

COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES

The Clay County Board of Supervisors met at the Courthouse, Clay Center, Nebraska on August 19, 2025 at 9:00 A.M., as per public notice given in the Clay County News on August 13, 2025 a copy of the proof of publication being on file in the County Clerk’s Office. Availability of the agenda was communicated in advance notice of the meeting. All of the proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Chairman L. Wayne Johnson stated that the open meeting law poster is posted on the west wall in the back of the room and presided with roll call showing the following present: Scott Bitterman, Eric Samuelson, Glen Becker, James Pavelka, Jesse Mohnike and L. Wayne Johnson; Absent: Richard Shaw.

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was no public input.

Minutes of the meeting held August 12, 2025 were provided to the board members prior to the meeting. Motion by Pavelka and seconded by Mohnike to approve the minutes of the meeting held August 12, 2025. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Pavelka, Mohnike and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Thomas Roemmich II, Highway Superintendent provided a report on the roads and the mechanic’s work report for July. No action was taken regarding the interlocal agreement as the Board would like to wait until the County Attorney reviews the same.

Jeff Franklin, County Sheriff, presented his monthly report.

Pam Maynard presented the annual report of activity for the Visitor Promotion Fund and Visitor Improvement Fund. Pam presented the budget request for the funds for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Motion by Becker and seconded by Pavelka to approve the budget requests as presented. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Pavelka, Mohnike and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Jennifer Fleischer, County Attorney, presented her monthly report, gave some insight into the Attorney General’s opinion that was recently released regarding property assessment methods, advised the Board of some upcoming tax sales and gave some insight into the progress of the cannabis laws.

A surplus request was presented from the Board of Supervisor’s Inventory. Motion by Bitterman and seconded by Samuelson to approve the following items for surplus:

1 chair, green upholstered – broken	Blackboard with easel - broken
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Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Pavelka, Mohnike and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Pavelka and seconded by Mohnike to open the public hearing on the vacancy of the Marshall Township Board at 10:00 A.M. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Pavelka, Mohnike and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Kyle Kinyoun, resident of Clay County, was present to ask questions regarding the vacancy of Marshall Township such as but not limited to: what led to the vacancy, how vacant is the township board, what are the requirements to sit on the board, etc. Discussion continued regarding how township operations vary across the State of Nebraska (only 19 other counties in the State operate under a township form of government) and what the functions of the townships in Clay County are. Chairman Johnson and County Clerk Aksamit provided information to describe how townships used to operate as their own political subdivision in which they owned their equipment, employed and provided benefits to their employees, and covered their liabilities all as a township operation; however, that is just not how townships operate anymore in Clay County. It’s not a bad thing but seems to be more of just an oversight in operations.

Elimination of a Township would not mean reduced local representation for any township resident nor would it mean the addition of another layer of government. The current Board of Supervisors would simply act as the Board for the townships until they can be officially dissolved and then Clay County would switch to a Board of Commissioners form of government. Same number of Commissioners and still holding public meetings in which all Clay County residents are welcome to attend and participate in.

Cody Jester was present to discuss a business plan for a cannabis cultivation location in Clay County. Commended for his enthusiasm and well-presented business plan, it is simply too early in the game with the new laws, and that without guidance from the legislature on what is expected of the local governments, the Clay County Board will not be taking action on anything until the guidelines are provided. The Board encouraged Mr. Jester to reach out to his local district representative to discuss the status of the legislation.

Motion by Mohnike and seconded by Bitterman to close the public hearing at 10:35 A.M. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Pavelka, Mohnike and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

No action was taken on the Interlocal Agreement with the Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN) as the Board would like to wait until the County Attorney reviews the same.

Motion by Pavelka and seconded by Samuelson to adjourn this meeting at 10:36 A.M; next regular meeting scheduled for August 26, 2025. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Pavelka, Mohnike and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Cassie Aksamit, County Clerk

L. Wayne Johnson, Chairman