

**RICHARDSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SEPTEMBER 17, 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, September 17, 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.

A motion was made by Karas to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2025, meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campvell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor and on the Richardson County website [www.richardsoncountyne.gov](http://www.richardsoncountyne.gov).

**PLEDGE SECURITY RECEIPTS**

Motion was made by Caverzagie to approve the following pledge security receipt replacements from F&M Bank: Richardson County Clerk, receipt #JC94843B to replace receipt #JC93069B; Richardson County Treasurer, receipt #JC94842D to replace receipt #JC93069A. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

**ROAD & BRIDGE DEPT.**

Highway Superintendent, Steve Darveau, Jr. updated the Board on the routine road and bridge maintenance being done this week. An update was provided on the project NW of Dawson located on 637 Avenue between 712 and 713 Road with plans anticipated to be received from the engineer by next week.

Tyler Bek from School Dist. #56 bus barn delivered an updated map to the Board and Mr. Darveau of the district's school bus routes. While Mr. Bek was at the meeting, a review of the map was held. Mr. Darveau reported that the other school districts within the County have submitted to the Road Department, updated maps of their bus routes.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER**

Sheriff Hardesty updated the Board on the routine business within the Law Enforcement Center this past week. He reported that there are 17 inmates currently being held in the Jail. An interview for a deputy to fill a vacancy will be held next week with a Nebraska Certified candidate. He also reported on the patrol done at the County Fair last week.

Discussion was held on the need to either repair or replace an engine in the 2021 Ford Explorer unit. The Sheriff will be working this next week to get this matter resolved.

**ADOPT FY2025-2026 BUDGET**

Motion was made by Caverzagie to approve the FY25-26 budget document as presented at the public budget hearing held Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. and to adopt Resolution 2025-2026-8. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. (Resolution Book 28, Page 67)

**PUBLIC HEARING TO CHANGE TAX LEVY FROM PRIOR YEAR**

At 10:02 a.m. Chairman Caverzagie presented the proof of publication for a public hearing to receive support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to setting the final tax request at a different amount than the prior year tax request.

No comments from the public were received.

Chairman Caverzagie closed the public hearing at 10:05 a.m.

September 17, 2025

## **SET 2025 TAX LEVY**

Motion was made by Campbell to adopt Resolution 2025-2026-9 to set the 2025 tax levy for the County of Richardson at .300327. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. (Resolution Book 28, Page 68) The 2025 tax levy set at .300327 is an 8.19% decrease from the 2024 tax levy which was set at .327132.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **Liquor License for Crome's Smoke BBQ & Catering, LLC**

At 10:30 a.m. Chairman Caverzagie declared that a public hearing be opened for the purpose of receiving testimony from the public for the issuance of a Class I Beer, Wine, Spirits On Sale Only to Crome's Smoke BBQ & Catering, LLC located at Crome's Smoke BBQ & Catering, 65627 713 Rd, Suite 1, Falls City.

Three people were in attendance from the public and one from the media. The applicants, Matthew and Danelle Bauman-Cromer described the facility and the type of events that will be held at this business.

At 10:37 a.m. Chairman Caverzagie declared the public hearing closed.

Motion was made by Campbell to make a recommendation to the NE Liquor Control Commission to approve the issuance of a Class I liquor license for Crome's Smoke BBQ & Catering, LLC located at Crome's Smoke BBQ & Catering, 65627 713 Rd, Suite 1, Falls City, NE. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-nay. Motion carried.

## **BRIAN KIRKENDALL, EMA DIRECTOR**

Brian Kirkendall, EMA Director requested to meet with the Board to review and have discussion on the opportunity of a buy-out program for property owners within a floodway provided by a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Nebraska Department of Natural Resources grant.

The purpose of the grant is to reduce flood damage and loss of life by removing structures from high flood risk areas and to restore natural floodplain functions. This grant is available to communities to reduce their flood risk by helping homeowners move to a safer place out of the floodplain. The grant would cover most or all, of the cost of purchasing your home or relocating the home to a non-flood zone area. The price offered would be based on established appraisal standards.

Motion by Karas that a letter shall be sent to homeowners within the floodway areas of Richardson County to receive responses of interest from those homeowners in this program. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Kirkendall also presented to the Board a revised ordinance/resolution for floodway and flood fringe districts for review, discussion and future consideration.

County Attorney, Samantha Scheitel was also in attendance for review and discussion on these items.

## **JERAD REIMERS, CONGRESSMAN SMITH REP**

Jerad Reimers, District Coordinator for Congress Adrian Smith provided an update to the Board on the current legislation and work that is being done within Congress. He also reported that Congressman Smith has a Nebraska City District Office located at 202 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite A, Nebraska City, NE 68410, that is available for citizens within the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District to contact, with questions or items that need to be addressed with other federal agencies. The phone number for that office is (402) 874-6050.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Caverzagie to go into an executive session at 11:27 a.m. with special legal counsel, Jerry Pigsley, County Clerk, Mary L. Eickhoff and County Attorney, Samantha Scheitel 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 11:53 a.m. and return to the regular meeting agenda. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Immediately following the executive session, the following action was taken. Motion was made by Karas to send a settlement offer for a contract to the NAPE/AFSCME Local #61 who is the representative of employees employed by the County of Richardson Roads/Highway Department. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

The Settlement Offer and summary of the proposed contract changes can be reviewed on the Richardson County website, [www.richardsoncountyne.gov](http://www.richardsoncountyne.gov).

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER

4-County Juvenile Services

Motion was made by Karas to enter into an Interlocal Agreement for FY 2025-2026 for the Four County Juvenile Diversion program with Johnson, Nemaha, Pawnee and Richardson Counties. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. (Resolution Book 28, Page 69)

Correspondence from Trileaf, Telecommunications Tower

The Board received correspondence inviting comments on the site for the installation of a telecommunications tower described as Trileaf Project #770697, The Towers, LLC-Rulo/Project #US-NE-5185—707 Rd & 660 Ave, Rulo. The County will not provide comment on this project as there is no objection to the project.

Law Enforcement Center Roof

Commissioner Campbell reported that he has been in contact with several different contractors but has not yet received any quotes or estimates for the repair and/or replacement on the original building area roof of the Law Enforcement Center that received damage from a past hailstorm.

CLAIMS

A motion was made by Caverzagie to deny the following claims submitted for reimbursement of purchases made for candy to hand out for the Cobblestone parade: 1) Rick Hardesty for \$126.50 and 2) to Ashley Fischer for \$52.98. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to allow the payment of approved claims that were submitted today. Motion seconded by Campbell. 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	127.00
Amazon, supp	2750.00
Charmtex, supp	67.80
Consolidated Management Company, supp	11044.25
Culligan, serv	174.80
DAS State Accounting, serv	357.50

GENERAL FUND (Cont.)

Eickhoff, Mary L., reimb	142.80
Fairfield Inn & Suites, lodg	539.80
Falls City Mercantile, supp	64.91
Farm & City Supply, supp	9.95
Fields, Odis, reimb	705.36
First Concord, fees	510.00
Froeschl Concrete Construction, serv	800.00
Hy-Vee, supp	92.23
Kawres, supp	535.00
KexRx, supp	1782.28
Koch's Auto Service, serv	192.75
KS Haug Communications, serv	8845.26
Lincoln Nation Life Ins., life ins	1431.22
Malcolm, Terry, serv	420.00
Medica, ins	55777.66
Merz Ink, serv	870.00
Nemaha County Sheriff Office, serv	18.50
Nestor & Mercure, serv	9166.66
O'Reilly Automotive, supp	11.99
ODP Business Solutions, supp	60.76
Olowolafe Law Firm, serv	2403.50
OPPD, serv	33.11
Paper Tiger Shredding, serv	80.00
Petersen Reporting, serv	60.00
Quill, supp	75.23
Radiology Associates, serv	52.00
Ram Exterminators, serv	48.00
Richardson County EMA Petty Cash Acct., reimb	838.58
Richardson County Vendor, FICA/retire/etc	26949.29
Schendel Pest Control, serv	69.88
Secretary of State, training	145.00
SNC, serv	875.84
Weaver & Merz Law Office, reimb	40.43
Payroll Expense	119648.85
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$247,818.19</b>

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND

Black Hills Energy, serv	50.76
Falls City Auto Supply, supp	593.70
Farm & City Supply, supp	294.88
Harmon's, supp	37.50
Hullman's, supp	357.27
Jim Hill's, serv	1600.00
Martin Marietta Materials, rock	26034.31
Midwest Engineering, serv	3936.50
NPPD, serv	32.63
Norris Quarries, rock	7963.50
Operation & Expense Account, reimb	141.71
O'Reilly Automotive, supp	135.89
Primrose Oil Company, supp	3875.12
Unifirst, serv	30.48
Payroll Expense	36068.00
<b>TOTAL ROAD &amp; BRIDGE FUND</b>	<b>\$81,152.25</b>

DRUG COURT FUND

Seth Hawkins, serv	1300.00
Morrissey, Morrissey & Dalluge, serv	1300.00
<b>TOTAL DRUG COURT FUND</b>	<b>\$2,600.00</b>

SHERIFF COMMISSARY FUNDS

Charmtex, supp	51.36
CPC, serv	1909.95
SNC, serv	167.00
<b>SHERIFF COMMISSARY FUNDS</b>	<b>2,128.31</b>

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Karas to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 p.m. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. The Board will meet again on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. for the regular weekly meeting in the Commissioner’s Meeting Room, Courthouse, Falls City. The agenda is kept current at the County Clerk’s Office.

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Caverzagie, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary L. Eickhoff, County Clerk