

The Webster County Board of Commissioners met at 8:30am on Tuesday, March 17, 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 Mans to approve minutes of the March 3, 2026, 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 March 17, 2026, meeting. Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans and Karr. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None. Board members discussed meetings that were attended and reviewed mail.

At 8:45am, Road Superintendent Paul Stoner met with the Board. He reported that the road maintainers are in need of new blades and shared that he has reviewed various purchasing options to determine the best choice. Paul also provided an update on the project currently being completed by VanKirk. The projected completion date is April 15; however, an extension has been requested. Paul noted that a one-week extension could be granted before penalties would take effect, and the Board agreed to allow this. He also gave general updates on ongoing projects, equipment, and upcoming signage improvements.

At 9:00am, discussion was held with Gene Horne, Jarrod McCartney, and Theresa Young regarding the jail cell. After reviewing options, there was a general consensus that the jail cell should be relocated to the museum. The county will handle transportation once the museum is prepared to receive it.

At 9:20am, Tim Anderson of Legislative District 38 met with the Board. He asked the commissioners to share any concerns within the county, emphasizing his goal of maintaining open communication so he can best represent the district. The Board shared several thoughts and concerns with him.

At 9:45am, Blue Hill resident Andy Alber addressed the Board regarding a recent termination at the Blue Hill Clinic. Andy expressed concerns about both hospital administration and the hospital board. County Attorney Patrick Calkins stated that the county's role in matters involving the Webster County Community Hospital Board is currently unclear. He noted that further discussion is scheduled later in the meeting, including consideration of hiring outside counsel to help address the issue. Several hospital board members were present and also shared their perspectives.

At 10:30am, Sheriff Troy Schmitz and Hospital Administrator LaMont Cook met with the Board to discuss Emergency Protective Custodies (EPCs). Concerns regarding billing were addressed. Troy and LaMont had previously discussed the matter and determined there had been confusion on the hospital's end regarding whether individuals brought in by law enforcement were classified as inmates or EPCs. Moving forward, both parties agreed that improved communication will help ensure proper classification. LaMont emphasized that open communication is encouraged and welcomed. The county and hospital agreed to ensure all appropriate procedures are followed before billing is submitted to the county.

At 10:45am, Extension Educator Lindsay Waechter-Mead met with the Board to provide a quarterly update. Lindsay also presented a proposal for a summer intern. She explained that funding for an intern had previously been removed from their budget; however, due to unforeseen circumstances, additional assistance will be needed this year. Lindsay requested pre-approval from the Board for this line item in the 2026–2027 budget so they can proceed with advertising and hiring an intern for the summer. A motion was made by Shipman, seconded by Gilbert to approve this. Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans and Karr. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None.

At 11:00am, Samantha Kuehn from Williams & Kuehn Funeral Home met with the Board. Discussion was held regarding removal and bag fees. County Attorney Patrick Calkins will prepare a

resolution for the April meeting to approve that the county will cover these costs when it is a county call.

At 11:15am, County Clerk Abbey Harig met with the Board. Abbey presented information on digital signage for the courthouse from Mvix Digital Signage. After review, a motion was made by Karr, seconded by Ratzlaff, to approve the Mvix Standard Digital Signage Kit (two 50-inch commercial digital tv package). Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans, and Karr. Voting nay, absent, or abstaining: None.

Abbey then provided an update on timeclocks, noting that some items still need to be resolved before full integration with the payroll system. In the meantime, the timeclocks will be used solely for tracking hours.

Lastly, Abbey presented two bids for the interior courthouse stairs. After review, a motion was made by Mans, seconded by Karr, to accept the bid from Tim's Flooring. Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans, and Karr. Voting nay, absent, or abstaining: None.

At 11:30am, County Attorney Patrick Calkins discussed ongoing issues with the hospital. He presented several firm options to assist with the matter. The Board authorized Patrick to select the firm he believes is best suited and to proceed with signing the engagement letter. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting.

At 11:45am, a motion was made by Ratzlaff, seconded by Gilbert, to enter into executive session to receive advice from legal counsel on a personnel matter for the protection of the public's interest. Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans, and Karr. Voting nay, absent, or abstaining: None.

At 12:42pm, a motion was made by Karr, seconded by Ratzlaff, to exit executive session. Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans, and Karr. Voting nay, absent, or abstaining: None. The Board discussed personnel legal matters, and no action was taken.

Total Wages - \$181,401.10

GENERAL FUND: Adams County Justice Center (Lodging)-\$1,485.00; Ameritas Life Ins Corp (Health)-\$9239.80; Applied Connective Technologies (Domain)-\$121.30; Axon Enterprise Inc (Training)-\$895.00; Beyke (Decals)-\$250.00; Black Hills Energy (Utility)-\$422.41; Blue Cross/Blue Shield (Premium)-\$56,593.53; CPI (Fuel)-\$2,098.58; DAS State Accounting (Teletype)-\$537.60; DAS State Accounting (AS400)-\$242.00; EFTPS (SS/FICA)-\$9,603.36; Eakes Office Solutions (Supply)-\$191.06; First Concord Benefits (Buydown)-\$204.57; First Concord Benefits Group (Fees)-\$259.50; First Concord Benefits Group (Fees)-\$179.40; Jack's Uniforms & Equipment (Uniforms)-\$133.89; Kenny's Hardware and Home Center (Supply)-\$331.04; Klein, Brewster, Brandy & Messersmith (Counsel)-\$437.00; Kustom Signals Inc (Supply)-\$942.22; L-Tron (Supply)-\$391.35; Lieske Law Firm (Counsel)-\$646.50; Margaret Meline (Prior Service)-\$42.00; Mips Inc (Fees)-\$2,751.31; NACO (Registration)-\$50.00; Nebraska State Patrol (Licenses)-\$465.50; Quadient Finance USA, Inc (Postage)-\$2,000.00; Red Cloud EMTs (Education)-\$300.00; Self-Insured Dental Fund (Premium)-\$3,163.00; Soarin Group LLC (IT Services)-\$2,320.00; Sullivan Shoemaker PC LLO (Counsel)-\$782.00; TK Elevator Corporation (Repairs)-\$2,429.00; Viaero Wireless (Fees)-\$9.16; Web Co Clerk of Dist Court (Fees)-\$132.00; Woodward's Disposal Service Inc (Utility)-\$70.09. **ROAD/BRIDGE FUND:** Ameritas Life Insurance Corp (Health)-\$3,457.42; Ben Pavelka Trucking, Inc (Repairs)-\$7,152.15; Black Hills Energy (Utility)-\$337.55; C&D Service Center (Supply)-\$28.98; CPI (Fuel)-\$1,728.00; Dakota Fluid Power, Inc (Supply)-\$31.11; EFTPS (SS/FICA)-\$3,888.64; Eakes Office Solutions (Supply)-\$27.82; First Concord Benefits Group (Fees)-\$112.50; First Concord Benefits Group (Fees)-\$35.88; Garrett Tires & Treads (Repairs)-\$4,700.00; J&A Auto Supply (Supply)-\$46.84; Kenny's Hardware and Home Center (Supply)-\$9.28; Mips Inc (Fees)-\$112.25; Nebraska Machinery Company (Repairs)-\$1,175.00; North Central Air (Supply)-\$469.00; Olson Enterprises LLC (Fuel)-\$2,640.81; Pavelka Truck & Trailer Repair (Supply)-\$19.49; Power Plan, Dept 77871 (Supply)-\$583.97; R&M Disposal LLC (Utility)-\$536.65; South Central Pub Power Dist (Utility)-\$626.23; Timm's Service (Fuel)-\$1,103.24; Village of Bladen (Utility)-\$59.53; Village of Guide Rock (Utility)-\$108.67; Werner

Aggregates, Inc (Supply)-\$21,889.16; Mips Inc (Fees)-\$147.93. SELF-INSURED DENTAL FUND: Central Dental Group (Dental)-\$2,167.80; Island View Dental (Dental)-\$2,777.60; Webster County Dental (Dental)-\$171.00. INHERITANCE TAX FUND: Solid Rock Construction Inc (Concrete)-\$15,700.00. WIRELESS 911 FUND: Century Link (Lumen/911)-\$1,792.27; Nemaha County Sheriff's Office (Fees)-\$84.61. RC AMBULANCE SERVICE #1 FUND: Black Hills Energy (Utility)-\$396.70; Olson Enterprises LLC (Fuel)-\$127.14. BH AMBULANCE SERVICE #2 FUND: Bound Tree Medical LLC (Supply)-\$278.62; CPI (Fuel)-\$228.67; Platte Valley Comm of Hastings (Supply)-\$1,980.00; Stryker Sales Corporation (Services)-\$1,172.70.

Being no further business, Chairman, Dan Shipman adjourned the meeting at 12:50pm. The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 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 17 day of March 2026
Webster County Board of Commissioners

Abbey Harig
Webster County Clerk