlaff, seconded by Gilbert to approve minutes of the January 20, 2026, meeting. Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans and Karr. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None. Motion was made by Gilbert, seconded by Gilbert to pay claims and payroll for the February 3, 2026, meeting. Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans and Karr. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None. Board members discussed meetings that were attended.

At 8:35am, Road Superintendent Paul Stoner met with the Board and discussed the public hearing for the Road 2300 closure, which will be at the next meeting. Paul also provided updates on equipment repairs and stockpiling gravel. The Board also discussed the east parking lot and the installation of a sidewalk.

At 9:05am, Red Cloud EMT Gene Horne met with the Board to discuss raising ambulance rates. Due to increased fuel and supply costs, and with the last rate increase occurring roughly 10 years ago, the Board agreed this was a good idea. A motion was made by Mans, seconded by Karr, to increase transport rates to \$725 per ride and \$20 per mile for both Red Cloud and Blue Hill. Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans and Karr. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None. The Board then discussed EMT and ambulance driver wages, as well as mileage reimbursement for EMTs or drivers who respond to service calls within the county. After discussion, it was decided to increase wages by \$10 per call, raising EMT pay from \$50.00 to \$60.00 per call and driver pay from \$40.00 to \$50.00 per call. It was also decided that mileage will be reimbursed both ways at the State mileage rate for any EMT or driver who travels to assist another service within the county. Reimbursement for this mileage will be paid by the service requesting assistance. A motion was made by Ratzlaff, seconded by Gilbert, to approve these changes. Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans and Karr. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None.

At 9:30am, County Clerk Abbey Harig was to present bids for the jail cell structure; however, no bids were received. A company reached out the morning prior to the meeting with questions, and the Board requested they still submit a bid.

Next, Abbey presented the South Central Economic Development District (SCEDD) Interlocal Cooperation Agreement. The Board decided against signing the agreement at this time and requested SCEDD come speak to them before they will consider signing.

Lastly, Abbey presented the updated mural with the requested changes. After review, the Board requested one additional adjustment. A motion was made by Mans, seconded by Ratzlaff, to approve the mural with the condition that the brand on the barn be more noticeable. Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans and Karr. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None.

At 10:05am, Treasurer Janet Knehans met with the board to present the 2024 Delinquent Tax List. The board reviewed this.

At 10:15am, Michele Bever, Executive Director for South Heartland District Health Department met with the board to give their annual update.

At 10:45am, Assessor Tami Scheuneman met with the board. A motion was made by Karr, seconded by Ratzlaff to go into CBOE. Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans and Karr. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None. Tami then presented Tax Correction no. 202604. The board reviewed this. A motion was made by Karr, seconded by Gilbert to approve this correction. Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans and Karr. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None. Tami then gave the board an update on a TERC hearing. County Attorney Patrick Calkins is continuing to look into this matter and both will report back when they have more information. A motion was made by Ratzlaff,

seconded by Gilbert to go out of CBOE. Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans and Karr. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None.

At 10:45am, the board reviewed the District Court report, Imprest Account and Fund Balances.

At 10:50am, Veterans Service Officer and Commissioner, Gary Ratzlaff reviewed LB1072 with the board and thanked the board for their letter of opposition of this bill.

At 11:00am, the board called Farris Construction to answer questions on a bid.

Total Wages - \$8,224.50

GENERAL FUND: Alexa Pedersen (Mileage)-\$148.05; Ameritas Life Ins Corp (Health)-\$60.75; Carpenter & Skalka Crt Reporting Inc (Counsel)-\$70.00; Central Nebr County Assessor Assn (Dues)-\$25.00; Cintas (Supply)-\$73.05; Coast to Coast Computer Products (Supply)-\$168.00; Culligan of Hastings (Water)-\$24.75; Dell Marketing, LP (Supply)-\$246.59; EFTPS (SS/FICA)-\$83.57; Eakes Office Solutions (Supply)-\$537.39; Essink Bros Drywall, Inc (Wall Reno)-\$12,000.00; First Concord Benefits (Buydown)-\$400.80; First Concord Benefits Group (Fees)-\$125.58; Great Plains Communications (Phones)-\$2,314.15; Jared's Auto Expert (Repairs)-\$463.38; Katie Bolte (Mileage)-\$143.99; Kenny's Hardware and Home Center (Supply)-\$3.59; Lieske Law Firm (Counsel)-\$733.50; Madison National Life Ins Co, Inc (Life)-\$354.15; Midland Area Agency on Aging (Handibus)-1,435.00; Mips (Supply)-\$277.30; NACREC (Dues)-\$50.00; Pierce Electronics (Supply)-\$5,447.23; Rod's Construction (Flooring)-\$7,712.00; Sullivan Shoemaker PC LLO (Counsel)-\$884.73; Theobald Law Office (Counsel)-\$2,300.00; Trailblazer RC & D (Funding)-\$400.00; USPS (Postage)-\$156.00; Webster Co Clk of District Court (Fees)-\$39.00; Web Co Sheriff-Petty Cash (Petty Cash)-\$46.82; Webster County Sun (Subscriptions)-\$76.00; Williams Exterminating Inc (Pest Control)-\$88.00. **ROAD/BRIDGE FUND:** Ben Pavelka Trucking Inc (Repairs)-\$2,979.76; Ben Sharp (Repairs)-\$398.00; Black Hills Energy (Utility)-\$1,747.74; C&M Supply (Fuel)-\$172.52; City of Blue Hill (Utility)-\$127.70; Cloverton Trucking Inc (Supply)-\$7,695.76; Ely's Inc (Supply)-\$6.60; First National Bank Omaha (Supply)-\$809.77; Glenwood Telecommunications (Phones)-\$53.78; Great Plains Communications (Phones)-\$50.80; John Deere Financial (Supply)-\$946.26; LRNRD Rural Water Project (Water)-\$18.35; Mid-Nebraska Aggregate, Inc (Supply)-\$33,595.17; Nebraska Machinery Co (Repairs)-\$1,876.34; Newman Signs, Inc (Supply)-\$81.78; Olson Enterprises LLC (Fuel)-\$2,681.74; Schroyer Mobile Flat Glass, LLC (Repairs)-\$814.72; Village of Bladen (Utility)-\$59.53; Windstream (Phones)-\$97.28. **SELF-INSURED DENTAL FUND:** Larry Baker (Dental)-\$1,936.00; Minden Dental Clinic (Dental)-\$1,832.60; Webster County Dental (Dental)-\$171.00. **COUNTY MEDICAL/RELIEF FUND:** NE Health & Human Services System (Beatrice/Norfolk)-\$186.00. **RC AMBULANCE SERVICE #1 FUND:** EFTPS (SS/FICA)-\$319.55; Great Plains Communications (Phones)-\$49.51; Matheson Tri-Gas Inc (Supply)-\$46.43. **BH AMBULANCE SERVICE #2 FUND:** EFTPS (SS/FICA)-\$226.06; WPS Government Services (Overpayment)-\$623.43.

Being no further business, Chairman, Dan Shipman adjourned the meeting at 11:20am. The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 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 3 day of February 2026
Webster County Board of Commissioners

Abbey Harig
Webster County Clerk