

Chase County Commissioners
May 26, 2026

The regular meeting of the Chase County Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Kurt Bernhardt at 8:00am on Tuesday, May 26, 2026 in the meeting room of the Chase County Courthouse. Also present were Commissioners Billie Muehlenkamp and Jacci Brown, and County Clerk Wendy Moe. The meeting had been advertised in the Imperial Republican and on the County website. The agenda and open meetings act were posted.

CCCH Board Member Karra Engbrecht joined the meeting for Open Forum to request that a commissioner attend the May 27 Hospital Board meeting to provide guidance regarding the potential sale of the hospital's portion of the annex building.

Mel McNea, CCCH Interim CEO, joined the meeting to notify the Board that the hospital is working to hire an architect to consider renovating the current facility. Mel also thanked the Board for the County's financial support in the past year, noting that the hospital started the fiscal year nearly a million dollars in the red and that number is down to about \$300,000 now. On that note, he requested that the County continue supporting the hospital financially and asked that they consider allocating \$350,000 annually. The Board thanked Mel for all that he has done and said they will make note of the requested amount during the upcoming budget preparation.

Commissioner Bernhardt moved to approve the minutes from the May 12, 2026, meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. 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

PR26 Pollworkers/Polling Sites	EC	5592.81
AFLAC	PE	1002.72
ALLO Business	SE	3789.1
AMERITAS LIFE INS	PE	10919.23
AMERITAS LIFE INS	PE	86.2
ASHLEY K. SPAHN	AP	4025.66
BILLY WHITE	SE	1350
BLACK HILLS GAS	UT	187.41
BCBS OF NE	PE	24047.92
BRIAN E. FOSTER	SE	40
CHASE CO TREAS/CAFETERIA	PE	316.65
CHASE CO TRANSIT	SU	40
COLONIAL LIFE	PE	363.39
DAN'S R US SANITATION	SE	186.03
EAKES, INC	SU	570.75
EFTPS	PE	17042.54
FVFC	SU	3147.51
IMPERIAL REPUBLICAN	SE	289.91
LINCOLN CO DETENTION CTR	SE	1650
MCI	UT	83.9
NE CHILD SUPP PMT CTR	PE	320
NE HHS	CC	604.88

PHILIP PANKONIN	SE	900
QUADIENT LEASING USA, INC.	SE	216.27
REBECCA M. BERNARD	SE	850
ROBERT S HARVOY	AP	443.75
S & S LOCK AND KEY	SU	277.8
SCOTTSBLUFF CO SHERIFF	CC	19.46
SWPPD	UT	185.84
STATE OF NE/STATE INCOME TAX	PE	2725.23
	Net Payroll	41960.7
	General Fund Total	123235.66
BLACK HILLS GAS	UT	557.14
BCBS OF NE	PE	8880.71
BOMGAARS SUPPLY INC.	SU	39.17
COLONIAL LIFE	PE	13.62
DAN'S R US SANITATION	SE	105.1
EFTPS	PE	2050
FVFC	SU	7302.05
IMPERIAL SUPER FOODS	SU	65.36
	Net Payroll	27078.54
	Road Fund Total	46091.69
NORMA J. HICKMAN	SE	300
	Tourism Fund Total	300
CCCH	EQ	2484.95
	Hospital Fund Total	2484.95
AIRGAS USA, LLC	SU	1481.08
BOUND TREE MEDICAL LLC	SU	130.74
EFTPS	PE	17.79
FVFC	SU	186.78
ONE BILLING SOLUTIONS LLC	SE	1124.46
US BANK CORP PMT	CE	157.64
	Net Payroll	250
	Ambulance Fund Total	3348.49
	Grand Total All Claims	175460.79

Chairman Bernhardt recessed the meeting for Board of Equalization at 8:30am. Meeting reconvened at 8:39 with three Commissioners and Clerk present.

Commissioner Bernhardt moved to appoint Hondo Fanning to the Chase County Community Hospital Board of Trustees to fill the position vacated by Brad Dillan, with the term running through April 1, 2031. Motion seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Emergency Manager Duane Dreiling joined the meeting to update the Board on the Emergency Radio situation. Duane stated that in order for all repeaters to communicate, they need to have fiber internet. Fiber will need to be run to the Lamar tower and possibly to the school. An additional repeater will need to be purchased to be placed at Chase County Schools, routers will need to be placed at each tower (Lamar, Wauneta, Imperial and CCS), and a monthly internet service will be needed. With these changes implemented, it should alleviate the current problems with Emergency Radio communication between departments.

Commissioner Brown moved to allow Emergency Manager Dreiling to purchase a repeater to be placed at the school, routers for each tower, obtain fiber installation where needed and monthly internet service to the towers. Motion seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

At 9:00am Chairman Bernhardt opened the public hearing to hear comment for or against the purchase of two lowered floor Mini Vans with ramps for the Chase County Transit Service. No members of the public were present. Chairman Bernhardt closed the public hearing at 9:10am.

Commissioner Muehlenkamp moved to approve Resolution 2026-7 directing that the Chase County Transit Service apply for federal funds available to purchase two lowered floor mini vans. Motion seconded by Commissioner Brown. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Bernhardt moved to designate the State Print Shop for pink postcards, should they be needed for Joint Public Hearings. Motion seconded by Commissioner Brown. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Bernhardt moved to approve the signing of the amended interlocal agreement with the Village of Wauneta for the Wauneta EMS Building. Motion seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried. Amendment was to the Utilities portion of the agreement, stating that the “Village agrees to pay for the necessary utilities for the facility including, electricity and propane. In the event County shall make improvements to the facility which require additional electricity consumption, the parties agree to negotiate the rate for additional electricity requirements.”

Discussion about purchasing a pull-type scraper for the road department, will gather informal bids for consideration at next meeting.

Zoning Administrator Chris Mulder joined the meeting for Open Forum to review the approved revisions for the Chase County Comprehensive Plan – 2035 and Proposed Zoning Regulations, as approved by the Planning Commission. The Board offered suggested modifications to the revisions, Chris will take those suggestions back to the Planning Commission.

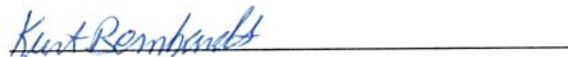
With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Bernhardt adjourned the meeting at 10:00am.

CHASE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Billie Muehlenkamp – Commissioner District #1

Jacci Brown – Commissioner District #2



Kurt Bernhardt – Commissioner District #3

ATTEST



Wendy Moe, Chase County Clerk

