

Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners

Trenton, Nebraska
January 5th, 2026

A meeting of the County Board of Commissioners of Hitchcock County, Nebraska was held at the Hitchcock County Courthouse Commissioner's Room, 229 East D Street, Trenton, Nebraska on Monday the 5th day of January 2026 commencing at 9:00 o'clock a.m. Present were Chair Paul Nichols, Commissioners Ron Wertz and Christopher Baker and County Clerk Margaret Pollmann. Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication on January 1st, 2026 in *Scoop Media News*, the designated method for giving notice. Board agendas are posted on the County's website www.hitchcockcounty.ne.gov. Notice of the meeting was given to the Chair and all members of the Board. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public. The Open Meetings Act was available for review and Chair indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting was being held.

Chair Nichols called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The floor was opened for nominations for Chair for calendar year 2026. Member Wertz nominated Paul Nichols. The nomination was seconded by Baker. There were no further nominations and nominations ceased. The roll was called on the nomination of Paul Nichols for Chair for calendar year 2026 as follows: Baker, Aye; Wertz, Aye; Nichols, Abstain. Motion carried and Paul Nichols was declared Chair for 2026.

The floor was opened for nominations for Vice Chair for calendar year 2026. Member Baker nominated Ron Wertz. The nomination was seconded by Nichols. There were no further nominations and nominations ceased. The roll was called on the nomination of Ron Wertz for Vice Chair for calendar year 2026 as follows: Nichols, Aye; Baker, Aye; Wertz, Abstain. Motion carried and Ron Wertz was declared Vice Chair for 2026.

Member Nichols moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of the following items:

- Approval of the January 5th, 2026 agenda
- Approval of the December 15th, 2026 meeting minutes
- Designating regular meeting days as the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, unless Monday is a holiday, then Tuesday is the regular meeting day
- Designating the County's website, <http://www.hitchcockcounty.ne.gov> in addition to publication in official newspapers as a method of providing notices
- Appointment of Paul Nichols as County's representative on the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Board for 2026 with Ron Wertz as alternate.
- Appointment of Christopher Baker as County representative on the West Central Nebraska Area Agency Board with Ron Wertz as alternate for 2026
- Appointment of Christopher Baker as County representative to the West Central Nebraska Development District with Ron Wertz as alternate for 2026
- Appointment of Ron Wertz to the Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department Board of Directors who remains perpetually appointed while in office.
- Appointment of Lance Harter holding License #1426 (License Level A) as Hitchcock County Highway Superintendent under an employment contract beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026.
- Appointment of Safety Committee members for 2026: Kyle Clapp, Marcus Profit, Mike Erickson, Jared Vrbas, James Howard and Christopher Baker
- Passage of Resolution #26-1 naming banks as depositories for Treasurer & Clerk of the District Court: Henderson State Bank – Trenton, Henderson State Bank – Culbertson, MNB Stratton, and Nebraska Public Agency Trust – Exhibit "A" of these minutes
- Passage of Resolution #26-2 authorizing Treasurer to invest excess funds – Exhibit "B" of these minutes
- Passage of Resolution #26-3 regarding non publication of real estate involved in bankruptcy – Exhibit "C" of these minutes
- Passage of Resolution #26-4 regarding the County's Cash In Lieu offering – Exhibit "D" of these minutes.
- Passage of Banking Resolution #26-5 – Exhibit "E" of these minutes.

Note: True, correct and complete copies of Resolutions #24-1, #24-2, #24-3 and #24-4 are on file in the office of the County Clerk and on the County's website www.hitchcockcounty.ne.gov

- Appointment of ___ as Alternate Member of the Planning Commission for three (3) year term expiring in January 2029.
- Finding that all Hitchcock County Chief deputy base salaries are in compliance with NEB. REV. STAT. §23-114.09

No action was taken on Agenda Item #16, appointment of alternate member to the Planning Commission.

Member Wertz seconded the motion and after consideration the following members voted in favor of said motion: Nichols, Aye; Wertz, Aye; Baker, Aye. Motion carried.

Treasurer Jackie Drain joined the meeting.

Member Wertz moved to approve the following claims. Member Baker seconded the motion and after consideration, a roll call vote was had as follows: Baker, Aye; Wertz, Aye; Nichols, Aye. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND:

General Fund Payroll -----	\$28,287.62
Acme Printing Co., supply -----	\$ 540.00
AT&T Mobility, service -----	\$ 198.41
Christopher Baker, mileage -----	\$ 306.60
Blue360 Media, law library -----	\$ 201.81
Clerk District Ct. Assoc., dues -----	\$ 50.00
Kimberly Cook, mileage/communications -----	\$ 135.73
Dollar General, supply -----	\$ 78.25
Jaclyn Drain, reimb. supply -----	\$ 55.92
Eakes Office Solutions, supply -----	\$ 214.98
Kearney Hospitality Inc., lodging -----	\$ 1,624.35
Henderson State Bank – Trenton, FICA/OASI/Fed. -----	\$ 8,889.97
Hometown Leasing, copier lease -----	\$ 335.98
Baleigh Lashley, mileage/communications -----	\$ 34.93
Med. Air Service Assoc. – B2B, suppl. ins. -----	\$ 12.50
Menards Kearney, bldg. supply -----	\$ 179.96
Menards North Platte, bldg. supply -----	\$ 18.99
MIPS, Inc., data process. -----	\$ 2,106.11
NACO, registrations -----	\$ 800.00
NE Law Enforcement Training Center, uniforms/supply -----	\$ 325.00
NE Dept. Rev., state employment tax withholding -----	\$ 1,304.38
Paul Nichols, mileage -----	\$ 420.70
Margaret Pollmann, mileage -----	\$ 169.40
Quill Corporation, supply -----	\$ 402.96
Rapid Fire Protection, fire extinguishers inspection/new unit -----	\$ 378.00
Retirement Plans Division Ameritas, retirement -----	\$ 4,198.39
Safe Life Defense, uniforms/equipment -----	\$ 737.60
Sayler Screenprinting, uniforms -----	\$ 183.00
Scoop Media LLC, publications -----	\$ 403.63
SW Public Power Dist., utility -----	\$ 41.07
Tyler Technologies Inc., data process. -----	\$ 475.94
Uline Shipping Supply Specialists, supply -----	\$ 284.14
Corporate Payment Systems, US Bank late fee -----	\$ 2.00
Corporate Payment Systems, US Bank late fee -----	\$ 2.00
Village of Trenton, utility -----	\$ 1,067.12
Ryan R. Wilcox, public defender contract -----	\$ 4,000.00

ROAD FUND:

Road Fund Payroll -----	\$18,934.84
Henderson State Bank – Trenton, FICA/OASI/Fed. -----	\$ 5,292.48
Lakeside Sand & Gravel LLC, gravel -----	\$ 5,486.92
Mead Lumber, supply/tools -----	\$ 79.95

NE Dept. Rev. Motor Fuels Div., tax -----	\$ 545.00
NE Dept. Rev., state employment tax withholding -----	\$ 762.82
Rapid Fire Protections, fire extinguisher inspection/new unit-----	\$ 647.00
Retirement Plans Division Ameritas, retirement -----	\$ 2,725.54
Rodney Rooney, reimb. shop supply -----	\$ 15.58
SW Public Power Dist., utility -----	\$ 49.00
Tjaden Welding LLC, dredge repair -----	\$ 365.00
Village of Stratton, utility -----	\$ 185.88
Village of Trenton, utility -----	\$ 163.00
Ron Wertz, reimb. tools -----	\$ 208.44

REGISTER OF DEEDS P&M FUND:

MIPS, Inc., data process. -----	\$ 264.94
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Member Nichols moved to approve the Application to Occupy County Road Right of Way filed by Great Plains Communication for an underground fiber optic line in Section 12-3-32. Member Wertz seconded the motion and after consideration a roll call vote was had as follows: Nichols, Aye; Wertz, Aye; Baker, Aye. Motion carried.

Member Wertz moved to enter into an Agreement For Professional Services by and between Oak Creek Engineering, LLC and the County for Highway Superintendent Services and to direct Chair to execute the same. Member Baker seconded the motion and after consideration a roll call vote was had as follows: Baker, Aye; Wertz, Aye; Nichols, Aye. Motion carried.

Discussion held on payroll and accounts payable systems utilized by the County and new MIPS offerings on the same.

County Attorney D. Eugene Garner joined the meeting.

Jo Schauer and Isaac Hughes with Murphy Tractor joined the meeting and offered information as to the new model John Deere motor grader models.

Attorney Garner join the meeting and advised as to LB 1300 (2024) changes regarding County Board salary setting.

Member Wertz moved to rescind Resolution 25-24 passed on December 1st, 2025. Member Baker seconded the motion and after consideration a roll call vote was had as follows: Wertz, Aye; Baker, Aye; Nichols, Aye. Motion carried.

Member Wertz offered Resolution #26-6 and moved for its’ adoption. Member Baker seconded the motion and after consideration the roll was called thereupon as follows: Baker, Aye; Nichols, Aye; Wertz, Aye. Said resolution having been consented to by a majority of all members elected to said County Board, was by the Chair declared passed and adopted. A true, correct and complete copy of said resolution is on file in the office of the County Clerk and on the County’s website www.hitchcockcounty.ne.gov.

RESOLUTION 26-6

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners must set salaries for certain County Officers for the new term beginning January 7th, 2027 and ending January 2nd, 2031 in accordance with *NEB. REV. STAT.* §23-1114.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HITCHCOCK COUNTY, NEBRASKA:

That the following salaries should be and hereby are affixed for the following County Officials of Hitchcock County, Nebraska for the term beginning January 7th, 2027 and ending January 2nd, 2031:

County Assessor.....	\$63,250.00
County Attorney	\$63,250.00
County Clerk	\$63,250.00

County Sheriff \$75,000.00
County Treasurer \$63,250.00

The annual salary for the listed offices have been established for the calendar year 2027, plus an increase during the term of office (2028, 2029, 2030) of two and one half percent (2½%) annually. Said salaries shall be full compensation in consideration of performance of all statutory duties relating to said office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in addition to the above stated salary the elected official shall be eligible to participate in the County’s health and medical plan as offered to all county employees, as may be amended from time to time.

Passed and approved this 5th day of January, 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HITCHCOCK COUNTY, NEBRASKA

ATTEST

Paul Nichols - Chair

Margaret M. Pollmann, Hitchcock Co. Clerk

SEAL

Voting for the motion: Baker, Wertz and Nichols
Voting against the motion: None
Abstaining: None
Absent: None

The Sheriff’s First, Second, Third and Fourth Quarter 2025 Revenue Reports were on file.

Pursuant to NEB. REV. STAT. §47-109 the Hitchcock County jail was visited.

Member Wertz moved to adjourn at 11:05 a.m. and to meet for the next regular meeting on Tuesday, January 20th, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. Member Baker seconded the motion a roll vote was had as follows: Wertz, Aye; Nichols, Aye; Baker, Aye. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Chair
Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners

Margaret M. Pollmann, County Clerk

RESOLUTION #26-1

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Hitchcock County, Nebraska, that during the year 2026 and for all remainder of the term of Jackie Drain, as County Treasurer and Margaret M. Pollmann, as County Clerk ex officio Clerk of the District Court, or until further directed by the Board, that the following named banks shall be depositories for the funds of Hitchcock County, Nebraska:

Henderson State Bank – Trenton
PO Box 338
Trenton, NE 69044-0338

Henderson State Bank – Culbertson
PO Box 8
Culbertson, NE 69024

MNB Stratton, NE
PO Box 367
Stratton, NE 69043-0367

Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust
721 South 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that since the County Treasurer and County Clerk/Clerk of the District Court have on hand and will have on hand from time to time for deposit, County money which should be deposited for safekeeping in these banks in excess of the paid-up capital stock and surplus of each of the said banks, but shall not at any time have in said banks County funds in excess of 102% of the bonds deposited by each bank as security plus the \$250,000.00

demand deposit and the \$250,000.00 time deposit covered and protected by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation of which the bank is a licensed and qualified member thereof. In the event of demand deposits, for the Hitchcock County Clerk's Imprest Fund being over \$250,000.00 the receiving bank will furnish securities to cover the additional deposits. Provided that the aforesaid banks each and all of them meet the requirement imposed by the laws of the State of Nebraska regarding property bond and securities for the deposits made in said banks.

Passed and approved this 5th day of January, 2026.

Chair, Hitchcock County Board of
Commissioners

ATTEST:

SEAL

Margaret M. Pollmann, Co. Clerk

VOTING FOR THE MOTION: Paul Nichols, Ronald Wertz and Christopher Baker

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINING: None

VOTING AGAINST THE MOTION: None

EXHIBIT "A"

RESOLUTION #26-2

WHEREAS, it appears that the County Treasurer of Hitchcock County, Nebraska, has on hand, from time to time, excess monies which are not then required for the proper operation of the government of said Hitchcock County;

AND WHEREAS it is for the best interest of said Hitchcock County that such monies be invested in various investments for the benefit and welfare of said County, which investments should be made as provided by the law of the State of Nebraska.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S OF HITCHCOCK COUNTY, NEBRASKA, that the County Treasurer of said Hitchcock County be and she hereby is authorized to invest excess monies of said County, from time to time, in such investments as may be required and permitted by the laws of Nebraska, and to rescind any and all former resolution of this Board concerning this matter, which may be in conflict therewith.

DATED THIS 5th day of January, 2026.

Chair, Hitchcock County Board of
Commissioners

ATTEST:

Margaret M. Pollmann, Co. Clerk

SEAL

VOTING FOR THE MOTION: Paul Nichols, Chrisopher Baker and Ronald Wertz

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINING: None

VOTING AGAINST THE MOTION: None

EXHIBIT "B"

RESOLUTION #26-3

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF HITCHCOCK COUNTY, NEBRASKA:

That the Board of Commissioners of Hitchcock County, Nebraska, for the use and benefit, and in the name of the said County of Hitchcock, will not advertise ANY SUCH KNOWN real estate property descriptions that are deeded to persons who have declared a form of bankruptcy with the United States bankruptcy Court as of the date of publication of delinquent real estate taxes. Publication dates will be February 5th, 2026, February 12th, 2026 and February 19th, 2026.

LET IT ALSO BE KNOWN that as of this date the Treasurer has not received notification of discharge of any of the bankruptcies not being published.

A list of such legal descriptions being withheld from publication will be on file in the County Treasurer's office, Hitchcock County, Nebraska.

Dated this 5th day of January, 2026.

Chair, Hitchcock County Board of
Commissioners

ATTEST:

Margaret M. Pollmann, Co. Clerk

SEAL

VOTING FOR THE MOTION: Christopher Baker, Paul Nichols and Ronald Wertz

VOTING AGAINST THE MOTION: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: None

EXHIBIT "C"

RESOLUTION #26-4

WHEREAS, the Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners of Hitchcock County, Nebraska hereinafter (Board) passed Resolution #17-8 on March 6, 2017 offering a conditional Cash-In-Lieu option of group medical insurance policy to those elected officials and Hitchcock County employees choosing to participate, and

WHEREAS, Cash-In-Lieu payment amount(s) shall be established each plan year at the Board's January Reorganizational meeting.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following Cash-In-Lieu payments for the policy year beginning July 1, 2025 shall be added to monthly wages and all withholding requirements will be administered accordingly on the monthly cash option as follows:

- Employee Only \$350.00
- Employee/Child(ren) \$550.00
- Employee/Spouse \$550.00
- Family \$550.00

Passed and approved this 5th day of January, 2026.

Chair, Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Margaret M. Pollmann, County Clerk

Voting for the Motion: Baker, Wertz, and Nichols

Voting against the Motion: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: None

EXHIBIT “D”

RESOLUTION #26-5

WHEREAS, the County of Hitchcock, Nebraska, (hereinafter called COUNTY) is a political subdivision of the State of Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to NEB. REV. STAT. §23-106 (1), the Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners shall manage the COUNTY’s funds and COUNTY business, except as otherwise specifically provided; and

WHEREAS, the COUNTY is desirous of adopting a Banking Resolution for banking transactions by and between the COUNTY, acting by and through its various officers and the Henderson State Bank – Trenton (hereinafter called BANK) 339 Main Street, PO Box 338, Trenton, Nebraska.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF HITCHCOCK COUNTY, NEBRASKA:

1. That the BANK is hereby designated as a depository for funds of the COUNTY and also for the funds of other persons or entities coming into the hands of the COUNTY’s officials pursuant to their official duties, and that the elected or appointed officials of said COUNTY as specifically designated herein, and each of them, hereby are authorized to open or otherwise maintain such account(s) with the BANK, as said elected or appointed officials deem necessary to carry out their respective official duties on behalf of and for the COUNTY, and to execute such agreements as shall be required by the BANK and subject to rules and regulations of the BANK governing such accounts.
2. That, subject to the special instructions set forth herein, if any, or as otherwise authorized by law, any of the following persons are authorized and empowered to deal generally with the BANK with respect to the following specified accounts:

Jaclyn B. Drain, Hitchcock County Treasurer

- Hitchcock County Treasurer #XXX-XX9
- Money Market #XXXXXX5
- CDBG Housing Fund #XXX-XX9
- Community Development Fund #XXX-XX8
- ARPA Fund #XXXXXXXX6

Margaret M. Pollmann, Hitchcock County Clerk

- Hitchcock County Imprest Fund # XXX-XX8
- Hitchcock County Clerk # XXX-XX3
- Hitchcock County Clerk of the District Court # XXX-XX7
- Hitchcock County Payroll #XXX-XX8

Linda K. Smith, Hitchcock County Court Clerk Magistrate

- Hitchcock County Court # XXX-XX9

D. Eugene Garner, Hitchcock County Attorney

- Hitchcock County Attorney # XXX-XX2

Hitchcock County Sheriff, Ryan L. King

Hitchcock County Deputy Sheriff, Thomas W. Jones

- Hitchcock County Sheriff # XXX-XX4

Robert A. Scott, Hitchcock County Veteran’s Service Office

- Hitchcock County Veteran’s Aid Fund # XXX-XX6
- Hitchcock County American Legion #XXX-001

Paul A. Nichols, Hitchcock County Commissioner District #1
Ronald L. Wertz, Hitchcock County Commissioner District #2
Christopher Baker, Hitchcock County Commissioner District #3

- Hitchcock County Imprest Fund # XXX-XX8

and to designate from time to time themselves and such other deputy official(s) to (1) sign, on behalf of the COUNTY, checks, drafts or withdrawal orders drawn upon such accounts; and (2) to endorse in the name of the COUNTY and to deposit in such accounts money, checks and other instruments for payment of moneys, which endorsements may be by stamp without designation of the person endorsing, and in connection therewith certify to the BANK the specimen signatures on any signature card.

3. That notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the BANK is authorized to honor instruments for the payment from, and to charge the same to, the Hitchcock County Imprest Fund # XXX-XX8 account ONLY upon proper authorized signature(s) of:
A) one (1) County Commissioner, as either chairman or vice-chairman or acting chairman, AND
B) the County Clerk or Deputy County Clerk.
4. That of the COUNTY, checks, drafts or money orders when signed by those persons so designated, whether or not (1) payable or endorsed to the person signing; or (2) paid or applied for the benefit of the persons signing.
5. That this resolution shall be certified to the BANK together with specimen signatures of the persons named herein and said certification shall continue in force until express written notice of rescission or modification has been received by the BANK.
6. That the original signature card(s) pertaining to said accounts of the COUNTY and bearing the true specimen signature(s) of the persons named and otherwise authorized hereby shall be on file with the BANK.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 5th day of January, 2026.

Voting for the motion: Christopher Baker, Paul Nichols, Ron Wertz

Voting against the motion: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: None

The resolution is hereby adopted.

Chair

Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Margaret M. Pollmann, County Clerk

SEAL

EXHIBIT "E"
