

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DODGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The 2026 Reorganizational Meeting of the Dodge County Board of Supervisors was called to order by County Clerk Gilfry at 9:00 A.M. on Wednesday, January 7, 2026 in the Board Room of the Courthouse, Fremont, Nebraska with the following members present: Beam, Giesselmann, Strand, Backens, Missel, Tawney and Bendig. Absent: None.

County Clerk Gilfry 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.

Bob Missel was nominated as Chairman for 2026. Receiving no other nominations, the Board elected Supervisor Missel to be the Chairman by unanimous consent.

Lon Strand was nominated as Vice-Chairman for 2026. Receiving no other nominations, the Board elected Supervisor Strand to be the Vice-Chairman by unanimous consent.

The Board unanimously passed a motion appointing County Clerk Micki Gilfry and her office as "keeper of the agenda" for the Board of Supervisors for 2026.

The Board unanimously approved the agenda as printed and received and placed on file county officials' reports and Certificates of Liability Insurance for Meier Construction Corp. and Straight-Line Striping Inc.

The Board, with Supervisors Beam and Giesselmann abstaining since they were not at the December 23, 2025 meeting, unanimously approved the minutes of the December 23, 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 48 inmates in custody with 32 being held in Saunders County, 13 in Washington County, 1 at the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services and 2 in Thurston County. In 2025 there were 1,518 individuals booked into custody. Sheriff Weitzel explained that the 2 inmates being held in Thurston County are well known to law enforcement and Saunders and Washington County refuse to house them. He said Thurston County charges a similar daily rate as Saunders and Washington County. Chairman Missel asked when the contract with Saunders County Corrections expires. County Attorney Hopkins said it expires on June 30, 2026 and after meeting with the jail committee, she has informed Saunders County that Dodge County may not be willing to renew the contract under the current conditions. County Attorney Hopkins said she plans to schedule a meeting in early February to begin discussions.

At 9:10 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, January 21, 2026 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 \$325,720.47.

The Board unanimously approved the financial claims as submitted in the amount of \$191,055.55.

The Board unanimously received the Noxious Weed Control Plan (2025) for Dodge County regarding annual evaluation of the County Weed Control Authority and authorized Chairman Missel and Weed Superintendent Larry Klahn's signatures on the plan.

Sheriff Weitzel gave the Board recommendations from the Courthouse Security Committee on changes they would like to make regarding entry into the courthouse and parking around the courthouse. One change is the requirement for all employees to enter the courthouse through the east doors where security is stationed. The north doors will be closed to the public and courthouse employees and will become an emergency exit only. Another change is parking; courthouse employees will be asked not to use the street parking on 4th or 5th Street. This will open parking spots for the people conducting business in the courthouse. Employees and public defense attorneys with badges will be allowed to pass through the east doors and bypass the security scanner. Sheriff Weitzel added that the judges are exempt from the requirement to enter the courthouse through the east entrance; they can enter the courthouse through any entrance. It was determined that Sheriff Weitzel will draft a message that will be sent to all department heads about the new policies. He will also work on the language to be added to the employee handbook as a separate addendum as suggested by County Attorney Hopkins. The information to be added to the employee handbook will be considered by the Board at the January 21, 2026 meeting. During this discussion, it was mentioned that the City of Fremont is not doing a good job with snow removal in the parking lot east of the courthouse. Supervisor Tawney said he would speak with Street Superintendent Cari Hoffart about stepping up their efforts regarding snow removal in that parking lot.

The Board unanimously approved amending the Resolution setting Elected Officials' salaries for the upcoming four-year term beginning January 2027 that was approved at the December 23, 2025 meeting of the Dodge County Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Bendig, speaking on behalf of the Finance Committee, said after further consideration of the Nebraska Association of County Officials' (NACO) recommendations, they recommend increasing the County Attorney's salary from \$130,000 to \$140,000 and increasing the Sheriff's salary from \$95,000 to \$100,000.

The Board resumed discussions about the newly revised Dodge County Employee Handbook that was tabled at the December 10, 2025 meeting of the Dodge County Board of Supervisors. Questions arose about the use of mobile devices and the operation of county vehicles. The items discussed will be given to Zelle Human Resource Solutions and they will update the employee handbook.

Committee Reports – Supervisor Bendig reported that there will be an audit exit meeting with Erickson & Brooks, CPAs this afternoon; the audit report should be available shortly thereafter.

The Board unanimously approved the Master Professional Services Agreement dated 1/2/2026 with Speece Lewis a Bowman Company and authorized Chairman Missel's signature on the agreement.

The Board unanimously approved Work Order No. 011 to Master Professional Services Agreement with Speece Lewis a Bowman Company dated 1/2/2026 outlining scope of services and fees from January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026 and authorized Chairman Missel's signature on the agreement.

The Board unanimously approved the appointment of Scott Huppert as the 2026 Dodge County Highway Superintendent, Class A License number S-1402, to serve from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert reported that employees are cleaning ditches, installing culverts and patching potholes while the weather is nice. He said the new flatbed is working well; they have been utilizing it to haul riprap. He and Speece Lewis are finishing the bridge inspections and are uploading the information to the state website. Once the Union Pacific Railroad gets their plans set for the crossing at County Road 6 and Shoreline Drive, they will send them to the state and the state will draft a safety agreement to be signed by Dodge County. The box culvert on Luther Road is complete and Superintendent Huppert plans to rebuild the road from Highway 30 to the box culvert; this project will be on the 1 & 6-Year Road Plan. He is still working with the state on the bridge weight limit sign mandate; he is hoping to get help from the state to pay for the signs. He will also be working with NACO to figure out a way to keep the bridge match program going.

At 9:57 A.M., the Board recessed as a Board of Supervisors.

At 10:00 A.M., the Board convened as a Board of Equalization. Chairman Missel dispensed with roll all members being present.

The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of County Treasurer Winterstein on form 457, Application for Exemption from Motor Vehicle Taxes for 2026, from Midland, University, 900 N. Clarkson St., Fremont, NE for various vehicles, granted the exemption and authorized Chairman Missel to sign the form.

At 10:01 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Equalization until Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 10:00 A.M.

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

The Board unanimously received the Settlement Agreement with NIRMA for 9/22/25 hail damage to the courthouse and vehicles and authorized Chairman Missel's signature on the agreement.

The Board unanimously adopted the list of designated official county newspapers for 2026 as presented and authorized County Clerk Gilfry's signature on the form.

At 10:04 A.M., the Board unanimously passed a motion to go into closed session to discuss general assistance claims.

At 10:16 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.

At 10:17 A.M., Chairman Missel adjourned the Board as a Board of Supervisors until Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 9:00 A.M.

Micki Gilfry
Dodge County Clerk