BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
November 2, 2026

A meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Butler County, Nebraska, was held November 2, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the Butler County Highway Department, 3190 N Road, David City, Nebraska. Present were Chairman Scott Steager, Tony Krafka, Scott Griess, Jan Sypal, Bob Coufal, and Brad Vandenberg. Absent: Scot Bauer.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication, a designated method of giving notice. The agenda was available for public inspection at the office of the County Clerk. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Chairman Steager called the meeting to order and announced the availability of the Open Meetings Act. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as presented.

Board of Equalization (See Separate Minutes)
Moved by Sypal, seconded by Griess, to move into the Board of Equalization at 9:01 a.m. All aye. Motion carried. Moved by Coufal, seconded by Vandenberg, to exit the Board of Equalization at 9:03 a.m. All aye. Motion carried.

HR Update
Chairman Steager reported that the selection committee had interviewed two candidates for the HR Director position and anticipated discussing a recommendation for the next Board meeting. Interim HR Director Heidi Loges reported that applications continue to be accepted for part-time and full-time dispatcher positions. A gravel pit operator was hired and recently started out at the pit.

Public Comment
Chairman Steager invited public comment. No public comments were offered.

Early Payroll Correction
County Clerk Lori Aschoff explained that an employee had discontinued health insurance coverage in August, but the Clerk's office did not receive notice until after September payroll was processed. The change was inadvertently omitted from October payroll, requiring a correction. Moved by Coufal, seconded by Sypal, to approve the payroll correction. All aye. Motion carried.

Cost-of-Living Increase for Board-Appointed Employees
The Board discussed cost-of-living and merit increases for Board-appointed employees, including the evaluation-based approach used last year and the distinction between cost-of-living adjustments and merit increases. Moved by Sypal, seconded by Coufal, to approve the cost-of-living increase for Board-appointed employees as discussed. All aye. Motion carried.

Internet Service at Highway Department Building
The Board discussed options for improving internet service at the Highway Department building. Chairman Steager suggested County Clerk Aschoff ask Applied Connective Technologies to investigate Starlink service. Tabled until the next meeting.

David City Police Department Interlocal Agreements
Chairman Steager reported that he and County Attorney Julie Reiter met with City representatives concerning the interlocal agreement with the David City Police Department. Discussion addressed the mutual assistance provided by the David City Police Department (DCPD) and Butler County Sheriff, including backup responses to calls such as domestic violence incidents, and the cooperative working relationship with dispatch. Sheriff Tom Dion noted that the question of payment for dispatch services had been brought to his attention. Chairman Steager and Supervisor Vandenberg characterized the services exchanged as generally balanced. 911 Coordinator Sharon Codr agreed that cooperation between the departments was strong and suggested reevaluating the arrangement after 2027.

Moved by Coufal, seconded by Sypal, to approve an extension of the current interlocal agreement with the City of David City through December 31, 2026. All aye. Motion carried.

County Attorney Reiter advised that the City would prepare a separate interlocal agreement for calendar year 2027, with terms identical to the 2026 agreement except for the dates. Supervisor Griess questioned the original purpose of the agreement. Reiter explained that an interlocal agreement is needed to authorize DCPD officers to respond outside their normal jurisdiction, including beyond the City's extraterritorial jurisdiction, while the County Sheriff already has jurisdiction throughout Butler County, including within the City.

Moved by Coufal, seconded by Vandenberg, to approve the 2027 interlocal agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign it, contingent upon all terms remaining identical to the 2026 agreement except for the dates. All aye. Motion carried.

David City Downtown Permanent Lighting Project
David City Administrator Raiko Martinez requested a permanent easement permitting the City to install permanent lighting on the courthouse as part of its downtown lighting project. Chairman Steager stated that the County should retain control over the lighting. County Attorney Reiter advised against granting a permanent easement or unrestricted authority over displays on a government building. She stated that a more limited agreement could allow installation at City expense while preserving County oversight and appropriate restrictions on lighting displays. Board members generally agreed with her concerns.

Tanner Thiem distributed brochures showing the proposed lighting and displayed a couple of mounting channels. He discussed possible display guidelines, including soft white lighting, designated holidays, and special recognition of local school accomplishments. Martinez indicated that a permanent easement was not essential if an acceptable agreement could be developed. Tabled to allow Martinez and Reiter to work on revised terms.

Butler County Exceptional Service Awards
911 Coordinator Sharon Codr presented Exceptional Service Awards to Bradly Daro, Alexis Buresh, and Kate Luedke in recognition of their performance during an incident on September 30, 2026. The recipients came forward to accept their awards and photographs were taken. Chairman Steager thanked Codr for the presentation and commended the three employees for their service.

Engineering for Two County Bridges
Highway Superintendent Greg Brecka discussed proposed engineering for the bridge on E Road between 41 and 42 Roads and the bridge northeast of Bruno. He stated that a 2025 estimate for the two bridges was approximately $350,000, but an updated engineering estimate from Husker Steel had not yet been received. Chairman Steager asked Brecka to obtain an estimate for consideration at the next meeting. Tabled until the next meeting.

Annual Highway Certifications
Brecka presented the County Annual Certification of Program Compliance for calendar year 2026 and related report materials. Moved by Coufal, seconded by Griess, to approve Certification of Program Compliance and accompanying Resolution 2026-42. All aye. Motion carried. Moved by Vandenberg, seconded by Sypal, to approve the accompanying report. All aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Griess, seconded by Coufal, to approve the Year-End Certification of County Highway Superintendent for calendar year 2026 and accompanying Resolution 2026-43. All aye. Motion carried.

Resolutions 2026-42 and 2026-43 are on file and available for review in the County Clerk's office.

Roads Update
Brecka reported that he needs to order culverts and grader blades. He noted that electrical work at the gravel pit was substantially complete, with inspection anticipated. Excavation for the pit had reached approximately nine feet into water. He also discussed fuel storage arrangements for equipment at Abie. The salt shipment has arrived, and delivery of the AccuSteel salt shed was delayed by high winds but was expected the following day, with installation to follow.

Brecka reported that one of the new trucks was already on the road, while wiring work remained to be completed on another. He advised that he would be away November 13–17 with limited cell reception, although the foreman and other staff would remain available.

Chairman Steager discussed his recent conversation with State Senator Jared Storm concerning responsibility for approaches from County roads onto State highways. Steager expressed concern about the equipment, expense, and expertise required of counties under current law and cited problematic locations near the landfill and Central Sand. Storm is expected to review the issue further.

The Board revisited the County's ROW vegetation and tree policy. Chairman Steager asked that affected landowners be identified using Assessor records and that County Clerk Aschoff work with Brecka to mail notification letters by December 15, 2026. Brecka indicated that progress toward compliance should be evident by the end of 2027. The letters are to be placed on the next meeting agenda.

Gated Ingress/Egress Agreement — Meisters and Topil Hills LLC
The Board reviewed the proposed agreement involving a minimum maintenance County road and proposed cattle guard. Supervisor Krafka questioned why spouses and additional Meister family members were named as signatories. County Attorney Reiter explained that adjacent owners and spouses may hold property interests that require their participation. She sent the draft to Kenny Meister's attorney and was willing to forward it to counsel for Topil Hills LLC upon receiving their contact information.

The draft agreement allows the Meisters to install a cattle guard at their expense while preserving access for the Topil property. Reiter noted that the statutory minimum width for a cattle guard is 18 feet and that Brecka recommended a 20-foot gate to accommodate County and township equipment. Jordan Meister raised concerns that his family had not reviewed the agreement and questioned whether costs should be shared because the arrangement would benefit both properties.

Krafka suggested delaying action until all parties could review and discuss the terms. Reiter stated that she was not requesting Board approval until the parties had signed or mutually acceptable revisions had been reviewed by legal counsel. Board members expressed no objection in principle if the private parties reached agreement. No action was taken.

Claims
Moved by Vandenberg, seconded by Coufal, to approve the early claim from RDO Truck Centers for the belly dump trailer. All aye. Motion carried.

Committee Reports and Correspondence
There were no committee reports. County Clerk Aschoff reviewed correspondence with the Board.

Adjournment
There being no further business, Chairman Steager adjourned the meeting at 10:17 a.m.

Lori L. Aschoff, County Clerk
Scott Steager, Chairman