

Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners

Trenton, Nebraska
February 2, 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 2nd day of February 2026 commencing at 9:00 o'clock a.m. Present were Chair Paul Nichols, Commissioner Christopher Baker and County Clerk Margaret Pollmann. Commissioner Ron Wertz was absent. Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication on January 29th, 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. Also present Bill Roddy and Jason Gohl.

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

Member Nichols moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of approval of the February 2nd, 2026 agenda and approval of the January 20th, 2026 meeting minutes. Member Baker seconded the motion and after consideration a roll call vote was had as follows: Baker, Yes; Nichols, Yes; Wertz, Absent. Motion carried.

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

GENERAL FUND:

General Fund Payroll -----	\$19,050.32
Board of Adjustment 1-15-26 meeting, per diem & mileage -----	\$ 112.06
Planning Commission 1-15-26 meeting, per diem & mileage -----	\$ 120.90
Mike Buffington-Damon – reimb. equip.-----	\$ 175.00
Colfer, Wood, Lyons & Wood, ct. appt. counsel -----	\$ 337.50
Community Hospital, inmate medical -----	\$ 2,866.06
Adreanna Dunn, communications -----	\$ 54.00
Eakes Office Solutions, supply/equipment -----	\$ 311.89
Galls LLC, uniform supply -----	\$ 34.21
Henderson State Bank – Trenton, FICA/OASI/Fed. -----	\$ 5,440.35
JA Automotive, repair -----	\$ 398.35
Med. Air Services Assoc., B2B, suppl. ins. -----	\$ 12.50
MIPS, Inc., supply -----	\$ 242.16
Mousel, Brooks, Schneider, Mustion & Shifflet, ct. appt. counsel -----	\$ 328.80
NE Assoc. Co. Clerks, dues -----	\$ 50.00
NE Law Enforcement Training Center, academy fees -----	\$ 142.00
NE Dept. Rev., state employment tax withholding -----	\$ 772.20
Postage -----	\$ 1,000.00
Protex Central, fire alarm inspections-----	\$ 267.50
Retirement Plans Division Ameritas, retirement -----	\$ 2,756.65
Ashley K. Spahn, ct. appt. counsel -----	\$ 250.00
SW Public Power Dist., utility -----	\$ 45.17
Corporate Payment Systems, supply -----	\$ 354.91
Village of Trenton, utility -----	\$ 1,161.80
Ryan R. Wilcox, public defender contract -----	\$ 4,000.00

ROAD FUND:

Road Fund Payroll -----	\$13,071.65
Modern Farm Equipment, repair -----	\$ 610.66
Henderson State Bank – Trenton, FICA/OASI/Fed. -----	\$ 3,179.57
J Distributing, repair -----	\$ 338.14
NE Dept. Rev., state employment tax withholding -----	\$ 426.08

Oak Creek Engineering, bridge inspections -----	\$ 6,096.00
Quality Aggregate Supply, dredge repair -----	\$ 1,749.10
Retirement Plans Division, Ameritas, retirement -----	\$ 1,818.90
Corporate Payment Systems, dredge repair/shop supply -----	\$ 169.87
Village of Stratton, utility -----	\$ 198.49
Village of Trenton, utility -----	\$ 152.78

Region 51 Emergency Manager Brandon Myers gave the agencies quarterly report.
Discussion held on FEMA’s Request for Information (RFI) on the Valley Drive project.

Lead Extension Educator Kimberly Cook and Health and Wellbeing Instructor Baleigh Lashley gave the Extension Service’s annual report.

Board acknowledged receipt of the Affidavit of Surplus Property from the Extension office for a Hewlet Packard Laser Jet Pro 400 printer.

Audit quotes were discussed.

Zoning Administrator Mike Erickson and County Attorney D. Eugene Garner joined the meeting. Discussion held on extension of temporary moratorium on wind energy installations and solar power generation systems.

Chair Nichols gave an update on Bureau of Reclamation land transfers.

Discussion held on an AT&T SPEED quotation for internet backup services. It was the consensus of the Board to inquire of courthouse offices as to the need for this service and to possibly consider soliciting quotes for cellular internet backup services. This item will be placed on the February 17th, 2026 meeting agenda.

Member Nichols offered Resolution #2026-8 and moved for its’ adoption. Member Baker seconded the motion and after consideration the roll was called thereupon as follows: Wertz, Absent; Nichols, Yes; Baker, Yes. 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 #2026-8
(Temporary Moratorium on
Wind Energy Installations & Solar Power Generation Systems)

WHEREAS, the County of Hitchcock County, Nebraska, is a duly organized county, existing pursuant to the laws of the State of Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, the Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners has applied for and been awarded a grant for financial assistance in the development and implementation of an updated Comprehensive Plan and updated Zoning Regulations, which will include zoning regulations for commercial wind energy conversion systems and commercial grade solar energy generation/conversion systems; and

WHEREAS, the Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners deems it necessary to continue the temporary moratorium on development of commercial wind energy conversion systems and the issuance of conditional use permits for the same pursuant to Section 612 of the Hitchcock County Zoning Regulations for the lesser of one year or until such time as the Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners has the opportunity to study and adopt updated zoning regulations with respect to wind energy conversion systems covered in Section 612 of the Hitchcock County Zoning Regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners deems it necessary to continue the temporary moratorium on development of commercial grade solar energy generation/conversion systems. This moratorium applies to any solar conversion system with a rated capacity in excess of one hundred (100) kW in name plate generating capacity, except this

moratorium shall not apply to those facilities designed and constructed behind the meter and which do not have the ability to sell or transfer electricity back onto the public electrical grid for profit or credit. This moratorium applies to applications as accessory uses in all zoning districts, as well as the issuance of any conditional use permits in this regard pursuant to the Hitchcock County Zoning Regulations for the lesser of one year or until such time as the Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners has the opportunity to study and adopt appropriate zoning regulations with respect to commercial and/or utility grade solar energy generation/conversion systems; and

WHEREAS, the Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners believe in the rights of individual landowners to make the best and most efficient use of their property and hereby state that the intent of this moratorium is not to discourage the adoption and use of “small wind energy systems” as defined in Section 612.02 of the Hitchcock County Zoning Regulations nor is it the intent to discourage individual land owners from the adoption and use of small scale solar energy conversion systems (ie, less than one hundred (100) kW in total name plate generating capacity), specifically designed and used for private, non-commercial applications, including without limitation, solar powered livestock watering facilities and other such farm or single family residential applications. The Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners specifically acknowledges the utility of such systems, especially within the ranching and agriculture industries, as well as their utility to individual homeowners and fully support their continued use and proliferation in that regard; and

WHEREAS, the Board, states that it is the express intent of the Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners to enact this moratorium to provide time for a comprehensive regulatory scheme to be developed to manage and regulate the location, implementation and decommissioning of all commercial and/or utility grade wind energy and solar energy conversion systems which would otherwise provide direct financial benefit to a relative few Hitchcock County landowners while allowing the negative impacts to be borne by all Hitchcock County residents.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners, that for a period of one year from the date of this resolution, or until such time as the Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners can study and adopt appropriate updated zoning regulations with respect to commercial and/or utility grade wind and solar energy conversion systems, as described hereinabove, whichever is lesser, a moratorium shall hereby be enacted and no commercial and/or utility grade wind energy conversion systems or solar energy conversion systems with a capacity of one hundred (100) kW or more, in total name plate generating capacity, shall be constructed or allowed as accessory uses in any zoning district nor shall any conditional use permits be issued for the same.

Motion by County Board member Nichols, seconded by County Board member Baker to approve and adopt the foregoing Resolution.

Voting Aye: Nichols, Baker

Voting Nay: none

Abstaining: none

Not Present: Wertz

ADOPTED this 2nd day of February, 2026.

HITCHCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By: _____
Paul Nichols, Chairperson

Attested:

Margaret M. Pollmann
Hitchcock County Clerk

Member Baker moved to adjourn at 11:08 a.m. and to meet for the next regular meeting on Tuesday, February 17th, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. Member Nichols seconded the motion a roll vote was had as follows: Wertz, Absent; Nichols, Yes; Baker, Yes. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Paul Nichols, Chair
Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners

Margaret M. Pollmann, County Clerk