

These minutes are unofficial until approved by the Board January 26, 2026

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MEETINGS
January 12, 2026

The Red Willow County Board of Commissioners and the Board of Equalization met in the Commissioners' Room in the courthouse on January 12, 2026. A notice of the meetings was published in the McCook Gazette and posted on the County's website. The combined agenda was e-mailed to each commissioner and the news media, uploaded on the County's website, and kept current and available to the public at the County Clerk's Office.

At 8:30 a.m. Chairman Ted Gans called the Board of Commissioners meeting to order with the following members present: Commissioners Ted Gans, Randy Dean and Charles Fritsche. Gans informed the public about the location of the posted Open Meetings Act.

A motion was made by Fritsche, seconded by Dean, to approve the agendas as presented. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

The Board reviewed accounts payable claims.

At 9:00 a.m. Chairman Gans offered the floor for Citizens' Comments. No one was present.

A motion was made by Fritsche, seconded by Dean, to approve the following items on the consent agenda: 1) minutes from the previous Board of Commissioners and Board of Equalization meetings, 2) accounts payable claims in the amount of \$200,848.41, 3) reappoint Mike Eklund and Mike Skolout to Hillcrest Board, terms to expire December 31, 2031, 4) surplus two Gooseneck trailers for Visitors Bureau, 5) set January 26, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. as the time and date to hold a Public Hearing to amend the budget, 6) surplus trailer ramps, 2000 Kenworth truck, tip-out trash bin, 1984 Vulcan step-deck semi-trailer, barrel cart and 2006 H&H trailer for Waste and 2006 belly-dump trailer and 1955 tilt trailer for District 3. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

Chairman Gans recessed the Commissioners' meeting at 9:10 a.m. for the Board of Equalization.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MEETING:

Chairman Randy Dean called the Board of Equalization meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. with the following members present: Commissioners Ted Gans, Randy Dean and Charles Fritsche. Dean informed the public about the location of the posted Open Meetings Act.

Lori Stevens, Assessor, presented Tax Roll Correction No. 3 for 2025 for Booë Machinery & Salvage, which decreased the tax rolls by \$ 11,081.06.

A motion was made by Gans, seconded by Fritsche, to approve the correction as presented. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

Crystal Dack, Treasurer, presented motor vehicle exemption renewals from Peace Lutheran Church, YMCA of McCook, Evangelical Free Church, Community Action Partnership, Willow Christian Church, and McCook Christian Church.

A motion was made by Fritsche, seconded by Gans, to approve the motor vehicle exemption renewals as presented. Roll Call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

Chairman Dean adjourned the Board of Equalization meeting at 9:18 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING: (Reconvened)

Chairman Gans reconvened the Board of Commissioners meeting at 9:18 a.m.

The annual reorganization of the Board was held.

A motion was made by Gans, seconded by Fritsche, to elect Clerk Cooper as Chairman pro tem until a new Chairman is Elected.

A motion was made by Dean, seconded by Fritsche, to re-elect Ted Gans as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners and that the Chairman delegates his authority to the Vice Chairman in his absence. Roll call: Ayes: Dean, Fritsche. Abstain: Gans.

A motion was made by Gans, seconded by Fritsche, to re-elect Randy Dean as Vice Chairman of the Board of Commissioners to act as the Chairman in his absence. Roll Call: Ayes: Gans, Fritsche. Abstain: Dean.

A motion was made by Fritsche, seconded by Gans, to re-elect Randy Dean as Chairman of the Board of Equalization. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Fritsche. Abstain: Dean.

A motion was made by Dean, seconded by Gans, to re-elect Ted Gans as Vice Chairman of the Board of Equalization to act as the Chairman in his absence. Roll Call: Ayes: Dean, Fritsche. Abstain: Gans.

A motion was made by Dean, seconded by Gans, to re-elect Charles Fritsche as Chairman of Noxious Weed Control Authority. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean. Abstain: Fritsche.

A motion was made by Gans, seconded by Fritsche, to re-elect Randy Dean as Vice Chairman of the Noxious Weed Control Board to act as the Chairman in his absence. Roll Call: Ayes: Gans, Fritsche. Abstain: Dean.

Discussion was had regarding the appointment of County board members to miscellaneous committees and boards. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

A motion was made by Dean, seconded by Fritsche, to amend agenda to include McCook Economic Development Corp and the Nebraska County Extension Board to the list of committees and boards.

A motion was made by Dean, seconded by Fritsche, to nominate Ted Gans to the following positions for representation:

County Health Board,

Fair Board, and

Board of Trustees of the Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department, Inc.

Roll Call: Ayes: Dean, Fritsche. Abstain: Gans.

A motion was made by Gans, seconded by Fritsche, to nominate Randy Dean to the following positions for representation:

RC&D Board,

Region II Governing Board,

Planning/Zoning Committee,

McCook Economic Development Committee, and

Hillcrest Nursing Home Board.

Roll Call: Ayes: Gans, Fritsche. Abstain: Dean.

A motion was made by Dean, seconded by Gans, to nominate Charles Fritsche to the following positions for representation:

Nebraska County Extension Board,

Veteran's Service Committee,

County Visitors' Committee,

REWARD Board of Directors, and

Roll Call: Ayes: Dean, Gans. Abstain: Fritsche.

A motion was made by Gans, seconded by Fritsche, to appoint David Blau of Miller & Associates as Road Superintendent for 2026. His County Highway Superintendent License number is S-1653, Class A. Roll Call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

A motion was made by Dean, seconded by Fritsche, to reappoint Kevin Darling as the Emergency Manager for 2026. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

A motion was made by Dean, seconded by Fritsche, to reappoint Michael Simmonds as the Veterans Service Officer for 2026. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

A motion was made by Dean, seconded by Fritsche, to not reappoint Sonya Prentice as the Noxious Weed Superintendent for 2026. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

A motion was made by Fritsche, seconded by Dean, to reappoint Brandy Bird as the County Health Director for 2026. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

A motion was made by Dean, seconded by Fritsche, to reappoint Billie Cole as the Director of the Household Hazardous Waste for 2026. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

A motion was made by Dean, seconded by Fritsche, to designate the McCook Gazette as the official county newspaper for the year 2026 and the Red Willow County website as an additional method of reporting meetings. Roll Call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

A motion was made by Dean, seconded by Fritsche, to approve Resolution No. 1586, Book 24, Page 93, Designating Banks as Depositories for Red Willow County for Calendar Year 2026. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

Crystal Dack, Treasurer, Lori O'Dea, Clerk of District Court, and Lori Stevens, Assessor, joined the Board to request an amendment to Resolution No. 1585, Book 24, Page 92 to set Officials' salaries for the 2027-2030 term of office. After much discussion, a motion was made by Dean, seconded by Fritsche, to amend Resolution No. 1585, Book 24, Page 92 to reflect a 3.5% annual increase for elected officials for the 2027-2030 term. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

The following correspondence was reviewed and placed on file: 1) Tax Equalization Review Board – Appeal from Dale Dueland, 2) NACO – Continuing Education for Sonya Prentice.

The following reports were reviewed and placed on file: 1) Miller & Associates – 2025 Bridge Inspections, 2) District Court Clerk's Monthly Revenue Report.

The following claims were allowed:

Abbreviations for this legal: S Supplies; SF Sheriff Fees; SC Services & Charges; LF Legal Fees; M Mileage, Meals, Meetings; D Dues, Reg. or Subs; DN Donation; R Rent; RF Refund; T Taxes; TR Training; MH Mental Health Hearing; I Insurance; BP Bond Payment; LP Lease/Loan Payment; C Contract Labor; WF Witness Fees GENERAL FUND Acme Printing SC 300.00 Applied Connective Technologies SC 2,096.00 Blake's SC 15.00 Jessica Bortner M 29.40 Candlewood Suites Kearney M 1,999.20 City Of McCook SC 50.00 Clerks Of District Court Assoc D 50.00 Ruby Collins M 729.91 Penelope Cooper M 230.67 Crystal Dack M 176.69 Kevin Darling S 16.99 Dept Of Revenue/Property Assessment D 75.00 Doyle Auto Repair SC 321.52 Eakes Office Solutions S 705.47 Electronic Systems Inc SC 175.40 Farrells Pharmacy Inc S 446.49 Frenchman Valley Co-Op S 1,325.43 Goodwin Siegfried LLP LF 218.75 Great Plains Communications Inc SC 437.32 Tammie Hilker C 112.50 Holiday Inn M 124.95 Hometown Leasing R 1,229.63 Ideal Linen Supply S 143.96 JM Stevens SC 7,367.00 Donna Kircher M 19.60 Masonic Temple Craft Inc R 495.00 McCook Gazette SC 591.72 McCook Humane Society Inc DN 450.00 McCook Utilities SC 356.70 Microfilm Imaging Systems Inc SC 129.00 Mid States Organized Crime Info S 100.00 MIPS Inc SC 3,940.24 Mousel Brooks Schneider & Mustion LF 727.50 National Sheriffs Association D 250.00 NACO D 250.00 Ne County Assessors Association D 100.00 Nebraska Public Power District SC 1,583.12 Nebraska Sheriffs' Association D 430.00 Nebraska Public Health Environment LF 105.00 Nicks Distributing Inc S 499.12 Nkc Tire SC 27.99 Lori O'Dea M 197.25 Prairie States Communication SC 5,250.38 SRK Enterprise LLC SC 520.00 Ravenswood Electric LLC SC 710.56 Mayra Real S 53.73 Red Willow Dental LLC SC 430.54 Region II Services DN 5,779.00 Red Willow County Court LF 305.00 Red Willow County District Court LF 318.00 Clerk Of District Court Petty Cash S 108.24 Red Willow County Sheriff SF 131.87 Shred-It Usa SC 189.93 Michael T Simmonds D 270.00 Lori Stevens M 142.80 Teresa Thomas M 21.00 20/20 Technologies LLC SC 3,900.50 University Of Nebraska Lincoln SC 325.00 US Bank S 1,823.24 US Postmaster S 83.00 Blaine (Milton) Varney S 37.10 Verizon Wireless SC 91.76 Van Velson Law Office, PC, LLO LF 62.50 West Central District D 25.00 Ryan R Wilcox C 8,100.00 Witness Fees - Co Court WF 40.00 Tracy Zink M 16.80 TOTAL 57,365.47 ROAD FUND AKRS Equipment SC 175.06 BW Telcom SC 99.35 Cambridge Telephone Company SC 62.13 City Of McCook SC 59.80 H Daffer Storage R 1,200.00 EIA LLC S 15,140.70 McCook Utilities SC 91.80 Miller & Associates Consulting Eng C 4,712.63 Mittens S 3,823.14 NMC Exchange LLC SC 1,603.74 Nebraska Public Power District SC 53.00 Ruggles Truck & Trailer Sales LLC S 94.00 Southwest Farm & Auto Supply S 285.13 Viaero Wireless SC 320.50 Village Of Danbury SC 720.00 TOTAL 28,440.98 VISITORS IMPROVEMENT FUND McCook Gazette SC 192.00 TOTAL 192.00 VISITORS PROMOTION FUND Carol E Schlegel C 9,451.75 TOTAL 9,451.75 FAIR FUND Ace-Yuma SC 3.99 Arnold Motor Supply S 5.32 Black Hills Energy SC 1,022.91 Brico Pest Control SC 90.00 Cardmember Services S 185.51 Deveny Motors LLC SC 32.97 Caleb Dorenkamp SC 300.00 Frenchman Valley Co-Op S 42.64 Great Plains Communications Inc SC 171.45 Hometown Leasing R 113.45 John Deere Financial SC 253.88 McCook Gazette SC 4.04 McCooknet Internet Service SC 88.00 McCook Utilities SC 268.38 Nebraska Public Power District SC 1,215.62 SRK Enterprise LLC SC 1,657.50 Walter Heating, Cooling & Const LLC SC 544.00 Delton Young SC 65.00 TOTAL 6,064.66 SELF-INSURANCE FUND Lucent Health Solutions LLC 160,917.56 TOTAL 60,917.56 ARENA FUND AKRS Equipment SC 976.67 Black Hills

Energy SC 3,085.02 The Buddy Trailer SC 1,835.52 C&K Distributors S 50.45 Cardmember Services S 1,178.05 Electronic Systems Inc SC 175.40 Extreme Ag Inc S 156.75 Great Plains Communications Inc SC 100.00 McCook Utilities SC 830.55 NMC Exchange LLC S 53.74 Nebraska Public Power District SC 963.91 NKC Tire SC 703.78 Paul L Sutton S 189.00 Walter Heating, Cooling & Const LLC SC 160.00 TOTAL 10,458.84 HEALTH FUND Applied Connective Technologies SC 125.00 Brandy Bird M 60.13 Change Healthcare Solutions LLC S 212.86 Eakes Office Solutions S 235.78 Great Plains Communications Inc SC 396.19 Hometown Leasing R 86.12 McCook Gazette SC 10.36 Medico-Mart Inc S 22,571.86 Moderna US Inc S 1,207.75 Pathology Services PC SC 488.34 US Bank S 1,990.43 TOTAL 27,384.82 WASTE FUND C & K Distributors S 3.17 Billie Cole S 121.68 McCook Utilities SC 57.14 Nebraska Public Power District SC 208.33 Southwest Farm & Auto Supply S 6.99 Volz Inc SC 175.00 TOTAL 572.31 GRAND TOTAL 200,848.39

A motion was made by Dean, seconded by Fritsche, to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m. to January 26, 2026.

Ted Gans
Chairman, Board of Commissioners

Randy Dean
Chairman, Board of Equalization

Attest: Penelope Cooper
County Clerk