

The Webster County Board of Commissioners met at 8:30am on Tuesday, May 19, 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 Mans, seconded by Ratzlaff to approve minutes of the May 5, 2026, meeting. Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans and Karr. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None. Motion was made by Karr, seconded by Gilbert to pay claims and payroll for the May 19, 2026, meeting. Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans and Karr. Voting nay, absent or abstaining: None. Board reviewed mail and discussed meetings that they had attended.

At 8:45 a.m., Road Foreman Paul Stoner met with the Board. Paul gave updates on issues and projects the road department is currently working on. Complaints from constituents were discussed, along with an update regarding the jail cell being moved to the museum.

At 9:15 a.m., Assessor Tami Scheuneman met with the Board. A motion was made by Gilbert, seconded by Mans, to go into CBOE. Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans, and Karr. Voting nay, absent, or abstaining: None.

Tami presented clerical errors 1–36 on assessed values. After review, a motion was made by Karr, seconded by Shipman, to approve the corrections. Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans, and Karr. Voting nay, absent, or abstaining: None.

Tami then presented permissive exemptions with one denial and two partial exemptions for the Board to review and discuss. A motion was made by Ratzlaff, seconded by Mans, to approve the exemptions as presented. Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans, and Karr. Voting nay, absent, or abstaining: None.

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

At 9:25 a.m., Sheriff Troy Schmitz met with the Board to discuss a rate change for housing inmates at the Adams County Correctional Center. Troy shared the new contract with the Board. After review, a motion was made by Karr, seconded by Mans, to approve the contract. Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans, and Karr. Voting nay, absent, or abstaining: None.

At 9:30 a.m., Dustin Will with Benefit Management met with the Board to discuss and answer questions regarding health insurance options through Benefit Management.

At 9:50 a.m., Judd Allen with NACO met with the Board to discuss and answer questions regarding health insurance options through NACO.

At 10:30 a.m., Karry-Anne Block with ASAAP met with the Board to discuss ASAAP's programs and goals and requested funding from Webster County. After discussion, a motion was made by Gilbert, seconded by Shipman, to not provide funding this year. Voting in favor: Shipman, Gilbert, Mans, and Karr. Voting nay: Ratzlaff. Absent or abstaining: None.

At 10:50 a.m., the Board reviewed First Light Child Advocacy Center's request for funding. First Light serves children who have experienced abuse, neglect, or witnessed violence by providing a safe, child-focused environment where investigations, advocacy, and healing services begin. In 2025, First Light provided services to 56 children and families in Webster County. A contribution of \$1,000 was requested. A motion was made by Mans, seconded by Gilbert, to approve the request. Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans, and Karr. Voting nay, absent, or abstaining: None.

Abbey then discussed updates from Applied Connective, which provides county employee email services. An increase in licensing fees has occurred.

At 11:00 a.m., the Board and employees discussed and shared thoughts and concerns regarding switching insurance providers. A motion was made by Mans, seconded by Shipman, to switch to Medica

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

Further discussion was held regarding insurance premiums for both employees and the county. After discussion, a motion was made by Gilbert, seconded by Ratzlaff, to reduce employee's current premium costs by 15%. Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans, and Karr. Voting nay, absent, or abstaining: None.

Long-term disability and life insurance options were then discussed. Dustin from Benefit Management presented available options. A motion was made by Gilbert, seconded by Mans, to increase both LTD coverage and life insurance to a \$25,000 policy through Lincoln Financial Group. Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans, and Karr. Voting nay, absent, or abstaining: None.

Lastly, discussion was held regarding the deductible buy-down and COBRA administration. A motion was made by Karr, seconded by Mans, to utilize Point C for the \$500 deductible buy-down and COBRA administration. Voting in favor: Shipman, Ratzlaff, Gilbert, Mans, and Karr. Voting nay, absent, or abstaining: None.

At 12:05 p.m., Noxious Weed Superintendent Brian Pedersen met with the Board to inform them that he is issuing a 10-day warning notice on a property. Brian provided photos of the property and reviewed the concerns with the Board.

Total Wages - \$179,939.83.

GENERAL FUND: Abbey Harig (Mileage)-\$105.13; Adams County Justice Center (Housing)-\$2,585.00; Advanced Family Healthcare (Medical)-\$130.80; Ameritas Life Ins Corp (Health)-\$9180.47; Anne Ohmstede (Poll Worker)-\$208.00; Applied Connective Technologies (Email)-\$121.30; Arlene Wiley (Poll Worker)-\$249.90; AT&T Mobility (Phones)-\$535.28; Barb Krueger (Poll Worker)-\$271.00; Barbara Gobel (Poll Worker)-\$227.45; Black Hills Energy (Utility)-\$152.02; BCBS (Premium)-\$54,992.35; Brenda Knehans (Poll Worker)-\$232.90; Buffalo County (Dues)-\$200.00; Business World Products (Supply)-\$1,679.65; Capital City Transfer (Services)-\$595.85; Carla Jameson (Expense)-\$126.58; Charleen Himmelberg (Poll Worker)-\$176.00; City of Red Cloud (Utility)-\$1,334.77; Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather, LLP (Professional Services)-\$9,805.00; CPI (Fuel)-\$3,196.58; Crowne Plaza Kearney (Lodging)-\$959.70; DAS State Accounting (Teletype)-\$537.60; Debbie Vanboening (Poll Worker)-\$255.00; Debbie Winslow (Poll Worker)-\$239.75; Debra Thayer (Poll Worker)-\$255.00; EFTPS (SS/FICA)-\$9,571.85; First Concord Benefits Group (Fees)-\$252.00; First Concord Benefits Group (Fees)-\$89.70; Freedom and Glory (Flags)-\$107.98; gWorks (Misc)-\$14,717.00; Jared's Auto Expert (Repairs)-\$1,532.53; Jimmy Shaw (Poll Worker)-\$233.95; Joan Fisher (Poll Worker)-\$255.00; Keli Albin-Conway (Poll Worker)-\$312.30; Ken Vanwey (Services)-\$2,235.00; Kenny's Hardware and Home Center (Supply)-\$20.28; Kristi Allen (Poll Worker)-\$300.00; Leigh Goebel (Expense)-\$168.53; Lila Bohrer (Poll Worker)-\$231.45; NACO (Registration)-\$800.00; Patrick Calkins (Phone)-\$50.00; Physicians Laboratory PC (Autopsy)-\$300.00; Robert Schulz (Poll Worker)-\$228.18; Ronda Petsch (Poll Worker)-\$231.45; Self-Insured Dental (Premium)-\$3,213.00; Sheila Ohmstede (Poll Worker)-\$241.95; Soarin Group LLC (IT/Computers)-\$4,804.00; South Central Pub Power Dist (Utility)-\$30.00; Teresa Theobald (Poll Worker)-\$227.45; Teresa Young (Poll Worker)-\$232.90; Theobald Law Office (Counsel)-\$2,462.60; Viaero Wireless (Phones)-\$9.15; Webster County Sun (Publish)-\$2,908.18; Woodward's Disposal Service Inc (Utility)-\$65.00. **ROAD/BRIDGE FUND:** Ameritas Life Ins Corp (Health)-\$3,418.11; B's Enterprises, Inc (Supply)-\$30,325.00; Black Hill's Energy (Utility)-\$94.23; C&M Supply (Fuel)-\$317.71; Century Lumber Center (Supply)-\$44.57; CPI (Misc)-\$804.83; EFTPS (SS/FICA)-\$3,848.59; First Concord Benefits Group (Fees)-\$96.00; First Concord Benefits Group (Fees)-\$35.88; GT Metal (Repairs)-\$75.00; gWorks (Software)-\$821.00; Hastings Outdoor Power LLC (Supply)-\$190.00; Hometown Market (Supply)-\$23.99; J&A Auto Supply (Supply)-\$775.83; Jared's Auto Expert (Repairs)-\$125.58; Kenny's Hardware and Home Center (Supply)-\$99.39; Mid-Nebraska Aggregate, Inc (Supply)-\$10,074.59; Midwest Hydraulic Service & Equip Co (Repairs)-\$878.80; Nebraska DMV (Misc)-\$180.00; Nebraska Machinery Co (Repairs)-\$4,280.42; Olson Enterprises LLC (Misc)-

\$8,083.47; South Central Pub Power Dist (Utility)-\$372.89; Timm's Service (Misc)-\$3,411.65; Village of Bladen (Utility)-\$59.53; Village of Guide Rock (Utility)-\$105.58; Webster County Sun (Publish)-\$43.27. SELF-INSURED DENTAL FUND: Kory L Bumgardner DDS (Dental)-\$1,060.00; Pediatric Dental Specialists (Dental)-\$66.80; Webster County Dental (Dental)-\$2,259.80. NE Health & Human Services System (Beatrice/Norfolk)-\$174.00. 911 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND: NENA (Training)-\$299.00. WIRELESS 911 FUND: Century Link (Lumen/911 Contract)-\$3,579.32. BH AMBULANCE SERVICE #2 FUND: CPI (Fuel)-\$83.55; Olson Enterprises (Supply)-\$798.34.

Being no further business, Chairman, Dan Shipman adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 2, 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 19 day of May 2026
Webster County Board of Commissioners

Abbey Harig
Webster County Clerk