

REGULAR SESSION
AUGUST 17, 2026

The Board of Nemaha County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, August 17, 2026 in the Commissioner's Room of the Nemaha County Courthouse. The meeting was called to order with Chairman Ben Glace leading the flag salute. Present also were Commissioners Joe Dalinghaus and Jason Koch, County Counselor/County Administrator Austin Parker, and County Clerk Mary Kay Schultejans recording the minutes.

Ben Glace led those present in an opening prayer to begin the meeting this morning.

The board set the agenda for today's meeting. Jason Koch moved to approve the agenda for August 17, 2026 as presented. Joe Dalinghaus seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting aye.

The board reviewed the minutes from the August 10, 2026 meeting. Jason Koch moved to approve the minutes as amended. Joe Dalinghaus seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting aye.

Chairman Ben Glace called for Open Public Forum to begin at 9:14 am. Freda Dobbins came before the board to speak during today's forum. Chairman Ben Glace ended public forum at 9:18 am.

Road and Bridge/Solid Waste Report:

Road and Bridge/Solid Waste Supervisor Adam Kuckelman advised the board that:

- the truck drivers are hauling rock to weak spots on various roads.
- the guys are fixing washouts along bridges and boxes throughout the county.
- Bridge H-15 will be poured on Wednesday morning and the bridge will be open to the public beginning September 2nd.
- they sold a lot of recycling this week as prices were higher.

Adam spoke to Commissioners and County Counselor/County Administrator Austin Parker about the 2027 budget requests for the Road and Bridge Department.

Jason Koch moved to authorize the posting of the draft Nemaha County 2027 budget on the website with the expectation that substantial cuts will be made to the document before it is approved. Joe Dalinghaus seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting aye.

Jason Koch moved to add Appraiser Kerri Koch to the agenda. Ben Glace seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting aye.

Appraiser Kerri Koch requested an executive session with Commissioners. Jason Koch moved to hold a ten-minute executive session until 10:04 am to discuss the pay and performance of non-elected personnel. Joe Dalinghaus seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting aye. Present for the executive session was the Board of Commissioners, County Counselor/County Administrator Austin Parker, and Appraiser Kerri Koch. The meeting returned to open session at 10:00 am with no action taken by the board following the executive session.

Jason Koch moved to approve a step increase for Jennifer Engelken from Data Entry/Administrative Assistant II to Deputy Appraiser Non-Certified effective August 21st and a step increase for Becky Strathman from Administrative Assistant I to Data Entry Clerk effective August 21st as well. Joe Dalinghaus seconded the motion. Jason Koch stated that these step increases are due to the upcoming retirement of Ann Deters. The board wishes to thank Ann for all of her years of service to the county. The motion carried with all voting aye.

Jason Koch moved to add Sheriff Rich Vernon to the agenda. Joe Dalinghaus seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting aye.

Rich let Commissioners know that he has been able to acquire two bids for the replacement of the fire alarm system at the Law Enforcement Center. Rich also let Commissioners know that he

has filled both deputy positions that were recently vacated, but is still short one dispatcher at this time.

Joe Dalinghaus moved to allow the County Administrator to do a one-time shared leave exception and to update the shared leave policy form in compliance with the Employee Handbook. Jason Koch seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting aye.

Commissioners took a short break at 10:15 am.

County Counselor/County Administrator Austin Parker requested an executive session with Commissioners. Joe Dalinghaus moved to hold a ten-minute executive session until 10:27 am to discuss the pay and performance of non-elected personnel. Jason Koch seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting aye. Present for the executive session was the Board of Commissioners and County Counselor/County Administrator Austin Parker. The meeting returned to open session at 10:27 am with no action taken by the board following the executive session.

Jason Koch moved to hold a ten-minute executive session until 10:43 am to discuss the hiring of and the pay and performance of non-elected personnel for the position of Human Resources. Joe Dalinghaus seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting aye. Present for the executive session was the Board of Commissioners and County Counselor/County Administrator Austin Parker. At 10:43 am, Commissioners requested to extend the executive session for an additional five minutes. The meeting returned to open session at 10:48 am with no action taken by the board following the executive session.

Joe Dalinghaus moved to authorize Jason Koch to enter into negotiations with a potential hire for the position of Human Resources. Ben Glace seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting aye.

Sheriff Rich Vernon and Health Department Administrator Heaven Schuette came before the board to discuss the purchase of AED batteries. Jason Koch moved to approve spending up to \$6,000 out of the Work Force Grant for the purchase of AED batteries for use in the Sheriff’s Office patrol cars. Joe Dalinghaus seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting aye.

Commissioners began the canvass of votes from the August 4, 2026 Primary Election at 10:55 am. The canvass was recessed at 11:55 am in order to conduct an interview with a potential candidate for the position of Emergency Preparedness Director.

Jason Koch moved to hold a fifteen-minute executive session until 12:10 pm to discuss the hiring of non-elected personnel for the position of Emergency Preparedness Director. Joe Dalinghaus seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting aye. Present for the executive session was the Board of Commissioners and a potential candidate for the position of Emergency Preparedness Director. At 12:10 pm, Commissioners requested to extend the executive session for an additional ten minutes. At 12:20 pm, Commissioners again requested to extend the executive session for an additional fifteen minutes. The meeting returned to open session at 12:35 pm with no action taken by the board following the executive session.

The canvass resumed at 12:40 pm and was finished at 2:05 pm. Joe Dalinghaus moved to approve the results of the canvass from the August 4, 2026 Primary Election as presented. Jason Koch seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting aye. Commissioners signed the documentation as presented.

The board reviewed vouchers submitted by the different departments to be paid this week. Jason Koch moved to approve the AP warrants to be paid on August 18, 2026 as presented. Joe Dalinghaus seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting aye.

WARRANTS ISSUED THRU FIRST HERITAGE BANK
AUGUST 18, 2026

General Fund	\$19,279.04
Law Enforcement Expense Fund	\$5,369.05

Road and Bridge Fund	\$115,893.14
Noxious Weed Fund	\$30.99
Election Fund	\$13,400.54
Transportation for Aging	\$1,441.87
Title III C-2	\$420.43
Donations	\$8,962.00
Solid Waste	\$7,925.94
Grant-PHEP Funds	\$38.51
Enhanced 911-Phone Service	\$296.19

Grand Total: \$173,057.70

Jason Koch moved to hold a five-minute executive session until 2:30 pm to discuss attorney-client privileges. Joe Dalinghaus seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting aye. Present for the executive session was the Board of Commissioners and County Counselor/County Administrator Austin Parker by phone. The meeting returned to open session at 2:28 pm with no action taken by the board following the executive session.

With no further county business coming before the board, Chairman Ben Glace adjourned the meeting at 2:30 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, August 24, 2026 at 9:00 am.

SIGNED AND APPROVED
NEMAHA COUNTY COMMISSION

ATTEST:

CHAIRMAN

CLERK