

COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES

The Clay County Board of Supervisors met at the Courthouse, Clay Center, Nebraska on May 19, 2026 at 9:00 A.M., as per public notice given in the Clay County News on May 12, 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 April 28, 2026 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 April 28, 2026. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Pavelka, Mohnike, Shaw and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Theresa Johnson was present and inquired about township dissolution. The Board provided information regarding the consideration of dissolution due to the decline of active Township Boards and the change in how the Clay County Township Boards operate. The Board will have some upcoming meetings regarding the same to focus on the discussion.

Thomas Roemmich II, Highway Superintendent provided a report on the roads and the mechanic's report for April. Tom discussed the bids for a motor grader. Motion by Pavelka and seconded by Samuelson to open motor grader bids on May 26th at 9:15am. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Pavelka, Mohnike, Shaw and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Tom presented the following easement requests:

Motion by Bitterman and seconded by Shaw to approve the easement request from Nebraska Windstream to bury microduct for fiber optic along Rd MN from South Street, South for 400' on the East side of Rd MN, along West side of the SE ¼ of 1-6-7. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Pavelka, Mohnike and Shaw; Nay: Johnson. Motion carried.

Jeff Franklin, County Sheriff presented his monthly update.

Jennifer Fleischer, County Attorney presented her monthly update. Jennifer reviewed the updated Letter of Agreement for EPC services for Clay County with Region 3 Behavioral Health Services recommends the Board approve the same. Motion by Shaw and seconded by Becker to approve the Letter of Agreement for EPC Services effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028 and authorize the Chairman and the County

Attorney to sign the same. 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 Pavelka to approve the budget request of Region 3 Behavioral Health Services for fiscal year 2026-2027 in the amount of \$16,106.06 which is a \$114.61 increase from the 25-26 FY request. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Pavelka, Mohnike, Shaw and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Chairman Johnson brought discussion of the Public Defender Policy Board. Motion by Becker and seconded by Samuelson to approve appoint Ted Griess, Attorney at Law; Paul Bixby, Attorney at Law; and David Higbea, layperson to act as the Clay County Public Defender Policy Board effective immediately. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Pavelka, Mohnike, Shaw and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Mark Johnson, Building & Grounds Superintendent, presented his monthly update. Mark and the County Clerk provided the Board with details of necessary repairs to the HVAC chillers and Fire Alarm System. The Board was understanding of the repairs and authorized the Clerk to move forward with the repair authorization with the vendors.

Sara Mertens, Health Department Director presented information on the Sherwood Grant that she would like to pursue. The County has been approved for a \$10,000.00 Grant which the Health Department will utilize in the next fiscal year. The Board authorized Sara to adjust her budget request for FY 26-27 to accommodate for the expenses on which the grant will cover. Motion by Shaw and seconded by Bitterman to authorize Sara to apply for the Sherwood Grant. 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 Becker and seconded by Shaw to approve the fee reports for the following county officials for the month of April 2026: County Clerk \$18,328.05; County Court \$6,082.61; Clerk of District Court \$28,413.06; Sheriff's fees \$7,823.48; County Health Department \$1,315.00 and County Treasurer receipts numbered 26030101 through 26030164 and 26040001 through 26040138 in the amount of \$4,732,107.18. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Pavelka, Mohnike, Shaw and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

David Wangila and Nicole Stoner with the UNL Extension Office presented an update on the program as well as gave an update on the vacant position of the Extension Office Manager. Motion by Shaw and seconded by Pavelka to authorize the hiring of the Office Manager at \$18.50 per hour with a \$0.50 increase upon satisfaction of the probationary period. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Pavelka, Mohnike, Shaw and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Chairman Johnson provided an update on the Veteran Service Officer position. Kady Schnitker, who currently acts as the Nuckolls County Veteran Service Officer, has agreed to come on with Clay County as well to provide our County Veteran Services. A formal offer will be prepared by Zelle HR and then sent to Kady for acceptance. Upon acceptance, the Board will appoint

Cassie Aksamit, County Clerk provided the Board with information on the County Employee Benefits and renewal of the same for the July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 plan year.

Motion by Pavelka and seconded by Mohnike to accept the increase in the NACO pool rates for the Blue Cross Blue Shield Medical and Dental coverages as presented and authorize the County Clerk to sign and submit the Sub-group Application. 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 Bitterman to approve the renewal with First Concord and authorize the County Clerk to sign the Clay County FSA Plan as Amended and Restated effective July 1, 2026 with First Concord and the Certificate of Resolution. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Pavelka, Mohnike, Shaw and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Becker and seconded by Shaw to approve the renewal with Point C for the Health Reimbursement Arrangement effective July 1, 2026 and authorize the County Clerk to sign the renewal. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Pavelka, Mohnike, Shaw and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Shaw and seconded by Samuelson to authorize AFLAC to offer dental, vision and life insurance policies to the Clay County employees within benefit enrollment time. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Bitterman, Samuelson, Becker, Pavelka, Mohnike, Shaw and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Clerk Aksamit advised the Board that we have received the Findings and Order from the Nebraska Tax Equalization and Review Commission which states that the Tax Equalization and Review Commission, as part of its statewide equalization proceedings, find that the levels of value for real property in Clay County for tax year 2026 meet the requirements of law – Signed and sealed on May 15, 2026.

Motion by Becker and seconded by Shaw to adjourn this meeting at 11:00 a.m.; next regular meeting scheduled for May 26, 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