

Dakota County Board of Commissioners
Monday, July 7, 2025
3:00 p.m. Regular Business Meeting
County Board Meeting Room, First Floor
Dakota County Courthouse, Dakota City, Nebraska

Chair Hohenstein called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited at the BOE meeting held just prior. Present at Roll Call: Hohenstein, Rodriguez, Van Berkum, Bousquet arrived at 3:42 p.m. Absent: Reed. Also present was Kim Watson, County Attorney and Cherie Conley, County Clerk, acting as Board Secretary. The location of the Open Meetings Act was noted.

CALL TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A current copy of the *Open Meetings Act* is posted on the west wall near the entrance of the County Board Meeting Room and is available for review by all citizens in attendance.

ROLL CALL – Excused Absence

The Dakota County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to adjust the order of items on this agenda if necessary.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT. The Board of Commissioners will hear comments about any item not on the agenda. The Chair has the discretion to limit the time of comment.
2. CONSENT AGENDA *Any individual item may be removed by a Commissioner for special discussion and consideration. Unless there is an exception, these items will be approved as one with a single vote of the Board of Commissioners.*
 - a. Approval of the previous meeting minutes-June 23, 2025
 - b. Approval of payroll claims for June 22 to July 5, 2025
 - c. Approval of payroll accounts payable claims
 - d. Approval of accounts payable claims (if any)
3. NEW BUSINESS AND RESOLUTIONS
 - a. Board to approve or not approve the Dakota Thurston County Fair request for a Special Designated Liquor License for August 3, 2025 Mexican Bull Ride and Dance event.
 - b. Cadrien Livingston, Hubbard Betterment Committee, requesting Board approval to use the Road Department barricades for Hubbard Hoot Owl Days – August 22nd – 24th.
 - c. Lori Warner, President South Sioux City Area Chamber of Commerce & CVB, to present the 2025-2026 County Visitor Bureau budget for Board approval and bring the Board up to date on current activities.
 - d. Approve renewal of the inter-local agreement with Papio-Missouri River NRD and Dakota County for office space rental for the UNL Extension Office in Dakota County July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2028.
 - e. Board to appoint a representative to serve on the Dakota County Nebraska Housing Trust Fund Board. SIMPCO is working with the Dakota County villages, cities, and county to form this 501c3 organization. The mission and purpose of this organization is to promote, support, and expand access to affordable housing opportunities for residents in Dakota County.
 - f. Oscar Gomez, City of South Sioux City, to give updates on economic development in the area.
4. OLD BUSINESS AND MISCELLANEOUS
 - a. Jolene Gubbels, Highway Superintendent – Road Report
 - b. Theresa Grove, Health Department Director – Quarterly Health Department report.
5. COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE REPORTS
6. MAIL AND/OR EMERGENCY BUSINESS
7. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hohenstein moved, seconded by Commissioner Van Berkum to excuse Commissioner Reed and Commissioner Bousquet (expects Bousquet to arrive late) from the meeting. ROLL CALL VOTE: Rodriguez-Yes, Van Berkum-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Chair Hohenstein called for Public Comment: None.

Chair Hohenstein called for Consent Agenda items. Chair Hohenstein explained that he went through the payroll claims, and all looked in order but did pull the promotion document for Penny Epting for further discussion. Commissioner Van Berkum moved, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez to approve the consent agenda items: (a) approval of the previous meeting minutes – June 23, 2025; (b) approval of payroll claims for June 22 to July 5, 2025 pulling Penny Epting promotion document and claim for discussion; (c) approval of payroll accounts payable claims; (d) approval of accounts payable claims-none. ROLL CALL VOTE: Van Berkum-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes, Bousquet-Absent, Reed-Absent. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Chair Hohenstein informed the Board that the promotion document for Penny Epting was submitted with being promoted to Captain/Law Enforcement Technology Administrator. The Law Enforcement Technology Administrator is a newly created position that has not yet been approved by the Board to be added for budget purposes and in his opinion approving the promotion to Captain can be approved at this time and the other position will be discussed and decided during the budget process. Chair Hohenstein moved, seconded by Commissioner Van Berkum to approve the promotion document for Penny Epting to Captain at the Captain's wage scale and nothing additionally at this time. ROLL CALL VOTE: Hohenstein-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes, Van Berkum-Yes, Bousquet-Absent, Reed-Absent. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Payroll: General Fund Employer: Gross Salaries-\$188,914.49; Net Pay-\$134,857.41; Total Retirement-\$13,639.68; Total FICA-\$13,981.74; Health Plan-\$44,800.00; Dental Plan-\$1,620.00; Life Insurance-\$214.85; Richard Bousquet-\$1,225.62; Martin Hohenstein-\$1,271.77; Jeffrey Reed-\$1,225.62; Rogelio Rodriguez Villalobos-\$1,225.62; Brian Van Berkum-\$1,225.62; Cherie Conley-\$2,549.99; Robin Hansen-\$1,519.21; Paola Ledesma-\$1,689.60; Kathy Abbe-\$1,502.40; Khen Chu-\$1,300.00; Maria Garcia-\$1,346.40; Stephanie Gatzemeyer-\$2,549.99; Jalissa Hattig-\$1,657.60; Brenda Landaverde-\$1,420.00; Emily McNaughton-\$1,346.40; Debera Benton-\$1,540.00; Christy Abts-\$2,549.99; Melissa Collins-\$1,773.60; Joseph O'Neil-\$636.00; Karen Becerra-\$1,744.80; Katherine Wiltgen-\$2,549.99; Louvontree Hunter-\$3,615.82; Debra Jensen-\$1,781.60; Samantha Mitchell-\$1,378.40; Rodney Soole-\$2,307.20; Todd Uhl-\$2,100.00; Tammy Dunn Peterson-\$1,616.76; Shaun Bird-\$2,758.64; Russell Briggs-\$0.00; Timothy Decker-\$2,766.78; Brian Ellinger-\$3,629.98; Penny Epting-\$2,742.26; Brian Fernau-\$2,468.80; Tyler Fulkerth-\$2,930.45; Jeremy Gilpin-\$0.00; Martin Guerrero-\$2,393.60; Melvin Harrison III-\$3,162.36; Jason James-\$2,961.95; Kimberly Johnson-\$521.55; Jared Junge-\$2,603.32; Jaime Keatts-\$0.00; Christopher Kleinberg-\$3,185.79; Jose Magana-\$2,804.82; Keaton Mueller-\$2,588.88; Gregory Nyhof-\$3,029.40; Jonathan Romo-Rodriguez-\$2,471.58; Mardi Schnee-\$1,531.94; Sarah Hammond-\$2,588.01; Shantel Krull-\$1,210.30; Jocelyn Rivera-\$1,412.35; Debra Schmiedt-\$3,910.80; Kimberly Watson-\$3,981.55; Jacob Acero-\$2,314.90; Summer Adair-\$2,061.93; Roberto Alvarez-Arreola-\$0.00; Shaelee Barreras-\$2,823.75; Ismael Castro-\$1,733.76; Timathey Chamberlain-\$2,141.04; Charlotte Coleman-\$2,417.82; Ruby De La Torre-\$2,015.04; Adilene Delgadillo Alvarez-\$1,220.40; Elisabet DeRoin-\$2,346.05; Cody Epting-\$1,990.44; Rebekah Epting-\$1,990.44; Jennifer Fuentes-\$2,525.91; Jonathan Gray-\$2,653.47; Kara Groetken-\$1,875.20; McKenna Hammer-\$2,115.34; Todd Hammer-\$2,611.18; Dustin Johnson-\$2,730.84; Terry Johnson-\$2,603.65; Carol Juarez-\$1,021.52; Brandon Long-\$2,176.10; Jennifer Marquez-\$2,175.41; Skyler Miner-\$2,146.96; Lucas Moulton-\$1,914.57; Kelsey O'Neill-\$2,221.44; Jaime Perez-Rojas-\$684.06; Kimberly Peterson-\$1,845.60; Cesar Ponce Robles-\$1,801.42; Michele Rohde-\$1,806.03; Jeremy Russell-\$2,371.77; Jerry Santos-\$2,500.92; Jennifer Svendsen-\$1,808.65; Armando Valerio-\$1,709.16; Randall Walsh-\$2,662.58; Alondra Zermeno-Mendez-\$1,687.56; Deanna Hagberg-\$2,266.37; Jolene Gubbels-\$2,246.20; Jennifer Ankerstjerne-\$1,569.44; Theresa Grove-\$2,529.60; Johanna Marquez-\$1,239.68; Courtney Swick-\$1,553.29; Nicholas Nieman-\$2,499.89; **General Fund Employee:** Federal Tax-\$12,066.38; State Tax-\$6,226.79; Soc Sec-\$11,331.60; Medicare-\$2,650.14; Extra Fit-\$1,526.00; Extra Sit-\$505.00; Retirement-\$9,411.62; Health Plan-\$3,550.00; Dental Plan-\$504.00; Colonial Health-\$219.74; Sheriff Union Dues-\$800.00; Colonial Life/Disability-\$202.17; Deferred Comp-\$1,293.00; Garnishments-\$1,756.82; Flex Plan Medical-\$1,073.08; Flex Dependent Care-\$208.33; VSP Vision Prem-\$391.64; Legal Shield-\$128.61; Liberty Nat'l Pretax-\$81.74; Liberty Nat'l Post tax-\$12.26; VSP Vision Base-\$118.16; **Road Fund Employer:** Gross Salaries-\$21,467.11; Net Pay-\$15,771.44; Retirement-\$1,449.02; Total FICA-\$1,614.70; Health Plan-\$5,600.00; Dental Plan-\$200.00; Life Insurance-\$24.61; Tristin Eifert-\$1,568.08; Michael Fuchser-\$1,902.45; Robert Hacker-\$3,504.93; Scott Jorgneson-\$2,039.09; David Kneifl-\$2,250.26; Kimon Litras-\$1,984.80; Tanya Orr-\$2,195.48; Dean Pallas-\$2,246.40; Robert Schmidt-\$1,844.80; Gunner Stanwick-\$1,930.82; **Road Fund Employee:** Federal Tax-\$1,635.68; State Tax-\$748.90; FICA-\$1,308.63; Medicare-\$306.07; Extra Fit-\$45.00; Retirement-\$966.03; Health Plan-\$200.00; Dental Plan-\$21.00; Colonial Health-PreTax-\$38.23; Colonial Health L/D-\$0.00; Garnishments-\$0.00; Flex Plan Medical-\$40.00; Road Union Dues-\$247.50; VSP Vision Prem-\$34.82; Legal Shield-\$77.79; Liberty National PreTax-\$6.50; VSP Vision Base-\$19.52; **Health Planning Grant Employer 2502:** Gross Salaries-\$1,607.19; Net Pay-\$1,211.51; Retirement-\$108.49; Total FICA-\$119.13; Health Plan-\$560.00; Life Insurance-\$2.55; Chloe Coover-\$1,607.19; **Health Planning Grant Employee 2502:** Federal Tax-\$99.78; State Tax-\$54.45; FICA-\$96.55; Medicare-\$22.58; Retirement-\$72.32; Flex Plan Medical-\$50.00; **Health Program Grant Employer 2504:** Gross Salaries-\$1,756.80; Net Pay-\$1,362.24; Retirement-\$118.58; Total FICA-\$131.59; Health Plan-\$560.00; Dental Plan-\$20.00; Life Insurance-\$2.55; Mohamud Ibrahim-\$0.00; Yesica Saldana Cisneros-\$1,756.80; **Health Program Grant Employee 2504:** Federal Tax-\$98.68; State Tax-\$48.57; FICA-\$106.65; Medicare-\$24.94; Retirement-\$79.06; Dental Plan-\$21.00; VSP Vision Base-\$15.66; **Juvenile Services Aid Employer 2507:** Gross Salaries-\$1,620.00; Net Pay-\$1,342.76; Retirement-\$109.35; Total FICA-\$121.13; Dental Plan-\$20.00; Life Insurance-\$2.55; Kristin Robinette-\$1,620.00; **Juvenile Services Aid Employee 2507:** Federal Tax-\$0.00; State Tax-\$46.55; FICA-\$98.17; Medicare-\$22.96; Retirement-\$72.90; Dental Plan-\$21.00; VSP Vision Prem-\$15.66;

Payroll Accounts Payable: General Fund: Collection Service Center, garnishment-\$564.45; Colonial Life & Accident, life insurance premium-\$421.91; Credit Management Services, garnishment-\$171.40; Dental Account, premium-\$2,124.00; FSA Dep Care - \$208.33; FSA Medical-\$1,073.08; Health Plan, premium-\$48,350.00; Fraternal Order of Police #49, union dues-\$800.00; Federal Withholding, federal taxes-\$13,592.38; Globe Life Liberty, premium-\$94.00; Hawkeye Adjustment Services, garnishment-\$254.36; Legalshield, premium-\$128.61; Life Insurance, premium-\$214.85; Nationwide Retirement Solutions, contributions-\$1,293.00; Nebraska Child Support, garnishments-\$766.61; Neb Dept of Revenue, state taxes-\$6,731.79; PointC – admin fees, \$82.50; Principal Life Insurance-premiums, \$2,715.70; Ameritas Retirement, contributions-\$23,051.30; Social Security, FICA & MEDI-\$27,963.48; VSP, premium-\$509.80. **Road Fund:** Colonial Life & Accident, life insurance premium-\$38.23; Dental Account, premium-\$221.00; FSA Medical-\$40.00; Health Plan, premium-\$6,800.00; Federal Withholding, federal taxes-\$1,680.68; Globe Life Liberty, premium-\$6.50; Legalshield, premium-\$77.79; Life Insurance, premium-\$24.61; Neb Dept of Revenue, state taxes-\$748.90; Nebraska Public Empl Local 251, union dues-\$247.50; Ameritas Retirement, contributions-\$2,415.05; Social Security, FICA & MEDI-\$3,229.40; VSP, premium-\$54.34; **Insurance Fund 1275:** PointC FSA-Withdrawals, \$1,140.79; PointC – Auto Withdrawals, \$57,903.54; PointC Medical-admin fees, \$27,107.27; VSP-Cobra premium, \$19.17; **Health Fund 2502:** DC FSA–medical claims-\$50.00; Medical Account, premium-\$560.00; Federal Withholding, federal taxes-\$99.78; Life Insurance, premium-\$2.55; Neb Dept of Revenue, state

taxes-\$54.45; Principal Life – premiums, \$23.90; Ameritas Retirement, contributions-\$180.81; Social Security, FICA & MEDI-\$238.26; **Health Fund 2504:** Dental Account, premium-\$41.00; Health Plan, premium-\$560.00; Federal Withholding, federal taxes-\$98.68; Life Insurance, premium-\$2.55; Neb Dept of Revenue, state taxes-\$48.57; Principal Life-premiums, \$25.88; Ameritas Retirement, contributions-\$197.64; Social Security, FICA & MEDI-\$263.18; VSP, premium-\$15.66; **Juvenile Services Fund 2507:** Dental Account, premium-\$41.00; Life Insurance, premium-\$2.55; Neb Dept of Revenue, state taxes-\$46.55; Principal Life-premiums, \$23.87; Ameritas Retirement, contributions-\$182.25; Social Security, FICA & MEDI-\$242.26; VSP, premium-\$15.66.

Chair Hohenstein moved, seconded by Commissioner Van Berkum to approve the Dakota Thurston County Fair request for a Special Designated Liquor License for August 3, 2025 Mexican Bull Ride and Dance event. ROLL CALL VOTE: Rodriguez-Yes, Van Berkum-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes, Bousquet-Absent, Reed-Absent. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Chair Hohenstein moved, seconded by Commissioner Van Berkum to approve the request of Cadrien Livingston, Hubbard Betterment Committee, to use the Road Department barricades for Hubbard Hoot Owl Days – August 22nd – 24th. ROLL CALL VOTE: Van Berkum-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes, Bousquet-Absent, Reed-Absent. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Lori Warner, President South Sioux City Area Chamber of Commerce & CVB, presented the 2025-2026 County Visitor Bureau budget and provided some explanation for the request and gave updates on current activities and future plans. These funds are collected by the State and run through the County as a pass-through only. Commissioner Van Berkum moved, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez to approve the 2025-2026 County Visitor Bureau budget as presented by Lori Warner, President South Sioux City Area Chamber of Commerce & CVB. ROLL CALL VOTE: Hohenstein-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes, Van Berkum-Yes, Bousquet-Absent, Reed-Absent. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Van Berkum moved, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez to approve the renewal of the inter-local agreement with Papio-Missouri River NRD and Dakota County for office space rental for the UNL Extension Office in Dakota County July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2028. ROLL CALL VOTE: Rodriguez-Yes, Van Berkum-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes, Bousquet-Absent, Reed-Absent. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Chair Hohenstein appointed Commissioner Brian Van Berkum to represent and serve on the Dakota County Nebraska Housing Trust Fund Board which is being established with the help of SIMPCO who is working with the Dakota County villages, cities and county to form this 501c3 organization and the mission and purpose of this organization is to promote, support, and expand access to affordable housing opportunities for residents in Dakota County.

Oscar Gomez, City of South Sioux City, presented updates on economic development in the area. Provided information on the 5 development areas going on (Gary Ogden Development, Hovey Development, Victory Villas, Dale Hans, Roy Perry Development) which will help with the housing and affordable housing efforts. He also provided information on the Inland Port Authority project where the City is working on bringing business into Dakota County.

Jolene Gubbels, Highway Superintendent, presented the Bi-weekly Road Report for June 22 to July 5, 2025. Total Road Maintenance – 212 hours; overtime hours – 15.75 hours; tree/debris removal – 4 hours; mowing – 17 hours; gravel hauling – 169.5 hours; total tons hauled – 645.57 on roads; sign repair – 36 hours. Road concerns-Grading: 120th Street MM, L Ave, Millis Beach, Saddle Lane, T Ave and gravel on T Ave, M Ave update is nearly completed. Working on the Sign grant and getting bids for 152nd Street patching, N Bluff Road repairs.

Commissioner Bousquet joined the meeting at 3:42 p.m.

Theresa Grove, Health Department Director, gave the quarterly report of the Dakota County Health Department. 6 night Immunization Clinics are offered. Last quarter vaccinated 115 kids/adults. Continuing to work on grants. Two of the Covid grants were cut off without notice. Those two grants totaled over \$400,000.00. One of the grants was increased from \$77,000.00 to \$121,000.00, so that helped. Partnering with Optimist to do a bike rodeo for kids at National Night Out. One of the staff is getting certified to be a Tai Chi instructor and will be teaching classes at the Senior Center. That is being funded by one of our new grants.

Commissioner Committee Reports: None.

Mail and/or Emergency Business: None.

Commissioner Van Berkum moved to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Chair Hohenstein adjourned the Board of Commissioners meeting of July 7, 2025, at 3:45 p.m.

Dakota County Board of Commissioners

Martin Hohenstein Chair

Cherie Conley, County Clerk/Secretary