

Chase County Commissioners

April 14, 2026

The regular meeting of the Chase County Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Bernhardt at 8:00am on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, in the meeting room of the Chase County Courthouse. The agenda and open meetings act were posted; the meeting had been advertised in the Imperial Republican and on the County website. Also present were Commissioners Billie Muehlenkamp and Jacci Brown, and County Clerk Wendy Moe. With nobody present for Open Forum, Board moved on to agenda items.

Jordan Gardner, Murphy Tractor & Equipment and Gregg O'Brien, Nebraska Machinery Co, were present for the item of grader purchase. Each submitted state bid prices for available machines, as follows: John Deere 670P, \$325,000; John Deere 672P, \$361,000; John Deere 770P, \$339,000; John Deere 772P, \$371,00; CAT 140 AWD, \$362,700; CAT 140 AWD (Next Gen), \$407,200; CAT 150 AWD, \$425,600. All machines come with 5-year, 5000 hour warranty. After review and discussion of all options, Commissioner Brown moved to purchase a John Deere 772P via State Bid for a price of \$371,000. Motion seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried. Estimated delivery date for the new machine is July 10, 2026.

Casey and Kristen Malone joined the meeting for Open Forum with questions pertaining to the roads in the Genesis Addition. County Attorney Burke and Assessor Mueller also joined the meeting. The Malones wish to build a driveway for access to their property and feel like they are getting the runaround being sent back and forth between the County and the City. Attorney Burke explained that the City Council signed off on, accepted and approved the original Plat of the Genesis Addition, therefore the County has no jurisdiction over this matter. Casey asked if the County would be willing to communicate that to the City. Attorney Burke said he will correspond with the City to explain the County's position on the matter.

Deb Hayes, Jayden Maris, Leanne Klein and Josh Skelton were present on behalf of Imperial and Wauneta EMS. Each service has received the final Shop Order Confirmation Form to be signed and returned to begin building the units. Leanne had already signed and returned Wauneta's after talking to Commissioner Muehlenkamp. Deb said the Imperial crew had a question about graphics and adding a grill guard before they submitted theirs. Deb indicated that the grill guard would be an additional \$3,500-4,000. The graphics approved with the original order were to be for a white unit, the EMS crew selected a black and orange design, however as the design would be on a black base and cost an additional \$10,000, Commissioners are not willing to expend the extra money for the black design. Deb also noted that Ford does not have aluminum rims available, they proposed steel wheels with simulators on them instead. Board will allow the addition of the grill guard and said to proceed with the steel wheels and simulators. Deb will get a revised order confirmation form and return later today. Board noted that although Leanne spoke to one Commissioner before signing and returning the form, in the future matters such as this need to come before the full Board.

Discussion of the age of current ambulances and consideration of upgrading or replacing them ensued. With the influx of new ambulances coming into the state from ARPA grant funded units, there may be a surplus of good used units coming available that would make upgrading more affordable. Deb and Jayden left the meeting.

Wauneta EMS quarterly reports were reviewed, Leanne noted that Andrew Hatz has completed the EMT-B course and passed all testing. Leanne is currently working on State reimbursement to the County for his tuition that was covered by the County.

Leanne presented a listing of Operational Set-Up Needs for the new EMS Building, including a 12x14 locked office space, 12x12 bathroom, kitchenette space, AC unit for entire building, electrical, water spigots, quick release options for overhead doors, and new signage. Board questioned having AC for the entire building, Leanne noted that supplies in the units can't exceed 86 degrees and in the heat of summer, that is a problem, plus they intend to use the bay area for meeting space rather than building a meeting room at this time. She said grant funding is available that they may pursue to purchase the AC. The Board is willing to proceed with the bathroom and storage/office space at this point. It was noted that it might be more cost effective to expand the storage/office space into a meeting room that could be climate controlled rather than putting AC in the whole building. Board instructed Wauneta EMS to get bids for construction of the bathroom and storage/office space then return with that information when it is available.

Jim Pirog, Jan Elliott, and Doug Gaswick joined the meeting on behalf of the Prairie Sage Walking Trail Committee and Karra Engbrecht on behalf of the Hospital Board for the agenda item of the Proposed Hospital Walking Path. The proposed trail begins at the western edge of the current driveway, extending to the western edge of the property, north along the west side of the property, east along the northern edge, and then south halfway down the eastern edge of the property. Board thinks this proposed path seems disjointed, having no real destination with the current beginning and ending points. They also question the liability of having a walking trail on county property. A proposed 25-year easement agreement has been presented, to be signed between the County and the City of Imperial, for an 8' wide path and 20' wide easement. This is a long-standing easement and agreement, that could be problematic if ever the Hospital were to expand or have new construction. Jan explained that the committee has already expended \$35,000 toward this project through this planning phase and have collected approximately \$90,000 in donated funds. This is part of a grant match program, the \$250,000 grant is specific to this portion of the trail proposed around the Hospital. Commissioners asked why the project had proceeded this far without coming to the Board and why is the initial phase of the project being proposed on County property rather than on City holdings? The walking trail committee indicated that they felt they had been negotiating in good faith with hospital personnel and didn't realize the County Board would have to grant their approval or have the ability to withhold approval. Commissioner Brown does not feel this is a good use of County property, stating that many individuals who have been approached for an easement to run the path through their property have said no, why should the County approve it for their property? Commissioner Bernhardt is okay with the proposed path, as long as the County has the ability to reclaim the property if it is ever needed for hospital expansion. Commissioner Muehlenkamp was in agreement with Bernhardt's statement. After further discussion, Board proposed that perhaps the path should run only along the west and north sides of the hospital, not having the partial paths along the south and east sides of the property. They also stipulated that the County have the ability to reclaim the path area for hospital expansion if needed in the next 25 years, per the easement agreement. Walking Trail members present will take this proposal back to their committee and return to the Board when they are ready.

Commissioner Bernhardt moved to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2026, meeting as written. Motion seconded by Commissioner Brown. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve claims as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bernhardt. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

PE=payroll exp, TE=travel exp, SU=supply,
 SE=service, CC=court cost, RP=repairs,
 PT=parts, L=labor, UT=utility, AP=Appt. Counsel,
 PS=Prior Service EQ=Equipment JD=Juv Div

AFFILIATED BENEFITS CONSULTANTS INC	SE	50.00
AFLAC	PE	1002.72
AMERITAS LIFE INS	PE	14423.58
AMERITAS LIFE INS	PE	92.15
ASHLEY K. SPAHN	AP	3725.00
AT&T MOBILITY II LLC	UT	958.22
BILLY WHITE	SE	150.00
BCBS OF NE	PE	24053.50
CHARM-TEX, INC.	SU	390.30
CHASE CO TREAS/CAFETERIA	PE	316.67
CHASE CO CDC	CC	39.00
CHASE CO TREAS	SU	1062.07
CITY OF IMPERIAL	UT	2533.94
CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT ASSOC.	TE	75.00
COLONIAL LIFE	PE	363.44
CREDIT MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC.	PE	801.85
DAN'S R US SANITATION	UT	186.03
DAVID M. HAMILTON	SE	30.00
DEVENY MOTORS LLC	PT/L	73.72
DIAMOND A LLC/ALEX SCHMAILZL	PT/L	394.11
DICKINSON LAND SURVEYORS, INC.	SE	12976.05
EAKES, INC	SU	548.11
EFTPS	PE	23793.47
ES&S	SU	37.76
ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS, INC	SE	420.00
FVFC	SU	2492.48
GREAT PLAINS COMM INC	UT	1466.41
HARCHELROAD MOTORS INC	RP	1280.00
Heartland Radar LLC	SE	270.00
HIGH PLAINS NEWS NORTH LLC	SE	2129.09
HEA	UT	330.32
IDEAL LAUNDRY & CLEANERS, INC.	SE	269.16
IDEAL LINEN SUPPLY, INC	SU	413.70
JANICE E JAEGER	SE	2031.00
MCI	UT	86.89
MIPS	SE	1787.97
NACO	TE	150.00
NATP	DUES	105.00
NE CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT CENTER	PE	320.00
OFFICE SERVICE INC	SU	833.03
OWENS TRUE VALUE INC	SU	15.99
REBECCA M. BERNARD	SE	2125.00
RED WILLOW CO SHERIFF	CC	494.56
REGION II SERVICES	SE	2103.00
SCOTTSBLUFF CO DETENTION CTR	CC	1400.00
SSH INC HILLS FAMILY FOODS	SU	95.14
STATE OF NE/STATE INCOME TAX	PE	3898.40
STATE OF NE/DAS COMM	SE	537.60
U S POSTMASTER	SU	162.00

WAUNETA CROSSROADS, LLC	SU	101.70
BWTELCOM	UT	150.68
WESTFIELD PHARMACY INC.	SU	103.45
WIN INVESTMENTS INC.	TE	220.00
	Net Payroll	50801.49
	General Fund Total	164670.75
21ST CENTURY EQUIPMENT, LLC	PT	106.13
AJK SERVICES, LLC	SE	496.18
AT&T MOBILITY II LLC	UT	80.81
BCBS OF NE	PE	8875.47
BONNIE A SMITH	SU	4800.00
CCCH	SE	342.00
CHASE COUNTY INHERITANCE TAX FUND	EQ	49000.00
CHASE CO TREAS	SU	21.19
CITY OF IMPERIAL	UT	369.34
COLONIAL LIFE	PE	13.62
DAN'S R US SANITATION	UT	105.10
E D ENTERPRISES INC	SU	159.14
EFTPS	PE	2905.68
FVFC	SU	2236.60
GREAT PLAINS COMM INC	UT	325.03
HIGH PLAINS NEWS NORTH LLC	SE	46.08
HEA	UT	134.22
JERRY L ROWLEY	SU	203.45
LEIBBRANDT LUMBER, INC.	SU	701.94
MEDICAL ENTERPRISES, INC.	SE	362.00
MENDENHALL INC	SU	170.87
MURPHY TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT CO INC	PT/L	1405.35
NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	PE	533.00
NMC	PT/L	7737.56
SAPP BRO PETROLEUM INC	SU	29593.74
WAUNETA CROSSROADS, LLC	SU	460.85
WAUNETA MUNICIPAL UTILITIES	UT	279.47
BWTELCOM	UT	101.76
	Net Payroll	38265.75
	Road Fund Total	149832.33
NORMA J. HICKMAN	SE	300.00
	Tourism Fund Total	300.00
CITY OF IMPERIAL	UT	1345.95
	Fair Fund Total	1345.95
MIPS	SE	260.40
	P&M Fund Total	260.40
CENTURY LINK	UT	2076.95
GREAT PLAINS COMM	UT	386.52
	E-911 Fund Total	2463.47
CENTURY LINK	UT	10380.83
NORTHLAND BUSINESS SYSTEMS	SE	4291.13
	Wireless 911 Fund Total	14671.96
CCCH	EQ	26658.78
	Hospital Funding Total	26658.78
AARON PATRIC GREENE	SE	55.80
AIRGAS USA, LLC	SU	467.58
ALLISON A. PRYOR	SE	20.80
ANDREW HATZ	SE	159.80
AT&T MOBILITY II LLC	UT	599.91
BOUND TREE MEDICAL LLC	SU	161.30
CHASE CO TREAS	SU	0.74

CHRISTOPHER MULDER	SE	554.52
DEBRA HAYES	SE	124.90
DESIREE LOEFFLER	SE	295.22
EFTPS	PE	17.97
ELIZABETH ARELLANO	SE	108.60
FAY D. HIYKEL	SE	48.20
FVFC	SU	173.17
GARY K. HUNT	SE	222.60
GREAT PLAINS COMM	UT	350.29
IMPERIAL COUNTRY FORD	RP	149.58
JACOB SUEPER	SE	43.20
JASON M ARELLANO	SE	7.20
JAYDEN C. MARIS	SE	33.60
JOHN W. MILLER	SE	43.20
JOSHUA SKELTON	SE	62.40
LANA J SKELTON	SE	55.20
LEANNE L. KLEIN	SE	224.40
MELISA K. KLENTZ	SE	111.20
MPCC STUDENT ACCOUNTS	SE	1137.00
OFFICE SERVICE INC	SU	49.98
ONE BILLING SOLUTIONS LLC	SE	1540.01
RAQUEL CASTILLO ARVIZO	SE	44.80
ROXANE K. MILLER	SE	53.52
TIMMIE D. GREENE	SE	546.90
TYLER KLEIN	SE	106.40
WAUNETA CROSSROADS, LLC	SU	76.67
BWTELCOM	UT	52.02
WILLIAM BITTNER	SE	106.40
	Net Payroll	250.00
	Ambulance Fund Total	8055.08
	Grand Total All Claims	368258.72

Commissioner Brown moved to add Chairman Kurt Bernhardt as an authorized signer on the Chase County Imprest checking account. Motion seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

As Assistant Highway Superintendent Richard DeWester has obtained his Class A license, Commissioner Bernhardt moved to unappoint Anthony Krajewski, Class A License S-1021, from his position as Chase County Highway Superintendent as of May 1, 2026. Motion seconded by Commissioner Brown. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Brown moved to appoint Richard DeWester, Class A License S-1761, as Chase County Highway Superintendent, effective May 1, 2026. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bernhardt. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Bernhardt directed that the agenda item of Surplus Property; Motor Grader be moved to unfinished business to be addressed closer to July when the new machine will be here.

Commissioner Bernhardt will contact County Attorney Burke and direct him to review and update the agreement with the Village of Wauneta for interlocal cooperation concerning the Wauneta EMS building.

Correspondence was reviewed consisting of Fair board minutes, Wauneta EMS minutes, letter of resignation from Brad Dillan from the CCCH Board, the annual Jail Standards report, Treasurer's monthly revenue report and fund balance listing, and Clerk/Register of Deeds monthly report.

Jason Speck joined the meeting for open forum to notify the Board that he will be getting the new trees for the courthouse lawn in a few weeks. He also asked if they wanted him to plant flowers in the front flower beds along the stairs. Board said yes, plant flowers as the stair project likely won't start until later in the summer.

Deb Hayes returned the modified Shop Order Confirmation Form, with the addition of the grill guard and the different wheels, the new total is \$330,420.95, an increase of \$3854.81 from the original price. Commissioner Bernhardt moved to approve the increased price and to sign the confirmation form. Motion seconded by Commissioner Brown. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Bernhardt adjourned the meeting at 10:53am.

CHASE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Billie Muehlenkamp – Commissioner District #1



Jacci Brown – Commissioner District #2



Kurt Bernhardt – Commissioner District #3

ATTEST 

Wendy Moe, Chase County Clerk