

## **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 17, 2025 in the Board Room of the Courthouse, Fremont, Nebraska with the following members present: Beam, Giesselmann, Backens, Missel and Bendig. Absent: Strand and Tawney. 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, correspondence from Charter Communications regarding a change in channel lineup, correspondence from Miller & Associates Consulting Engineers, P.C. regarding the Village of Dodge Auditorium Replacement, Certificate of Insurance for Lumen Technologies, Inc. and CenturyLink Communications, LLC, NIRMA Safety Shorts for September 2025, Center for Rural Affairs correspondence regarding renewable energy development in Dodge County and Notice of Public Hearings for Douglas County Planning Commission to be held September 17, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. to hear request of Jon Carrell for a Farmstead Lot Split located at 6220 S. 234th St., Section 10, T14, Range 10 and a request for a Rezone at the same address.

The board unanimously approved the minutes of the September 3, 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 except for Supervisors Strand and Tawney.

Under any items of discussion, Supervisor Beam said he did not receive a report on the status of Dodge County inmates in custody. County Attorney Hopkins reported that there are currently 60 inmates in custody with 4 of those individuals being held offsite and the remainder being housed in either Saunders or Washington County.

At 9:06 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, October 1, 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 except for Supervisors Strand and Tawney.

The Board unanimously approved the wage & hour claims as submitted in the amount of \$306,633.79.

The Board unanimously approved the financial claims as submitted in the amount of \$514,360.33.

The Board unanimously received a list from County Treasurer Winterstein of delinquent taxes for years 2019 and prior and through 2023 which have been offered for sale at public sale and remain unsold and unanimously passed a motion adopting and

authorizing Chairman Missel and County Clerk Gilfry to sign a Resolution directing the County Treasurer to place Tax Sale Certificates on said delinquent taxes. Supervisor Bendig read the Resolution for the record.

At 9:10 A.M., a Public Hearing was held for the purpose of hearing support or opposition on setting the tax rate different from 2024-2025. Hearing no support or opposition to setting the tax rate different from 2024-2025, Chairman Missel closed the public hearing. The Board unanimously adopted a Resolution setting Dodge County's tax request at \$14,430,834 (Tax Rate (\$'s/\$100 of value) = \$0.220731) for fiscal year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 and authorized the necessary signatures on the Resolution. Supervisor Bendig read the Resolution for the record. The Resolution also states that Dodge County is below the statutory limit of 2% plus growth over the previous year's tax request as stated in LB644 and does not have to participate in the joint public hearing to be held on September 18, 2025.

The Board unanimously certified the Total Unused Property Tax Request Authority available for future years with a carryover amount of \$1,863,398.48 to next year's budget.

The Board unanimously adopted a Resolution approving the 2025/2026 Dodge County Budget and authorized the signatures of the Dodge County Board of Supervisors on the Resolution. Supervisor Bendig read the Resolution for the record.

The Board unanimously adopted a Resolution approving transfers as outlined in the 2025/2026 County Budget and authorized the necessary signatures on the Resolution. Supervisor Bendig read the Resolution for the record.

The Board unanimously authorized County Clerk Gilfry and County Treasurer Winterstein to close out the following old funds that have had no activity for three or more years: Construction Bonds Fund, County Drug & Law Enforcement Fund, Federal Forfeiture Fund, Durham Family Sheriff Grant Fund and Road Construction Bonds Fund.

The Board unanimously received and approved the request from Sheriff Weitzel to declare two 2016 and one 2017 Ford Explorers as surplus property and authorized taking the vehicles to Jack Nitz & Associates for auction.

The Board unanimously approved the Conservation Easement Application from the Natural Resources Conservation Service for Thomas Johnson and authorized Chairman Missel's signature on the application.

The Board unanimously received the Membership Certificate from Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District (NENEDD) and confirmed the changes needed to the county's contact information that will be communicated to NENEDD.

Zoning Administrator Jean Andrews presented the difference in the cost for replacement and the cost for reproduction property coverage for the May Museum and the Dodge County Courthouse from NIRMA. She said this is the year NIRMA will be doing appraisals on these properties, but they won't be done until next spring or summer. She added that the property coverage costs should be available before the next premium is due, so the Board could make a change in the coverage at that time. The Board consensus is to keep the replacement property coverage, but since that is the coverage the county currently holds, no action was needed.

The Board unanimously approved the request for payment to Burns & McDonnell for Morningside Road improvements, Project 185002 of 10% completion. The payment of \$69,550 will be made by the Fremont Municipal Inland Port Authority but needs to be approved by the Dodge County Board of Supervisors since it is road work. Highway Superintendent Huppert said this payment is for road engineering and survey work done thus far. He said there will be another payment request around the end of October for 60% of the road engineering work they have completed; 90% of the road engineering work done will be billed around the end of November. An estimate for when groundwork will begin is August-September of 2026.

Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert reported grading work continues on County Road O off Highway 79 and should be done within the next week. Shredding and culvert repairs are being done when the weather permits. Grader training has been going on this week at the Dodge County shop put on by the Nebraska Local Technical Assistance Program. The State has finished most of the signage on Platte River Road; Superintendent Huppert discussed (with the State) finalizing the signage for County Road 4 and Ridgeland Road where they meet up with Platte River Road. The project with the Union Pacific Railroad on County Road 6 is currently with the railroad's design and surveying team. Work on this may begin in November if the weather allows, otherwise it will be pushed back to Spring of 2026. J & R Concrete is working quickly on County Road 2 on the west side of Dodge; when harvest begins, they will stop the work. The culverts on the Herman Scribner Road are done; Superintendent Huppert said the construction company took a video of the epoxy lining being installed. This process saves a lot of money and the State has begun to use it for the cost savings and the reduction in complete road closures. The City of Fremont will be moving the underground power lines near the box culvert project on Luther Road; Superintendent Huppert is not sure if they will ask the county for financial support to do this. The construction company is two weeks behind their schedule on this project; they plan to start mid-October. The deadline for completion of this project is mid-November. Superintendent Huppert attended a bridge inspection refresher course and reported that there are a lot of changes to the process, some of which will be implemented immediately. He said the new process will take more time and he recommended hiring a consultant to help with the inspections since he doesn't have any employees that help him. The new process will be fully implemented by 2028. Superintendent Huppert reminded the Board that this is the last year for the bridge match program. The State Highway Association would like to keep this program going so he would like to get the word out to the state senators that funding is needed for this. On October 9 there is a legislative conference and Chairman Missel thinks it would be helpful for a member of the Road Committee to go to this conference as well. Another issue for discussion at this conference is the Nebraska Department of Transportation's handling of the State's right-of-ways.

At 10:06 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Supervisors until Wednesday, October 1, 2025 at 9:00 A.M.

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

The Board unanimously approved tax roll corrections #5790 through #5797.

The Board unanimously received and referred to County Attorney Hopkins correspondence from the Nebraska Tax Equalization and Review Commission (TERC) regarding the following: Notice of Appeal for Fremont Mall, LLC, Case No. 25C 0229 and

Acceptance of Offer to Confess Judgement for The Kroger Co., Case Nos. 22C 0198, 23C 0351 and 24C 0279.

The Board unanimously denied the Nebraska Homestead Exemption Application of Michael J. & Linda J. Worley, 1658 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Fremont, NE 68025 due to the applicant also filing late in 2021.

The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of County Treasurer Winterstein on form 457, Application for Exemption from Motor Vehicle Taxes for 2025, on a 2020 Toyota Sienna for Masonic-ES Home for Children, 2415 N. Main St., Fremont, NE, granted the exemption and authorized Chairman Missel to sign the form.

The Board unanimously received the list of 2025 Dodge County Permissive Exemptions (including cemeteries) from County Assessor Marshall and authorized the County Clerk to publish the list in the month of September per Nebraska Statute #77-202.03(5).

At 10:17 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Equalization until October 1, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.

Micki Gilfry  
Dodge County Clerk