

RICHARDSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AUGUST 6, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Richardson County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Caverzagie at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 6, 2025. Roll call was answered by Karas, Campbell and Caverzagie. The Invocation was given by Chairman Caverzagie and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice-Chairman Karas. Chairman Caverzagie announced that the open meeting laws have been posted at the entrance to the meeting room.

Motion was made by Karas to approve the minutes from the July 30, 2025, meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to approve the agenda as posted. Motion seconded by Karas. 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.richardsoncountyne.gov.

ROAD & BRIDGE DEPT.

Road Department Foreman, Julie Vollmer updated the Board on the routine maintenance being done on county roads and bridges the past week. The report included progress being made on getting ditches cleaned in certain areas and on construction projects. Equipment maintenance was also discussed.

A letter was received from Chuck and Gloria Hunzeker of Humboldt regarding the condition of the 710 Road west of Highway 105.

LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

Sheriff Hardesty updated the Board on the routine business within the Law Enforcement Center this week. He provided a report to the Board on the activity of the Sheriff's Department in July in which there were a total of 43 arrests (5 other agencies and 38 from County Sheriff); 1157 total calls which included 377 traffic stops. A grant to compensate for overtime accrued by deputies for traffic speed enforcement during the period of July 14 through August 1 was awarded to Richardson County through the Nebraska Department of Transportation and during this period of time there were 766 total calls with 259 traffic stops in which 84 citations were issued and 27 arrests made. Currently there are 18 inmates being held at the Jail with 3 of those being held for other counties.

Sheriff Hardesty reported that the State Jail Standards will be conducting the Annual Jail Inspection on August 19.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to approve the purchase of a 2025 Ford 150 Police Responder for \$47,987.00 through the State of Nebraska Contract #16076(OC) and to purchase through Anderson Ford via Hullman's Ford Linc Merc, Falls City. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

A review of the Sheriff's fiscal year 2025-2026 budget was held.

QUAD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sandy Stalder, President of the Quad County Historical Society and her husband Duaine presented to the Board the annual report of the organization. The Society is also requesting the continued funding from the County in the amount of \$5,000 for the fiscal year 2025-2026. The Board will consider this funding when finalizing the budget for FY2025-2026.

BUDGET REVIEW

The 2025-2026 proposed budget document for Richardson County was presented to the Board at last week's meeting (July 30) for their review prior to reviewing with each department this week.

The Board met today with the following officials and department heads regarding the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 proposed budgets: Bethany Godemann, County Court Magistrate; Odis Fields, Veterans Service Officer; Brian Kirkendall, Emergency Management and Noxious Weed Control Superintendent; Pam Scott, Clerk of District Court; Mary L. Eickhoff, County Clerk;

Kim Riggs, County Assessor and Samantha Scheitel, County Attorney

During the review with Odis Fields, Veterans Service Officer, discussion was held regarding the current salaries of the officer and assistant. Mr. Fields presented to the Board information on the funds received in the County from the work the office does for veterans and salary information.

COUNTY TREASURER

County Treasurer, Amanda Bartek-Ramsey presented to the Board pledge security receipts that require an exchange with F&M Bank. Motion was made by Caverzagie to approve the replacement of the following pledge securities: Receipts #JC92998E, #JC92998A and #JC92998D will be replaced with receipts #JC93048B and #JC94842C. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

The Board also reviewed the fiscal year 2025-2026 budget of the Treasurer's Office with Treasurer, Amanda Bartek-Ramsey and Deputy Treasurer, Rachel Jean. They encouraged the Board to approve an increase in the wage of the support staff in the office as it has not kept up with competitive wages in the area the past few years. The Board will consider this request during the next several weeks to finalize the budget for FY2025-2026.

BRIAN KIRKENDALL, EMA DIRECTOR and SAMANTHA SCHEITEL, COUNTY ATTORNEY

Brian Kirkendall, EMA Director and Samantha Scheitel, County Attorney requested to review with the Board the floodplain/floodway ordinance and possible changes that could be made to alleviate some of the current restrictions.

A letter in the form of a template was presented to the Board for their approval, to be sent to property owners by the County when the County becomes aware of any improvements or construction that would be in violation of the current ordinance. The Board agreed that this letter should be forwarded to any property owner when the County has been made aware that possible improvements are being made, etc.

Elijah Kaufman from Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and Jared Reimers representing Congressman Adrian Smith's Office were also in attendance to answer questions and explain the requirements and differences between FEMA's description of floodway and floodplain and the importance for Richardson County to maintain and enforce the State of NE regulations of floodway and floodplains. Mr. Kaufman explained to the Board that a process titled "Letter of Map Revision" could be obtained through a licensed engineer which would be reviewed by FEMA and if approved would allow the change of a floodway area back to a floodplain, moving the floodway to a different area, etc. This process can be costly for the County and Mr. Reimers explained that there could possibly be some federal grant funding available. Mr. Kaufman also suggested that the Natural Resource District could have grant funds available for this as well.

The County will be considering revisions to the current ordinance to be less restrictive and still remain in accordance with the regulations of the State of Nebraska.

BREAK

The Board recess at 1:07 p.m. and Commissioner Karas excused himself from the meeting at 1:07 p.m. due to other commitments. The Board reconvened at 2:00 p.m.

KINGERY CONSTRUCTION

The Board met with representatives from Kingery Construction Co. of Lincoln, NE to review the condition of the tuckpoint on the upper area of the Courthouse and problems with rain water run-off in the lower level tunnel area.

The representatives will compile a report of their findings and submit to the Board for review and consideration for these problems to be corrected by their firm.

August 6, 2026

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER

Fee Reports

Reports were approved for the following officials for fees collected during the month of July, 2025:

Mary L. Eickhoff, County Clerk	\$ 199.00
Mary L. Eickhoff, Register of Deeds	\$9,549.25
Pam Scott, Clerk of District Court	\$ 790.00

Resolution for Allocation of Levy Authority

Motion was made by Karas to adopt Resolution 2025-2026-4 to set the final allocation of tax levy authority to the rural fire districts and agriculture society. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. (Resolution Book 28, Page 63)

Other

Lance Braun from the office Senator Bob Holstrom, District 1 Legislature was present for the meeting today.

A check was received from Nebraska Public Power District for the fiscal year 2025-2026 payment as per agreement in the amount of \$62,171.73.

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

Airstream Heating & Cooling, serv	190.00
Amazon, supp	59.99
Bailey, Stacey, reimb	284.00
BuckIT, serv	7610.46
Child Advocacy Center, fees	1210.00
Clerk of the District Court, fees	147.00
Culligan of Percival, serv	33.60
Eickhoff, Mary, reimb	262.60
Falls City Journal, ads	947.40
Falls City Mercantile, supp	148.53
Falls City Utilities, serv	7315.56
Fankhauser, Nelsen, Werts, Ziskey & Merwin, serv	7190.50
JV22-38, JV23-20, JV21-20, JV21-19, JV24-18, JV24-17, JV24-19, JV24-4, CR25-128 t. Betz, CR25-49, T. Beclard, CR25-40 K. Buis, CR25-10 B. Ramirez, CR25-60 D. Simith	
Farm & City Supply, supp	323.42
First Concord, fees	244.50
Fisher, Robert D., serv	350.00
Halbert, Dunn & Burns, serv	3904.50
JV 24-4	
Hall Funeral Home, serv	2000.00
High Plains Power Systems, serv	450.00
Kollasch Law Office, serv	1551.00
CR25-21 B. Kaler	
Microfilm Imaging Systems, serv	110.00
Midwest Mobile Radio Service, serv	30.00

GENERAL FUND (Cont)

MIPS, Inc., serv	3565.86
Quill, supp	339.65
Region V Systems, serv	2568.00
Register of Deeds, fees	38.00
Richardson County Court, fees	507.02
Richardson County EMA Petty Cash Acct., reimb	57.77
Richardson County Vendor, FICA/retire/etc	27062.01
SNC, serv	1073.97
Summit Fire Protection, serv	833.50
SumnerOne, serv	119.00
US Signal Company, LLC, serv	945.00
Weaver & Merz, reimb	1162.56
Wolfes Printing, supp	271.00
Payroll Expense	117495.27
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$190,401.67

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND

Culligan of Percival, serv	50.00
East Rural Water Dist. #2, serv	46.00
Jim Hawk Truck Trailers, supp	158.19
NMC, supp	1639.73
Norris Quarries, LLC, rock	5885.89
Omaha Public Power District, serv	83.95
Powerplan, serv	131.61
SNC, serv	105.73
Unifirst, supp	55.37
Payroll Expense	43892.10
TOTAL ROAD & BRIDGE FUND	\$52,048.57

REGISTER OF DEEDS P&M FUND

Mips, Inc., serv	324.92
TOTAL REGISTER OF DEEDS P&M FUND	\$324.92

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Campbell to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 p.m. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. The Board will meet again on Wednesday, August 13, 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