

**RICHARDSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 14, 2026**

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 14, 2026. 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 Karas to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2026, 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.co.richardson.ne.us.

BOARD REORGANIZATION

Motion was made by Karas to reappoint John Caverzagie as the Chairman of the Board for 2026. Chairman Caverzagie called for a second to the motion and hearing none, motion died for a lack of a second.

Motion was made by Campbell to appoint himself as Chairman of the Board for 2026. Chairman Caverzagie called for a second to the motion and hearing none, motion died for a lack of a second.

After further discussion and later in the meeting, motion was made by Karas to appoint John Caverzagie as Chairman of the Board for 2026. 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 Vice-Chairman for 2026. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-ye, 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 (SENDD) 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.

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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 2026 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 Karas to reappoint Mark Jones, Charles Duryea, Dana Rathje to the Richardson County Planning Commission for a term of 3 years which expires December 31, 2028. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to reappoint Madeline Keller, Kristi Gerweck and Sandra Stalder to the County Visitor's Committee for a term of 4 years which will expire December 31, 2029. Motion seconded by Karas. 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. He reported that the rock trucks and all the maintainers were out on roads.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to recess the regular meeting agenda and go into an executive session at 9:25 a.m. with Steve Darveau, Highway Supt. and County Clerk, Mary L. Eickhoff to discuss personnel matters and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to close the executive session at 9:50 a.m. and return to the regular meeting agenda. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

Sheriff Hardesty updated the Board on the routine business within the Sheriff's Department and Jail this past week. He reported 14 inmates currently being held in the Jail and reported on some staffing changes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Caverzagie to recess the regular meeting agenda and go into an executive session at 10:01 a.m. with Jerry Pigsley, special legal counsel via teleconference and County Clerk, Mary L. Eickhoff, 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 Caverzagie to close the executive session at 10:53 a.m. and return to the regular meeting agenda. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

BRIAN KIRKENDALL, EMA DIRECTOR and WEED SUPT.

Brian Kirkendall, EMA Director presented to the Board the Cross-Jurisdictional Memorandum of Understanding regarding the coordination of delivery and alert, warning and notification messages through FEMA's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS). This MOU does not include the counties of Pawnee and Johnson to have the ability to send messages through IPAWS for Cooper Nuclear Station at Brownville and will supersede the prior MOU that was approved February 7, 2025, and September 15, 2020.

Motion was made by Karas to approve and enter into this Memorandum of Understanding regarding the coordination of delivery and alert, Warning and notification messages through FEMA's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) as presented today. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye,

Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

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EMA DIRECTOR (Cont.)

BRIAN KIRKENDALL, EMA DIRECTOR (Cont.)

Brian Kirkendall, Noxious Weed Supt. presented to the Board the 2025 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.

Motion was made by Karas to approve the 2025 annual report of the Noxious Weed Control Pan 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.

Mr. Kirkendall explained to the Board that he will be traveling in the next month and that he does not carry 2 different cell phones and would need to change the service plan on the EMA Director cell phone while traveling. He requested approval from the Board to change this plan during his travels and that he would reimburse the County for the cost of the plan change during this time. The Board approved this request.

COUNTY TREASURER

County Treasurer, Amanda Bartek-Ramsey presented to the Board the Semi-Annual Report of the county funds, July 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. Motion was made by Karas to accept the report as submitted. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

Motion was made by Caverzagie to reaffirm the appointment of Steve Darveau, Jr. as the Richardson County Highway Superintendent, License #S-1660 Class A for 2026 with an annual salary to be considered at a future meeting. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to reappoint Odis Field as the Richardson County Veterans Service Officer for 2026 with a salary of \$30.00/hour. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Campbell to reappoint Brian Kirkendall as the Richardson County Emergency Manager and the Noxious Weed Control Superintendent for 2026 with an annual salary to be considered at a future meeting. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2025-2026-23 ELECTED OFFICIALS' SALARIES 2027-2030

Motion was made by Caverzagie to adopt Resolution 2025-2026-23 establishing the salaries for county elected officials for the new term of office 2027-2030. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. (Resolution Book 28, Page 88)

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER

Motion was made by Karas to reaffirm the salary increases effective January 1, 2026, that were included within the fiscal year budget 2025-2026 that will include a 2% increase to the following: deputy county clerk, deputy register of deeds, deputy election commissioner, deputy treasurer, deputy assessor, deputy clerk of district court, chief deputy sheriff, deputy EMA director, Extension Office clerical and Courthouse maintenance. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to approve the requested salary increase for the office staff of the County Attorney's Office: full-time clerical/administrative from \$22.50/hour to \$28.00/hour and part-time clerical from \$18.50/hour to \$19.00/hour. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

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CLAIMS

Motion was made by Caverzagie 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	70.92
Ameriflex, fees	70.00
DAS State Acctg., fees	33.00
F&M Bank, fees	52.00
Falls City Journal, ads	93.00
Falls City Mercantile, supp	200.65
Franzen, Linda, prior serv	23.08
Fritz, Jed, serv	720.00
Harring, Barbara, prior serv	37.50
Hy-Vee, supp	62.06
IAO Electric, serv	2860.00
Jones Air Conditioning, serv	297.50
KexRx, serv	1206.64
Kollasch Law Office, fees	3047.00
Midwest Card & ID Solutions, subs	2350.00
NE Notary Association, fee	163.32
Norris, Dan Frank, prior serv	156.00
Physicians Laboratory, fees	4009.50
Quill, supp	39.99
Richardson County Clerk Petty Cash, reimb	40.65
Richardson County EMA Petty Cash, reimb	126.76
Richardson County Sheriff, fees	221.54
Richardson County Sheriff Petty Cash, reimb	846.44
Riggs, Kim, reimb	191.40
Schendel Pest Control, serv	91.38
Stevicks, Billy L., prior serv	208.80
SumnerOne, serv	258.29
Tyler Technologies, sub	5.00
Wolfe's Printing, supp	255.00
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$17,737.42

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND

City of Humboldt, serv	89.86
Falls City Sanitation Service, serv	60.00
NMC, supp	2052.85
Operation & Expense Account, reimb	60.00
Richardson County Vendor, tax	2518.00
Salem, Village of, serv	22.85
Unifirst, supp	77.20
Verdon, Village of, serv	33.52
TOTAL ROAD & BRIDGE FUND	\$4,914.28

DRUG COURT FUND

Morrissey, Morrissey & Dalluge, reimb	199.50
TOTAL DRUG COURT FUND	\$199.50

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ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Karas to adjourn the meeting at 11:52 a.m. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. The Board will meet again on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, 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