

**RICHARDSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 15, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

The Annual meeting of the Richardson County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Caverzagie at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 15, 2025. Roll call was answered by Karas, Campbell and Caverzagie. The Invocation was given, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Caverzagie. Chairman Caverzagie announced that the open meeting laws have been posted at the entrance to the meeting room.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2025, meeting as read. Motion seconded by Sickel. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-abstain, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to approve the minutes of the Board of Equalization meeting from January 8, 2025. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-abstain, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Karas to approve the agenda as posted. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. The agenda is posted at the Richardson County Courthouse in the First Floor Lobby, the Lower-Level Lobby and on the Commissioner's Meeting Room door on the 2nd Floor and on the Richardson County website www.co.richardson.ne.us.

BOARD REORGANIZATION

Motion was made by Karas to reappoint John Caverzagie as the Chairman of the Board for 2025. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to appoint Rick Karas as the Vice-Chairman of the Board for 2025. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Caverzagie that the listed duties be designated to the following commissioners:

Commissioner Karas: County Roads, Southeast Nebraska Development District (SEND) and the Southeast Nebraska Community Action Council

Commissioner Caverzagie: Courthouse Building and Grounds and Law Enforcement Center, Region V Systems & Services, member of the Product Development & Public Policy Committee of the Greater Falls City Economic and Development Growth Enterprise (EDGE) and alternate to the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC),

Commissioner Campbell: County Roads, The Greater Falls City Economic and Development Growth Enterprise (EDGE), Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), Falls City Airport Road Committee and the Southeast Nebraska Health Board

Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF BOARD/COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Motion was made by Caverzagie to reaffirm the appointment of Steve Darveau, Jr. as the Richardson County Highway Superintendent, License #S-1660 Class A with an annual salary for 2025 approved at \$70,227.00 (2% increase). Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to table the reappointment of Mona Godemann as the Veterans Service Officer for 2025. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

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APPOINTMENTS (Cont.)

Motion was made by Caverzagie to reappoint Brian Kirkendall as the Richardson County Emergency Manager and the Noxious Weed Control Superintendent with an annual salary for 2025 approved at \$66,894.64 (2% increase). Motion seconded by Campbell. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Karas-nay, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

SPECIAL BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Motion was made by Caverzagie to reaffirm the appointment of Dr. Allan W. Tramp to the County Health Board for the year 2025 pursuant to Nebraska State Statute 71-501. Motion seconded by Karas. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to reappoint Charles O'Grady to the Richardson County Planning Commission for a term of 3 years which expires December 31, 2027. Motion seconded by Karas. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. A position still remains open, and the Board will be considering the appointment to this position at a later meeting.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to reaffirm the appointment of the members of the County Safety Committee: Sheriff Hardesty; Jail Administrator, Kristen Morehead; Ryan Curtis, Courthouse Maintenance; Steve Darveau, Jr., Highway Superintendent; Wyatt Martin, Road and Bridge Department; and Brian Kirkendall, EMA Director. Motion seconded by Campbell. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

Sheriff Hardesty updated the Board on the business within the Law Enforcement Center this past week.

An agreement with Combined Public Communications, LLC was presented to the Board review and approval. This company provides the phone calling card service, inmate messaging service, commissary and other services for inmates to purchase.

Motion was made by Karas to approve the agreement with Combined Public Communications, LLC and authorize the Sheriff to enter into and sign. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

ROAD & BRIDGE DEPT.

Steve Darveau, Jr., Highway Superintendent updated the Board on the routine maintenance being done on county roads and bridges this past week.

BRIAN KIRKENDALL, NOXIOUS WEED SUPT.

Brian Kirkendall, Noxious Weed Supt. presented to the Board the 2024 annual report of the Noxious Weed Control Plan program in Richardson County which will be submitted to the NE Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Protection. Mr. Kirkendall reported that the infestation of sericea lespedeza has become less in the County but that it is still prevalent in the County but with areas of infestation smaller than in previous years.

Motion was made by Karas to approve the 2024 annual report of the Noxious Weed Control Plan program in Richardson County as presented and to authorize the Chairman to sign. Motion seconded by Campbell. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER

Resolution 2024-2025-24 Sub-Division

Review of the request for a subdivision of property located in S30, T1, R18 for Robert D and Joyce K Bachman was held and the Board requested that the Highway Superintendent review this requested subdivision with the landowners and the Board will consider this further at next week's meeting.

Other

A check was received from EMC Insurance Companies and Miller LLC in the amount of \$16,600 representing a dividend resulting from the County's good claim experience and accident prevention.

CLAIMS

Motion was made by Karas to allow the payment of all claims submitted today. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

(The claims listed below are available for public inspection at the office of the County Clerk during regular business hours.)

GENERAL FUND

Amazon, supp	85.58
BuckIT, serv	12750.00
Charm-Tex, supp	147.60
Consolidated Management, serv	8920.76
Crowne Plaza, lodg	419.85
Culligan, serv	110.00
Detectachem, supp	218.65
Electronic Contracting Co., supp	87985.96
Falls City Mercantile, supp	74.59
Falls City Sanitation, serv	20.00
Franzen, Linda, serv	23.08
Galls, supp	294.73
Harring, Barbara, serv	37.50
Jake's Paint & Body, serv	15593.31
KexRx, supp	355.19
Ligouri, Angelo, serv	465.50
Midwest Card & ID Solutions, sup	1750.00
Midwest Mobile Radio Service, serv	30.00
MIPS, supp	195.76
MIS, serv	110.00
NE Assoc. of County Treasurers, dues	75.00
NE Sheriff's Assoc., dues	410.00
Norris, Dan, serv	156.00
OPPD, serv	33.08
Paper Tiger Shredding, serv	80.00
Postmaster, supp	175.00
Prochaska & Assoc., serv	457.90
Quill, supp	233.99
Richardson County Clerk Petty Cash, reimb	30.00
Richardson County Court, fees	316.00
Richardson County EMA Petty Cash, reimb	257.87
Richardson County Sheriff, fees	754.70
Riggs, Kim, reimb	154.60
Sapp Bros., fuel	459.16
Schendel Pest Control, serv	69.88
SNC, serv	1889.34
Stevicks, Billy, serv	208.80
Summit Fire Protection, serv	2921.03
SumnerOne, serv	258.81
Unifirst, serv	87.94
Weaver & Merz, reimb	9.35
Wolfe's Printing, supp	85.00
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$138,711.51

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND

Bahr Welding LLC, serv	1610.88
Cornhusker International Trucks, Inc, supp	125.69
Davis Plumbing, Heating & Electrical, serv	424.70
Farmers Repair & Machine Shop, supp	103.62
Hullman's Ford Lincoln, Inc., serv	176.25
Jim Hill's, serv	345.00
Koch's Auto Service, Inc., serv	11003.72
Mr. Automotive, supp	66.89
NMC, Inc., serv	1487.79
Operation & Expense Account, reimb	188.74
Sapp Bros. Petroleum Inc., serv	2245.17
SNC, serv	104.16
Village of Salem, serv	22.85
Woods & Aitken LLP, serv	8048.90
TOTAL ROAD & BRIDGE FUND	\$25,954.36

SHERIFF COMMISSARY FUND

CPC, serv	920.93
SNC, serv	155.00
TOTAL SHERIFF COMMISSARY FUND	1,075.93

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Campbell to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. The Board will meet again on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room, Courthouse, Falls City, NE. The agenda is kept current at the County Clerk's Office.

John J. Caverzagie, Chairman

Mary L. Eickhoff, County Clerk