

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DODGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

To open this regular meeting of the Dodge County Board of Supervisors, Chairman Missel asked for a moment of silence to honor former Dodge County Board Supervisor/Dodge County Sheriff Dan Weddle who recently passed away. The meeting was then called to order by Chairman Missel at 9:01 A.M. on Wednesday, October 15, 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, correspondence from Charter Communications regarding a change in channel lineup, correspondence from Nebraska State Probation, Sixth Probation District, Patty Lyon, Chief Probation Officer, regarding Probation – Quarterly County Billings 2025/2026 and reimbursement of expenses to Dodge County for the period July 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025 and FEMA and NEMA closeout letters for project EMK-2020-BR-013 West Fremont Project Scoping and invoices to Lower Platte North NRD and City of Fremont for local cost share.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the October 1, 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 there are currently 60 inmates in custody with 41 being held in Saunders County, 15 in Washington County, 2 at the Lincoln Regional Center and 2 at the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. From October 10th through October 13th, 19 individuals were booked into custody.

At 9:06 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, October 29, 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 \$308,493.87.

The Board unanimously approved the financial claims as submitted in the amount of \$699,357.90.

The Board unanimously approved all bank depositories for Dodge County funds listed on the 2025 Approved Dodge County Depositories list and authorized Chairman Missel and County Clerk Gilfry to sign the document. Chairman Missel said Dodge County prefers to use local financial institutions as depositories. Supervisor Backens asked if there is a resolution that lists the authorized signers on these accounts. The letter from Treasurer Winterstein said the authorized signers regarding transactions for the Treasurer's Office are

the Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer and Bookkeeper. It was noted that Chairman Missel is a signer for accounts payables and payroll.

Emergency Manager Tom Smith expounded on the FEMA and NEMA closeout letters for project EMK-2020-BR-013 West Fremont Project Scoping and invoices to Lower Platte North NRD and City of Fremont for the local cost share. He said JEO was the contractor on this project and they considered a number of alternatives for flood mitigation in the area from Highway 77 west to Ames. JEO determined that the best flood mitigation alternative is for the City of Fremont to update ordinances. \$250,000 was awarded for this project with \$249,560 actually spent.

The Board unanimously received the letter from Fremont Rural Fire District requesting Dodge County's assistance to amend the State Proclamation for the Horizon Biofuel incident. Emergency Manager Smith said the State Proclamation was narrow in its scope and only authorized payment for the operations of Task Force 1, which included lumber, fuel and the use of their drone. He said \$20,000 has been requested for these expenses. Fremont Rural has expended more than their budget can realistically manage. Emergency Manager Smith said he recommends sending the Governor's Office a letter, with a copy to Senator Wordekemper, stating what Fremont Rural Fire has spent and requesting more money to cover their expenses. Included in the motion was authorization for Chairman Missel and Emergency Manager Smith to compose and send this letter to the Governor's Office.

The Board unanimously approved the acceptance of a proposal from the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy and Environment (DWEE) for Dodge County to be a candidate for assessment as a brownfield property and authorized Emergency Manager Smith to notify DWEE that Dodge County is interested in this proposal. Emergency Manager Smith told the Board that DWEE contacted him to see if Dodge County would consider being a candidate for the Brownfields Assessment grants. He explained that this program would consist of a site assessment to determine if hazardous materials are present and a phase 2 assessment to take soil samples and identify grant opportunities. This program would assist local government rehabilitate sites identified to have hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants; Emergency Manager Smith said the Horizon Biofuels site would be a potential candidate for this program.

The Board unanimously received information from the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) regarding "Election Procedures for Voting for NACO Officers – 2025 Election" and authorized Chairman Missel to sign the Voter Registration as the person casting the ballot for Dodge County for the December 2025 election. Included in the motion, the Board named Vice-Chairman Strand as the alternate designee if Chairman Missel is unable to vote.

The Board unanimously approved the proposed 2026 Dodge County Courthouse holidays.

The Board unanimously approved the tentative days for Dodge County Board meetings for 2026. The motion included changing the Wednesday, November 11, 2026 meeting to Tuesday, November 10, 2026 because November 11, 2026 is Veterans Day, which is a recognized Dodge County holiday.

The Board unanimously approved moving the Wednesday December 24, 2025 meeting of the Dodge County Board of Supervisors to Tuesday, December 23, 2025.

The Board unanimously received the Notice of meeting of the Douglas County Planning Commission, October 15, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

Committee Reports – Supervisor Beam reported that the Employee Handbook has been finalized with the help of Zelle and asked that the Board members review it. Approval of the Employee Handbook will be placed on the next board meeting agenda. Supervisor Tawney reported that he and Highway Superintendent Huppert attended the Legislative Conference on October 9 in Beatrice. He said they had a good conversation with NACO director Jon Cannon and listened to Senator Brad von Gillern who sits on the Revenue Committee. Mr. von Gillern spoke about budget issues, including the Inheritance Tax. Supervisor Tawney said the Inheritance Tax issue will likely not be a subject in the next Legislative session. He said the Legislature realizes the Inheritance Tax fills a funding need and there are no plans as to how to replace that funding. Supervisor Tawney also spoke about salary guidelines that NACO publishes on their website. He pointed out that of the top 10 counties with similar population; Dodge County is 6 out of 10 regarding salaries and has the 2nd lowest levy. Highway Superintendent Huppert spoke at this conference on behalf of the Engineers, Highway Superintendents and Surveyors about issues and programs coming up in the future. Emergency Manager Smith reported for the Courthouse Safety Committee that 4 of the 17 hail damaged vehicles have been repaired. Supervisor Tawney reported that Zelle has helped the Road & Bridge Committee with job descriptions, which will help when hiring employees in the future.

At 9:33 A.M., the Board recessed as a Board of Supervisors.

At 10:01 A.M., the Board convened as a Board of Equalization. Chairman Missel dispensed with roll all members being present.

The Board unanimously adopted the Resolution setting the 2025-2026 Tax Levies for various Political Subdivisions in Dodge County. Supervisor Backens read the Resolution for the record.

At 10:07 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Equalization until October 29, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.

Immediately thereafter, the Board adjourned as a Board of Supervisors until Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at 9:00 A.M.

Micki Gilfry
Dodge County Clerk