

BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

November 3, 2025

A meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Butler County, Nebraska was held on the 3rd day of November 2025 at the Butler County Courthouse in David City, Nebraska at 9:00 a.m.

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

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.

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

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

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION (SEE SEPARATE MINUTES)

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

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

Nay: NONE.

Motion carried.

Moved by Coufal, seconded by Vandenberg to exit the Board of Equalization at 9:02 a.m. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Motion carried.

Human Resources Update

HR Director Heidi Loges reported that she attended the recent NIRMA conference along with Supervisor Bauer and picked up the County's dividend check from NIRMA.

Approval of early claim for new Senior Center van

The new Rural Transit/Senior Center van is ready to be picked up. The County's 10% share amounts to \$7654.00. Moved by Krafka, seconded by Sypal to approve the early claim for the new Senior Center van. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Motion carried.

Approval of early claim for Senior Center reimbursement

County Clerk Lori Aschoff explained this claim was approved last month; however, the dollar amount was incorrect. Moved by Coufal, seconded by Sypal to pay the early claim for Senior Center reimbursement. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.
Motion carried.

Approval of Resolution 2025-38: Credit Card Policy

Moved by Vandenberg, seconded by Coufal to approve Resolution 2025-38 as presented. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Motion carried.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BUTLER COUNTY, NEBRASKA
RESOLUTION 2025-38
Credit Card Policy**

WHEREAS, by the County Board of Supervisors of Butler County, Nebraska, that the following will be Butler County's Credit Card Policy:

ADMINISTRATION OF CREDIT CARDS: The County Clerk's office shall keep record of who/which department has been issued a credit card and their credit limits. The following offices are authorized to have a credit card, provided they remain in compliance with the Credit Card Policy: Detention Center, County Sheriff, Roads Department, and County Clerk. The County Clerk credit card can be utilized as needed by all other County offices.

ISSUING A CREDIT CARD: Approval of credit card(s) issued will be upon motion by the Butler County Board of Supervisors during a regular board meeting. Cards will be issued to the approved employee/office through the business Visa program with First National Bank Omaha (FNBO). Upon termination or suspension of employment of the employee approved and issued a County credit card, such individual shall return the purchasing card to the County.

PURCHASES: All purchases on a County credit card must be for valid County purchases. No personal expenditures may be charged on the County credit card, even with the intent to reimburse the County. All purchases are to be made using Butler County's tax-exemption status; a Form 13 is available via the County Clerk's office.

RECEIPTS: All charges made on a County credit card shall be substantiated with an itemized invoice/receipt. Internet purchases shall be documented with a receipt printed at the time of order. Telephone/internet orders shall be documented through fax or email receipts. Itemized receipts will then be balanced with and attached to the Credit Card Statement when turning in the claim for payment.

PERMITTED CHARGES: Lodging Expenses for training travel for County employees may be charged on a County credit card. Gas expenses for County vehicles may be charged on a County credit card; vehicle number and current mileage shall be written upon the receipt that accompanies the claim. Equipment/supplies may be purchased from in-store or online vendors; itemized receipts must accompany the claim. No laundry, no tobacco, no alcoholic beverages, no entertainment may be paid for on a County credit card. No meal expenses. For meals, see Butler County's meals policy. No expenses of a spouse or other non-employee may be charged on a County credit card.

EMPLOYEE ACCESS: Department heads will make the decision to allow employees access to a County credit card.

REBATES: Any rebates will be issued into the County's General Fund.

LOST OR STOLEN CARD: If a card is lost or stolen, you are required to report the loss to the credit card company and to the County Clerk's office immediately.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Board of Supervisors of Butler County, Nebraska, that all employees who use a County credit card will be responsible for the charges made. If an employee makes a charge to a

County credit card and does not produce a valid receipt, the employee may be subject to personal payment of the charges.

Any inappropriate use of a County credit card will be grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal. The responsibility for safety and integrity of County credit card(s) belongs to the employee or department head.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 3rd day of November 2025.

MOVED by Vandenberg, seconded by Coufal, that the above Resolution 2025-38 be adopted. Motion carried.

FOR:

AGAINST:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

/s/ Vandenberg

/s/ Coufal

/s/ Sypal

/s/ Griess

/s/ Bauer

/s/ Krafka

/s/ Steager

Attested to by:

/s/ Lori L. Aschoff

Lori L. Aschoff, County Clerk

Roads Update

Highway Superintendent Randy Isham reported that they are currently cleaning ditches around the County and getting caught up on gravel. They are also beginning to stockpile white rock. They recently had a motor grader radiator go out.

There is a culvert located in front of Benes Service, beneath the State's asphalt in the State's ROW, needing repair. The State claims the County is responsible for this repair; Isham disagrees. He noted other counties are having similar issues and that the County does not have the resources available to take on this type of repair. He will send the information to County Attorney Julie Reiter to review.

Approval of Resolution 2025-39: Year-end Highway Superintendent Certification

Moved by Krafka, seconded by Bauer to approve Resolution 2025-39 as presented. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Motion carried.

A copy of Resolution 2025-39 is on file at the County Clerk's office and is available for review.

Discussion/Possible Action – selling dump truck

The new truck should be here in one or two weeks. Isham would like to sell the Sterling dump truck. Moved by Coufal, seconded by Bauer to sell the Sterling dump truck. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Motion carried.

Discussion/Possible Action – selling low boy trailer

Moved by Bauer, seconded by Krafka to sell the low boy trailer. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Motion carried.

County Noxious Weed Program Evaluation

Weed Superintendent Max Birkel appeared before the Board to review the County Noxious Weed Program Evaluation. The County received a perfect score of 1000 points. Birkel noted that spraying was conducted by helicopter, drone, and UTV. There are potential changes coming at the State Dept. of Agriculture due to staffing reductions, but Birkel has no information as of yet.

Approval of Employee Appreciation Option

Louise Niemann, Extension Office, appeared before the Board on behalf of the offices located on the south side of the courthouse. She requested Chamber Bucks for the County's approximately 85 employees this year. Moved by Sypal, seconded by Vandenberg to approve Chamber Bucks in the amount of \$25.00 for County employees, to be included in their November paycheck envelopes. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Motion carried.

Niemann thanked the Board for their support.

Consideration/Possible Action – request to place a sign promoting the Boy Scouts Hunters Breakfast in the west lawn of the courthouse

Gary Schmid, Boy Scouts of America Troop 68, appeared before the Board to request permission to place a banner on the west lawn of the courthouse on November 15th, to be removed on November 16th after their Hunters Breakfast fundraiser. Moved by Krafka, seconded by Coufal to approve the placement of a banner on the west lawn of the courthouse promoting the Hunters Breakfast on November 16th. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Motion carried.

Consideration/Possible Action – credit card for County Clerk's office

Moved by Coufal, seconded by Sypal to approve a credit card for the County Clerk's office. This credit card will be housed in the Clerk's office and available for use by other County offices as needed. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Motion carried.

Approval of Official Bond and Oath for James Miratsky, Skull Creek Township

Moved by Bauer, seconded by Vandenberg to approve the bond and oath for James Miratsky, Skull Creek Township, as presented. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Motion carried.

Consideration/Possible Action – request to hold Memorial Day picnic in SW courthouse parking lot on Saturday, May 23rd

Nathan Coufal appeared before the Board on behalf of the American Legion. The group places flags on the west lawn of the courthouse annually on Memorial Day. Coufal requested permission to host a picnic in the SW courthouse parking lot from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for community members interested in helping the American Legion put up the flags. Moved by Coufal, seconded by Griess to approve Coufal's request to host a Memorial Day picnic in the SW courthouse parking lot from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 23, 2026. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Motion carried.

Discussion

Chairman Steager provided an update on the City's SENDD grant to provide up to six homeowners with downpayment assistance. He also noted that nearly half of the lots in the new Northland Addition have been sold and are either under construction or completed.

Correspondence

- Notification received from NDEE that Tuls Properties LLC/Summit Calf Ranch received Approval to Operate.
- County Clerk Lori Aschoff read aloud an email received from Drew Barton, Depcom Power, regarding a solar farm project and potential permitting requirements.
- The Board reviewed Butler County Development Board's September 2025 meeting minutes.
- Supervisor Bauer received a letter from Summit Township Clerk Lori Kallenbach. The Township has received multiple complaints regarding trucks hauling chickens, manure, and fuel, traveling at excessive speeds through the Township. Kallenbach requested assistance from the County Board in addressing the safety risks posed by the excessive truck traffic. Asked for his input, Sheriff Tom Dion stated that the Sheriff's Office does surveil the area, and the issues are county-wide. Highway Superintendent Isham noted that a truck took a corner at 38 and C Roads too tight and ended up in the ditch. Casey Prothman, COAXIS Energy, asked if the Highway Department needs to be notified when trucks are going to be traveling County roads; Isham said not necessarily.

Consideration/Approval of Resolution 2025-35: Zoning Overlay District / Floodplain Management Ordinance

Tabled until a later meeting.

Meeting recessed at 9:46 a.m.

Meeting resumed at 9:50 a.m.

Appointment of 911 Coordinator

Chairman Steager explained that a committee consisting of Chairman Steager, Supervisor Vandenberg, County Attorney Reiter, HR Director Loges, Sheriff Dion, Sara Hofpar, Mark Sloup, and Rick Schneider interviewed three applicants for the 911 Coordinator position. They recommended Sharon Codr be appointed to fill the position. Codr has 30 years of experience, currently serving as Operations Manager for Lincoln's 911 Center. Steager noted that Codr will provide great leadership to the department and recommended starting pay of \$35.00 per hour and a review after six months. Moved by Vandenberg, seconded by Coufal to hire Sharon Codr as 911 Coordinator with starting pay of \$35.00 per hour and a review after six months. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Motion carried.

Chairman Steager welcomed Codr aboard; her start date will be December 8th.

Meeting recessed at 9:55 a.m.

Meeting resumed at 10:00 a.m.

Black Hills Energy (BHE) presentation regarding utility permit application

Jill Becker, BHE Governmental Affairs Manager, gave a presentation about BHE and their modified utility permit application. Supervisor Bauer asked Becker if BHE had reached out to landowners since the October 6th meeting, during which their initial utility permit application was denied. Becker said no but noted that they did reach out to landowners twice before their initial application was submitted. She stated they would reach out to landowners again if the utility permit application is approved. Public comments were made by landowners Teresa Otte, Sam Barlean, Brad Kresha, and Dan Riha, and BHE representatives Becker, Scott Zaruba, and Cullen Sila. Barlean stated he felt the pipeline should serve the entire community rather than only a few private customers. He suggested the pipeline be oversized, to which Becker responded that by law, BHE is unable to oversize the line. Highway Superintendent Isham noted his opposition to the application because the pipeline would not be bored ten feet deep in the ROW as requested. Becker noted that a depth of five feet already exceeds federal requirements. Otte, Barlean, Kresha, and Riha all expressed frustration with how negotiations were handled by BHE and felt they were lied to. Becker apologized for what was done/said previously,

noting that landowner negotiations were contracted out to a third party. She stated that BHE representatives were happy to talk to any landowner wanting to continue conversations after the meeting. Otte expressed concern about cleaning the road ditches. Barlean asked what the REA thought of the proposed application. Isham stated that the five-foot depth would likely slow down the REA in the event of a power outage; Becker suggested that Isham's statement was an over-generalization. Chairman Steager summarized the utility permit application and asked for a motion to approve. Moved by Krafka to approve BHE's utility permit application, pending approval by Summit Township for a crossing located in the township's jurisdiction. Motion died for lack of a second. Trent Arland, COAXIS Energy, asked the reason for the lack of a second. Chairman Steager stated that that was a question for each supervisor. Casey Prothman, COAXIS Energy, asked about next steps and stated if Board members are against the application, it would be helpful to understand why. Chairman Steager noted that the issue was also voted on at the October 6th meeting. He suggested reaching out to supervisors individually to better understand each supervisor's reasons for not approving the application.

County Attorney Julie Reiter noted that the Planning Commission's first meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 5th, at 6:00 p.m. at the Highway Building. She encouraged everyone to attend, including Board members. She cautioned the Board against speaking or providing guidance at the meeting but noted that they should go for informational purposes.

There being no further business to come before the board, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:49 a.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be November 17, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Lori L. Aschoff
County Clerk

Scott Steager
Chairman