

Chase County Commissioners  
June 24, 2025

The regular meeting of the Chase County Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Jacci Brown at 8:00am on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, in the meeting room of the Chase County Courthouse. Also present were Commissioners Billie Muehlenkamp and Kurt Bernhardt, Sheriff Kevin Mueller and County Clerk Wendy Moe. The meeting had been advertised in the Imperial Republican and on the County Website. The agenda and open meeting act were posted.

Leanne Klein was present for Open Forum to give a quarterly update for Wauneta EMS, Leanne also noted that she would be having an EMS Informational Meeting to inform potential recruits about the upcoming EMT class. With that coming up she wanted to clarify some points in the training reimbursement contract created by the County in 2023. She asked that it be specified which department an individual's time has to be served under after the County pays for their training. Commissioners said from a County perspective, as long as the individual serves the required two years in Chase County, it doesn't matter which service it is served under.

Deb Hayes joined the meeting to notify the Board that two of the Lucas devices on the ambulances are old enough that they will no longer be serviced by Stryker. They are able to purchase new ones for \$15,784, which includes a trade-in of \$5,000 on the old devices and shipping. That pricing is good through October 1. Each service will need to have one device replaced. Board will consider these purchases when creating and finalizing the budget for the new fiscal year.

Deb was also present for the agenda item of Stryker Maintenance Contracts. She presented a proposed contract from Stryker for preventative maintenance that will cover all four powerload units between the two services, it is a 36 month contract for a total of \$43,286.40. Commissioner Bernhardt moved to approve signing the contract for preventative maintenance from Stryker for the Powerload Procure and Powerpro, for a total price of \$43,286.40 to be paid in three annual installments. Motion seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. Muehlenkamp - yes; Brown - yes; Bernhardt - yes. Motion carried.

Sheriff Mueller was present for the agenda item of Mini Split Heating/Cooling Unit for dispatch, as the current PTAC unit is not working efficiently. He presented two quotes, one from Hunter Heating and Cooling for \$6,840 and one from Troxell's Heating and Appliance for \$10,989.31. Commissioner Bernhardt moved to approve the purchase to be made from Hunter Heating and Cooling for \$6,840. Motion seconded by Commissioner Brown. Muehlenkamp - yes; Brown - yes; Bernhardt - yes. Motion carried.

Jason Speck joined the meeting to discuss the trees around the Courthouse with Commissioners. He indicated a tree on the northeast corner of the grounds that needs to be removed, he got an estimate from Wiley's Top Notch Tree Service to remove it and grind the stump for \$3,000. He presented several options of trees to be purchased to replace the places where trees have previously been removed from, Commissioners told him to proceed with purchasing and replacing those trees. He also asked about filling in the hole in the parking lot where the tree was removed and rocks were put in as a temporary solution. Commissioners agreed that concrete is needed there, someone will be contacted to proceed with that project.

Duane Todd and Bud Statz joined the meeting, they presented the minutes from the Veteran Service Board's June 10 meeting for the Commissioner's to review. The Veteran's Service Board recommends reappointing Ed Arenz for a five-year term. Commissioner Muehlenkamp moved to reappoint Ed Arenz to the Veteran's Service Board for a term of five years to expire June 30, 2030. Motion seconded by Commissioner Brown. Muehlenkamp - yes; Brown - yes; Bernhardt - yes. Motion carried.

Duane presented his proposed budget to the Board and asked about his salary line. He has not had a wage increase since his position was changed to hourly in 2023. The Board said that was an oversight, he should have had an annual increase. Duane also asked about the 1900 Veteran's Relief fund, it was reduced from \$6,000 to \$3,600 last year and he wanted to know why. Commissioners explained that the fund had not been utilized for many years, and the funds previously allocated to the Medical and Hospital Service line were reduced and moved into the Miscellaneous line, however, should he have need of those funds, other funding is available. They are not limiting his resources, the funds will be available if needed.

Assessor Tori Mueller joined the meeting due to exceeding the budgeted amount for her office in the 24-25 fiscal year. Commissioners asked her to explain why this happened. Tori noted that wages and postage were much higher than she anticipated, as well as having to expend budgeted funds to pay the cash-in-lieu benefit for employees who opted out of the County's health insurance. Commissioners reiterated that when the budget is set Elected Officials are expected to operate within the confines of that budget.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve and sign Resolution 2025-12 to transfer funds from the Miscellaneous General function to the Chase County Assessor's function to increase its budget authority by \$2,419.20. Motion seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. Muehlenkamp - yes; Brown - yes; Bernhardt - yes. Motion carried.

Keys are given to renters when the Nutrien building is rented at the fairgrounds, recently the rental key was lost. It has been recommended that a keypad lock be installed to alleviate the chance of this happening in the future. Commissioner Muehlenkamp moved to have a keypad installed for access to the Nutrien Building. Motion seconded by Commissioner Brown. Muehlenkamp - yes; Brown - yes; Bernhardt - yes. Motion carried. The work will be performed by S & S Lock and Key.

At 9:00am bids for the Champion Mill Groundskeeper position were opened. Three bids were received, as follows: Dallas Baney - \$10,000 annually; Bill White - \$9,000 annually; Bill Eskew - \$10,890 annually. Commissioners moved to accept no bids at this time, and to consult with the Champion Lake Board before awarding the bid. Motion seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. Muehlenkamp - yes; Brown - yes; Bernhardt - yes. Motion carried.

Wauneta Senior Center reached out to notify the Board that the original price quoted for the Sanitizer has increased by \$400, and it was recommended that a water softener also be installed. Commissioner Muehlenkamp moved to approve that the additional \$400 be paid for the Sanitizer and \$2,029 to purchase and install the water softener. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bernhardt. Muehlenkamp - yes; Brown - yes; Bernhardt - yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Bernhardt moved to approve claims as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. 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	657.78
AFLAC (AFTER TAX)	PE	35.36
AMERITAS LIFE INS	PE	50.50
AMERITAS LIFE INS	PE	9216.17
APPLIED CONNECTIVE TECH	SE	1591.13
BANEY NATALIE	SE	1800.00
BLACK HILLS ENERGY	UT	170.05
BCBS OF NE	PE	26434.99
BOMGAARS	SU	9.92
BRICO PEST CONTROL	SE	30.00
CENTEC CAST METAL PRODUCTS	SU	620.65
CHASE CO TREAS/CAFETERIA	PE	229.15
CHASE CO COURT	CC	66.00
COLONIAL LIFE	PE	235.75
COMFORT INN-KEARNEY	TE	269.90
DAN'S R US SANITATION	UT	173.98
DEAVER COMPUTER SERVICE	SU	179.99
DEVENY MOTORS LLC	RP	2075.02
EAKES, INC	SU	1290.56
EFTPS	PE	15364.76
ESKEW, BILLY	SE	1373.40
FVFC	SU	2370.21
GWORKS	SE	19332.00
HANNA:KEELAN	SE	8750.00
HARVOY, ROBERT S	AP	187.50
HEGWOOD INC	SU	365.00
IMPERIAL REPUBLICAN	SE	130.57
IVFD	SE	462.00
KUENNING, DEBORAH L.	TE	523.32
MCI (SHRF BILLS)	UT	85.30
MUELLER, KEVIN	SU	617.77
NE CHILD SUPP PMT CTR	PE	320.00
NE STATE INCOME TAX	PE	1977.46
NIRMA	SE	121924.00
NORDHAUSEN LAW LLC	AP	9361.15
OFFICE SERVICE INC	SU	7627.02
PANKONIN AG SERVICES INC.	SE	900.00
PYE-BARKER FIRE & SAFETY, LLC	RP/SE	3732.92
SID DILLON CHEVROLET	EQ	43130.00
SWPPD	UT	298.07
US BANK CORP PMT	SU	290.98
WAUNETA CROSSROADS, LLC	SU	137.78
	Net Payroll	46409.31
	General Fund Total	330807.42
AFLAC	PE	235.24
AMERITAS LIFE INS	PE	41.65
AMERITAS LIFE INS	PE	1219.54
BLACK HILLS ENERGY	UT	170.53
BCBS OF NE	PE	2685.28
BOMGAARS	SU	161.43
COLONIAL LIFE	PE	151.38
DAN'S R US SANITATION	SE	98.41
EFTPS	PE	3575.75
FANNING FARM REPAIR	PT/L	4209.55

FVFC	SU	924.40
GENERAL COLLECTION COMPANY	PE	221.49
HACHELROAD MOTORS INC	SU	11.64
HONDO FANNING CONSTRUCTION	PT/L	865.00
MITTEN INC.	SU	16892.75
MURPHY TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT CO INC	RP	4184.60
NE STATE INCOME TAX	PE	862.87
OFFICE SERVICE INC	SU	1018.61
TITAN MACHINERY-IMPERIAL	EQ	200000.00
WAUNETA CROSSROADS, LLC	SU	346.33
	Net Payroll	20683.12
	Road Fund Total	258559.57
HICKMAN, NORMA J.	SE	300.00
	Tourism Fund Total	300.00
VK ELECTRONICS	SU	8015.00
	Fair Fund Total	8015.00
TITAN MACHINERY-IMPERIAL	EQ	219500.00
	Inheritance Tax Fund Total	219500.00
WAUNETA SENIOR CENTER	SU	7808.00
	KENO Fund Total	7808.00
BWTELCOM	UT	278.90
CENTURY LINK	UT	1986.38
GREAT PLAINS COMMUNICATIONS INC	UT	386.52
	E911 Fund Total	2651.80
CCCH	EQ	254607.08
	Hopsital Fund Total	254607.08
AIRGAS USA, LLC	SU	1809.49
ARELLANO, ELIZABETH	SE	123.20
ARELLANO, JASON M	SE	56.00
BITTNER,WILLIAM	SE	181.40
BOUND TREE MEDICAL LLC	SU	925.55
BROPHY ELECTRIC	SE	360.94
BROWNING, EMILY,E	SE	11.20
BURKE JOSH	SE	20.80
CASTILLO-ARVIZO, RAQUEL	SE	85.60
FVFC	SU	209.40
GREENE, AARON PATRIC	SE	25.40
GREENE, TIMMIE D.	SE	540.86
HAYES, DEBRA	SE	91.66
HUNT, GARY K.	SE	391.20
KLEIN, TYLER	SE	174.40
KLEIN,LEANNE L.	SE	299.80
KLENTZ, MELISA K.	SE	221.00
LOEFFLER, DESIREE	SE	25.40
MARIS, JAYDEN	SE	46.20
MILLER, JUSTIN	SE	481.20
OFFICE SERVICE INC	SU	1675.96
US BANK CORP PMT	SU	48.99
WAUNETA CROSSROADS, LLC	UT	123.24
	Ambulance Fund Total	7928.89
	<b>Grand Total All Claims</b>	<b>1090177.76</b>

Commissioners discussed Duane Todd’s wages. Due to him having missed two annual raises that would have each been 3%, Commissioner Brown moved to increase his hourly wage by 6% on the first July pay period. Motion seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp.



Muehlenkamp - yes; Brown - yes; Bernhardt - yes. Motion carried. Further increase will be discussed in January at the organizational and reappointment meeting.

Commissioner Bernhardt moved to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2025, meeting, as written. Motion seconded by Commissioner Brown. Muehlenkamp - yes; Brown - yes; Bernhardt - yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Bernhardt moved to approve and sign Resolution 2025-11 to repay the Inheritance Tax fund for the purchase of two CASE IH Puma 240 CVX 2WD Tractors over the next 48 months. Motion seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. Muehlenkamp - yes; Brown - yes; Bernhardt - yes. Motion carried. A complete copy of the resolution is on file in the office of the County Clerk.

Transit Administrator Jordan Beard presented the 5311 Program Agreement for Federal-Aid Funds. Commissioner Brown moved to sign the 5311 agreement as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. Commissioner Bernhardt moved to amend the main motion to include the resolution for the program agreement. Commissioner Brown seconded the amendment. Voting to approve the amended motion: Muehlenkamp - yes; Brown - yes; Bernhardt - yes. Motion carried. Voting on the main motion: Muehlenkamp - yes; Brown - yes; Bernhardt - yes. Motion carried. Commissioner Brown signed the 5311 Transit Agreement.

Correspondence consisting of April and May minutes from the Imperial Community Center were reviewed.

Commissioners reviewed the proposal from GBE, CPA firm to perform the 2026, 2027 and 2028 annual audits for Chase County. No action taken at this time.

Chairman Brown recessed the meeting for Board of Equalization at 10:00am. Meeting reconvened at 11:15 with three Commissioners and Clerk in attendance.

With nobody present for Open Forum and no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 11:15am.

#### **CHASE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**



Billie Muehlenkamp – Commissioner District #1



Jacci Brown – Commissioner District #2



Kurt Bernhardt – Commissioner District #3

ATTEST: 

Wendy Moe, Chase County Clerk

