

Chase County Commissioners
April 28, 2026

The regular meeting of the Chase County Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Kurt Bernhardt at 8:00am on Tuesday, April 28, in the meeting room of the 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, County Clerk Wendy Moe and Sheriff Kevin Mueller.

Dispatcher Chuck Bartholomew was present at the Open Forum to voice concerns about the IT services being provided to the County by Allo and communication difficulties between him and the help desk.

Veteran's Service Officer Duane Todd was present to update the board about LB1072 and to thank them for allowing him to submit a letter to the legislature as the Chase County VSO.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2026, meeting as written. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bernhardt. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Muehlenkamp 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

AFLAC	PE	\$1,002.72
ALLO Business	SE	\$3,789.10
AMERITAS LIFE INS	PE	\$10,736.31
AMERITAS LIFE INS	PE	\$92.15
ASHLEY K. SPAHN	AP	\$2,225.00
BILLY WHITE	SE	\$1,350.00
BLACK HILLS GAS	UT	\$234.08
BCBS	PE	\$24,048.56
BOMGAARS SUPPLY INC.	SU	\$1.20
BRIAN E. FOSTER	SE	\$40.00
CHARM-TEX, INC.	SU	\$1,158.30
CHASE CO TREAS/CAFETERIA	PE	\$316.65
CHASE CO CLERK	SU	\$173.40
CHASE CO SHERIFF	CC	\$484.50
COLONIAL LIFE	PE	\$363.39
CREDIT MGMT SRVCS	PE	\$131.15
EAKES, INC	SU	\$87.73
EFTPS	PE	\$16,640.61
ES&S, LLC	SU	\$3,791.22
HOLIDAY INN-KEARNEY	TE	\$389.85
LESLIE JEAN NORDHAUSEN	AP	\$1,550.00
LINCOLN CO DETENTION CTR	SE	\$11,660.00
MALLORY SAFETY AND SUPPLY, LLC	SU	\$216.00
MASTER'S TRANSPORTATION INC.	SU	\$132.36
MOUSEL,BROOKS,SCHNEIDER,MUSTION & Nagi	AP	\$250.00
NE CHILD SUPP PMT CTR	PE	\$320.00
PHILIP PANKONIN	SE	\$900.00

ROBERT S HARVOY	AP	\$516.75
SWPPD	UT	\$190.62
STATE OF NE/STATE INCOME TAX	PE	\$2,645.83
STATE OF NE/DAS COMMUNICATION	SE	\$186.00
Net Payroll		\$40,953.47
General Fund Total		\$126,676.95
BLACK HILLS GAS	UT	\$800.20
BCBS	PE	\$8,880.07
BOMGAARS SUPPLY INC.	SU	\$286.30
COLONIAL LIFE	PE	\$13.62
EFTPS	PE	\$2,026.70
MURPHY TRACTOR & EQUIP	RP	\$7,927.80
NEWMAN SIGNS, INC.	SU	\$6,317.68
SAPP BROS	SU	\$7,830.73
Net Payroll		\$26,775.60
Road Fund Total		\$60,858.70
NORMA J. HICKMAN	SE	\$300.00
Tourism Fund Total		\$300.00
21ST CENTURY EQUI, LLC	RP	\$5,252.09
Fair Fund Total		\$5,252.09
CENTURY LINK	UT	\$2,002.95
BWTELCOM	UT	\$278.90
E-911 Fund Total		\$2,281.85
AIRGAS USA, LLC	SU	\$1,896.64
EFTPS	PE	\$17.44
MPCC	SE	\$20.00
US BANK CORP PMT	SE	\$354.69
Net Payroll		\$250.00
Ambulance Fund Total		\$2,538.77
Grand Total All Claims		\$197,908.36

County Attorney Burke was present for the agenda item of Wauneta EMS Interlocal Agreement; a proposed agreement by and between the Village of Wauneta and the County in which the County owns a building in Wauneta used to store ambulances and the Village will pay the necessary utilities associated with the operation and maintenance of said building. Commissioner Brown moved to approve the signing of the agreement as written. Motion seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried. Agreement will be sent on to the Village for their review and approval.

Three exhibits were presented for consideration of ambulance debt cancellation; \$7,979.45 for Credit Management accounts beyond the statute of limitations, \$24,742.55 for in-house collections from 2023-2024 that have had no recent activity or payments, and \$967.24 for uncollectable One Billing Solutions accounts with reason of deceased, no estate or beyond claim. Commissioner Brown moved to approve the signing of Resolution 2026-6 for Ambulance Debt Cancellation in the total amount of \$33,689.24. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bernhardt. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried. A complete copy of the resolution is on file in the office of the County Clerk.

At 8:30 Chairman Bernhardt opened the public hearing to hear comment for or against the adoption of the updated Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Regulations. Members of the public present for the hearing were Tom Luhrs, Lynn Prosser and Lisa Schilke, Assessor Mueller, and County Attorney Burke, along with Ryan Stromberger for the zoning board and Chris Mulder, zoning administrator. Comments were received questioning solar energy conversion systems, survey responses gathered at the beginning of this process, the fact

that this plan is restrictive and perhaps prohibitive to moving forward as a progressive community, questions about decommission plans, permitted special uses. It was pointed out that these plans can either be very specific and detailed or very broad and prohibitive, as this plan is, with the basis to “request a variance” if something isn’t specifically allowed.

At 9:00 Chairman Bernhardt recessed the public hearing for Board of Equalization.

Public hearing reconvened at 9:08am with three Commissioners, Clerk, Attorney, Assessor, Zoning Admin and public members present. Board intends to make a list of questions and concerns to send back to the Zoning Board for further clarification before the plan is approved. Chairman Bernhardt closed the public hearing at 9:12am.

Jan Elliott and Jim Pirog joined the meeting for the agenda item of the hospital walking path. Jim contacted Nebraska Game and Parks concerning the grant funding and notified the Board that they are agreeable to the proposed modified path.

County Attorney Burke informed all present that there are statutes applicable to the County, not the city, stating that the county board is in charge of managing county property and cannot sell or lease it except at fair market value, therefore to give a long term easement without consideration would be in conflict with that statute. Joel stated that the Board’s obligation is to determine if the easement would be at fair market value, and if the use of the land would be in the best interest of the County. Commissioners stated they do not believe this would be in the best interest of the County, and that they do not wish to proceed with this project if it could potentially put the County at risk of doing anything unlawful.

Ambulance Administrator Julie Sharp joined the meeting to present the monthly ambulance report.

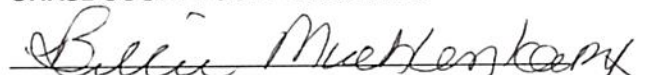
Caleb Johnson joined the meeting telephonically to discuss the upcoming budget season and to notify the Board that there were no legislative changes to the budget-making process for this year.

Zoning Administrator Chris Mulder joined the meeting to discuss the Board’s primary concerns that they wanted sent back to the Zoning Board. Those notes include Rural Residential vs Agricultural lot sizes, 300 head to 1000 head contradiction in plan for intensified livestock, septic tank language and setbacks, adding an extra class of livestock on the high end, Board of Adjustments membership, mineral extraction. These and any other concerns from the public should be brought to a member of the zoning board or the administrator for consideration at their next meeting.

Jason Speck was present at the Open Forum to notify the Board that he has finished the construction project in dispatch and will now be installing a swinging door in the sheriff’s office. Board asked him to look at a couple things in the extension building that need repaired.

With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Bernhart adjourned the meeting at 10:55am.

CHASE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Billie Muehlenkamp – Commissioner District #1


Kurt Bernhardt – Commissioner District #3


Jaeci Brown – Commissioner District #2

ATTEST 
Wendy Moe, Chase County Clerk

