

Dakota County Board of Commissioners
Monday, February 2, 2026
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. Present at Roll Call: Hohenstein, Rodriguez, Van Berkum, Bousquet, Reed. Absent: None. 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 – January 20, 2026.
 - b. Approval of payroll claims for January 18 to January 31, 2026.
 - c. Approval of payroll accounts payable claims
 - d. Approval of monthly accounts payable claims
 - e. Approval of the Annual Noxious Weed report for 2025
3. NEW BUSINESS & RESOLUTIONS
 - a. Jennifer Jackson with Heartland Counseling to present to the Board updates.
 - b. Heather Millard to discuss paving M Avenue.
 - c. Board to approve Resolution 26C-003 Grievance Board and list of members for 2026 as set forth in the Employee Handbook.
 - d. Stephanie Gatzemeyer, Treasurer, requesting approval of Resolution 26C-004 permitting pledged securities.
 - e. Board to discuss and approve process to proceed for county foreclosure on parcel 220011192, Case File CI23-47 wherein taxes on said property have not been paid since 2018 and amount due as of January 30, 2026 would be \$2,657.01. Victor Olson owns property next to this parcel and is wanting to obtain and add to his deed.
 - f. Board to approve Planning & Zoning membership appointments – one appointment to the following geographical areas: (1) Rural Emerson, (2) Rural Dakota City and (3) Rural Willis for a 3-year term February 2026 to February 2029.
 - g. Board to review applicants for the vacant position of County Sheriff and appoint qualified applicant to fulfill the remaining term through 2026.
4. OLD BUSINESS AND MISCELLANEOUS
 - a. Jolene Gubbels, Highway Superintendent – Road Report
5. COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE REPORTS
6. MAIL AND/OR EMERGENCY BUSINESS
7. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hohenstein called for Public Comment.

Stephanie Gatzemeyer, Treasurer, addressed the Board to let them know that her staff have been working diligently on reducing the number of Distress Warrants and late real-estate taxes. This has helped bring in revenue and helped with advertising expenses. The Board thanked the office for all that they do.

Paula Wendt with Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company (NNTC) addressed the Board to report on the progress of providing rural broadband. They have put in 80 miles of fiber drops and started with the Homer area, and everyone is very happy.

Chair Hohenstein called for Consent Agenda items. Chair Hohenstein explained that he had gone through payroll claims and payroll accounts payable claims. All were in order and a copy of the annual noxious weed report was provided. Commissioner Van Berkum moved, seconded by Commissioner Reed to approve the consent agenda items: (a) approval of the previous meeting minutes – January 20, 2026; (b) approval of payroll claims for January 18 to January 31, 2026; (c) approval of payroll accounts payable claims; (d) approval of accounts payable claims-none; € approval of the Annual Noxious Weed report for 2025. ROLL CALL VOTE: Rodriguez-Yes, Van Berkum-Yes, Bousquet-Yes, Reed-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Payroll: General Fund Employer: Gross Salaries-\$195,488.09; Net Pay-\$140,702.13; Total Retirement-\$14,100.01; Total FICA-\$14,593.62; Health Plan-\$43,120.00; Dental Plan-\$1,560.00; Life Insurance-\$206.31; Richard Bousquet-\$1,251.25; Martin Hohenstein-\$1,297.40; Jeffrey Reed-\$1,251.25; Rogelio Rodriguez Villalobos-\$1,251.25; Brian Van Berkum-\$1,251.25; Cherie Conley-\$2,613.74; Robin Hansen-\$1,596.00; Paola Ledesma-\$1,491.61; Kathy Abbe-\$1,578.40; Khen Chu-\$1,365.60; Maria Garcia-\$1,426.40; Stephanie Gatzemeyer-\$2,613.74; Jalissa Hattig-\$1,781.60; Brenda Landaverde-\$1,492.00; Emily McNaughton-\$1,414.40; Debera Benton-\$1,618.40; Christy Abts-\$2,613.74; Melissa Collins-\$1,999.98; Joseph O'Neil-\$655.08; Karen Becerra-\$1,867.20; Katherine Wiltgen-\$2,613.74; Louvontree Hunter-\$3,706.21; Debra Jensen-\$1,994.85; Samantha

Mitchell-\$1,448.81; Rodney Soole-\$2,424.00; Todd Uhl-\$2,218.50; Tammy Dunn Peterson-\$1,677.60; Timothy Decker-\$10,500.00; Brian Ellinger-\$2,592.80; Penny Epting-\$3,313.46; Brian Fernau-\$2,914.94; Tyler Fulkerth-\$2,914.94; Martin Guerrero-\$2,483.36; Melvin Harrison III-\$3,303.22; Jason James-\$2,931.89; Kimberly Johnson-\$946.59; Jared Junge-\$2,579.72; Jose Magana-\$2,904.74; Keaton Mueller-\$2,949.56; Gregory Nyhof-\$2,819.96; Kelsey O'Neill-\$2,520.54; Cesar Ponce Robles-\$2,230.14; Mardi Schnee-\$1,454.40; Shantel Drum-\$1,171.88; Sarah Hammond-\$2,717.42; Jocelyn Rivera-\$1,380.00; Debra Schmiedt-\$8,623.39; Kimberly Watson-\$4,081.09; Jacob Acero-\$2,580.65; Summer Adair-\$2,007.71; Shaelee Barreras-\$3,205.13; Timathey Chamberlain-\$1,651.39; Charlotte Coleman-\$2,110.42; Adilene Delgadillo Alvarez-\$1,534.90; Jennifer Fuentes-\$2,081.60; Kara Groetken-\$1,893.09; McKenna Hammer-\$1,991.89; Todd Hammer-\$2,548.26; Brieyqui Hernandez Mencos-\$1,016.50; Brenda Irwin-\$1,698.08; Daron Jackson-\$1,869.34; Dustin Johnson-\$2,101.70; Terry Johnson-\$2,670.32; Hannah Keatts-\$1,778.88; Jared Magana-\$1,446.48; Jennifer Marquez-\$2,311.12; Skyler Miner-\$2,026.69; Lucas Moulton-\$1,260.58; JR Marselino Ochoa Flores-\$1,406.30; Kimberly Peterson-\$1,910.79; Michele Rohde-\$1,790.40; Jesus Ruelas-Hernandez-\$1,179.22; Kaden Ruring-\$1,878.73; Jeremy Russell-\$2,030.97; Jerry Santos-\$2,231.01; Jennifer Svendsen-\$3,027.41; Cody Thomas-\$1,828.50; Tykell Truitt-\$884.00; Armando Valerio-\$2,066.94; Randall Walsh-\$2,928.84; Alondra Zermeno-Mendez-\$1,759.87; Deanna Hagberg-\$2,334.36; Jolene Gubbels-\$2,382.67; Jennifer Ankerstjerne-\$1,952.13; Theresa Grove-\$2,657.60; Johanna Marquez-\$1,411.20; Courtney Swick-\$1,619.25; Nicholas Nieman-\$2,575.13; **General Fund Employee:** Federal Tax-\$14,066.46; State Tax-\$6,010.40; Soc Sec-\$11,827.52; Medicare-\$2,766.10; Extra Fit-\$1,571.00; Extra Sit-\$500.00; Retirement-\$9,766.80; Health Plan-\$2,300.00; Dental Plan-\$399.00; Colonial Health-\$219.74; Sheriff Union Dues-\$600.00; Colonial Life/Disability-\$202.17; Deferred Comp-\$1,237.00; Garnishments-\$1,387.82; Flex Plan Medical-\$901.66; Flex Dependent Care-\$312.50; VSP Vision Prem-\$395.14; Legal Shield-\$128.61; Liberty Nat'l Pretax-\$81.74; Liberty Nat'l Post tax-\$0.00; VSP Vision Base-\$112.30; **Road Fund Employer:** Gross Salaries-\$22,788.86; Net Pay-\$16,839.57; Retirement-\$1,538.21; Total FICA-\$1,693.91; Health Plan-\$6,160.00; Dental Plan-\$220.00; Life Insurance-\$27.16; Tristin Eifert-\$2,020.80; Michael Fuchser-\$2,020.80; Robert Hacker-\$2,056.80; Scott Jorgneson-\$2,071.32; David Kneifl-\$2,044.80; Kimon Litras-\$2,119.82; Brandon Miller-\$2,020.80; Tanya Orr-\$2,020.80; Dean Pallas-\$2,371.32; Robert Schmidt-\$2,020.80; Gunner Stanwick-\$2,020.80; **Road Fund Employee:** Federal Tax-\$1,511.76; State Tax-\$693.34; FICA-\$1,372.85; Medicare-\$321.06; Extra Fit-\$45.00; Retirement-\$1,025.53; Health Plan-\$450.00; Dental Plan-\$42.00; Colonial Health-PreTax-\$38.23; Colonial Health L/D-\$0.00; Garnishments-\$0.00; Flex Plan Medical-\$40.00; Road Union Dues-\$275.00; VSP Vision Prem-\$50.16; Legal Shield-\$58.34; Liberty National PreTax-\$6.50; VSP Vision Base-\$19.52; **Health Planning Grant Employer 2502:** Gross Salaries-\$1,672.84; Net Pay-\$1,269.69; Retirement-\$112.92; Total FICA-\$124.15; Health Plan-\$560.00; Life Insurance-\$2.55; Chloe Coover-\$1,672.84; **Health Planning Grant Employee 2502:** Federal Tax-\$101.86; State Tax-\$51.86; FICA-\$100.62; Medicare-\$23.53; Retirement-\$75.28; Flex Plan Medical-\$50.00; **Health Program Grant Employer 2504:** Gross Salaries-\$1,870.40; Net Pay-\$1,454.64; Retirement-\$126.25; Total FICA-\$140.28; Health Plan-\$560.00; Dental Plan-\$20.00; Life Insurance-\$2.55; Yesica Saldana Cisneros-\$1,870.40; **Health Program Grant Employee 2504:** Federal Tax-\$106.26; State Tax-\$48.39; FICA-\$113.69; Medicare-\$26.59; Retirement-\$84.17; Dental Plan-\$21.00; VSP Vision Base-\$15.66; **Juvenile Services Aid Employer 2507:** Gross Salaries-\$1,787.31; Net Pay-\$1,311.28; Retirement-\$120.64; Total FICA-\$118.62; Health Plan-\$560.00; Dental Plan-\$20.00; Life Insurance-\$2.55; Kristin Robinette-\$1,787.31; **Juvenile Services Aid Employee 2507:** Federal Tax-\$0.00; State Tax-\$40.32; FICA-\$96.14; Medicare-\$22.48; Retirement-\$80.43; Health Plan-\$200.00; Dental Plan-\$21.00; VSP Vision Prem-\$15.66.

Payroll Accounts Payable: General Fund: Collection Service Center, garnishment-\$621.21; Colonial Life & Accident, life insurance premium-\$421.91; Dental Account, premium-\$1,959.00; FSA Dep Care - \$312.50; FSA Medical-\$901.66; Health Plan, premium-\$45,420.00; Fraternal Order of Police #49, union dues-\$600.00; Federal Withholding, federal taxes-\$15,637.46; Globe Life Liberty, premium-\$81.74; Legalshield, premium-\$128.61; Life Insurance, premium-\$206.31; Nationwide Retirement Solutions, contributions-\$1,237.00; Nebraska Child Support, garnishments-\$766.61; Neb Dept of Revenue, state taxes-\$6,510.40; Point C COE, flex admin fees & annual renewal - \$336.00; Principal, premiums - \$2,755.09; Ameritas Retirement, contributions-\$23,866.81; Social Security, FICA & MEDI-\$29,187.24; VSP, premium-\$507.44. **Road Fund:** Colonial Life & Accident, life insurance premium-\$38.23; Dental Account, premium-\$262.00; FSA Medical-\$40.00; Health Plan, premium-\$6,610.00; Federal Withholding, federal taxes-\$1,556.76; Globe Life Liberty, premium-\$6.50; Legalshield, premium-\$58.34; Life Insurance, premium-\$27.16; Neb Dept of Revenue, state taxes-\$693.34; Nebraska Public Empl Local 251, union dues-\$275.00; Ameritas Retirement, contributions-\$2,563.74; Social Security, FICA & MEDI-\$3,387.82; VSP, premium-\$69.68; **Insurance Fund 1275:** Point C FSA – withdrawals, \$9,658.30; Point C – medical auto withdrawals, \$18,394.12; VSP, cobra-\$19.17; **Health Fund 2502:** DC FSA–medical claims-\$50.00; Health Account, premium-\$560.00; Federal Withholding, federal taxes-\$101.86; Life Insurance, premium-\$2.55; Neb Dept of Revenue, state taxes-\$51.86; Principal, premiums - \$25.12; Ameritas Retirement, contributions-\$188.20; Social Security, FICA & MEDI-\$248.30; **Health Fund 2504:** Dental Account, premium-\$41.00; Health Plan, premium-\$560.00; Federal Withholding, federal taxes-\$106.26; Life Insurance, premium-\$2.55; Neb Dept of Revenue, state taxes-\$48.39; Principal, premiums - \$27.56; Ameritas Retirement, contributions-\$210.42; Social Security, FICA & MEDI-\$280.56; VSP, premium-\$15.66; **Juvenile Services Fund 2507:** Dental Account, premium-\$41.00; Health Plan, premium-\$760.00; Life Insurance, premium-\$2.55; Neb Dept of Revenue, state taxes-\$40.32; Principal, premiums-\$23.87; Ameritas Retirement, contributions-\$201.07; Social Security, FICA & MEDI-\$237.24; VSP, premium-\$15.66.

Jennifer Jackson with Heartland Counseling addressed the Board informing them that the new Crisis Stabilization Unit and Detox Center received the contract to build and 100% funded by investors. She explained the positive impact this facility will have on Dakota County and surrounding communities with all the services they will be able to provide.

Heather Millard, Hubbard, addressed the Board with her wishes to have M Avenue from Hubbard to the Lake paved. She is willing to spearhead this project and contact other entities like the NRD, Papio, USDA, the County, Hubbard, and any others that would be helpful. Highway Superintendent, Jolene Gubbles, will provide the previous cost estimate and information from the State regarding the speed limitations. Commissioner Reed and Van Berkum agreed to be part of this group.

Commissioner Van Berkum moved, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez to approve Resolution 26C-003 Grievance Board and list of members for 2026 as set forth in the Employee Handbook. ROLL CALL VOTE: Van Berkum-Yes, Bousquet-Yes, Reed-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

**RESOLUTION 26C-003
2026 GRIEVANCE BOARD**

WHEREAS, the Dakota County Employee Handbook adopted on January 22, 2024 sets forth certain protocols for the formation of a Grievance Board; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County is required to annually designate a list of potential Grievance Board members who may be called to serve in the event that a matter or matters arise prompting the need for a Grievance Board;

THEREFORE, the following designated list of potential Grievance Board Members for Dakota County shall serve for a one year term or until his or her replacement has been selected by the County Board:

Bill Rohde	Jana Adam	Dan Caskey
Dave Dziurawiec	Dawn Hanson	Nate Vajgrt
Mike Schooley	Mike Elston	Tom Hinds
Bruno Galvan	Mike Schmiedt	Ron Gill
Rebeca Quezada	Mike Morton	Rick Jenkins

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 2nd day of February, 2026.

Victor Olson via conference phone. Chair Hohenstein advised that the Board has been advised by the County Attorney that the county foreclosure on parcel 220011192, Case File CI23-47 wherein taxes on said property have not been paid and amount due as of January 30, 2026 is \$2,657.01 (interest accrues daily) and any other foreclosure property will be re-advertised for a Sheriff's sale. Victor Olson via phone advised he owns property next to this parcel and would like the County to give it to him so he can add it to his deed. Mr. Olson was advised that per statute the County cannot forgive back taxed owed. Captain Walsh informed that the next Sheriff sale is tentatively scheduled for March 11, 2026. If properties do not sell, the County will obtain deed of ownership and then sell the properties for fair and reasonable price.

Commissioner Bousquet moved, seconded by Commissioner Van Berkum to approve Planning & Zoning membership appointments: (1) Rural Emerson – Martin Rohde, (2) Rural Dakota City - Gordon Hegge, and (3) Rural Willis – Steven Lieber for 3-year terms February 2026 to February 2029. ROLL CALL VOTE: Bousquet-Yes, Reed-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes, Van Berkum-Yes. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Van Berkum and Commissioner Bousquet reviewed all applicants received for the position of County Sheriff and recommended to the Board Law Enforcement Officer, Timothy Decker, as being the most qualified. Commissioner Bousquet moved, seconded by Commissioner Van Berkum to appoint Law Enforcement Officer, Timothy Decker, as the Dakota County Sheriff to fulfill the remaining term for 2023-2026 vacated by Sheriff Kleinberg on December 30, 2025. ROLL CALL VOTE: Reed-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes, Van Berkum-Yes, Bousquet-Yes. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Hohenstein moved, seconded by Commissioner Van Berkum to approve Contract for Appointment of Law Enforcement Officer, Timothy Decker, as County Sheriff receiving salary set by resolution per statute. ROLL CALL VOTE: Hohenstein-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes, Van Berkum-Yes, Bousquet-Yes, Reed-Yes. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Jolene Gubbels, Highway Superintendent, presented the Bi-weekly Road Report from January 18 to January 31, 2026. Tree/debris removal – 101 hours; magnet – 35 hours; sign repair – 24 hours; weed notices – 2 hours. Road employees have been working on equipment repairs, cleaning the shop and built a wall to help maintain inventory. Gubbels suggested using JEO for the M Avenue project as that is the company the Village of Hubbard is using. The Board agreed.

Commissioner Committee Reports: Commissioner Rodriguez has been in Lincoln for committee meetings. Commissioner Bousquet and the Assessors met with the City of South Sioux City regarding the City TIFs and it went well.

Mail and/or Emergency Business: None

Commissioner Van Berkum moved to adjourn. All in favor. Chair Hohenstein adjourned the Board of Commissioners meeting of February 2, 2026, at 3:43 p.m.

Dakota County Board of Commissioners

Martin Hohenstein Chair

Cherie Conley, County Clerk/Secretary