

Bartlett, Nebraska

August 25, 2025

The Wheeler County Commissioners met to conduct a regular meeting at 8:00 a.m. Legal Notice of the meeting was published in the August 20, 2025, print edition of the Burwell Tribune and Official Agenda posted according to law. Chairman Heinz called the meeting to order and identified the location of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act poster on the West wall of the courtroom. Answering to roll call were Commissioners Heinz, Plugge, and Pokorny. Clerk Snider, Treasurer Seamann, County Attorney Joe McNally, Sheriff King and Road Foreman Reed were also present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Plugge made a motion to approve the July 30, 2025, regular board meeting minutes, seconded by Pokorny. Voting aye: Plugge, Pokorny, and Heinz. Voting nay: none.

Public comment was held and Jerry Koinzan asked for the reasoning for pulling up the shoulders and not grading the road.

Chuck Abel, CPA from Lammers, Abel, and Kaps, met with the board to discuss the budget as presented. The board asked the Road Department and Sheriff's Office to review their budgets and make some cuts as necessary. The board will have a special meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup> for a budget workshop.

Road Foreman Reed reported that the Ericson-Scotia Road and Ott Road need attention as they are getting really sandy. There is a portion of the road near Kebers where the ditches need to be cleaned out and the county can reuse the clay that is reclaimed. He stated that the Green Valley Road will need to be rolled in and regraded in the Spring of 2026.

Sheriff King gave an update on the potential change to the dispatch center. Sheriff King is responsible for making changes in his office, if he wishes, while the rural fire department is responsible for making changes if they wish to contract for their own dispatch center. Sheriff King also stated that he has been in contact with Platte Valley Communications for upgrade on the repeaters that will be needed regardless of a change in dispatch centers. Discussion was held as to where to locate repeaters, and who would be responsible for maintenance on them.

Treasurer Seaman informed the board that Nebraska Department Motor Vehicles is evaluating keeping the driver's examiner in Wheeler County. Since the move to the Fire Hall, they have had issues with people disturbing the equipment and having no phone connection.

Treasurer Seamann also presented a possible tax sale that may happen at the September meeting.

Clerk Snider will contact Mike Rizer of O'Neill about getting the lights fixed in the courtroom.

Clerk Snider will contact Bartak Glass about getting new doors for the entryways in the courthouse.

Neleigh Gehl met with the board about the Zoning Administrator position. She would consider the position after reviewing a job description, available training and compensation.

At 10:16 a.m. Pokorny made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss wages, seconded by Plugge. Voting aye: Pokorny, Plugge, and Heinz. Voting nay: none.

Plugge made a motion to exit the executive session at 10:43 a.m., seconded by Heinz. Voting aye: Plugge, Heinz, and Pokorny. Voting nay: none.

Plugge made a motion to pay Road Foreman Delan Reed \$850.00 per month for the Emergency Manager position, starting September 1, 2025, seconded by Heinz. Voting aye: Plugge, Heinz, and Pokorny. Voting nay: none.

Clerk Snider was asked to advertise for a Weed Superintendent and to have a job description available for the next meeting.

Discussion on regular courthouse hours was held. Pokorny made a motion to set the courthouse from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and open over the noon hour on Monday through Thursday and from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Fridays, starting January 1, 2026, seconded by Plugge. Voting aye: Pokorny, Plugge, and Heinz. Voting nay: none.

County Department inventories were reviewed as presented.

Pokorny made a motion to accept the Wheeler County Ag Society and Wheeler County Rural Fire Board Preliminary Tax Requests that were submitted to the Clerk's Office before August 1, 2025, seconded by Plugge. Voting aye: Pokorny, Plugge, and Heinz. Voting nay: none.

Clerk Snider informed the board that Paul and Jean Nordhues would not be interested in continuing to mow the courthouse yard starting in the Spring of 2026. Snider was asked to advertise for a groundskeeper.

Discussion was held on the reasoning for leaving Region 26 Dispatch. There was no decision made at this time on whether the county will be leaving.

#### GENERAL FUND

##### Payroll

Commissioner, salary	\$1322.25
Commissioner, salary	1322.25
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Clerk, salary	4583.80
Deputy Clerk, salary	3483.80
Treasurer, salary	3966.75
Deputy Treasurer, salary	1428.00
Janitorial, salary	216.64
Sheriff, salary	4583.80
Sheriff Clerical, salary	3900.00
County Attorney, salary	4407.50
Aflac, insurance	189.21
Ameritas Retirement Plans Division, retirement	3,594.41
Appera, services	42.26
Applied Connective Technologies, camera upgrade	1,454.10
Blue Cross Blue Shield Insurance, dental/health insurance	20,267.79
Cenex Fleet Fueling, sheriff fuel	649.27
Colonial Life Insurance, insurance	211.94
DAS Sate Accounting AS 400 fees	309.75
Eakes Office Solutions, furniture	940.76
Elan Financial Services, supplies	644.03
Farmers and Merchants Bank, payroll w/h	6,212.10
First Conrad Benefits Group, insurance buy down	1,732.01
Galls, LLC, uniform	60.97
Holt County Treasurer, veterans contract	616.67
Hometown Leasing, services	60.41
Loup Valleys Rural Public Power District, services	423.36
McNally Law Office, clerical/rent	2,358.34
Menards-Grand Island, supplies	729.97
Meschke, Roberta, check order reimbursement	38.95
Microfilm Imaging Systems, INC, equipment rental	60.00
MIPS Inc, services	1,378.27

Nebraska Association of County Officials, conf registration	215.00
Nebraska Department of Revenue, state w/h	821.83
Nordhues Family, June mowing	660.00
Northeast Nebraska Telephone Co, services	556.73
Ord Animal Clinic, necropsy bull	280.00
Paper Tiger Shredding, services	55.00
Peterson, Preston J, court appointed attorney	1,412.50
Presto-X, monthly services	73.16
Transunion Risk & Alt Data Solutions, subscription	175.00
Valley County Sheriff, prisoner keep	350.00
Verizon Wireless, sheriff cell	276.06
VSP Insurance Co. vision insurance	156.29
ROAD FUND	
Payroll	
Highway Superintendent, salary	833.33
Road Foreman, salary	5653.64
Road Employee, salary	4300.43
Road Employee, salary	4509.81
Road Employee, salary	4186.84
Road Employee, salary	4824.05
Road Employee, salary	4042.07
Weed Superintendent, salary	100.00
Emergency Manager, salary	100.00
AFLAC, insurance	66.10
Ameritas Retirement Plans Division, retirement	3,076.88
Appeara, services	52.60
Bartak Glass, window repair	998.00
Blue Cross Blue Shield, dental/health insurance	9,903.86
Bomgaars Supply, INC, supplies	22.97
Colonial Life Insurance, insurance	533.04
Diamond Lime, lime rock	4,257.23
Edgehill Motors Inc, saw chains	132.00
Farwell, Brian, reimbursement	26.74
Farmers and Merchants Bank, payroll w/h	5,859.46
First Conrad Benefits Group, insurance buydown,	1,674.34
John Deere Financial, grader payment	25,592.60
Loup Valleys Rural Public Power District, shop services	205.69
Madison Nation Life, insurance	5.42
MidWest Repair, hydraulic repairs	675.00
Nebraska Department of Revenue, payroll w/h	867.88
Northeast Nebraska Telephone Co, services	90.15
Platinum Truck Service LLC, truck repairs	8,378.36
Powerplan, repairs	1,637.65
Sapp Bros Petroleum, INC., diesel	11,513.74
Shotkoski Enterprises, concrete haul	21,859.26
The Parts Bin, Inc, supplies	346.52
Ulrich Gravel, INC, gravel	20,862.17
Verizon Wireless, services	39.91
VSP Insurance Co, vision insurance	63.68
We Mart, fuel	387.34

Pokorny made a motion to approve claims, seconded by Heinz. Voting aye: Pokorny, Heinz, and Plugge. Voting nay: none.

At 11:23 a.m. Pokorny motioned to enter into executive session to discuss potential litigation, seconded by Plugge. Voting aye: Pokorny, Plugge, and Heinz. Voting nay: none.

Pokorny made a motion to exit the executive session at 12:16 p.m., seconded by Plugge. Voting aye: Pokorny, Heinz, and Plugge. Voting nay: none.

With no further business, Heinz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:17 p.m., seconded by Pokorny. Voting aye: Heinz, Pokorny, and Plugge. Voting nay: none.

There will be a Special meeting held on September 8, 2025 at 8 a.m. for budget workshop.

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday September 24, 2025, at 8:00 am.

Cara Snider, County Clerk

Travis Heinz, Board Chairman