

BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

September 2, 2025

A meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Butler County, Nebraska was held on the 2nd day of September 2025 at the Butler County Courthouse in David City, Nebraska at 9:00 a.m.

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

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.

County Clerk Lori Aschoff noted the 8/18/2025 minutes incorrectly stated that the 2025 Police Interceptor was to be purchased from Reinicke Motor Co in Schuyler. The dealer was actually Anderson Ford in Lincoln. Chairman Scott Steager declared the minutes from the previous meeting shall stand as corrected.

Roads Update

Highway Superintendent Randy Isham reported that County roads have held up better than expected with the recent rains. He also provided an update regarding equipment: the shredder arrived and has already been put to use. The drop deck trailer has been ordered. He is still waiting on the truck – it is done but waiting on a box and plow. Skull Creek Township is using their own grader beginning today. Isham offered to help Linwood Township with roads, but they do not require assistance at this time.

Discussion/possible action regarding the County providing flu shots for employees

Discussion was held about the County providing flu shots for employees. HR Director Heidi Loges noted that Butler County Health is able to provide them again this year. Moved by Sypal, seconded by Vandenberg to provide flu shots for County employees. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Absent: Bauer.

Motion carried.

Discussion/possible action regarding replacement of phone booster at Hwy 92 building

Loges reported that the phone booster died several months ago, and it is extremely difficult to get cell reception in the building. Applied Connective said that they can't just replace the box; the entire kit must be replaced. Cost estimate is just over \$4000.00. Discussion was held and it was suggested that it be investigated further before deciding. Tabled until a later meeting.

Approval of early pay claim to Anderson Ford for patrol vehicle

Sheriff Tom Dion researched extended warranties at the request of Chairman Steager. Two five-year bumper-to-bumper warranties are available: 100K miles for \$3120.00 and 125K for \$3640.00. Discussion was held, but no vote regarding a warranty was taken. Moved by Coufal, seconded by Griess to pay the early claim to Anderson Ford for the purchase of a patrol vehicle. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Absent: Bauer.

Motion carried.

Approval of Visitor Promotion Fund requests from Bone Creek Art Museum and Christmas on the Bricks

Moved by Krafka, seconded by Sypal to approve applications from Bone Creek Art Museum and Christmas on the Bricks. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Absent: Bauer.

Motion carried.

Update on 911 Tower

There is a significant grade at the tower site. Dirt was brought in, and the site was relocated slightly to accommodate RJ Hein, who farms in the area. Cost estimate for the pad is \$5000.00-6000.00.

Breann Whitmore, Floodplain Administrator – Program Update

Floodplain Administrator Breann Whitmore appeared before the Board to provide a program update. She recently met with the State; they reviewed two properties, one of which had not been permitted. She will give the property owners 30 days to provide the information needed for her to back-permit the project.

Whitmore also presented a proposed update to the floodplain ordinance. The existing ordinance is ten years old, and it is time for an update. She noted new critical facilities and agricultural sections, which were taken from the State. She will submit the updated floodplain ordinance to the State and FEMA for approval, after which it will need to be adopted by the Board. Chairman Steager asked Whitmore to provide a copy for County Attorney Julie Reiter to review as well.

Discussion/possible action – review Planning Commission applications

Six applications have been received to date. More applicants are desired, so the deadline for submitting applications will be extended and the applications will be reviewed at the next meeting. County Clerk Aschoff will publish it in the paper again, as well as on the website.

Brad Vandenberg reported that he spoke with Scot Bauer prior to the meeting, and that he had reached out to Saline, York, Polk, Cuming, and other counties regarding comprehensive planning services provided by Hanna:Keelan. Bauer received very positive feedback and no red flags. He also reached out to NACO Executive Director Jon Cannon, who gave him some suggestions regarding the comprehensive planning process. Chairman Steager asked County Clerk Aschoff to add the selection of a planning consultant to the next meeting agenda.

2025-2026 County Budget Update/Discussion

Aschoff reported that there have been no changes to the proposed budget since the last board meeting. The proposed budget includes a transfer of \$1.65M from Inheritance to increase the cash reserve. Presently, the proposed tax request is \$5,232,258.00, which is an increase of 2.89% over last year. The proposed levy is 0.154, compared to 0.177 last year. The budget hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 16th at 6:00pm. The special tax request hearing will be Wednesday, September 24th at 9:00am. As of last week, East Butler Public Schools

will be participating in the joint public hearing on September 22nd at 6:30pm. Butler County and David City Public Schools will not be participating. Aschoff has not yet heard from the City of David City.

Discussion

Discussion was held about how much to transfer from Inheritance for this year's budget, as well as the expected shift of costs to provide essential services from federal to local levels of government as a result of recently enacted federal legislation, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. Tony Krafka asked Highway Superintendent Isham if he could pull together a rough estimate of road improvements, paving, bridges, etc., that will be needed in the next few years.

Discussion was held regarding EPC services and how the move from Lancaster County's Mental Health Crisis Center to Fremont Methodist Hospital was working. County Attorney Reiter noted communication was good, but the process was lengthy. She stated that they will have a recap meeting every month in which we have EPCs.

Correspondence

- Butler County Development Board Meeting Minutes – July 31, 2025
- Library Newsletter – September 2025
- BraveBe Luncheon Invite – October 8, 2025. Reiter will be unable to attend but encouraged board members to attend.

There being no further business to come before the board, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:13 a.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be September 15, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Lori L. Aschoff
County Clerk

Scott Steager
Chairman