

Sioux County Board of Commissioners

Harrison, Nebraska

August 1, 2025

The Sioux County Board of Commissioners met at the Sioux County Courthouse meeting room August 1, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. with the following present: Commissioners J.W. Geiser, Josh Skavdahl and Hal Downer. Also present was County Clerk Michelle Zimmerman. The pledge of allegiance was recited Hal Downer opened the meeting in prayer. Reference was made to the Open Meeting Laws posted in the meeting room. Motion made by Downer, seconded by Geiser to approve the minutes of the July 1 and 21, 2025 meetings. On roll call vote Geiser, yes; Skavdahl, yes; Downer, yes. Motion carried. Motion made by Geiser, seconded by Downer to approve the agenda. On roll call vote, Geiser, yes; Skavdahl, yes; Downer yes. Motion carried. The board met with elected and appointed officials.

The Board approved the following claims: GENERAL FUND: PAYROLL, 55,593.24; AFLAC, employee cafeteria plan, 288.41; Ameritas Life Insurance, employee optical insurance, 176.26; Ameritas Life Insurance, county share retirement, 3,535.62/employee share, 2,465.74; AT&T, phone system, 102.67; Blue Cross/Blue Shield, insurance, 19,284.00; Bytes, IT services, 4,749.39; Centurylink, phone, 321.72; Copier Connection, service, 332.50; Crawford Clipper, publications, 259.85 Crites, & Shaffer Law Office, court costs, 530.98; DAS State Accounting, data processing, 582.00; Eakes Office Solutions, office supplies, 23.80; First Concord Benefits Group, HR fees, reimbursements, 4,291.99; AT & T Mobility, phones, 494.84; JW Geiser, mileage, 882.00; Lacy Klein, mileage, 98.00; Lotton's, fuel, 71.25; Madison National Life ins., insurance, 53.62; MASA Global, insurance, 125.00; Chad McCumbers, supplies, 207.41; Midwest Connect, postage, 412.00; MIPS, Inc., data processing, 2,035.59; NE Dept. of Revenue, state tax, 1,367.17; NEA, electricity, 556.00; Panhandle Area Development District, 25-26 fee, 788.48; Matthew Parker, lawn mowing, 525.00; Platte Valley Bank, sheriff vehicle payment, 13,189.59; Pritchard & Abbott, Inc., mineral appraisal, 300.00; Quill, supplies, 132.86; Quill Corporation, supplies, 277.60; Region 1 Office of Human Development services, 1,642.50; Irene Richey, yrs of service, 19.00; Pine Ridge Service Center, fuel, 883.76; Scotts Bluff County Detention Center, housing, 990.00; Security First Bank, county share social security, 3,158.05/employee share social security, 3,158.05/county share medicare 738.60/employee share medicare 738.60/ withholding, 2,799.68; Sioux County District Court, checks, 33.25; Sioux Co. Insurance Trust Fund, employee cafeteria plan, 458.33; Josh Skavdahl, mileage, 942.60; Skavdahl, Edmund & Stecher, office rent, 200.00/clerical, 150.00/phone, 24.48/costs, 100.00; Smith, King & Simmons, PC, court costs, 50.00; Transfer to Road Fund, 50,000.00; Transunion Risk & Alternative, services, 120.00; US Federal Contractor Registration, fee, 2,697.00; Village of Harrison, utilities, 555.20; Windbreak Cable internet, 226.30.

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND: PAYROLL: 40,561.26; AFLAC, employee cafeteria plan, 1,103.53; Ameritas Life Insurance, optical insurance, 196.34; Ameritas Life Insurance, county share retirement, 2,386.61/employee share retirement, 1,591.07; Aulick, supplies, 19.65; Beef State Agency, insurance, 163.00; Beguin Propane, fuel, 678.72; Blue Cross/Blue Shield, insurance, 18,572.97; Centurylink, internet, 83.59; Crush-Tech, gravel crushing, 49,000.00; Dooley Oil, fuel, 4,045.51; Herren's, repairs, 339.94; Legacy

Cooperative, supplies, 367.07; Lotton's, repairs, 20.00; Madison National Life ins., life insurance, 90.85; MASA Global, insurance, 100.00; Morrill Hardware, supplies, 222.07; Morrill Supply, supplies, 227.80; NE Dept. of Revenue, employee withholding, 1,949.42; NEA, electricity, 78.70; Powerplan, repairs, 53.98; Pine Ridge Service Center, fuel, 7,097.94; Security First Bank, county share social security, 2,221.41/employee share social security, 2,221.41/county share medicare, 519.52/employee share medicare, 519.52/withholding, 1,866.34; Skeeter's Napa, parts, 101.94; SMS Powertrain & Hardware, LLC, repairs, 830.78; TDS Environmental Services, garbage, 35.00; U-Save Mart, fuel, 493.70; Village of Harrison, utilities, 106.25; Village of Morrill, electricity, 96.24; Rodney Craig Zwetzig, physical reimbursement, 100.00.

REGISTER OF DEEDS PRESERVATION AND MODERNIZATION FUND: MIPS, data processing, 392.43.

LIBRARY FUND: PAYROLL: \$1,940.32; Ameritas Life Insurance, county share retirement, 130.97/employee share retirement, 87.31; Bluffs Facility Solutions, supplies 118.85; Books-A-Million, books, 320.68; Herren's, supplies, 43.96; Junior Library Guild, books, 1,301.50; NE Dept. of Revenue, employee withholding, 15.72; NE Library Commission, overdrive, 500.00; NEA, electricity, 78.23; NT & T, phone, 80.96; Sarah Sanderson, supplies, 145.76; Security First Bank, county share social security, 120.30/employee share social security 120.30/county share medicare, 28.13/employee share medicare 28.13; Village of Harrison, water, 66.25; Windbreak Cable, internet, 59.95.

NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL FUND: Centurylink, internet, 83.60; Herren's, supplies, 26.99; Lotton's, service, 137.84; Westco, supplies, 941.62.

Jay Sturtevant, Superintendent at Agate Fossil Beds and Scotts Bluff National Monument met with the board and advised them that the Department of the Interior has directed them to pause any wind and solar projects at this time.

No one from the public was present to speak.

Michelle Zimmerman, Sioux County Clerk, submitted financial reports to the board.

Motion made by Geiser, seconded by Downer to hold the 2025-2026 Sioux County Budget Hearing on September 25, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. On roll call vote, Geiser, yes; Downer, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

Pursuant to Neb. Rev. 77-3443, the Sioux County Board of Commissioners received preliminary property tax requests from the following political subdivisions: Village of Harrison, Harrison Rural Fire Protection District, Sioux County Fair, and Sheep Creek & Farmers Rural Fire. The following resolutions were all adopted by a motion made by J.W. Geiser, seconded by Hal Downer, and passed by roll call vote: Geiser, yes; Downer, yes; Skavdahl yes. Motion carried.

WHEREAS, the Sioux County Board of Commissioners has the duty of reviewing and either approving or disapproving the levy request of all political subdivisions allowed to levy a tax for tax year 2025-2026 under Neb. Rev. Stat. 77-3443;

WHEREAS, the Sioux County Board of Commissioners has received and reviewed the tax request submitted by the Village of Harrison Nebraska, requesting a preliminary tax request for tax year 2025-2026 of \$46,000.00;

WHEREAS, the Sioux County Board of Commissioners has received and reviewed the tax request submitted by the Sheep Creek & Farmers Rural Fire. Requesting a preliminary tax request for the year 2025-2026 of \$88,740;

WHEREAS, the Sioux County Board of Commissioners has received and reviewed the tax request submitted by the Harrison Rural Fire Protection District, requesting a preliminary tax request for tax year 2025-2026 of \$92,500.00 plus County Treasurer's Commission of \$1,850.00 for a total of \$94,350.00 for all other purposes subject to its levy for the year 2025-2026;

WHEREAS, the Sioux County Board of Commissioners has received and reviewed the tax request submitted by the Sioux County Fair requesting a preliminary tax request of \$37,500.00 plus County Treasurer's Commission of \$750.00 for a total of \$38,250.00 for all other purposes subject to its levy for the year 2025-2026.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Sioux County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the requested tax requests submitted by the foregoing political subdivisions under Neb. Rev. Stat. 77-3443(8) providing the County with the responsibility of allocating up to fifteen cents of its authority to other political subdivisions subject to allocation of property tax authority under subsection (1) of 77-3443 and not specifically covered in this section to levy taxes as authorized by law which do not collectively exceed fifteen cents per one hundred dollars of taxable valuation on any parcel or item of taxable property.

Motion made by Geiser, seconded by Downer to designate MIPS as the printer for Joint Public Hearing postcards. On roll call vote, Downer, yes; Geiser, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

Lacy Klein, County Treasurer, submitted financial reports to the Board.

Sheriff McCumbers submitted financial reports to the board and gave an update on recent activities. Motion made by Downer, seconded by Geiser to approve a USDA contract. On roll call vote, Downer, yes; Geiser, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

Ashley Ahrens met with the board regarding extension office activities. Ashley will be going on maternity leave soon. Motion made by Geiser, seconded by Downer to approve Sheena Rodenbaugh to replace Nick Sanderson on the extension board. On roll call vote, Downer, yes; Geiser, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

Ryan Powers, District Supervisor with USDA Wildlife Services met with the board to review a contract with USDA APHIS for predator control. Dawes County has signed the contract. Currently, they are trying to hire someone to service Dawes and Sioux Counties. The agreement is a cost reimbursable agreement. Motion made by Geiser, seconded by Downer to approve the contract. On roll call vote, Downer, yes; Geiser, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

The current sick leave policy was reviewed. Motion made by Downer, seconded by Geiser to approve the policy. On roll call vote, Downer, yes; Geiser, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

County Attorney Edmund entered the meeting. Sheriff McCumbers, Shawn Noon and Garrette Naillon met with the board. Sheriff McCumbers submitted claims for Noon and Naillon for back pay, stating that the rate of pay was wrong between the budgeted approved amount and the hourly wage for years 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. Attorney Edmund advised the board that the additional rate of pay was agreed to with the employees, but the rate was not communicated to payroll personnel. Motion made by Downer, seconded by Geiser to make the wages correct. On roll call vote, Downer, yes; Geiser, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Downer, seconded by Geiser to approve Resolution 2024-5, The County Annual Certification of Program Compliance to the Nebraska Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards. On roll call vote, Downer, yes; Geiser, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried. A copy of the resolution can be viewed at the Sioux County Clerk's office.

Road Superintendent Eric McCoy met with the board and reported on department activities. Motion made by Downer, seconded by Geiser to raise Eric McCoy's salary to \$75,000 for additional duties of weed superintendent. On roll call vote, Downer, yes; Geiser, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

McCoy advised the board that there are 6 pits to be used for crushing gravel, those will be Chase Staudenmaier, Lonnie Douthit, Jud Skavdahl, Matt Tighe, Jo Ann Schneider and Ben Janssen.

A budget workshop was held.

There being no further business to come before the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m. The Sioux County Board of Commissioners will meet September 2, 2025.

Notice: Recently posted minutes may be subject to final approval and correction by the Board of Equalization and Board of Commissioners.

/s/Josh Skavdahl  
Chairman of the Board

/s/Michelle J. Zimmerman  
Sioux County Clerk

