

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, January 21, 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. 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 pricing, correspondence from Nebraska State Probation, Sixth Probation District, Patty Lyon, regarding Probation Quarterly County Billings 2025/2026 and reimbursement of expenses to Dodge County for the period October 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025, correspondence from Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District regarding applications for the Community Forestry Incentive Program, Audit Report of Dodge County from Erickson and Brooks CPA for fiscal year ending 6/30/2025 (copy in the County Clerk's Office), Notice of Public Hearings for the Fremont Planning Commission to be held on January 19, 2026 at 5:00 P.M. for the following: request by Deerfield Fremont LLC (Michael Maley) for a Preliminary Plat Submission for 46-R2 (Low/Medium Density Residential District) Duplex Units (47 lots) on property generally located southeast of Pathfinder Drive & Wilmont St., Fremont, NE, correspondence from Department of Water, Energy and Environment regarding Notice of Eason Lake Violation Closure, the Minutes of the December 16, 2025 meeting of the Dodge County Planning Commission and Certificates of Liability Insurance for Maple Township, Meier Construction Corp and A & R Construction Co.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the January 7, 2026 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 52 inmates in custody with 36 being held in Saunders County, 15 in Washington County and 1 at the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. Supervisor Beam said contract negotiations with Saunders County Corrections will be led by Sheriff Weitzel and County Attorney Hopkins for the contract that expires on June 30, 2026.

At 9:06 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, February 4, 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 \$296,939.61.

The Board unanimously approved the financial claims as submitted in the amount of \$809,326.46.

The Board unanimously approved all bank depositories for Dodge County funds listed on the 2026 Approved Dodge County Depositories list received from County Treasurer Winterstein. Included in the motion was authorization for Chairman Missel and County Clerk Gilfry to sign the 2026 Approved Dodge County Depositories list.

Sheriff Weitzel presented the Board with the new Dodge County Courthouse Security, Access, and Parking Policy that he developed with the help of Emergency Manager Tom Smith. Supervisor Strand said he thinks it addresses all the issues that were discussed at the January 7, 2026 meeting. Supervisor Giesselmann asked if the policy needs to include who will enforce the policy. The consensus was that a sentence should be added stating department heads need to oversee their employees' adherence to the new policies. County Attorney Hopkins requested that language be added to the policy to allow the Sheriff to deviate from the policies for security purposes. Sheriff Weitzel will incorporate the changes discussed today and will present the amended policies at the February 4, 2026 meeting of the Dodge County Board of Supervisors.

The Board unanimously approved the newly revised Dodge County Employee Handbook including the policies about use of mobile electronic devices in county vehicles that were discussed at the January 7, 2026 meeting.

Committee Reports – Chairman Missel reported that committee assignments for the Board members remain the same as last year, except for insurance now being managed by Tom Smith since Jean Andrews is no longer a county employee. The list of Dodge County Board member committee assignments will be added to the February 4, 2026 meeting agenda to be received by the Board and filed for the record.

Chairman Missel reported that the way the post office applies postmarks may affect processes in various county offices. The postmarks are generally applied by machines at the originating processing facilities. Changes in the transportation operations of the post office may result in some mailpieces not arriving at the originating facilities on the same day that they are mailed. A manual postmark can be applied free of charge at the request of the sender to ensure that the mailpiece is postmarked the same day it is collected by a mail carrier or dropped off at a retail location. County processes that may be affected include receiving property tax payments and timely filed property valuation protests.

The Board unanimously approved the request of Highway Superintendent Huppert to declare a 2003 Freightliner FL70 Cab & Chassis (Blue) with flatbed hoist as surplus property and authorized the vehicle be taken to Jack Nitz & Associates for public auction.

Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert reported that the weather continues to allow employees to install culverts, clean out ditches and patch potholes. He and Speece Lewis are working on adding bridge inspection information to the State portal. He said he has purchased bridge ahead signs to place on the mandated bridge weight limit signs for insurance purposes so people understand it is the bridge not the road with the weight limit. He has been discussing this issue with the State to see if they will help with funding the signs. The Union Pacific Railroad has the signed agreement for the railroad crossing at County Road 6 and Shoreline Drive; it is a public crossing now. The railroad will send plans to the State so signage can be installed. Superintendent Huppert is working on the One & Six-year Road Plan and is discussing the plan with townships so he can present it to the Board within the next six weeks.

At 9:36 A.M., the Board recessed as a Board of Supervisors.

At 10:00 A.M., the Board convened as a Board of Equalization with the following members present: Beam, Giesselmann, Strand, Backens, Missel, Tawney and Bendig. Absent: None.

The Board unanimously approved tax roll corrections #5832 through #5834.

The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of County Treasurer Winterstein on form 457, Application for Exemption from Motor Vehicle Taxes for 2026, from Fremont Alliance Church, 1615 N. Lincoln Ave., Fremont, NE for a 2021 Ford Transit Van, granted the exemption and authorized Chairman Missel to sign the form.

The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of County Treasurer Winterstein on form 457, Application for Exemption from Motor Vehicle Taxes for 2026, from Fremont Avenue of Flags for 4 cargo vans, granted the exemption and authorized Chairman Missel to sign the form.

The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of County Treasurer Winterstein on form 457, Application for Exemption from Motor Vehicle Taxes for 2026, from Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc. for a Chrysler Town & Country van, granted the exemption and authorized Chairman Missel to sign the form.

At 10:03 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Equalization until Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 10:00 A.M.

At 11:00 A.M., the Board reconvened as a Board of Supervisors at the Dodge County Extension Office Appreciation Luncheon with the following members present: Beam, Giesselmann, Backens, Missel, Tawney and Bendig. Absent: Strand. A copy of the open public meetings act was posted in the room. No action was taken by the Board.

At 1:00 P.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Supervisors until Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 9:00 A.M.

Micki Gilfry
Dodge County Clerk