

COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

The Clay County Board of Supervisors held a special meeting with the Township Board members at the Clay County Fairgrounds, Main Activities Building, Clay Center, Nebraska on July 13, 2026 at 5:30 P.M., as per public notice given in the Clay County News on July 8, 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 had a copy of the open meetings act available for review and presided with roll call showing the following present: Glen Becker, Jesse Mohnike, Richard Shaw and L. Wayne Johnson; absent: Scott Bitterman, Eric Samuelson and James Pavelka.

Chairman Johnson opened the meeting with an introduction of the County Board Members Present and the Highway Superintendent, Tom Roemmich. Johnson followed with an overview of the current status of township operations in Clay County. In Nebraska there are only approximately 21 Counties that still operate under a Township governance and only a few of them actually have operating Townships (i.e., meaning that the Townships still own and operate their equipment and employ the equipment operators). Another note that Chairman Johnson hit was the liability risk of Board Members (this can be the same across all types of boards: townships, school, councils, churches, etc.) Clay County is insured through the Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association (NIRMA); however, Township liabilities are not covered under these policies. Thus, Chairman Johnson tried to express the importance of all of the current Township Board Members to have some sort of personal liability coverage for their sitting on the Township Boards.

County Board Supervisor James Pavelka arrived at the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

The Board opened the meeting up to all those in attendance to speak.

Individuals in attendance: Clink Schwenk, Jason Gerdes, Kyle Kinyoun, Nancy Kinyoun, Bill Nejezchleb, Paul Roback, George Ablott, Todd Mau, Chad Walker, Lyle Alberts, Merle Nelson, Wyatt Overturf, Mike Spray, Tom Kluver, Dan Harms, Doug Kauk, Terry Ross, Judy Ross, Dan Shaw and Ryan Hinrichs.

Townships with Board Members present: Edgar, Eldorado, Fairfield, Glenvil, Harvard, Inland, Logan, Lone Tree, Ong, Sheridan, Spring Ranch, Sutton.

Open discussion followed between all attendees and the Board of Supervisors. Comments were made for concerns of loss of local governance and not knowing how to guarantee that the Townships will not lose their 'priority' when it comes to road maintenance. County Board members and the Highway Superintendent expressed that the County currently does and will continue to provide all necessary road maintenance to all roads in Clay County, whether it stays under a Township form of government or not. Many of the attendees stated that they are satisfied with the roads in Clay County and the responsiveness of the Highway Department; however, some expressed their

discontent with surrounding counties roads and fear that Clay County would evolve in that direction. There was some comment that some roads have had some slower than normal maintenance; however, the Highway Superintendent asked for patience as just with all businesses, the County Highway Department has overturn in operators and it takes time for new operators to learn their routes. Other delays can be caused by weather and gravel supply. Some asked if the discontinuance of Townships would require redistricting of any level once the Board transitioned to a Board of Commissioners rather than Board of Supervisors. There is no requirement for redistricting. Chairman Johnson expressed that the taxpayers could see a possible decrease in levy if the discontinuance of townships would take place. Currently the Townships levy for their expenses; however, the County also levies for expenses due to how the services are being provided to the Townships.

Currently the Clay County Townships are in existence with minimal requirements, such as: hold one to two meetings per year, one of which is to adopt their fiscal year budgets. Road maintenance is provided to the Townships through the Clay County Highway Department and an Interlocal Agreement is in place for said services and expenses. The Townships pay the County Highway Department an annual fee based on their Interlocal Agreement. Right now the Township Interlocal Agreements range from an annual fee of \$1,500 - \$3,000. When comparing Clay County's Township governance to others in the State of Nebraska, Clay County has an extremely low expense reimbursement arrangement with Townships. Many counties charge their Townships by the miles being maintained as well as adjust their rates annually for increased costs of equipment and employees. Clay County might have to re-evaluate how the Interlocal Agreements are structured to help cover the cost of road maintenance for the Townships. Another option would be that the Townships be fully operational which would mean that they each own their equipment, employ their operators and maintain their own roads, etc.

Though there were voices of concern regarding the discontinuance of Townships, there were also voices in favor of said discontinuance. Expressing their understanding of the changes of times and the lack of true Township operations. Also understanding their personal liabilities and favor of the County absorbing all liability if the Townships were dissolved.

In 2022, the Township boards were on the General Election ballot and several of the Townships lacked Board Member elections, thus leaving them vacant until the County Board of Supervisors were able to request the assistance of Township residents to sit on the Boards for the main purpose of getting the upcoming budgets established for those Townships. Following 2022, two Township Boards have dissolved: School Creek and Marshall.

Though there were pros and cons expressed during the meeting, it was an overall good discussion to bring more attention to the matter between the Boards. The Board of Supervisors will continue discussion and education of the matter amongst Clay County residents and will likely place the Discontinuance of Townships on the 2026 General Election Ballot and invite Clay County residents to ask questions before the General Election.

Motion by Mohnike and seconded by Shaw to adjourn this meeting at 7:02 p.m. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Becker, Pavelka, Mohnike, Shaw and Johnson; Nay: None. Motion carried.

Cassie Aksamit, County Clerk

L. Wayne Johnson, Chairman