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

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

The Red Willow County Board of Commissioners and the Board of Equalization met in the Commissioners' Room in the courthouse on October 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 Charles Fritche, seconded by Randy 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. No one was present.

There were no issues for the Board of Equalization.

At 9:30 a.m. Brandi Hilton-Hagemann and Teresa Thomas joined the Board to introduce Meghan Giorgione, the new Early Childhood Educator, making the Red Willow County Extension office now fully staffed. Meghan Giorgione provides educational training to become a certified daycare provider along with continuing education for those who qualify. Her primary focus is 0–5-year-olds and daycare providers that watch children in that age range. Some classes could cost to attend depending on the type of educational course provided.

At 9:40 a.m. Dean McCoy is looking for an old office chair. He had a tour of the Courthouse attic and found two chairs he would be interested in purchasing. A motion was made by Randy Dean, seconded by Charles Fritsche to surplus and sell two chairs to Dean McCoy for $50.00 each. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

At 9:50 a.m. Sheriff Downing & Chief Deputy Hunter joined the Board to talk about purchasing a new patrol vehicle. Already purchased one vehicle in the amount of $28,500.00 in September. The new vehicle is a total of $15,000.00. Motion was made by Randy Dean and seconded by Charles Fritsche to authorize the amount of $45,000.00 for special purchase of new patrol vehicles to the sheriff department to come out of the inheritance fund. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche

Sheriff Downing and Chief Deputy Hunter also mentioned that the battery backup for the whole sheriff's department was due for a change by July 2030. The current battery backup was installed back in 2018 for over $20,000.00. Due to not using current full capacity, downgrading to a smaller backup would be a cheaper option. Downing understood that he will have to get bids for the smaller backup that meets the same specifications. He will work on at least two bids to present to the board at a future date.

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 Meeting, 2) Accounts Payable and Payroll Claims in the amount of $597,257.48 3) Resolution No. 1626, Book 25, Page 16, Year-End Certification of County Highway Superintendent, 4) Oversized Load Permit for Edwards Iron. Roll call: Ayes: Gans, Dean, Fritsche.

The following report was reviewed and placed on file: Sheriff's monthly revenue report.

Sarah Cathcart, director of Central Nebraska Constituent Services, introduced herself to the board. She helps counties to apply for federal grants. She has a mobile office in the Keystone building.

The following claims were allowed:

GENERAL FUND Reimbursements 124.44 Ashley K Spahn 4,450.00 AT&T Mobility 597.29 Benchmark Government Solutions LLC 704.10 Black Hills Energy 383.10 Carpenter Breland Funeral Home Inc 550.00 City Of McCook 10,227.25 Community Hospital 3,632.39 Consolidated Management Company 9,407.57 Crowne Plaza 619.80 DAS State Accounting 161.00 Doyle Auto Repair 126.40 Eakes Office Solutions 137.53 Election Systems & Software Inc 4,011.93 Goodwin Siegfried LLC 643.75 Great Plains

Communications Inc 1,145.44 Jacks Uniforms & Equipment 5,118.85 Jaclyn N Daake 1,337.50 Jennifer Liess 125.00 Justin M Daake 3,582.62 McCook Humane Society Inc 450.00 Miller & Associates Consulting Eng 402.50 MNB Bank 16,618.19 NACO 165.00 Nicks Distributing Inc 133.53 Quadient Finance USA, Inc 546.16 Quill Corporation 345.43 Red Willow Co Treasurer Petty Cash 30.00 Red Willow County Sheriff 20.00 Retirement Plans Division Ameritas 15,416.34 Reward Committee 2,500.00 Ron Soden 94.86 Secretary Of State Election Div 130.00 Fund Adjustment 1,466.24 Net Salaries 224,344.71 Total 309,748.92 ROAD FUND Black Hills Energy 153.23 Cambridge Telephone Company 52.54 Decatur Co-Op Association 6,535.04 EIA LLC 21,778.20 Great Plains Communications Inc 106.33 Miller & Associates Consulting Eng 500.00 Mittens 4,826.61 MNB Bank 3,911.20 NE Machinery Co NMC 6,242.49 Reimbursement 69.95 Retirement Plans Division Ameritas 3,547.27 Ruggles Truck & Trailer Sales LLC 90.00 Twin Valleys Public Power District 98.61 Net Salaries 52,552.10 Total 100,463.57 FAIR FUND MNB Bank 584.27 Ravenswood Electric LLC 38,537.00 Retirement Plans Division Ameritas 523.33 Net Salaries 7,904.94 Total 47,549.54 SELF-INSURANCE FUND Lucent Health Solutions LLC 93,245.71 MNB Bank 608.14 Red Willow County Health Dept 1,445.00 Cash in lieu 8,000.00 Total 103,298.85 ARENA FUND MNB Bank 571.16 Red Willow County Road Dept 1,848.32 Retirement Plans Division Ameritas 484.26 Net Salaries 7,692.08 Total 10,595.82 HEALTH FUND MNB Bank 1,497.22 Retirement Plans Division Ameritas 1,216.62 Net Salaries 20,303.42 Total 23,017.26 WASTE FUND Great Plains Communications Inc 174.34 MNB Bank 167.54 Retirement Plans Division Ameritas 51.64 Net Salaries 2,190.00 Total 2,583.52 Grand Total 597,257.48

A motion was made by Charles Fritsche, seconded by Randy Dean, to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m. to November 9, 2026.

Ted Gans
Chairman, Board of Commissioners

Attest: Penelope Cooper
County Clerk