BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

A meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Butler County, Nebraska, was held on the 8th day of September 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, and 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 Bauer, seconded by Vandenberg, to move into the Board of Equalization at 9:00 a.m. All aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Griess, seconded by Coufal, to exit the Board of Equalization at 9:05 a.m. All aye. Motion carried.

County Clerk Monthly Fee Report
The County Clerk fee report for the month of August 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 August 2026 was accepted and placed on file.

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

Senior Center/Rural Transit Report
The Senior Center/Rural Transit monthly report was not received in time and was tabled until the next meeting.

Review/Approve Early Payroll for Separated Employees
Moved by Coufal, seconded by Vandenberg, to approve early payroll for separated employees. All aye. Motion carried.

HR Update
HR Director Aida Hickman reported that two new employees began employment with the County on August 31, 2026.

Discussion/Possible Action – Lease of County-Owned Real Estate
The Board discussed the lease of approximately three acres of County-owned property in Linwood Township to the Kastl family. The property has historically been leased for an amount equal to the

property taxes. The taxes have been paid; however, the lease still needs to be completed and the County reimbursed. The matter was tabled until the next meeting pending contact with the lessee.

Discussion/Possible Action – Senior Center Kitchen Remodel

Mike Muck and Joanna Brandenburgh, Butler County Senior Center, appeared before the Board to present bids for remodeling the Senior Center kitchen. The remodel is needed to address requirements identified during State health inspections, including replacement of deteriorating cabinetry and flooring and improvements to the work surfaces and walls.

The proposed project includes an epoxy floor, stainless steel work benches and wall covering, backsplash, new cabinetry and tables, and necessary electrical work. The epoxy flooring was discussed as a more durable and easier-to-clean alternative to tile and is also the lower-cost option. The work is expected to require approximately 2-3 weeks of lead time for materials and approximately one week of kitchen downtime. The Senior Center hopes to coordinate with Brookstone regarding preparation of Meals on Wheels meals for regular clients during the kitchen closure.

The Board discussed the condition of the existing particle-board cabinetry, which is deteriorating and cannot reasonably be repaired. The kitchen contents and appliances will be moved and stored in the garage during the remodel.

The estimated project cost was approximately $26,130.90, including electrical work by Woolsey, flooring by Mike Wendt, backsplash by Butler County Welding, and cabinetry and tables by Buller. Chairman Steager noted that approximately $70,000 is currently earmarked for building remodeling in the Senior Services Savings Fund and that those funds will be used for the project.

Moved by Vandenberg, seconded by Sypal, to proceed with the Senior Center kitchen remodel in the amount of $26,130.90, with the funds to be taken from the Senior Services Savings Fund. All aye. Motion carried.

Discussion – Upcoming Expiration of Planning Commission Members Representing Districts 2 and 6

The Board discussed the upcoming expiration of the terms of the Planning Commission members representing Districts 2 and 6. County Attorney Julie Reiter advised that the applicable statute does not specify whether the Board must reopen the application process or may directly reappoint the current members. She further advised that the current members remain in their positions until new appointments are made.

Planning Commission members Jesse Hough and Kevin Hotovy were present and indicated they were willing to continue serving. Board members discussed whether to reopen the application process or reappoint the current members. Griess expressed a preference for reopening the application process so the Board could consider all interested applicants and evaluate the current members along with any new applicants. Krafka, Steager, and Vandenberg expressed support for the current members, noting the significant amount of time they have invested in the comprehensive planning process and the work they have completed during the past year.

The Board continued discussion regarding the value of continuity on the Planning Commission, the amount of time devoted by members to the comprehensive planning process, and the desire to provide other interested members of the public an opportunity to apply. Griess stated that he has attended nearly all of the Planning Commission meetings and favored reopening the application process so the Board could consider all interested applicants.

Hough addressed the Board regarding the discussion stating that he objected to the implication that his conduct at the most recent Planning Commission meeting had been inappropriate and wanted the specific conduct to be identified in the board meeting minutes. Griess stated that he made no such implication and that any such interpretation was Hough's inference.

No action was taken. Chairman Steager directed County Clerk Lori Aschoff to place “Discussion/Possible Action – Appointment of Planning Commission Members Representing Districts 2 and 6” on the agenda for the next Board meeting and requested that the item be assigned a specific time so the Planning Commission members would not have to attend the entire meeting. Board members were asked to give the matter serious consideration and be prepared to make a decision at the next meeting.

Approval of Annual Inventories for County Personal Property
The Board reviewed the annual inventories of County personal property. A number of changes were made to reflect equipment transferred between departments, including 911 and Emergency Management equipment. Outdated and unusable equipment were also removed from the inventories. Moved by Griess, seconded by Bauer, to approve the annual inventories for County personal property. All aye. Motion carried.

Discussion/Possible Action – Server Replacement Project
Matt Childress, Applied Connective, appeared before the Board regarding the County's server replacement project. Childress presented a preliminary Request for Proposals (RFP) for the hardware portion of the project. He explained that the previous proposal was approximately $33,000, with approximately $23,000 attributable to hardware.

Childress advised that current lead time for a new server is approximately three months and recommended moving forward with the RFP as soon as possible. The Board discussed whether the RFP should be limited to hardware or include installation. The Board indicated a preference to solicit bids for the hardware while having Applied Connective perform the installation and migration work. It was also clarified that the specifications should allow equipment that meets or exceeds the stated requirements rather than requiring a specific manufacturer. Chairman Steager directed County Clerk Aschoff to prepare and distribute an RFP for the server hardware.

Childress also advised the Board that Applied Connective will be obtaining quotes for a backup internet connection in the coming months because the County's existing cellular backup does not transition quickly enough when the primary internet connection goes down. No action was taken on the backup internet service.

2026-2027 County Budget Discussion
Chairman Steager provided an update on the 2026-2027 County budget. The budget committee has met several times and has worked to reduce expenditures while continuing to provide necessary County services. The Board discussed increasing costs, including insurance and wages, and noted that the proposed tax request is approximately $200,000 higher than the prior year. Approximately $1 million from the inheritance fund is also being used in the proposed budget.

The Board acknowledged the work of County Clerk Lori Aschoff and County Treasurer Karey Adamy in reviewing the budget and identifying areas where expenditures could be reduced.

Correspondence
The Board reviewed correspondence including BCD minutes, library newsletter, HKO Land & Cattle NPDES renewal letter, and Aging Partners agenda/minutes.

The Board recessed at 9:43 a.m. and resumed at 9:47 a.m.

Discussion/Possible Action – Minimum Maintenance Road Located North of E and 38
Todd Topil and Patty Selden appeared before the Board regarding a gate blocking access to pasture along a minimum-maintenance road north of E and 38 Roads.

County Attorney Julie Reiter reported that she had reviewed the history of the road and related documents. The road was established through a court proceeding in the 1980s in which the County acquired approximately 33.5 feet for an access road. County Attorney Reiter explained that Nebraska law regarding access roads provides certain circumstances under which a public road that has not been worked, used, or traveled by the public for 15 years may be gated or fenced, provided adequate ingress and egress is maintained. County Attorney Reiter stated that the circumstances surrounding this road make the legal issue less than clear and that the Board is not legally obligated to require removal of the gate.

The Board and landowners discussed the history and location of the gate. The current gate is approximately 16 feet wide and was installed in its current location in 2023 after the property had previously been fenced or gated in different configurations. The gate is not locked, but its width makes it difficult for the township maintainer to access the road.

The parties discussed the possibility of replacing the gate with a cattle guard. County Attorney Reiter advised that she was not aware of anything that would prohibit a cattle guard but recommended that any such arrangement include an agreement addressing installation, maintenance, and responsibility for the cattle guard.

Board members discussed the unique configuration of the road, the difficulty of maintaining it, and the fact that the road primarily provides access for the two affected landowners. The Board also discussed concerns about opening the road to general traffic and the potential for unauthorized use and dumping. At least one culvert on the road will require replacement.

The Board agreed that the Roads and Bridge Committee, consisting of Vandenberg, Krafka, and Bauer, along with Interim Highway Superintendent Greg Brecka and the affected landowners, should meet and attempt to develop a mutually acceptable solution that addresses both property access and long-term County/township maintenance concerns. The matter was tabled pending the outcome of said meeting and a recommendation from the Roads and Bridge Committee.

Roads Update – Pavement Marking Bids
Interim Highway Superintendent Greg Brecka presented bids for pavement marking. Straightline Striping of Grand Island was the low bidder at $1,500 per mile. Approximately 10.5 miles are expected to be striped, for an estimated total of approximately $15,750. The other bid received was approximately $76,500. The Board noted that Straightline Striping had performed the work previously and that its

specifications meet or exceed NDOT specifications. Moved by Bauer, seconded by Krafka, to approve Straightline Striping at $1,500 per mile, with the expense to be paid from the Road Fund line item 3-0306, Pavement Marking. All aye. Motion carried.

Discussion/Possible Action – Replacement of 1-2 Semi-Tractors
The Board discussed replacement of County semi-tractors used for gravel hauling. Interim Highway Superintendent Greg Brecka proposed that they purchase two new semi-tractors, trade in one existing truck, move another truck down in the fleet, and sell the older Mack truck. Board members discussed whether to purchase one or two trucks at this time.

The Board considered the current condition and daily use of the gravel trucks, the need to maintain adequate equipment for hauling gravel, the County's anticipated $600,000 gravel purchase expense if the new gravel pit is not operational, and the potential for savings once the new gravel pit is operating. Members also discussed the pricing of the proposed trucks, noting that the trucks included in the current pricing were manufactured in April and that comparable trucks manufactured in June would cost $7,500 more each. The proposed trucks include a seven-year warranty and are equipped for gravel hauling.

After discussion, the Board determined that purchasing two trucks at the current pricing would provide the best value and would allow the County to maintain adequate gravel-hauling capacity. Moved by Coufal, seconded by Griess, to purchase two semi-tractors, trade in one existing truck, move another truck down in the fleet, and sell the Mack truck. Upon roll call vote, the following voted:
Aye: Coufal, Griess, Vandenberg, Bauer, Sypal, Steager. Nay: Krafka. Motion carried. The purchase will be paid from the Special Road Fund Miscellaneous Capital Outlay.

Chairman Steager exited the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

Discussion/Possible Action – Utility Permit Applications for Butler County Solar
The Board reviewed five utility permit applications associated with Butler County Solar for underground electric lines. Alexis Township had approved the applications. The Board discussed the preference for boring rather than trenching in areas where water, sand, culverts, fiber lines, and other utilities may create difficulties.

Application No. 1 was approved as presented. Moved by Sypal, seconded by Coufal. All aye. Motion carried.

Application No. 2 was approved with the requirement that the line be bored under the road and that the applicant be responsible for repairing any utilities or other infrastructure damaged during the work. Moved by Vandenberg, seconded by Bauer. All aye. Motion carried.

Application No. 3 was approved as presented. Moved by Coufal, seconded by Sypal. All aye. Motion carried.

Application No. 4 was approved as presented. Moved by Vandenberg, seconded by Coufal. All aye. Motion carried.

Application No. 5 was approved as presented. Moved by Coufal, seconded by Sypal. All aye. Motion carried.

Public Comment
Joe Peterson addressed the Board regarding the upcoming appointments to the Planning Commission. Peterson encouraged the Board to reopen the application process so interested members of the public have an opportunity to apply. He stated that he has attended every Planning Commission meeting and is familiar with the ongoing planning process, and he believes other members of the public may also be interested in serving if the opportunity is advertised. No action was taken.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Vice Chairman Krafka adjourned the meeting at 10:41 a.m.

Lori L. Aschoff, County Clerk
Tony Krafka, Vice Chairman