

These minutes are unofficial until approved by the Board February 9, 2026

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MEETINGS
January 26, 2026

The Red Willow County Board of Commissioners and the Board of Equalization met in the Commissioners' Room in the courthouse on January 26, 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 Dean, seconded by Fritsche, to add "approve Resolution No. 1587, Book 24, Page 94 to the consent agenda. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

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 and payroll claims.

At 9:00 a.m. Chairman Gans offered the floor for Citizens' Comments. Tracy Soderlund was present to observe. Sheriff Darling updated the Board. They have become an Accredited Agency; a sheriff's app is now available on smart phones. They have new body armor, new vehicles, and have added MACH and TraX to their systems. The deputies have all completed TIM training. The office has updated all policies, including new job descriptions, and has purged old files.

There were no issues for the Board of Equalization.

A motion was made by Dean, 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 and payroll claims in the amount of \$485,846.22, 3) reappoint Misti Soderlund to the Health Board, term to expire February 28, 2029, 4) Resolution No. 1587, Book 24, Page 94 to allow the Treasurer to advertise delinquent taxes. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

A motion was made by Dean, seconded by Fritsche, to enter a public hearing to amend the budget for Household Hazardous Waste at 9:30 a.m. Roll Call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche

Gans explained the budget overage in Household Hazardous Waste. There was an excess amount placed in reserves, and not enough in budget authority. The resolution will move \$150,000 from reserves to spendable authority.

A motion was made by Dean, seconded by Fritsche, to exit the public hearing. Roll Call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche

A motion was made by Dean, seconded by Fritsche, to approve Resolution No. 1588, Book 24 Page 95 to amend the budget for Household Hazardous Waste. Roll Call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche

At 9:45 a.m., Elizabeth Aguirre joined the Board meeting to discuss her interest in being the Tourism Director.

A motion was made by Fritsche, seconded by Dean, to appoint Elizabeth Aguirre as Tourism Director for 2026. Roll Call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

Kasey Taylor and Ron Soden joined the Board at 10:00 a.m. to discuss their interest in being the County Noxious Weed Superintendent.

Gans reviewed the qualifications for the position, and the County's expectations from the successful applicant.

A motion was made by Gans to appoint Kasey Taylor as Noxious Weed Superintendent. Motion died for lack of a second.

A motion was made by Dean, seconded by Fritsche, to appoint Ron Soden as Noxious Weed Superintendent for 2026. Roll Call: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

The Board reviewed quotes received for an auditor for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. A motion was made by Dean, seconded by Fritsche, to contract with Countryman to audit the County's records and procedures for the fiscal year 2025-2026. Roll Call: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

The following correspondence was reviewed and placed on file: 1) Nebraska Department of Agriculture regarding Weed Superintendent.

The following reports were reviewed and placed on file: County Clerk and Sheriff's Monthly Revenue Reports.

The following claims were allowed:

GENERAL FUND Net Salaries 161,992.03 AFLAC 2,094.64 Retirement Plans Division Ameritas 23,480.92 At&T Mobility 623.21 Black Hills Energy 2,093.91 Brighthouse Financial 50.00 Brico Pest Control 100.00 City Of McCook 1,340.00 City Of McCook 8,947.25 Colonial Life 184.14 Consolidated Management Company 10,894.16 Credit Management Services 1,104.24 Justin M Daake 4,850.00 Jaclyn N Daake 1,262.50 DAS State Accounting 178.75 Empower Retirement 1,050.00 Great Plains Communications Inc 1,214.21 Tammie Hilker 31.50 MASA Global Building 266.00 McCook Gazette 144.00 MNB Bank 42,858.35 MNB Bank - HSA 250.00 MNB Bank 45.89 MIPS Inc 2,553.18 NACO 213.75 Nebraska Department Of Revenue 5,918.37 NIC 24.00 Nebraska State Library Publications 879.50 Principal Voluntary Child Life 6.00 Principal Voluntary Employee Life 148.17 Principal Voluntary Spouse Life 86.48 Quadient Finance USA, Inc 502.25 Quality Urgent Care 2,493.00 Quill Corporation 662.75 Red Willow County Self Insurance 4,700.00 Joseph Rothmeyer 74.99 Red Willow County Clerk 735.00 Red Willow County Sheriff 20.19 Red Willow County Sheriff 20.19 Ashley K Spahn 1,175.00 Toxic Graphics 2,434.72 Principal Vision Plan 366.00 Weld County Sheriff 56.00 Total 288,125.24 ROAD FUND Net Salaries 33,789.19 AFLAC 114.40 Ag Valley Co-Op 2,971.65 Retirement Plans Division Ameritas 5,206.60 Black Hills Energy 319.00 CNH Industrial Accounts 62.68 Decatur Co-Op Association 2,803.73 Empower Retirement 100.00 Frenchman Valley Co-Op 165.20 Great Plains Communications Inc 106.37 Lords Inc 42.57 MASA Global Building 84.00 MNB Bank 10,289.96 Miller & Associates Consulting Eng 1,000.00 Mittens 1,262.16 Modern Farm Equipment Corp 429.50 Nationwide Retirement Solutions 400.00 Nebraska Child Support 433.00 Nebraska Department Of Revenue 1,389.36 NMC Exchange LLC 2,651.91 NKC Tire 4,454.99 Principal Voluntary Child Life 5.00 Principal Voluntary Employee Life 258.81 Principal Voluntary Spouse Life 3.99 Red Willow County Self Insurance 1,200.00 Ruggles Truck & Trailer Sales LLC 4,029.92 Twin Valleys Public Power District 114.87 Village Of Bartley 114.27 Principal Vision Plan 100.77 Total 73,903.90 VISITORS IMPROVEMENT Honorbound It 50.00 Maly Marketing 330.00 McCook Chamber Of Commerce 520.00 McCook Gazette 10.36 McCook Economic Development Corp 1,331.00 McCook Farm & Ranch Expo 3,000.00 Sarah Schneider 107.30 US Bank 75.24 Total 5,423.90 VISITORS PROMOTION McCook Utilities 51,000.00 Total 51,000.00 FAIR FUND Net Salaries 7,766.09 AFLAC 179.52 Retirement Plans Division Ameritas 1,187.06 MASA Global Building 14.00 MNB Bank 2,183.90 Nebraska Child Support 410.00 Nebraska Department Of Revenue 320.65 Principal Voluntary Child Life 5.00 Principal Voluntary Employee Life 61.60 Principal Voluntary Spouse Life 7.95 Red Willow County Self Insurance 400.00 Principal Vision Plan 52.10 Total 12,587.87 SELF-INSURANCE FUND Lucent Health Solutions LLC 26,016.77 Total 26,016.77 ARENA FUND Net Salaries 3,896.46 Retirement Plans Division Ameritas 569.05 MNB Bank 958.41 Nebraska Department Of Revenue 119.24 Red Willow County Self Insurance 200.00 Red Willow County Road Dept 539.40 Principal Vision Plan 26.05 Total 6,308.61 HEALTH FUND Net Salaries 12,604.30 AFLAC 360.69 Retirement Plans Division Ameritas 1,722.89 Empower Retirement 150.00 MASA Global Building 14.00 MNB Bank 3,205.34 Nebraska Department Of Revenue 375.93 Principal Voluntary Child Life 5.00 Principal Voluntary Employee Life 13.25 Red Willow County Self Insurance 400.00 Red Willow County Clerk 110.00 Principal Vision Plan 39.49 Total 19,000.89 WASTE FUND Net Salaries 2,550.43 Retirement Plans Division Ameritas 150.19 Great Plains Communications Inc 175.57 MNB Bank 576.72 Nebraska Department Of Revenue 26.13 Total 3,479.04 Grand Total 485,846.22

A motion was made by Fritsche, seconded by Dean, to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 a.m. to February 9, 2026.

Ted Gans
Chairman, Board of Commissioners

Attest: Penelope Cooper
County Clerk

