

COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES

The Clay County Board of Supervisors met at the Courthouse, Clay Center, Nebraska on February 10, 2026 at 9:00 A.M., as per public notice given in the Clay County News on February 4, 2026 a copy of the proof of publication being on file in the County Clerk's Office. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the 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, Richard Shaw and L. Wayne Johnson.

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the meeting held January 27, 2026 were provided to the board members prior to the meeting. The County Clerk advised the Board of a typo in the minutes that were published regarding the meeting date and notice date. The Clerk made the correction for the post on the County website. Motion by Pavelka and seconded by Mohnike to approve the minutes of the meeting held January 27, 2026 with the date revisions as noted. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Pavelka, Mohnike, Shaw and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Thomas Roemmich II, Highway Superintendent provided a report on the roads and the mechanic's report for January.

Tom presented easement requests from Black Hills Nebraska Gas, LLC.

Motion by Mohnike and seconded by Bitterman to approve the easement request from Black Hills Nebraska Gas, LLC to bury a natural gas pipeline from the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 11-7-5 crossing Road 317 to the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 14-7-5. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Pavelka, Mohnike, Shaw and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Bitterman and seconded by Mohnike to approve the easement request from Black Hills Nebraska Gas, LLC to bury a natural gas pipeline from the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 11-7-5 crossing S. Saunders Ave. to the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 11-7-5. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Pavelka, Mohnike, Shaw and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Tom discussed the County Road 305 Asphalt Overlay Project #C-18(372). Motion by Shaw and seconded by Pavelka to authorize the Chairman to sign an Agreement with Olsson & Associates for engineering, design, and construction observation for the project. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Pavelka, Mohnike, Shaw and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Cassie Aksamit, County Clerk, presented a County Burial Assistance Request. The request had previously been sent to the Chairman and the County Attorney. It was determined that the decedent has assets. Motion by Pavelka and seconded by Bitterman to deny the request. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Pavelka, Mohnike, Shaw and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Aksamit brought discussion regarding doing a wellness clinic for the County employees again. Wellness Partners would be able to host the clinic again at the cost of \$150.00 per participant. Aksamit provided total participation and expense to the Board from 2025. Motion by Shaw and seconded by Bitterman to approve the Wellness Clinic for 2026 with Wellness Partners at the County's expense of \$150.00 per employee. Spouses and significant others may participate in the clinic; however, they will be required to cover the \$150.00 expense. The County Clerk will confirm the date and provide notice to employees. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Pavelka, Mohnike, Shaw and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Mohnike and seconded by Pavelka to open the public hearing on the 1-6 Year Road Plan at 9:15 a.m. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Pavelka, Mohnike, Shaw and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Tom discussed the maps that he had previously provided in the preliminary hearing and expressed that no changes had been made.

Charles Shoemaker and Brian Perry, who are land / business owners in the NAD area were present. Discussion was had between Mr. Shoemaker, Mr. Perry, the Board of Supervisors, the County Assessor and the Highway Superintendent. Discussion was put on hold for agenda items.

Motion by Samuelson and seconded by Mohnike to open the bids open the bids received for On-Call Engineering for the term of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Pavelka, Mohnike, Shaw and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Bids Received:

Olsson, Inc.	
<u>Description</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Principal	\$240/hour
Project Manager	\$190/hour
Project Professional	\$150/hour
Assistant Professional	\$130/hour
Designer	\$110/hour
CAD Operator	\$90/hour
Administrative/Clerical	\$85/hour
Surveyor	\$135/hour
Construction Services	\$90/hour
Oak Creek Engineering	
<u>Personnel Group</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>
Professional Engineer	\$165/hour
Bridge Inspection Team Leader	\$130/hour
Professional Land Surveyor	\$140/hour
Project Manager	\$140/hour
Survey Technician	\$100/hour
Bridge Inspection Tech	\$110/hour
CAD Drafter	\$90/hour
Observation Resident	\$90/hour
Lab Testing	Direct Expense
Mileage	Prevailing IRS rate
Reproduction	At cost

Motion by Pavelka and seconded by Shaw to accept all bids received for On-Call Engineering for the term of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 and authorize the Chairman to sign the contracts. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Pavelka, Mohnike, Shaw and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Discussion with Mr. Shoemaker and Mr. Perry resumed. The Board wishes to continue the discussion with Mr. Shoemaker, Mr. Perry and all other land / business owners at a later date. A notice of the meeting will be sent to all parties.

Motion by Becker and seconded by Shaw to close the public hearing on the 1-6 Year Road Plan at 10:20 a.m. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Pavelka, Mohnike, Shaw and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Bitterman and seconded by Mohnike to approve the 1-6 Year Road Plan as presented and adopt Resolution #26-03 for the 1-6 Year Road Plan. Upon roll call, the

vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Pavelka, Mohnike, Shaw and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Kreighton Baxter and Isaiah Robbins with the Clay County Sheriff's Department were present. Deputy Robbins presented a Canine (K-9) Program proposal to the Board. Deputies Robbins and Baxter expressed the benefits of the program to be, but not limited to, improving officer safety, probably cause, and drug enforcement and enhanced relationships in the communities. The Department plans to pursue grants and donations for the program and will continue to keep the Board informed of all monetary strides and have detailed discussions pertaining to the budget of the program. Motion was made by Becker and seconded by Pavelka to authorize the Clay County Sheriff's Department to pursue the Canine (K-9) Program. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Pavelka, Mohnike, Shaw and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

The Fee Reports were presented to the Board. Motion by Mohnike and seconded by Samuelson to approve the fee reports for the following county officials for the month of January 2026: County Clerk \$31,556.15; County Court \$10,447.41; Clerk of District Court \$87,408.51; Sheriff's fees \$6,591.86; County Health Department \$1,369.00 and County Treasurer receipts numbered 26010001 through 26010049 in the amount of \$4,466,464.09. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Pavelka, Mohnike, Shaw and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Aksamit brought discussion of the County Court Bailiff program. Attention has been brought forward regarding the program being a volunteer program. Discussions have been had with the County and State Auditor offices and the only way the County can expend towards the County Bailiff would be if the County were to have a contract with the Bailiff and the County would need to develop a policy for Bailiff expenses as well. Recommendation of the State Auditor's office was that the County does not use public funds for the County Bailiff unless the Board were to develop a contract and policy. The Clerk will advise the County Court Clerk Magistrate of the same.

Correspondence was received from the County Public Defender notifying the County of retirement of the Public Defender. The County Clerk has made contact with the County Attorney along with legal counsel at NACO for guidance. The Board was provided with all correspondence received so discussion could be had on how to move forward and prepare for the retirement and replacement of the County Public Defender. The Clerk will reach out to Zelle HR place a job listing on Indeed.com.

Aksamit brought discussion to a safety meeting and employee appreciation dinner for the County employees. The Board asked the Clerk line up the meeting and dinner.

Motion by Pavelka and seconded by Becker to adjourn this meeting at 11:10 a.m.; next regular meeting scheduled for February 17, 2026. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Pavelka, Mohnike, Shaw and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Cassie Aksamit, County Clerk

L. Wayne Johnson, Chairman