

Dakota County Board of Commissioners
Monday, March 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 – February 17, 2026.
 - b. Approval of payroll claims for February 15 to February 28, 2026.
 - c. Approval of payroll accounts payable claims
 - d. Approval of accounts payable claims (if any)
3. NEW BUSINESS & RESOLUTIONS
 - a. Heide Borg, Congressman Smith's Office to give an update.
 - b. SIMPCO, Josh Bush and Jenny Anderson, to give a short overview of the Dakota County Housing Trust Fund Board program, local match needs and how the county can be involved.
 - c. Review and award bid for Road Department Gooseneck Trailer.
 - d. Review and award bid for Road Department State Bid for pickup to share with Weed Dept.
 - e. M Avenue
 - Board approval of a Letters of Support for a paving grant with 20% financial support.
 - Board review cost estimate and possible action.
 - f. Board approval of RCM LLP, CPAs, engagement letter for the ARPA Alternative Compliance Exam and Chair to sign.
4. OLD BUSINESS AND MISCELLANEOUS
 - a. Jolene Gubbels, Highway Superintendent – Road Report
 - b. Theresa Grove, Health Department Director – Quarterly Report
5. COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE REPORTS
6. MAIL AND/OR EMERGENCY BUSINESS
Reminder - Joint City-County-School meeting March 11th at El Ranchito Restaurant at 5:30 pm
7. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hohenstein called for Public Comment.

Bob Kratke with the City of Dakota City asked for the Boards support of the City of Dakota City applying for a grant to help with repairs to IBP Avenue/Dakota Avenue in front IBP to the lights on Hwy 77 by signing letters of support to U.S. Senator Deb Fischer and U.S. Representative Adrian Smith.

Stephanie Gatzemeyer, Treasurer, addressed the Board to let give a brief update of the tax sale held the morning of March 3, 2026, and extended thanks to staff.

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. Commissioner Van Berkum moved, seconded by Commissioner Bousquet to approve the consent agenda items: (a) approval of the previous meeting minutes – February 17, 2026; (b) approval of payroll claims for February 15 to February 28, 2026; (c) approval of payroll accounts payable claims; (d) approval of accounts payable claims-none. ROLL CALL VOTE: Rodriguez-Yes, Van Berkum-Yes, Bousquet-Yes, Reed-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Payroll: General Fund Employer: Gross Salaries-\$189,583.24; Net Pay-\$137,985.84; Total Retirement-\$13,595.64; Total FICA-\$14,141.49; Health Plan-\$42,000.00; Dental Plan-\$1,520.00; Life Insurance-\$201.21; 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-\$1,596.01; Paola Ledesma-\$748.58; 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-\$1,987.79; Joseph O'Neil-\$655.08; Karen Becerra-\$1,867.20; Katherine Wiltgen-\$2,613.74; Louvontree Hunter-\$3,706.21; Debra Jensen-\$1,907.10; Samantha Mitchell-\$1,448.80; Rodney Soole-\$2,424.00; Todd Uhl-\$2,300.44; Tammy Dunn Peterson-\$1,677.60; Jacob Acero-\$362.30; Timothy Decker-\$3,265.43; Brian Ellinger-\$3,176.23; Penny

Epting-\$3,384.62; Brian Fernau-\$2,697.87; Tyler Fulkerth-\$2,790.90; Jeremy Gilpin-\$0.00; Martin Guerrero-\$3,126.64; Melvin Harrison III-\$3,992.17; Jason James-\$2,879.26; Kimberly Johnson-\$634.26; Jared Junge-\$2,563.99; Jose Magana-\$2,715.32; Keaton Mueller-\$2,710.58; Gregory Nyhof-\$2,782.56; Kelsey O'Neill-\$2,440.48; Cesar Ponce Robles-\$2,410.19; Mardi Schnee-\$1,454.40; Shantel Drum-\$1,205.00; Sarah Hammond-\$2,717.42; Jocelyn Rivera-\$1,380.00; Debra Schmiedt-\$4,106.35; Kimberly Watson-\$4,081.09; Jacob Acero-\$2,580.65; Summer Adair-\$2,320.29; Malinda Bagby-\$1,833.27; Shaelee Barreras-\$3,035.82; Timathey Chamberlain-\$1,517.04; Charlotte Coleman-\$2,070.24; Adilene Delgadillo Alvarez-\$891.96; Jennifer Fuentes-\$1,973.06; Kara Groetken-\$1,875.20; McKenna Hammer-\$1,997.23; Todd Hammer-\$2,469.61; Brieyqui Hernandez Mencos-\$893.75; Brenda Irwin-\$1,643.52; Daron Jackson-\$2,050.24; Dustin Johnson-\$2,078.02; Terry Johnson-\$2,535.40; Hannah Keatts-\$1,220.40; Jared Magana-\$1,803.09; Jennifer Marquez-\$1,942.90; Skyler Miner-\$2,019.11; Lucas Moulton-\$2,070.24; JR Marselino Ochoa Flores-\$1,682.54; Kimberly Peterson-\$1,910.79; Travis Rivera-\$1,535.68; Michele Rohde-\$1,801.59; Jesus Ruelas-Hernandez-\$846.26; Kaden Ruring-\$1,808.16; Keeley Ruring-\$1,829.16; Jeremy Russell-\$2,104.75; Jerry Santos-\$2,174.78; Jennifer Svendsen-\$3,478.88; Cody Thomas-\$2,052.04; Tykell Truitt-\$873.96; Armando Valerio-\$2,002.44; Randall Walsh-\$2,928.84; Alondra Zermeno-Mendez-\$2,144.61; Deanna Hagberg-\$2,334.36; Jolene Gubbels-\$2,445.02; Jennifer Ankerstjerne-\$1,927.88; Theresa Grove-\$2,657.60; Johanna Marquez-\$1,411.20; Courtney Swick-\$1,606.50; Nicholas Nieman-\$2,575.13; **General Fund Employee:** Federal Tax-\$11,949.35; State Tax-\$5,699.53; Soc Sec-\$11,461.10; Medicare-\$2,680.39; Extra Fit-\$1,621.00; Extra Sit-\$500.00; Retirement-\$9,392.29; 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-\$1,399.18; Flex Plan Medical-\$901.66; Flex Dependent Care-\$312.50; VSP Vision Prem-\$404.72; Legal Shield-\$128.61; Liberty Nat'l Pretax-\$81.74; Liberty Nat'l Post tax-\$0.00; VSP Vision Base-\$107.42; **Road Fund Employer:** Gross Salaries-\$22,610.91; Net Pay-\$16,500.38; Retirement-\$1,526.20; Total FICA-\$1,659.13; Health Plan-\$6,160.00; Dental Plan-\$220.00; Life Insurance-\$26.52; Tristin Eifert-\$1,932.39; Michael Fuchser-\$2,020.80; Robert Hacker-\$2,056.80; Scott Jorgneson-\$2,020.80; David Kneifl-\$2,044.80; Kimon Litras-\$2,080.80; 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-\$1,458.16; State Tax-\$674.20; FICA-\$1,344.66; Medicare-\$314.47; Extra Fit-\$45.00; Retirement-\$1,017.53; Health Plan-\$700.00; Dental Plan-\$63.00; 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-\$55.92; Legal Shield-\$58.34; Liberty National PreTax-\$6.50; VSP Vision Base-\$19.52; **Health Planning Grant Employer 2502:** Gross Salaries-\$1,976.55; Net Pay-\$1,488.71; Retirement-\$133.42; Total FICA-\$147.38; Health Plan-\$560.00; Life Insurance-\$2.55; Chloe Coover-\$1,976.55; **Health Planning Grant Employee 2502:** Federal Tax-\$136.67; State Tax-\$64.85; FICA-\$119.45; Medicare-\$27.93; Retirement-\$88.94; Flex Plan Medical-\$50.00; **Health Program Grant Employer 2504:** Gross Salaries-\$2,095.66; Net Pay-\$1,662.10; Retirement-\$126.25; Total FICA-\$157.52; Health Plan-\$560.00; Dental Plan-\$20.00; Life Insurance-\$2.55; Mohamud Ibrahim-\$225.26; Yesica Saldana Cisneros-\$1,870.40; **Health Program Grant Employee 2504:** Federal Tax-\$106.26; State Tax-\$48.95; FICA-\$127.66; Medicare-\$29.86; Retirement-\$84.17; Dental Plan-\$21.00; VSP Vision Base-\$15.66; **Juvenile Services Aid Employer 2507:** Gross Salaries-\$1,702.20; Net Pay-\$1,240.02; Retirement-\$114.90; Total FICA-\$112.11; Health Plan-\$560.00; Dental Plan-\$20.00; Life Insurance-\$2.55; Kristin Robinette-\$1,702.20; **Juvenile Services Aid Employee 2507:** Federal Tax-\$0.00; State Tax-\$36.81; FICA-\$90.86; Medicare-\$21.25; Retirement-\$76.60; Health Plan-\$200.00; Dental Plan-\$21.00; VSP Vision Prem-\$15.66;

Payroll Accounts Payable: General Fund: Collection Service Center, garnishment-\$632.57; Colonial Life & Accident, life insurance premium-\$421.91; Dental Account, premium-\$1,919.00; FSA Dep Care - \$312.50; FSA Medical-\$901.66; Health Plan, premium-\$44,300.00; Fraternal Order of Police #49, union dues-\$600.00; Federal Withholding, federal taxes-\$13,570.35; Globe Life Liberty, premium-\$81.74; Legalshield, premium-\$128.61; Life Insurance, premium-\$201.21; Nationwide Retirement Solutions, contributions-\$1,237.00; Nebraska Child Support, garnishments-\$766.61; Neb Dept of Revenue, state taxes-\$6,199.53; Point C COE, flex admin fees - \$77.00; Principal, premiums - \$2,844.25; Ameritas Retirement, contributions-\$22,987.93; Social Security, FICA & MEDI-\$28,282.98; VSP, premium-\$512.14. **Road Fund:** Colonial Life & Accident, life insurance premium-\$38.23; Dental Account, premium-\$283.00; FSA Medical-\$40.00; Health Plan, premium-\$6,860.00; Federal Withholding, federal taxes-\$1,503.16; Globe Life Liberty, premium-\$6.50; Legalshield, premium-\$58.34; Life Insurance, premium-\$26.52; Neb Dept of Revenue, state taxes-\$674.20; Nebraska Public Empl Local 251, union dues-\$275.00; Ameritas Retirement, contributions-\$2,543.73; Social Security, FICA & MEDI-\$3,318.26; VSP, premium-\$75.44; **Insurance Fund 1275:** Point C FSA – withdrawals, \$5,809.69; Point C – medical auto withdrawals, \$25,791.72; VSP, cobra-\$19.17; **Health Fund 2502:** DC FSA–medical claims-\$50.00; Health Account, premium-\$560.00; Federal Withholding, federal taxes-\$136.67; Life Insurance, premium-\$2.55; Neb Dept of Revenue, state taxes-\$64.85; Principal, premiums - \$25.12; Ameritas Retirement, contributions-\$222.36; Social Security, FICA & MEDI-\$294.76; **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-\$48.95; Principal, premiums - \$27.56; Ameritas Retirement, contributions-\$210.42; Social Security, FICA & MEDI-\$315.04; 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-\$36.81; Principal, premiums-\$23.87; Ameritas Retirement, contributions-\$191.50; Social Security, FICA & MEDI-\$224.22; VSP, premium-\$15.66.

Heide Borg, Ag Liaison and NE Nebraska District representative for Congressman Smith's Office gave an update on what Congressman Smith has been doing in DC and projects in which he is involved.

SIMPCO, Josh Bush and Jenny Anderson, gave a brief overview of the Dakota County Housing Trust Fund Board program, and asked that the Board consider local match needs to help with the restoration of homes in Dakota County.

Dean Pallas, Road Foreman, presented three bids for gooseneck trailers. Bids received from Midsota for \$29,900, Marx Trailer for \$21,188, Load Trail for \$23,200.00. Board reviewed and compared the three bids and the options on each one. Each business was going to give a \$10,000 trade-in for the used road trailer. Commissioner Reed moved, seconded by Commissioner Van Berkum to award the bid to Midsota for the 102 x 32 FBHB32 25.9K GN 10ft Hydraulic Tail gooseneck trailer for \$29,900-\$10,000=\$19,900. ROLL CALL VOTE: Van Berkum-Yes, Bousquet-Yes, Reed-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Dean Pallas, Road Foreman, and Brandon Miller, Weed/Sign Employee, presented the Board with a bid through the State of Nebraska Contract for \$50,272.00. The Road and Weed Department will be sharing this vehicle, and it will pull heavy equipment. Commissioner Bousquet moved, seconded by Commissioner Van Berkum to approve the Road Department and Weed Department to purchase a 2026 Ford Super Duty F250 4x4 pickup truck from Anderson through the State of Nebraska contract for \$50,272.00. ROLL CALL VOTE: Bousquet-Yes, Reed-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes, Van Berkum-Yes. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Jolene Gubbels, Highway Superintendent, informed the Board that she is working on a federal paving grant for M Avenue paving from the Hubbard bridge to the park road and requested the Boards approval of a Letters of Support for the paving grant with 20% financial support. Commissioner Reed moved, seconded by Commissioner Van Berkum to approve the Chair to sign letters of support to U.S. Senator Deb Fischer and U.S. Representative Adrian Smith for grant approval of federal support for M Avenue paving project from the Hubbard bridge to the State Park Road. ROLL CALL VOTE: Reed-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes, Van Berkum-Yes, Bousquet-Yes. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Jolene Gubbels, Highway Superintendent, and Baylor Bestgen, JEO Consultant presented a cost estimate for paving M Avenue from the Hubbard city limits to the bridge and the bridge approach in the amount of \$222,350.00. The Village of Hubbard is working with JEO for engineering and if the County wishes to move forward with this project would need to sign a contract with them. The recommendation is to close the road and complete the entire project in connection with the Village of Hubbard paving project from the highway to village limits. Commissioner Hohenstein moved, seconded by Commissioner Van Berkum, to enter into an agreement with JEO Consultant Group on the M Avenue paving project from Hubbard limits to the bridge. ROLL CALL VOTE: Hohenstein-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes, Van Berkum-Yes, Bousquet-Yes, Reed-Yes. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Reed moved, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez to approve RCM LLP, CPAs, to perform the ARPA Alternative Compliance Exam and the Chair to sign the engagement letter. ROLL CALL VOTE: Rodriguez-Yes, Van Berkum-Yes, Bousquet-Yes, Reed-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Jolene Gubbels, Highway Superintendent, presented the Bi-weekly Road Report from February 15, to February 28, 2026. Overtime – 2.5 hours, Tree/debris removal – 152 hours; culvert projects 27 hours (Atokad guardrail and R avenue); magnet – 24.5 hours; sign repair – 38.5 hours. Scrap Tire grant was approved and will be May 15 & 16, 2026.

Theresa Grove, Health Department Director, gave the quarterly report. 237 vaccinations and working with 15 grants.

Commissioner Committee Reports: Commissioner Rodriguez attended Area Agency on Aging meeting and working on updating the County Website. Commissioner Reed attended Northstar meeting, Commissioner Hohenstein attended Region IV and Commissioner Van Berkum attended SIMPCO meetings.

Mail and/or Emergency Business. Commissioner Reed moved, seconded by Commissioner Van Berkum to approve supporting the City of Dakota City in applying for a federal paving grant for road repair on IBP Avenue/Dakota Avenue in front of IBP to the Hwy 77 lights and for the Chair to sign letters of support to U.S. Senator Deb Fischer and U.S. Representative Adrian Smith. ROLL CALL VOTE: Van Berkum-Yes, Bousquet-Yes, Reed-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Bousquet moved, seconded by Commissioner Van Berkum to adjourn. All in favor. Chair Hohenstein adjourned the Board of Commissioners meeting of March 2, 2026, at 3:48 p.m.

Dakota County Board of Commissioners

Martin Hohenstein Chair

Cherie Conley, County Clerk/Secretary