

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, March 18, 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, Board of Trustees minutes for February 9, 2026 meeting and Statement of Revenues & Expenses YTD Comparison for the eight months ending February 28, 2026 and 2025 from Fremont Community Health Resources, correspondence from Mark Schneck, Dodge County Veterans Service Officer, informing the Board of the resignation of Stan Vyhldal as President of the Dodge County Veterans Service Committee and election (by the Committee) of Ed O'Neil as President, effective March 4, 2026, 2025 Annual Report from Nebraska Loess Hills Resource Conservation & Development Council and approval to renew \$350 Sponsor Membership for 2026 (referred to Finance Committee), Notice of Public Hearings of the City of Fremont Planning Commission on March 16, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. for the following: Request by Ronald (Skip) and Judy Sawyer for a Conditional Use Permit to allow a boxing club/fitness center in LI – Light Industrial District on property generally located at 346 S. Broad St., Fremont, NE; request by David C. Mitchell – Yost Law Firm, for a zoning change from AG – Agriculture to LI – Light Industrial District on property generally located at PT TL 20 2.48A 35 18 8; request by David C. Mitchell for a Conditional Use Permit to allow a Therapeutic Group Home for youth (specifically girls) in NC – Neighborhood Commercial District on property generally located at 749 E. 32nd St., Fremont, NE, Certificates of Liability Insurance from Cuming Township and Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company, Utility Installation agreement for Andrew Langemeier to install underground electrical wire in the public right-of-way between Section 9, Township 17N, Range 6E and Section 10, Township 17N, Range 6E in Cotterell Township, Utility Installation Agreement for Allo Communications LLC to install Fiber Optic Line and Utility Installation Agreement for OPPD.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the March 4, 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 71 inmates in custody with 45 being held in Saunders County, 20 in Washington County, 3 in Douglas County and 3 at the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. Supervisor Backens asked if any negotiations have been initiated regarding the agreement with Saunders County for housing Dodge County inmates. County Attorney Hopkins said she has spoken with officials from Saunders County, but no formal meeting has been scheduled; she plans to schedule a meeting in the next couple of weeks.

At 9:06 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Corrections until Wednesday, April 1, 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 \$298,636.74.

The Board unanimously approved the financial claims as submitted in the amount of \$360,968.79.

The Board unanimously received the "Reports and Requirements Summary" (2025) for Dodge County from Nick Sanderson, Ag Inspection Specialist, Nebraska Department of Agriculture, regarding annual evaluation of the County Weed Control Authority and authorized the appropriate signatures on the summary.

The Board unanimously approved Chairman Missel's signature on the *Participation Package* for Opioids Settlement with Six Remnant Defendants.

The Board unanimously received a letter from County Treasurer Winterstein requesting a refund of Inheritance Tax for the Estate of Jeanine A. Riggs in the amount of \$3,351.41. In the same motion, the Board approved the refund and instructed County Treasurer Winterstein to process the refund. County Attorney Hopkins said the reason the Board needed to make a determination on the refund is because it goes back to a prior tax period.

Committee Reports – Supervisor Bendig reported that approximately \$200,000 of ARPA funding remains to be spent by December 31, 2026. All the money is allocated; Dodge County Extension, Fremont Area United Way and the Dodge County Election Office are the entities with the most remaining funds. County Clerk Gilfry said the funds for the Election Office will be expended in the Dodge County finance on April 1, 2026. Supervisor Strand reported that the final inspection for the new election office should be completed by next week. County Clerk Gilfry said the furniture is in and some of the equipment and items that have been stored at the Schneider Building have been moved into the office. The official move won't happen until after the May Primary Election. Supervisor Strand also reported that the Roads Department will be purchasing 2 new motor graders; one will be purchased next year and one will be purchased in 2028. Chairman Missel reported that he attended the Northeast NACO meeting in Norfolk on March 13. He said David Varner from the Extension Office gave a good presentation that included a map showing the number and type of disaster events that affected Nebraska counties in 2024 and 2025. Chairman Missel also reported that NACO Executive Director Jon Canon gave a briefing on bills in the Legislature.

The Board unanimously approved the Agreement for Planning Services with Ray Planning Solutions LLC and authorized Chairman Missel's signature on the agreement.

The Public Hearing to consider the request of Bradford and Cynthia Wehner of 1546 CR P, Hooper, NE to subdivide less than 20 acres and obtain a Conditional Use Permit for property located in the NE ¼ of the SW ¼, and part of Tax Lot 1 in Section 16, Township 18, Range 7 East of the 6th P.M. in zoning district A-1, Intensive Agriculture was tabled. Chairman Missel explained that there was debate at the Dodge County Planning Commission meeting on March 17, 2026 as to whether this request will require two conditional use permits. Planning Administrator Jeff Ray will discuss the issue with County Attorney Hopkins; this will be placed on the Dodge County Board of Supervisors' agenda again when Mr. Ray instructs County Clerk Gilfry to do so.

The Public Hearing to consider the request of Tyler Thernes to obtain a Conditional Use Permit to apply Biosolids on the following parcels: E ½ of the NW ¼ and Tax Lot 3 & 6 in Section 15, Township 19 N, Range 7 E of the 6th P.M.; Tax Lot 4 in Section 15, Township 19 N, Range 7 E of the P.M. and Tax Lot 8 in Section 15, Township 19 N, Range 7 E of the P.M.; SW ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 15, Township 19 N, Range 7 E of the 6th P.M. all in Dodge County, NE was tabled. Chairman Missel reported that one of the posted signs announcing zoning action was posted across the road from the tax lot with the zoning action. This is a violation of the statute governing how zoning action is to be publicized, therefore, this issue was tabled until a later date.

Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert reported that his employees were on stand-by for the wind and snow event on Sunday, March 15. Employees continue ditch cleanout, culvert installations and crack sealing. The legislation for the Bridge Match Program is not going to move forward; funding is the main problem for lawmakers. Superintendent Huppert is communicating with the State on the Morningside Road project for the Fremont Municipal Inland Port Authority. Steps forward are being planned, one of the first being the acquisition of right-of-way. There is also a need for environmental engineers; Burns & McDonnell is not certified in the State of Nebraska to do environmental engineering. At the end of March and April the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) will be providing bridge inspection training. Superintendent Huppert said the federal requirements for bridge inspections are getting cumbersome and many counties are having a hard time keeping up with the inspections.

At 9:30 A.M., the Board unanimously passed a motion to go into closed session to discuss potential legal claims.

At 10:25 A.M. the Board unanimously passed a motion to go back into open session from the discussion of potential legal claims. No action was taken as a result of the closed session.

At 10:25 A.M., 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 #5836 through #5874.

The Board unanimously received correspondence from the Nebraska Tax Equalization & Review Commission regarding: Certification of Final Decision and Order for Lane & Amy Nelson, Case No. 25R 0295 and Decision and Order Affirming the Decision of the Dodge County Board of Equalization for Michael D. Arps, Case No. 24R 0631.

A Public Hearing was held to receive input as whether to allow or to deny new Permissive Exemption Applications for 2026. The Assessor recommended approval of eleven of the applications and denial of one parcel for Midland University. Joe Harnisch, CFO for Midland University, was present to request full exemption for parcel #270050169 which has a house on it that Midland University is currently using for storage for their security team. Mr. Harnisch said this parcel is surrounded by parking lots owned and utilized by Midland University and all are exempt. The Assessor got an opinion from the Legal and Policy Section of the Nebraska Department of Revenue stating that if the property is not being used for educational purposes then it fails the five-part test listed on the Instructions page of Form 451. Mr. Harnisch argued that the parcel in question is no different than the maintenance building (the old Clarkson Elementary building), which is classified as exempt. County Attorney Hopkins said at this time she does not have enough information to make a

recommendation to the Board. She added that nothing has been presented that would warrant changing the Assessor's recommendation and, in her opinion, the Assessor is following the law. The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of the Assessor on all of the new Permissive Exemption Applications that were filed for 2026, upholding the denial of full exemption for parcel #270050169 for Midland University.

At 10:53 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Equalization until Wednesday, April 1, 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 approved the proposal from Mytty PC Consulting & Training to assist with the budgeting process and other projects as needed for Dodge County.

At 10:54 A.M., the Board adjourned as a Board of Supervisors until Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at 9:00 A.M.

Micki Gilfry
Dodge County Clerk