

REGULAR SESSION
AUGUST 25, 2025

The Board of Nemaha County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, August 25, 2025 in the Commissioner's Room of the Nemaha County Courthouse. The meeting was called to order with Chairman Jason Koch leading the flag salute. Present also were Commissioners Ben Glace and Joe Dalinghaus, County Counselor Austin Parker, County Administrator Robert Reece, and County Clerk Mary Kay Schultejans recording the minutes.

Jason Koch led those present in an opening prayer to begin the meeting this morning.

The board set the agenda for today's meeting. Ben Glace moved to approve the agenda for August 25, 2025 as presented. Joe Dalinghaus seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting aye.

The board reviewed the minutes from the August 18, 2025 meeting. Joe Dalinghaus moved to approve the minutes as amended. Ben Glace seconded the motion. The motion carried with Joe Dalinghaus and Ben Glace voting aye and Jason Koch abstaining from the vote due to his absence from the August 18th meeting.

Chairman Jason Koch called for Open Public Forum to begin at 9:15 am. Galen Ackerman came before the board to speak during today's forum. Chairman Jason Koch ended public forum at 9:30 am.

Road and Bridge/Solid Waste Report:

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

- the county's road engineer is opposed to the proposed irrigation pond to be installed by Aaron Rottinghaus and Lance Hanzlicek because the water will back up on the county's road right of way.
- the truck drivers have hauled rock on 120th Road from the county line to Highway 187 and have spotted in rock on D Road from Highway 36 to Highway 9.
- the bridge crew is working on Bridge J-34.
- the county is working on mowing roadsides, but the shredder is broken down at this time, and the parts needed to repair the shredder are two weeks out at this time.
- bids have been sent out for the Bern-Oneida Road reclamation project and are due to the county by September 19th.
- he is trying to find a location to store chips in Oneida for the Bern-Oneida Road project. When a location is decided upon, County Counselor Austin Parker will draft a contract for this for Commissioners to approve.
- he received bids for steer tires for tractors. Adam stated what his recommendation was regarding these bids. Ben Glace moved to approve the purchase of four Goodyear tires from Commercial Tire Solutions in the amount of \$1,493.92. Joe Dalinghaus seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting aye.
- he also received bids for grader tires. Ben Glace moved to approve the purchase of six Galaxy grader tires in the amount of \$3,960.00 from Commercial Tire Solutions. Jason Koch seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting aye.
- he also received bids for 911 signs that he shared with Commissioners. Adam stated that he recommended that we go with the bid from National Sign Company. Ben Glace moved to approve the purchase of 911 addressing signs in the amount of \$1,598.00 from National Sign Company. Joe Dalinghaus seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting aye.
- he needed an executive session with Commissioners. Ben Glace moved to hold a ten-minute executive session until 9:50 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, Road and Bridge/Solid Waste Supervisor Adam Kuckelman, County Counselor Austin Parker, and County Administrator Robert Reece. The meeting returned to open session at 9:50 am with no action taken by the board following the executive session. Jason Koch moved to approve pay increases for Rodney Allen, Bill Meade, Pat Schmelzle, and Isaac Swart following review of their most recent employee performance evaluations to the next step

up from their current pay position. Joe Dalinghaus seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting aye.

Commissioners took a short break at 9:55 am.

At 10:00 am, Chairman Jason Koch opened the public hearing to consider exceeding the county's revenue neutral rate of 35.379 mills when adopting the county's 2026 budget. Jason asked for any public comment to be given at this time. With no public comment given, Ben Glace moved to approve Resolution 2025-12 to levy a property tax rate to exceed the revenue neutral rate. Jason Koch seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion carried with all voting aye. Commissioners signed the resolution as presented. Chairman Jason Koch closed the public hearing at 10:05 am.

At 10:05 am, Chairman Jason Koch opened the public hearing to consider the adoption of the county's proposed 2026 budget and asked for any public comment to be given at this time. Following questions from the public and answers provided by Commissioners, County Counselor Austin Parker, and County Administrator Robert Reece, Chairman Jason Koch closed the public hearing at 10:30 am. No action was taken concerning the approval of the budget at this time.

Ben Glace moved to amend the agenda to add Sheriff Rich Vernon. Joe Dalinghaus seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting aye.

Sheriff Rich Vernon came before the board to speak to Commissioners about the short-term disability insurance policy put in place for all county employees effective January 1, 2025. Rich also questioned Commissioners about where the county is at in getting caught up on Accounts Payable invoices needing to be paid.

Clerk Mary Kay Schultejans advised Commissioners that the Request for Payment and the Cash Disbursement Report for the Kaeb, LLC CDBG grant needed to be re-signed. Ben Glace moved to approve the amendment to the CDBG grant for Kaeb Welding per state direction. Joe Dalinghaus seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting aye. Ben Glace and Jason Koch signed the documents as presented.

Jason Koch stated that notification was received from the Kansas Department of Revenue that the compliance review for the 2025 appraisal year has been completed and that the Nemaha County Appraiser's Office has been found to be in substantial compliance at this time.

County Administrator Robert Reece let Commissioners know that the core drilling for the proposed EMS building will be done on Wednesday of this week and that it will take approximately 60 days to get the results from this testing. Robert also let Commissioners know that the CPA firm is on site working on the August payroll at this time, that he has AP warrants for Commissioners to review and approve today, and that he will have a few other AP warrants that need to be approved so that they can be paid this week as well.

Commissioners spoke to County Counselor Austin Parker about the possible pipeline project in the county violating the moratorium that is currently in place in Nemaha County and about the Senior Services Department qualifying as a 501c3 entity in order to request certain grants.

County Counselor Austin Parker requested an executive session with Commissioners. Ben Glace moved to hold a ten-minute executive session until 11:12 am for matters relating to 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 Austin Parker. The meeting returned to open session at 11:12 am with no action taken by the board following the executive session.

Treasurer Janell Niehues spoke to Commissioners briefly about the July payroll invoices that she is needing in order to balance to the bank for July 2025.

County Counselor Austin Parker requested another executive session with Commissioners. Jason Koch moved to hold a fifteen-minute executive session until 11:45 am for matters relating to 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 Austin Parker, and County Administrator Robert Reece. At 11:45 am, Commissioners requested to extend the executive session for an additional five minutes. At 11:50 am, Commissioners requested to extend the executive session for an additional ten minutes. The meeting returned to open session at 12:00 pm with no action taken by the board following the executive session.

Jason Koch moved to accept the resignation of Robert Reece as Nemaha County Administrator effective October 1st and to accept his transition as budgetary adviser for the 2027 budget with his pay to extend in accordance with the conclusion of his contract by the county. Joe Dalinghaus seconded the motion. Commissioners and County Counselor Austin Parker thanked Robert for what he has accomplished during his time at Nemaha County. The motion carried with all voting aye.

Ben Glace moved to appoint County Counselor Austin Parker as the transitional county administrator for the county with an additional pay rate of \$65,000 per year effective immediately. Jason Koch seconded the motion. Austin stated that his duties as county administrator would be to:

- 1) build on Robert’s work with the budget so that we have a complete picture of past expenditures and future budgets with the county,
- 2) streamline all department head reports and standardize that process, and
- 3) minimize the administrative burden on Commissioners and on department heads and streamline them as much as possible.

Austin also stated that the contractual agreement for the county administrator under Robert was set at \$150,000 per year, and will now be set under Austin at \$65,000 per year, which is a reduction of \$85,000 per year. Austin also stated that the terms and conditions in his agreement with the county as county counselor will also be applicable to his position as the transitional county administrator. The motion carried with all voting aye.

The recommendation moving forward from Robert was that the Commissioners strongly consider engaging an external auditing firm with governmental accounting experience to review long-term internal processes and help them match up with future budgetary goals. Ben Glace moved to instruct Austin Parker to look for and engage with external auditing firms upon Robert’s recommendation. Joe Dalinghaus seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting aye.

Commissioner Ben Glace left the meeting at approximately 12:40 pm.

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 25, 2025 as presented. Joe Dalinghaus seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting aye.

WARRANTS ISSUED THRU FIRST HERITAGE BANK
AUGUST 25, 2025

General Fund	\$51,091.48
Law Enforcement Expense Fund	\$28,180.85
Road and Bridge Fund	\$61,065.01
Noxious Weed Fund	\$8,221.20
Employee Benefits Fund	\$300.00
Election Fund	\$600.00
Ambulance	\$69,746.38
Transportation for Aging	\$1,465.65
Title III C-1	\$38.31
Title III C-2	\$436.25

Solid Waste	\$359.00
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Grand Total: \$221,504.13

With no further county business coming before the board, Chairman Jason Koch adjourned the meeting at 12:50 pm. Commissioners will hold a special meeting on Wednesday, August 27th, at 1:00 pm, to discuss the Nemaha County 2026 budget and to review AP warrants needing to be paid yet this week.

SIGNED AND APPROVED
NEMAHA COUNTY COMMISSION

ATTEST:

CHAIRMAN

CLERK