

Sioux County Board of Commissioners

Harrison, Nebraska

February 2, 2026

The Sioux County Board of Commissioners met at the Sioux County Courthouse meeting room February 2, 2026 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. J.W. Geiser 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 January 2, 2026 meeting. 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, 53,907.79; AFLAC, employee cafeteria plan, 288.41; Ameritas Life Insurance, county share retirement, 3,462.49/employee share, 2,410.25; AT&T, phone system, 104.52; Blue Cross/Blue Shield, insurance, 19,000.23; Bytes, IT services, 4,652.19; Centurylink, phone, 644.04; Crawford Clipper, ads, 328.42; Crites & Shaffer Law Office, court costs, 70.00; Crowne Plaza, room, 289.90; DAS State Accounting, data processing, 582.00; Douglas, Kelly, Ostdiek, Et Al, county court fees, 500.00; Eakes Office Solutions, office supplies, 291.07; Fairfield Inn, room, 749.70; First Concord Benefits Group, HR fees, reimbursements, 951.83; AT & T Mobility, phones, 501.20; Dennelle Fischer, janitor supplies, 28.23; JW Geiser, mileage, 564.20; Government Forms & Supplies, supplies, 265.98; Herren's, supplies, 119.98; Horse Creek Tire, supplies, 17.57; Lacy Klein, mileage/security, 200.50; Life First Learning, program, 180.00; Lotton's Service & Repair, repair, 102.10; Madison National Life Ins., insurance, 53.62; MASA Global, insurance, 125.00; Chad McCumbers, reimbursements, 50.27; MIPS, Inc., data processing, 2,035.59; NACO, registrations, 485.00; NE Association of County Assessors, dues, 100.00; NE District Court Clerks Association, dues, 50.00; NE Dept. of Revenue, state tax, 1,474.42; NKC Tire, supplies, 1,909.15; NEA, electricity, 1,998.28; Panhandle Co. Assessors Association, dues, 125.00; Print Express, supplies, 392.18; Pye-Barker Fire Safety, inspections, 61.00; Quill, supplies, 279.24; Irene Richey, yrs of service, 19.00; Pine Ridge Service Center, fuel, 514.61; Roanco Sprinklers, maintenance, 313.90; Security First Bank, county share social security, 3,073.45/employee share social security, 3,073.45/county share medicare 718.79/employee share medicare 718.79/ withholding, 2,647.04; Security First Bank, box rent, 25.00; Sioux Co. Insurance Trust Fund, employee cafeteria plan, 200.00; Skavdahl, Edmund & Stecher, office rent, 200.00/clerical, 150.00/phone, 25.50; LeAnne Skavdahl, supplies, 54.94; Transfer to Library Fund, 3,000.00; Transfer to Noxious Weed Fund, 3,000.00; Transfer to Road Fund, 90,000.00; Transunion Risk & Alternative, services, 120.00; USDA, APHIS, predator control contract, 350.76; Village of Harrison, utilities, 385.20; Village of Harrison, speed signs, 4,499.66; Vision Service Plan, eye insurance, 170.33; Windbreak Cable internet, 179.8; Michelle Zimmerman, mileage, 318.28.

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND: PAYROLL: 45,590.47; AFLAC, employee cafeteria plan, 1,278.05; Ameritas Life Insurance, county share retirement, 2,899.18/employee share retirement, 1,932.75; Beguin Propane,

propane, 967.37; Blue Cross/Blue Shield, insurance, 21,116.76; Caterpillar Financial Services, equipment payments, 82,110.71; Centurylink, internet, 83.79; Dooley Oil, fuel, 2,094.23; Herren's, repairs, 145.93; Inland Truck Parts and Service, repairs, 2,386.50; Legacy Cooperative, repair, 896.71; Logoz, LLC, safety vests, 742.00; Lotton's Service and Repair, repairs, 171.00; Madison National Life ins., life insurance, 90.85; MASA Global, insurance, 100.00; Morrill Hardware, supplies, 26.12; Morrill Supply, repairs, 146.94; NE Dept. of Revenue, employee withholding, 1,014.45; NE Machinery, repairs, parts, 1,263.58; NEA, electricity, 109.64; Powerplan, repairs, 6,398.07; Pye-Barker Fire Safety, inspections, 169.00; Pine Ridge Service Center, fuel, 5,475.89; Security First Bank, county share social security, 2,493.28/employee share social security, 2,493.28/county share medicare, 583.10/employee share medicare, 583.10/withholding, 2,132.10; Skeeter's Napa, repairs, 186.66; TDS Environmental Services, 70.00; U-Save Mart, fuel, 335.98; Village of Harrison, utilities, 106.25; Village of Morrill, electricity, 106.89; Vision Service Plan, eye insurance, 157.32.

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

LIBRARY FUND: PAYROLL: \$1,994.20; Ameritas Life Insurance, county share retirement, 134.61/employee share retirement, 89.74; Books-A-Million, books, 510.15; Herren's, supplies, 18.99; Kent Adhesive Products, Company, supplies, 48.35; NE Dept. of Revenue, employee withholding, 15.85; NEA, electricity, 262.15; NT & T, phone, 84.86; Roanco Sprinklers, maintenance, 190.00; Sarah Sanderson, mileage, 120.35; Security First Bank, county share social security, 123.64/employee share social security 123.64/county share medicare, 28.92/employee share medicare 28.92; Village of Harrison, water, 66.25; Windbreak Cable, internet, 59.95.

NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL FUND: PAYROLL: 898.58; Ameritas Life Insurance, county share retirement, 60.65/ employee share retirement, 40.43; Centurylink, internet, 83.79; Fairfield Inn, room, 374.85; NE Dept. of Revenue, state tax, 22.97; NE Weed Control Association, dues, conference, 385.00; Security First Bank, county share social security, 55.71 /employee share social security, 55.71/county share medicare, 13.03/employee share medicare, 13.03/withholding, 63.47.

Motion made by Downer, seconded by Geiser to advertise for the custodial position and the maintenance position at the courthouse. On roll call vote, Downer, yes; Geiser, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

Kerri Rempp, Discover Northwest Nebraska Director met with the board to discuss outfitters collecting and submitting lodging tax. Geiser stated that on some websites, the outfitters are offering lodging in addition to hunting services. Motion made by Geiser, seconded by Downer to approve Rempp sending a letter to the NE State Tax Commissioner for a final determination on the requirement of lodging/hunting services being subject to lodging tax. On roll call vote, Geiser, yes; Downer, yes, Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

Val Jansante, representative of Congressman Adrian Smith's office met with the board to update them.

Spike Jordan met with the board and discussed many Nebraska legislative issues.

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

Lacy Klein, County Treasurer, submitted financial reports to the Board. Klein provided the delinquent tax sale list to the board.

Sheriff McCumbers provided a financial report and updated the board on recent activities, there have been changes in part-time staff.

At 10:15 a.m. a motion to enter inter executive session for the protection of the public interest was made by Downer, seconded by Geiser. Roll call vote, Geiser, yes; Downer, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried. At 10:34 a.m. a motion to reconvene to regular session with no action taken during executive session was made by Geiser, seconded by Downer. On roll call vote, Downer, yes; Geiser, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

Brock Ortner, Livestock Systems Educator for UNL Extension updated the board on upcoming events. Discussion was held regarding reproductive rates in cattle.

Austin Paxson, Project Manager with Nextera Energy and David Levy, Baird Holm, LLP met with the board regarding Sioux County Wind Farm, LLC's conditional use permit. David Levy and Austin Paxson provided a verbal report of the action steps taken before and since the date that the Sioux County, NE Board of Commissioners approved Nextera's conditional use permit for their conditional use (commercial wind energy electricity production), including regulatory agency permitting, surveying and securing a generation interconnection agreement with Black Hills Energy. Nextera will submit a written report on the progress of the project and thereafter every 6 months. Deputy County Attorney Skavdahl reviewed the Planning and Zoning Regulations regarding conditional use permits with the board. Motion made by Geiser, seconded by Downer to find that Nextera's permitted conditional use had lawfully commenced at the date of approval of Nextera's conditional use permit (May 23, 2024), and that the conditional use continued from that date through the current date. On roll call vote, Downer, yes; Geiser, yes; Skavdahl, yes. Motion carried.

Jay Sturdevant, Agate Fossil Beds Superintendent and Vince Davis, Facility Manager met with the board to discuss the resurfacing of the west end of River Road. Studies will be done this spring, with contracting done next summer. The speed limit on the road was discussed.

Justin Tollman discussed the insurance renewal with the board.

Ryan Powers and Tim Brewer, USDA-Aphis Wildlife Services met with the board to discuss progress on hiring an individual for predator control services. Vic Rivera and Wally Juhlin, Dawes County Commissioners and Steve Burke, Box Butte County Commissioner were in attendance as well. State and Federal funding to help with predator control is needed. A plane is available now, and Powers is hoping to get someone hired and on board soon.

There being no further business to come before the meeting was adjourned at 2:22 p.m. The Sioux County Board of Commissioners will meet March 2, 2026.

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