

RICHARDSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SEPTEMBER 3, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Richardson County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Caverzagie at 9:01 a.m. on Wednesday, September 3, 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 Campbell to approve the minutes from the August 27, 2025, meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to make a **correction** in the minutes of August 20, 2025, meeting that incorrectly stated that Jim Farwell spoke during the concerned citizens group which should be removed and **replaced with the name of Tom Farwell**. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to approve the August 27, 2025, Board of Equalization minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Karas to approve the August 27, 2025, Safety Committee meeting minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, 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.richardsoncountyne.gov.

ROAD & BRIDGE DEPT.

Highway Superintendent, Steve Darveau updated the Board on the routine maintenance being done on county roads and bridges the past week. With the recent heavy rainfall, he reported that rock hauling is being done, maintainers are dragging roads and equipment repairs are being addressed. Crews are also cleaning out ditches and culverts. Mr. Darveau also reported that he continues to work on grant funding and meeting with highway superintendents and engineers from the surrounding counties to make application for the bi-partisan infrastructure bill that includes grant funding for local road and bridge projects. He is also planning to enroll in a 12-week grant writer course to gain more information on completing grant applications.

I was also reported that the project, NW of Dawson on 637 Avenue between 712 and 713 Road will have installed a headwall on the structure.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to adopt Resolution 2025-2026-6 to authorize the Chairman and Highway Superintendent to sign the Annual Certification of Program Compliance to NE Board of Public Roads Classifications & Standards for 2025. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. This certification is required to secure incentive payments for having a Highway Superintendent. (Resolution Book 28, Page 65)

LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

Sheriff Hardesty updated the Board on the routine business within the Law Enforcement Center this week. He reported there are currently 22 inmates being held at the Jail which includes inmates being held from other counties. He reported on the situation of heavy traffic on Hwy 75 on Thursday, August 28 with the majority of the motorists heading towards Kansas City for the NE football game at Arrowhead Stadium.

Staffing was also discussed and the Sheriff reported that dispatch will be hiring 2 new employees to fill vacancies and a part-time employee to fill in when needed. The deputies are also going to be attending some specialized training courses and an applicant to fill a vacancy position as deputy is being considered.

He also reported that 2 of the 3 patrol units recently ordered have been received and are waiting for the equipment, radio and computer equipment to be installed.

He reported the department statistics for the month of August with a total of 1,039 calls of which 369 were traffic stops, 37 arrests (5 from other agencies, out-of-county holds 4, and 29 arrested by Richardson County). During the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over grant period of August 16 thru September 1 there were 585 calls of which 241 were traffic stops with 11 arrests being made.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Caverzagie to recess the regular meeting agenda and go into an executive session at 10:07 a.m. with Jerry Pigsley, special legal counsel, to discuss pending litigation and for the protection of the public interest. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Karas to close the executive session at 11:05 a.m. and return to the regular meeting agenda. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

No action was taken after the executive session.

REVIEW FY25-26 PROPOSED BUDGET

The Board reviewed the final calculations and the notice of the public budget hearing which will be advertised in next week’s publication of the Falls City Journal and Humboldt Standard. The notice will also be posted on the Richardson County website: www.richardsoncountyne.gov . The Public Budget Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. The Public Hearing to change the tax levy from the prior year to a different rate will be held on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER

Fee Reports

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

Pam Scott, Clerk of Dist. Court	\$ 1,186.00
Mary L. Eickhoff, Register of Deeds	\$ 9,036.00
Mary L. Eickhoff, County Clerk	\$ 338.50

Sub-Division

Motion was made by Karas to approve a subdivision for Susan Mainzer and John Von Seggern located in Section 20, Township 2N, Range 15E and to adopt Resolution 2025-2026-7. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. (Resolution Book 28, Page 66)

Law Enforcement Center Roof

The Board held a discussion on the replacement of the roof at the Law Enforcement Center after it was determined that the roof had received damage from a hailstorm. The Board plans to obtain 3 quotes from different contractors to review the options available for replacement. The County’s insurance carrier has filed claim regarding this damage.

CLAIMS

Motion was made by Campbell to allow the payment of all claims submitted today. Motion seconded by Karas. 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	464.96
Clerk of District Court, fees	147.00
Continental Fire Sprinkler, serv	390.00
Culligan, serv	22.40
DAS State Accounting, serv	3141.29
East Richardson Rural Water District #2, serv	164.86
Falls City Mercantile, supp	173.48
Falls City Utility Dept., serv	7494.14
Fankhauser, Nelsen, Werts, Ziskey & Merwin, serv	3080.50
CR25-168 P. Fellers, CR25-49 T. Beccard, CR25-62 Z. Creamer, CR25-23 T. Rogers, CR25-60 D. Smith, JV22-38, JV21-19	
Karas, Rick, reimb	367.92
Marvin Planning Consultants, serv	1790.00
MIPS, serv	3565.86
NE Dept. of Health & Human Services, serv	93.00
Richardson County Court, fees	633.25
Richardson County EMA, reimb	56.98
Richardson County Vendor, FICA/retire/etc	26161.30
Riggs, Kim, reimb	343.00
Summit Fire Protection, serv	17130.00
UNL, reg	115.00
Verizon, serv	199.85
Payroll Expense	122130.01
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$187,664.80

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND

Barco Municipal Products, supp	993.15
Blue Valley Door Co., serv	5389.00
Culligan, serv	33.60
East Richardson Rural Water #2, serv	46.00
Falls City Auto Supply, supp	656.13
Falls City Utility Dept., serv	449.59
Martin Marietta Materials, rock	36370.09
Norris Quarries, rock	8120.40
OPPD, serv	91.80
Quill, supp	65.76
Unifirst, supp	7.85
Van Dorn Valley Construction, serv	45799.45
Payroll Expense	35944.07
TOTAL ROAD & BRIDGE FUND	\$133,966.89

REG OF DEEDS P&M FUND

MIPS, serv	324.92
TOTAL REG OF DEEDS P&M FUND	\$324.92

INHERITANCE TAX FUND

Falls City Edge, funding	7500.00
TOTAL INHERITANCE TAX FUND	\$7,500.00

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Karas to adjourn the meeting at 11:24 a.m. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. The Board will meet again on Wednesday, September 10, 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