

BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

January 5, 2026

A meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Butler County, Nebraska, was held on the 5th day of January 2026 at the Butler County Courthouse in David City, Nebraska at 9:00 a.m.

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

County Clerk Lori Aschoff called the meeting to order and announced that a complete copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted in the meeting room.

County Clerk Aschoff called for nominations for a Temporary Chairperson.

Election of Chairperson for 2026

Supervisor Coufal nominated Scott Steager for Temporary Chairperson; Supervisor Griess seconded the nomination. County Clerk Aschoff called for any other nominations. Moved by Bauer, seconded by Kafka to cease nominations. Upon roll call vote for Temporary Chairperson the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Absent: Sypal.

Motion carried.

Temporary Chairman Steager called for nominations for Chairperson for 2026. Supervisor Coufal nominated Scott Steager; Supervisor Bauer seconded the nomination. County Clerk Aschoff called for any other nominations. Moved by Vandenberg, seconded by Griess to cease nominations. Upon roll call vote the following voted for Chairperson for 2026:

Aye: Coufal, Griess, Bauer, Kafka, Vandenberg.

Nay: NONE.

Abstain: Steager.

Absent: Sypal.

Motion carried.

Election of Vice Chairperson for 2026

Chairman Steager asked for nominations for Vice Chairperson. Supervisor Coufal nominated Tony Kafka; Supervisor Bauer seconded the nomination. Steager called for any other nominations. Moved by Vandenberg, seconded by Griess to cease nominations. Upon roll call vote the following voted for Vice Chairperson for 2026:

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

Nay: NONE.

Absent: Sypal.

Motion carried.

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

Appointment of Committees

The board reviewed the committees and liaisons list for 2026.

BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**COMMITTEES**

	2026
CHAIRMAN	Steager
VICE CHAIRMAN	Kafka
REGION V	Griess
BLUE VALLEY	Kafka
FOUR CORNERS HEALTH DISTRICT	Steager
ROADS & BRIDGES	Kafka, Bauer, Vandenberg
BUILDING & GROUNDS	Sypal, Coufal, Bauer
INSURANCE	Coufal, Griess
HEALTH CARE CENTER	Steager, Sypal
NOXIOUS WEED	Kafka, Coufal, Bauer
FINANCE & FEES	Steager, Kafka, Bauer
EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK (Benefits, Policy)	Sypal, Kafka, Coufal
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	Coufal, Steager
SAFETY COMMITTEE	Steager, Sypal, Griess
SENIOR CENTER	Sypal, Vandenberg
BUTLER COUNTY LANDFILL	Coufal, Sypal, Vandenberg
GENERAL ASSISTANCE REVIEW	Sypal, Steager
HR COMMITTEE	Steager (Adamy, Dion, Aschoff, Reiter)
LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE	Steager, Coufal, Vandenberg
911 COORDINATOR	Steager, Coufal, Vandenberg
LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD COMMITTEE	Steager, Vandenberg, Kafka
PLANNING COMMISSION/ZONING	Griess, Bauer, Vandenberg

LIASIONS

	2026
ASSESOR	Bauer
ATTORNEY	Griess
CLERK	Chairman
CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT	Vandenberg
COUNTY COURT	Griess
CUSTODIAN	Coufal
E-911	Steager, Vandenberg
EMERGENCY MANAGER	Steager, Vandenberg
EXTENSION AGENT	Coufal
FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR	Bauer
HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT	Bauer
NOXIOUS WEED	Kafka
SENIOR SERVICES	Vandenberg
SHERIFF/DETENTION CENTER	Kafka, Sypal
SURVEYOR	Coufal
TREASURER	Steager
VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER	Coufal
BUTLER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY	Bauer
HR	Steager

Early payroll for separated employee and to correct error

Moved by Coufal, seconded by Griess to approve the early payroll. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Absent: Sypal.

Motion carried.

Consideration of Resolution 2026 – 01/County Depositories

Moved by Bauer, seconded by Vandenberg to approve Resolution 2026-01 as presented. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Absent: Sypal.

Motion carried.

A copy of Resolution 2026-01 is on file at the County Clerk's office and available for review.

Consideration of Resolution 2026 – 02/Investment of Surplus Funds

Moved by Griess, seconded by Coufal to approve Resolution 2026-02 as presented. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Absent: Sypal.

Motion carried.

A copy of Resolution 2026-02 is on file at the County Clerk's office and available for review.

HR Update

None.

Approval of Official Bond and Oath – Daryl Crook, Rising City Rural Fire District

Chairman Steager noted that fire district bonds do not need to be approved by the County Board; no action taken.

Discussion/Possible action – set date/time for public hearing regarding new liquor license app for Regs 7 Mile LLC

Moved by Coufal, seconded by Vandenberg to set a public hearing date/time regarding new liquor license application for Regs 7 Mile LLC on January 20, 2025, at 9:15 a.m. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Absent: Sypal.

Motion carried.

Discussion/Possible Action – review and approve Applied Connective bid for AV equip in Supervisors' Meeting Room

County Clerk Aschoff reviewed two quotes from Applied Connective for AV equipment for the Supervisors' Meeting Room. A bid for \$18,799.78 includes seven individual microphones to be placed in between board members. Each microphone has an on/off switch to allow for sidebar conversations if needed, should the Board decide to start recording meetings. A bid for \$13,259.44 includes one larger microphone to be installed in the ceiling. Both would work with the TV and speaker(s) already in the room. Discussion was held. Moved by Vandenberg, seconded by Coufal to approve the bid for \$18,799.78, to be taken from General/Miscellaneous. Further discussion was held; Supervisor Griess suggested the Board wait until they see how the new system at the highway building works first. Motion withdrawn by Vandenberg. County Clerk Aschoff noted that the equipment included in the two bids being considered is not the same equipment being installed at the highway building. Moved by Coufal, seconded by Kafka to approve the bid for \$18,799.78, to be taken from General/Miscellaneous. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

Aye: Coufal, Vandenberg, Kafka, Bauer, Steager.

Nay: Griess.
Absent: Sypal.
Motion carried.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION (SEE SEPARATE MINUTES)

Moved by Bauer, seconded by Coufal to move into the Board of Equalization at 9:30 a.m. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

Aye: Bauer, Griess, Coufal, Vandenberg, Kafka, Steager.
Nay: NONE.
Absent: Sypal.
Motion carried.

Moved by Griess, seconded by Vandenberg to exit the Board of Equalization at 9:40 a.m. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

Aye: Griess, Coufal, Vandenberg, Kafka, Bauer, Steager.
Nay: NONE.
Absent: Sypal.
Motion carried.

Appoint Highway Superintendent for Calendar Year 2026

Moved by Coufal, seconded by Kafka to appoint Randall Isham as Highway Superintendent for Calendar Year 2026. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

Aye: Coufal, Vandenberg, Kafka, Bauer, Griess, Steager.
Nay: NONE.
Absent: Sypal.
Motion carried.

Discussion/Possible Action – annual agreement with Saunders County for snow removal on the Prague Highway

Moved by Bauer, seconded by Griess to approve the annual agreement with Saunders County for snow removal on the Prague Highway. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

Aye: Bauer, Griess, Coufal, Vandenberg, Kafka, Steager.
Nay: NONE.
Absent: Sypal.
Motion carried.

Discussion/Possible Action – STOP sign study of the intersection of Road 28 and Road A, cost to be split with Polk County

Tabled until the next meeting.

Update on Roads

Highway Superintendent Isham announced plans to retire this year. He was thinking October but may retire a little earlier and stay on to help his replacement for a few months. Crews are busy maintaining roads and stockpiling gravel; both excavators are repaired and in service. Regarding the bridge west of Linwood, Isham said he will have to hire a longstick backhoe to cut out the channel. Bridge Inspector Jim Novacek is done with bridge inspections for the year.

Discussion/Possible Action – recording of Board meetings

Tabled until the next meeting.

Committee Reports

Supervisor Bauer noted that there was discussion at the NACO annual conference regarding the United States' 250th anniversary (semiquincentennial) and all Nebraska counties are encouraged to start planning activities now. Chairman Steager said he will reach out to the City and perhaps the City and County can coordinate activities.

Correspondence

1. NPDES General Permit letter for Tuls Properties, LLC – Summit Calf Ranch CAFO
2. Incident Command System (ICS) Training – January 15, 2026 – Fremont
3. Landlord/Tenant Cash Rent Workshop – January 27, 2026 – Butler County Highway Building
4. SENDD Informational Handouts from Tom Bliss, SENDD Executive Director

Meeting recessed at 10:21 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 10:25 a.m.

Executive Session

Moved by Coufal, seconded by Griess to move into executive session regarding a personnel matter, inviting HR Director Heidi Loges at 10:25a.m. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Absent: Sypal

Motion carried.

Moved by Vandenberg, seconded by Coufal to exit executive session at 10:40 a.m. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

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

Nay: NONE.

Absent: Sypal.

Motion carried.

HR Director Heidi Loges will retire effective February 28, 2026. Moved by Bauer, seconded by Coufal to accept the resignation of HR Director Heidi Loges with regret. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

Aye: Bauer, Griess, Coufal, Vandenberg, Kafka.

Nay: Steager.

Absent: Sypal.

Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:44 a.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be January 20, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

Lori L. Aschoff
County Clerk

Scott Steager
Chairman