

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DODGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Regular meeting of the Dodge County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Missel at 9:00 A.M. on Wednesday, September 3, 2025 in the Board Room of the Courthouse, Fremont, Nebraska with the following members present: Beam, Giesselmann, Strand, Backens, Missel, Tawney and Bendig. Absent: None. Prior to roll call Chairman Missel announced the meeting to be an open public meeting and that the current open meeting laws are posted on the wall and available for anyone to review.

The Board unanimously declared the meeting legally convened.

The Board unanimously approved the agenda as printed and received and placed on file county officials' reports, notice of annual inspection of the Dodge County jail facility on September 4, 2025 for the Nebraska Jail Standards Board, Certificates of Liability Insurance for Telcom Construction, LLC and Kohl Construction Inc., Minutes of the August 19, 2025 Dodge County Planning Commission meeting, and Utility Installation Agreement for Janak Farms to install a 24" casing pipe for Michael Ortmeier between sections 34 & 3, T18N & 19N, R5E. It was also noted that agenda item 29, Public Hearing on the proposed 2025-2026 Dodge County Budget, will be moved after agenda item 32 on the Board of Supervisors' agenda.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the August 20, 2025 meeting as printed.

At 9:05 A.M., the Board recessed as a Board of Supervisors and convened as a Board of Corrections. Chairman Missel dispensed with roll all members being present.

Under any items of discussion, Supervisor Beam reported that that there are currently 57 inmates in custody with 39 being held in Saunders County, 14 in Washington County, 1 at the Lincoln Regional Center and 3 at the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. In the month of August, 123 individuals were booked into custody. On Labor Day weekend, there were 11 individuals booked into custody.

At 9:06 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 9:05 A.M.

Immediately thereafter, the Board reconvened as a Board of Supervisors. Chairman Missel dispensed with roll all members being present.

The Board unanimously approved the wage & hour claims as submitted in the amount of \$292,812.88.

The Board unanimously approved the financial claims as submitted in the amount of \$403,651.36.

Michael Eason, President of the Cotterell Diking and Drainage District was present to request funding for repairs along the dike between North Bend and Legges Lake. Mr. Eason said there are several spots that have eroded and may pose a problem when there are flooding events in the future. He said flooding on the Platte River could go into Eason Lake and progress into Legges Lake and potentially flood County Road 11, which would strand

the people living on Legges Lake. The temporary plan is to preposition 60 loads of concrete on private property along the bank of the river that would be used to fill any breaches in the dike as they occur. The Army Corp of Engineers approval is not needed since the work would be done on the bank of the river. Mr. Eason has gotten a commitment from the Lower Platte North Natural Resource District of 40% of the total cost of the project, not to exceed \$7,000. He is requesting the same commitment from Dodge County. Dodge County Emergency Manager Tom Smith confirmed that there is degradation on the dike from flooding in 2019, 2020 and 2021. The estimated cost for this temporary mitigation plan is \$12,000. He said there are funds in the Flood Control Fund that could be used for this project. Mr. Eason said the long-term plan is to have a study conducted that would determine the best action to take on the dike. A study takes at least two years to complete and any changes recommended as a result of this study would require approval from the Federal Government. The Board unanimously approved a contribution of 40% of the total cost of the project, not to exceed \$7,000.

The Board unanimously approved Chairman Missel's signature on the *Participation Package* for Opioids Settlement with Secondary Manufacturers (Alvogen, Amneal, Apotex, Hikma, Indivior, Mylan, Sun and Zydus).

The Board unanimously approved setting a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) of 3.2% to be effective starting 8/30/2025 for Dodge County Elected Officials. Supervisor Bendig explained what Consumer Price Index (CPI) information was used from the Bureau of Labor Statistics to determine what the CPI rate is for this region. He said the finance committee used the period from June 2024 – June 2025 because it is the end of the fiscal year. He pointed out that it is not a one-month period, but an accumulation of a twelve-month period from which the rate is calculated.

The Board unanimously approved setting a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) of 3.2% to be effective starting 8/30/2025 for Dodge County employees (excluding Elected Officials).

Don Stienike (2766 Eastgate Road, Fremont, NE) addressed the Board to ask if the county could mow the ditch. He said when he first moved there, he could mow it himself, but there are drainage problems, and he can't get in to mow it. He added that a lot of people come out to that area, and he would like it to look nice.

Committee Reports – Supervisor Strand reported that drywall will be going up in the Election Office in two weeks.

The Board unanimously received information from NIRMA regarding onsite property inspections/appraisals for all buildings, contents and property and the opportunity to cover historic property on a reproduction cost basis and authorized HCA Asset Management, LLC to inspect and appraise the buildings on Dodge County's schedule. Zoning Administrator Jean Andrews explained that the premium for reproduction cost coverage is substantially more than replacement cost coverage. After the appraisal, the difference in the cost of coverage will be identified and the Board can make a more informed decision about which coverage to obtain.

At 9:34 A.M., a Public Hearing was held to consider the request of John Snover of 1315 Hwy 275, Nickerson, NE 68044 to consider a Preliminary Plat of Piedmont Country Replat 1 of 60.57 acres located in South ½ of SE ¼ Section 34, Township 19 North, Range 8 East and in the North ½ NE ¼ Section 3, Township 18 North, Range 8 East in Nickerson

and Hooper Townships, Zoning District A-2, General Ag. Zoning Administrator Jean Andrews reported that the Dodge County Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of this Preliminary Plat of Piedmont Country Replat 1. Hearing no testimony for or against this request, the Board unanimously approved the Preliminary Plat. Ms. Andrews said Milestone Land Surveying, LLC will prepare the Final Plat which will come back to the Board for approval.

Zoning Administrator Jean Andrews reminded the Board that registration is open for the NIRMA Annual Conference to be held October 23rd and 24th.

Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert reported that employees are working on washed out culvert repairs, grading in the west part of the county, mowing and pothole patching. All of these activities have been adversely affected by the rain. The State still needs to finish striping and signage on Platte River Road. Nebraska Department of Transportation District Engineer Tom Goodbarn asked again if Superintendent Huppert has the signed contract for the Platte River Road relinquishment; the contract is with County Attorney Hopkins until the State completes their work. The concrete work on the west side of Dodge is ongoing and there have been a lot of complaints from people using the road; one lane is open all the time. The company that will be lining the culverts on the Herman/Scribner Road are scheduled to start tomorrow. While this construction is going on there will be one lane open. Burns and McDonnell have provided 30% of their costs to Superintendent Huppert; these expenses will have to be approved by the Board and then to the Port Authority for payment. A & R Construction is 2-3 weeks behind schedule for the box culvert on Luther Road; the estimated start date is now mid-October. The Nebraska Local Technical Assistance Program is putting on grader operator training the week of September 15th – 19th. The classes are full and will be conducted at the Dodge County shop; there will be a few county employees taking this training. Next week Superintendent Huppert will be attending a refresher course for bridge training in Lincoln and a NACO district meeting in Norfolk on Friday. The county received \$641,587 for the FEMA ditch cleanout project that was a result of the storms in the summer of 2024.

The Board unanimously received the Declaration of County Disaster authorized under Nebraska State Statute R.R.S. 81-829.50 for the July 29, 2025 industrial incident.

At 09:57 A.M., the Board unanimously passed a motion to go into closed session to discuss general assistance claims.

At 10:14 A.M., the Board unanimously passed a motion to go back into open session from the discussion of the claims. No action was taken on any of the claims as a result of the closed session.

Immediately thereafter, the Board recessed as a Board of Supervisors and convened as a Board of Equalization. Chairman Missel dispensed with roll all members being present.

The Board unanimously approved tax roll corrections #5787 through #5789.

The Board unanimously received and referred to County Attorney Hopkins correspondence from the Nebraska Tax Equalization and Review Commission (TERC) regarding the following: Order for Hearing & Notice of Hearing for RVR Bank fka First State Bank & Trust Co., Case Nos. 23C 0115 & 24C 0623, Order for Continuance for Black Heart Investments, Case Nos. 24R 0689, 24R 0690, 24R 0691, 24R 0692, 24R 0693, 24R 0694 & 24R 0695, Order for Single Commissioner Hearing & Notice of Hearing for Black Heart

Investments, Case No. 24R 0689, Order for Single Commissioner Hearing & Notice of Hearing for Black Heart Investments, Case No. 24R 0690, Order for Single Commissioner Hearing & Notice of Hearing for Black Heart Investments, Case No. 24R 0691, Order for Single Commissioner Hearing & Notice of Hearing for Black Heart Investments, Case No. 24R 0692, Order for Single Commissioner Hearing & Notice of Hearing for Black Heart Investments, Case No. 24R 0693, Order for Single Commissioner Hearing & Notice of Hearing for Black Heart Investments, Case No. 24R 0694, Order for Single Commissioner Hearing & Notice of Hearing for Black Heart Investments, Case No. 24R 0695, Notice of Appeal for Chase Steele, Case No. 25R 0048, Findings and Order on Confession of Judgement for Gary D. Pebley, Case No. 23R 0447, Findings and Order on Confession of Judgement for Gary D. Pebley, Case No. 23R 0448 and Findings and Order on Confession of Judgement for Gary D. Pebley, Case No. 23R 0449. County Attorney Hopkins reported that a settlement has been reached with RVR Bank.

The Board unanimously granted a Homestead Exemption to Michael A. Kingry, 1617 N. Hancock St., Fremont, NE 68025 due to this being the first time he has filed late.

At 10:21 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Equalization until September 17, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.

Immediately thereafter, the Board reconvened as a Board of Supervisors. Chairman Missel dispensed with roll all members being present.

At 10:21 A.M., a Public Hearing was held on the proposed FY2025/2026 County Budget. Former County Clerk Fred Mytty, who assists Dodge County in the budgeting process, prepared a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed budget. Mr. Mytty recognized the efforts of department heads to keep their budgets within the requested limits. He said this is the first year since preCovid 2018 that cash reserves are back up to \$8.5 million. He also commended Chairman Missel's work with local banks that allowed the county to get loans (primarily for the 2019 flood event) paid back including interest. Mr. Mytty explained that \$2.2 million worth of transfers is proposed into tax supported funds from the Inheritance Tax fund; these transfers lower the amount of tax dollars needed in these funds. Chairman Missel reminded the Board of the likelihood that Inheritance Taxes to counties will go away. It was determined that a small tax increase is needed and a slight increase in levy is needed. The levy in 2024 was \$.220267 per \$100 of value of property, the State average levy for counties is \$.2641. The State average levy for counties over 20,000 in population is \$.2887. The proposed levy for 2025 in Dodge County is \$.220731 per \$100 of value of property or a 46-cent increase in taxes on a \$100,000 piece of property. There was no testimony for or against the proposed budget. The Board will set the County's tax request at the September 17, 2025 meeting of the Dodge County Board of Supervisors.

At 10:37 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Supervisors until Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 9:00 A.M.

Micki Gilfry
Dodge County Clerk