

BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

A meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Butler County, Nebraska, was held on the 6th day of July 2026 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, Brad Vandenberg, Jan Sypal, Bob Coufal.

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 Sypal, to move into the Board of Equalization at 9:01 a.m. All aye. Motion carried.

Board of Equalization recessed at 9:04 a.m.

County Clerk Monthly Fee Report

The County Clerk fee report for the month of May 2026 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 May 2026 was accepted and placed on file.

Monthly Sheriff Report

The Monthly Sheriff Report for the month of May 2026 was accepted and placed on file.

HR Update

None.

Early payroll for separated employees and payroll correction

Moved by Coufal, seconded by Sypal, to approve early payroll for separated employees and a payroll correction as presented. All aye. Motion carried.

Review/Approve Resolution 2026-31 – Updating Signers on SC & RT Accounts

Moved by Vandenberg, seconded by Coufal, to approve Resolution 2026-31 as presented. All aye. Motion carried. A copy of Resolution 2026-31 is on file at the County Clerk's office.

Discussion/Possible action – approve out-of-state travel for training

Sheriff Tom Dion appeared before the Board to request approval for Deputy Cory Burtman to attend DARE training in Iowa. The ten-day course and lodging is free; the County will have to pay for travel and meals only. Moved by Sypal, seconded by Krafka, to approve this out-of-state travel for training. All aye. Motion carried.

Discussion/Possible action – adjust Veterans Service Office hours

Board members reviewed a written request from the Veterans Service Office (VSO) Board to change the VSO hours from Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. to Tuesday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 2:15 p.m. Moved by Vandenberg, seconded by Coufal, to approve this request. All aye. Motion carried.

Discussion/Possible action – Region 5 EPC Contract for FY2026-2027

Moved by Sygal, seconded by Krafka, to approve the Region V EPC contract for FY 2026-2027. All aye. Motion carried.

NACO Updates

NACO Chief Deputy Candace Meredith appeared before the Board to provide NACO and legislative updates. NACO's legislative conference will be held in Burwell on October 16th; the annual conference will be in Kearney December 16-18. She reviewed data specific to Butler County and noted that the County's share of property taxes collected is 14.5%, which is considerably lower than other Nebraska counties. Meredith reviewed NACO's benefit services, preferred partners, website (nebraskacounties.org) and the new NACO West facility in Ogallala. She also provided a legislative update, reviewing changes that will be effective July 18th and others that will be effective in 2027. She noted upcoming changes to marriage license fees, distress warrant fees, Joint Public Hearing postcards and meetings, publication requirements, Open Meetings Act notice, record retention modernization, and the planning/zoning shot clock.

Discussion/Possible action – purchase EagleView Software

EagleView District Sales Manager Ryan Poots appeared before the Board to review the proposed contract for EagleView software and imagery and to answer questions from the Board. It is a six-year contract broken into two projects. Discussion was held about the imagery and what the surrounding counties utilize. County Assessor Vickie Donoghue stated that the 2" imagery would best fit the needs of the Assessor's office. She also noted that she has enough set aside in the equipment sinking fund to cover the cost for the first year. She was asked about gWorks, and she stated that gWorks no longer does aerial photography. Supervisor Vandenberg noted that several offices would benefit from the imagery, not just the Assessor's office. Discussion was held regarding when the aerial photos would be taken. Poots stated that they run in the fall and spring, when there are no leaves on the trees. Chairman Steager said he would like County Clerk Lori Aschoff and the budget committee to look at how to potentially budget for it. Tabled until a future meeting.

Meeting recessed at 10:09 a.m. Meeting reconvened at 10:12 a.m.

Discussion/Possible action – Guardrail replacement bid – Loma

Tabled until the July 20th meeting.

Discussion/Possible action - Guardrail replacement bid – David City

Tabled until the July 20th meeting.

Discussion/Possible action – Bridge repair proposal – C001202225

Assistant Highway Superintendent Jim Novacek explained that he solicited bids from six engineering firms. He received one bid from MEI, a letter of decline from Mainelle Wagner, and nothing from the other four firms. Moved by Bauer, seconded by Coufal, to accept the bid from MEI and approve phases 1-3 at a cost of \$22,500. All aye. Motion carried.

Discussion/Possible action – ROW Policy

Novacek suggested Board members and County Attorney Julie Reiter review the proposed ROW policy and vote on it at the next meeting. Board members reviewed the policy and discussed how to include the townships in the policy/process. The townships need to be held responsible for enforcing; however, ultimately, it is up to the Board to enforce ROW maintenance per state statute. Audience member Jerome Andel noted that the townships have had two years and have done nothing to enforce ROW maintenance. It is a big problem that is only getting worse. He suggested that letters should be sent to every landowner in the county. Novacek was asked if County Attorney Reiter had reviewed the ROW policy, but Novacek stated he did not know. Moved by Vandenberg, seconded by Bauer, to approve the ROW policy as presented. All aye. Motion carried.

Update on Roads

Novacek provided a roads update. They are working on the dirt road by Brainard and a culvert elsewhere. Fairgrounds Road was sprayed (dust control) last week; inside the fairgrounds will be sprayed early this week, then again a couple days later to reactivate. Vandenberg asked Novacek about the railroad crossing at Brainard. Novacek offered to give him contact numbers/emails for Nebraska Central Railroad, but warned they are difficult to get a hold of.

Consideration of Audit Engagement with the Auditor of Public Accounts

Moved by Coufal, seconded by Sypal, to approve the Audit Engagement Letter with the Auditor of Public Accounts. All aye. Motion carried.

Correspondence

- BCD Meeting Minutes – May 2026
- SENDD Bulletin – June 2026
- Library Newsletter – July 2026
- Dozinky Doozy bicycle event – October 3, 2026
- NDOT Project Update – Project # NH-81-2 (152)
- River Road letter

Public Comment

None.

Meeting Recessed at 10:52 a.m.

Board of Equalization reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

Moved by Vandenberg, seconded by Griess, to exit Board of Equalization at 11:54 a.m. All aye. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Steager adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be July 20, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

Lori L. Aschoff, County Clerk
Scott Steager, Chairman