

BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

May 5, 2025

A meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Butler County, Nebraska was held on the 5th day of May 2025 at the Butler County Courthouse in David City, Nebraska at 9:00 a.m.

Present were the following: Tony Krafka, Scot Bauer, Scott Griess, Bob Coufal, Brad Vandenberg, Scott Steager.

Absent: Jan Sypal.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof, by Publication, a designated method for giving notice, as shown by the Proof of Publication attached to the minutes. Notice of this meeting was given to all members of the Board and a copy of their acknowledgement of receipt of notice and the agenda is attached to the minutes. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to all members of the board of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

The Chairman called the meeting to order and announced that a complete copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted in the meeting room.

The Chairman declared the minutes from the previous meeting shall stand approved as presented.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION (See Separate Minutes)

Moved by Coufal, seconded by Bauer to move into the Board of Equalization at 9:01 a.m. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

Aye: Coufal, Griess, Bauer, Krafka, Vandenberg, Steager.

Nay: NONE.

Absent: Sypal.

Motion carried.

Moved by Vandenberg, seconded by Coufal to exit the Board of Equalization at 9:03 a.m. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

Aye: Vandenberg, Coufal, Griess, Bauer, Krafka, Steager.

Nay: NONE.

Absent: Sypal.

Motion carried.

HR Update

HR Director Heidi Loges reported that a part-time (10-15 hours/week) cleaning person has been hired and is doing a great job so far.

County Clerk Monthly Fee Report

The County Clerk fee report for the month of April 2025 was accepted and placed on file.

Clerk of the District Court Monthly Fee Report

The Clerk of the District Court fee report for the month of April 2025 was accepted and placed on file.

Monthly Sheriff Report

The Monthly Sheriff Report for April 2025 was presented before the board. It was accepted and placed on file.

Committee Reports

Chairman Scott Steager reported that there may be potential for more chicken houses, a hatchery, and a feed mill to come to Butler County. Concern was expressed about the roads because the roads around the existing chicken houses take a beating. There are currently 150 chicken houses in Butler County. Highway Superintendent Randy Isham will make some calls and see what he can find out. Chairman Steager also reported that it appears we may be closer to getting a new motel in David City.

Discussion/Possible Action regarding the 2018 Ford Explorer

The Extension Office expects to take delivery of their new vehicle soon. Discussion was held regarding what to do with their existing vehicle, a 2018 Ford Explorer. County Assessor Vickie Donoghue noted it would be good to keep as a back-up for the Assessor's Office. To stay on time with the agenda, discussion was tabled until later in the meeting.

Jon Cannon – NACO Annual Update

Jon opened by noting that while this is considered an annual update, he is happy to come to a meeting to visit, answer questions, etc., at any time. He reported on the current Legislative session, including LB647 – property tax corrections from last year's special session; LB648 – provisions relating to inheritance tax; and the State's biennial budget. Other items noted include an elected official salary study, new staff at NACO, and the NACO West Training Center in Ogallala. Chairman Steager noted that Jon is always very responsive and a great resource to the counties.

Review/consideration of shredder bids

Highway Superintendent Isham presented five shredder bids. John Deere: 2024 John Deere FC15R Flex \$29,500; RHINO 15' Heavy Duty Flex Wing \$30,500; John Deere FC15R Flex Wing \$34,500. Benes Service: Schulte XH1500 Series 5 15' Rotary Cutter \$30,750; Schulte GX-150 15' medium duty rotary cutter \$27,500. Osceola Implement: Land Pride RCM4715 15' Bat wing \$23,291.80. Board members reviewed the bids including equipment, features, and warranties. Isham recommended the Schulte XH1500 Series 5 15' Rotary Cutter. Moved by Coufal, seconded by Vandenberg, to purchase the Schulte XH1500 Series 5 15' Rotary Cutter for \$30,750. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

Aye: Coufal, Vandenberg, Krafka, Bauer, Griess, Steager.

Nay: NONE.

Absent: Sypal.

Motion carried.

Update on Roads

Isham noted that dust control is scheduled for the last week in June. They are working on a couple roads that were scalped this spring. Not much gravel left in the existing gravel pit. Isham will get County Attorney Julie Reiter the legal description of the new gravel pit because it was not included in the lease she received last week.

Discussion/Possible Action regarding the 2018 Ford Explorer continued

Discussion continued regarding whether to sell the 2018 Explorer or to keep it for use as a County vehicle for travel by County employees for seminars, continuing education, etc. Highway Superintendent Isham noted that the vehicle could be kept inside the Roads building to help keep it in good condition. HR Director Loges suggested an Outlook calendar could be used to check out the vehicle. Moved by Krafka, seconded by Coufal to keep the 2018 Ford Explorer on HR's inventory with gas/repairs to be paid out of Miscellaneous. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

Aye: Krafka, Coufal, Steager.

Nay: Bauer, Griess, Vandenberg.

Absent: Sypal.

Motion failed.

Moved by Griess, seconded by Vandenberg to sell the 2018 Ford Explorer. Upon roll call vote the following voted:
Aye: Griess, Vandenberg, Bauer.
Nay: Coufal, Krafka, Steager.
Absent: Sypal.
Motion carried.

Aaron Clark, Nextlink Internet

Nextlink is applying for the Nebraska Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Grant; application deadline is May 16, 2025. Mr. Clark came before the Board to provide an update on the proposed project and to request a letter of support from the County. Discussion held regarding the pros/cons of fiber vs. wireless, as well as damage done to roads by contractors in the past. Moved by Krafka, seconded by Bauer to provide a letter of support for Nextlink's BEAD grant application to the State. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

Aye: Krafka, Bauer, Griess, Coufal, Vandenberg.
Nay: Steager.
Absent: Sypal.
Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the board, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:27 a.m.
The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be May 19, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Lori L. Aschoff
County Clerk

Scott Steager
Chairman