

COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES

The Clay County Board of Supervisors met at the Courthouse, Clay Center, Nebraska on March 17, 2026 at 9:00 A.M., as per public notice given in the Clay County News on March 11, 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, Jesse Mohnike, Richard Shaw and L. Wayne Johnson; absent: James Pavelka.

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the meeting held February 24, 2026 were provided to the board members prior to the meeting. Motion by Mohnike and seconded by Shaw to approve the minutes of the meeting held February 24, 2026 with the date revisions as noted. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, 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 February.

Motion by Bitterman and seconded by Becker to sign the Engineering Proposal with Olsson Engineering for Box Culvert Project C-18(373). Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Mohnike, Shaw and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Tom presented the following easement requests:

Motion by Mohnike and seconded by Samuelson to approve the easement request from Black Hills Nebraska Gas, LLC to bury a natural gas pipeline from the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of 4-6-6 crossing Road 312 to the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of 9-6-6. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Mohnike, Shaw and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Shaw and seconded by Bitterman to approve the easement request from H-4 Farms and Warren & Velda Wilson Foundation to bury an electrical line from the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 22-6-7 crossing County Road K to the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of 21-6-7 for irrigation purposes. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Mohnike, Shaw and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Tom asked for permission to pursue a computer / wiring diagnostic system for the County mechanic to continue to keep as much mechanical work internally as possible. The Board was okay with Tom looking for a program to get set up with.

Jeff Franklin and Kreighton Baxter with the Clay County Sheriff's Office discussed transferring firearms off their Inventory for the purpose of sale / upgrade to better equip the department. Motion by Bitterman and seconded by Shaw approving the surplus of items from the Inventory of the Sheriff's Office for purpose of sale / upgrade (*full list on file in the Clerk's office*). Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Mohnike, Shaw and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Sharon Hueftle, South Central Economic Development District (SCEDD) presented the annual report.

Joni Bitterman, Clerk of the District Court, discussed a temporary position in her office due to her Deputy Clerk resigning. The Board is okay with this.

Robin Gilbert, County Treasurer, gave the Board a report on the sale of delinquent taxes that took place on March 2nd. Three bidders were present which resulted in the sale of 28 tax certificates and the total tax and interest collected was \$41,439.21.

Gilbert presented claims to the Board regarding road maintenance for 2025 for School Creek Township and Marshall Township, each in the amount of \$3,000.00 to be paid to the Clay County Highway Department. Motion by Bitterman and second by Becker to approve the claims as presented and authorize the County Treasurer to pay from the appropriate funds. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Mohnike, Shaw and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Megan Burda, Nebraska Extension Engagement Zone Coordinator was present to discuss the Clay County Extension Office budget and how it ties to the UNL Extension Office budget. The UNL Extension Department is assigning a vehicle to Clay County to assist with reducing mileage costs of the Clay County Extension Office.

Cassie Aksamit, County Clerk, brought the Board up to speed on the Public Defender position. Zelle HR is handling the advertising, with communication from the Clay County Attorney's office on procedures for fulfillment of said position.

Aksamit presented the Board with the contract for the 3 Step Program with Smith Lawn Care for the Courtyard in the amount of \$1,875.00. Motion by Becker and second by Bitterman to approve the contract as presented. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Mohnike, Shaw and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Aksamit presented the Board with cost comparisons on internet services for Clay County departments and a backup provider option with Starlink. Motion by Mohnike and second by Bitterman to approve the enrollment with Starlink for backup internet for all Clay County departments and authorize the Clerk to take care of the enrollment. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Mohnike, Shaw and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Aksamit advised the Board that she got the county fiber loop registered with Nebraska 811 for future locating purposes. Applied Connective will be asked to attend a future meeting to discuss the logistics of the loop further.

The Fee Reports were presented to the Board. Motion by Shaw and seconded by Samuelson to approve the fee reports for the following county officials for the month of February 2026: County Clerk \$24,699.66; County Court \$10,212.05; Clerk of District Court \$44,520.39; Sheriff's fees \$13,149.80; County Health Department \$1,811.59 and County Treasurer receipts numbered 26020001 through 26020055 in the amount of \$527,534.61. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Mohnike, Shaw and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Samuelson and seconded by Bitterman to adjourn this meeting at 11:06 a.m.; next regular meeting scheduled for March 24, 2026. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Mohnike, Shaw and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Cassie Aksamit, County Clerk

L. Wayne Johnson, Chairman