

**RICHARDSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 21, 2026**

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, January 21, 2026. 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 January 14, 2026, meeting 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 minutes of the January 14, 2026, Board of Equalization meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

A 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.

EDGE

Lucas Froeschl, Executive Director of the Falls City Economic Development & Growth Enterprise offered to the Board a quarterly report of the organization and also the Annual Report of 2025.

ROAD & BRIDGE DEPT.

Steve Darveau, Jr., Highway Superintendent updated the Board on the routine road and bridge maintenance being done this week. Crews are working on replacing bridge planks and hauling rock. The department is compiling a list surplus vehicles and items for the County Board to review and approve for sale on the auction site of Big Iron.

He reported that he will be attending a presentation on Tuesday, January 27 at 1 p.m. in Nebraska City with Whetrock Quarries at Weeping Water, NE review the product they have available. Otoe, Johnson, and Nemaha county representatives will also be in attendance for this presentation that will be held at the Courthouse.

Pictures and information regarding a situation that is occurring on county bridges in a few areas of the county with items being attached to county bridge structures, appearing to keep livestock from crossing to other properties under the structure were presented to the Board. Attaching or removing anything from a public road and structure is considered an obstruction or damage to the public road/structure and is generally punishable as a Class V misdemeanor. Mr. Darveau will be issuing a press release regarding this matter.

BRIAN KIRKENDALL, EMA DIRECTOR

Brian Kirkendall, EMA Director reviewed with the Board information the office has received regarding a project to replace a boat ramp that the State of Nebraska Game & Parks has begun at Indian Cave State Park which is located in a floodway.

The Board held a discussion on the National Flood Insurance Program and the possibility of the County withdrawing from the program. County Attorney, Samantha Scheitel was in attendance during this discussion and recommended that the Board schedule a specific date and time to advertise that a hearing will be held to receive comments from the public in support of or opposition to possible withdraw from the National Flood Insurance Program. A tentative date has been scheduled for Wednesday, February 11.

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PROJECT RESPONSE

Jill Garcia of Project Response presented to the Board the 2025 4th quarter report and also provided Richardson County's specific statistics for the end of 2025 sharing services offered to the community. The report indicated the following: assistance with 3 protection orders, safe dates have been held in Falls City, 85 food pantry assists, 12 people were helped with clothing needs, 10 hotline calls were received and no requests for shelter were made. She also reported that February is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

Sheriff Hardesty updated the Board on the routine business within the Law Enforcement Center this past week. There are 13 inmates currently being held in the Jail. He reported that the City of Falls City will be replacing the water meter at the Law Enforcement Center and that Airstream will be available to make certain that everything is in proper order after the installation.

The problem with the sewage line for the kitchen area has been cleaned out and a new pump has been installed, which was under warranty.

The Sheriff reported that staff are working on the application for the E-Citation grant to receive funds for the purchase of in-car scanners and printers.

The request was made by the Sheriff to discuss with the Board the possibility of providing a contribution towards family, employee/spouse and employee/child health insurance coverage. The Board received from the Sheriff estimated costs that would be incurred for this added benefit which will be reviewed.

DISCUSSION REGARDING ZONING

Commissioner Campbell requested that time be allowed on the agenda for discussion regarding zoning for the County. He commented that in good faith that he just can't support it and he is against putting zoning regulations on any of his constituents in District 2.

The Board held a discussion regarding the current project with developing a new comprehensive plan and the possibility of the development of zoning regulations.

An audience was present for this discussion and the majority present were in opposition to implementing zoning regulations.

The Board will schedule a time on the January 28, 2026, meeting agenda to consider the termination of the contract for the development of a comprehensive plan and zoning regulations with Marvin Planning Consultants, Inc.

County Attorney, Samantha Scheitel was also available during this discussion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Caverzagie to recess the regular meeting agenda and go into an executive session at 11:22 a.m. with Jerry Pigsley, special legal counsel 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 Karas to close the executive session at 12:51 p.m. and return to the regular meeting agenda. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER

Resolution 2025-2026-24 cancel check

Motion was made by Karas to adopt resolution 2025-2026-24 to cancel a check issued in error. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. (Resolution Book 28, page 92)

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CLAIMS

Motion was made by Karas to allow the payment of all 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

Amazon, supp	288.47
Animal Health Center, serv	23.95
AT&T, serv	982.27
DAS State Accounting, serv	150.00
Farm & City Supply, supp	89.54
First Concord, fees	555.00
Justice Data Solutions, supp	1500.00
Lincoln National Life Ins., prem	24.69
Lynn Peavey Co., supp	120.97
Medica, ins	57822.39
MIPS, serv	323.33
NACO, dues	2027.52
Nebraska.gov, sub	5.00
NE Sheriff's Assoc., dues	380.00
Nemaha County, reimb	6713.84
Nemaha County Sheriff, serv	30.00
Nestor & Mercure, serv	9166.66
Pitney Bowes, supp	107.88
Principal, prem	20.82
Quill, supp	402.28
Ram Exterminators, serv	48.00
Richardson County Vendor, FICA/retire/etc	24089.08
Rieschick Drilling, serv	169.80
Sapp Bros., fuel	9344.07
SumnerOne, serv	84.00
Unifirst, serv	88.69
US Signal, serv	958.80
Vision Care Direct, prem	8.95
Weaver & Merz, reimb	901.95
Payroll Expense	112812.49
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$229,240.44

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND

Agco, supp	342.35
Falls City Auto Supply, supp	332.34
Farm & City Supply, supp	530.47
Farmers Repair, supp	26.00
Interstate Billing Services, supp	4675.00
Martin Marietta Materials, rock	2000.00
Operation & Expense Account, reimb	133.94
NPPD, serv	152.67
O'Reilly Automotive, supp	224.23
Quill, supp	111.68
SNC, serv	104.73
Tri-State Truck & Tractor, supp	17.45
Unifirst, supp	56.31
Wolfe's Printing, supp	364.02
Payroll Expense	35578.45
TOTAL ROAD & BRIDGE FUND	\$44,649.64

DRUG COURT FUND

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

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Karas to adjourn the meeting at 1:02 p.m. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. The Board will meet again on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. for the next 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