

**RICHARDSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARCH 18, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Richardson County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Caverzagie at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 18, 2026. Roll call was answered by Campbell and Caverzagie, Commissioner Karas was absent. The Invocation was given by Chairman Caverzagie and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Campbell. Chairman Caverzagie announced that the open meeting laws have been posted at the entrance to the meeting room.

A motion was made by Campbell to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2026, meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-absent, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to approve the minutes of the March, 11, 2026, Board of Equalization meeting. Motion seconded by Campbell. Karas-absent, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Caverzagie to add an executive session at 9:05 a.m. with Jerry Pigsley, special legal counsel to discuss pending litigation and to approve the remaining agenda as posted. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-absent, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. The agenda is posted at the Richardson County Courthouse in the First Floor Lobby, the Lower-Level Lobby and on the Commissioner's Meeting Room door on the 2nd Floor and on the Richardson County website www.richardsoncounty.ne.gov.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Caverzagie to recess the regular meeting agenda and go into an executive session at 9:05 a.m. to discuss pending litigation with Jerry Pigsley, special legal counsel. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-absent, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Campbell to close the executive session at 9:31 a.m. and return to the regular meeting agenda. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-absent, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

ROAD & BRIDGE DEPT.

Steve Darveau, Jr., Highway Superintendent briefly met with the Board and updated the Board on the routine road and bridge maintenance being done this week.

He reported that he will be ordering the building to replace the county garage shop in Verdon so that plans can be finalized with a contractor to erect and finish the building.

LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

Sheriff Hardesty updated the Board on the routine business within the Law Enforcement Center. He reported that currently 14 inmates are being held in the Jail. He mentioned that the department is considering the purchase of new body cameras and will budget for these in the next fiscal year's budget and apply for grant funding to help with the purchase.

It was also reported that a newly hired Sheriff's Deputy, Dayton Quint, is attending the reciprocity training at the Law Enforcement Center this week and Deputy Novak will be attending a specialized training in the upcoming weeks.

The department has received the new guns that were purchased and they are being prepared to replace the current ones.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Representatives of the Richardson County Planning Commission met with the Board, President, Ben Steffen and member, Dick James.

Mr. Steffen reported that the Commission met on February 26, 2026, at the Southeast Community College Learning Center in Falls City. The Commission elected as President, Ben Steffen; Mark Jones will serve as Vice-President and Dana Rathje will serve as Secretary.

Mr. Steffen presented a DRAFT "Statement of Background, Intent, and Direction" for the County Board to consider adopting as a guidance tool for the Richardson County Planning

March 18, 2026

PLANNING COMMISSION (Cont.)

Commission to refer to when developing and finalizing the updated Richardson County Comprehensive Plan.

The Board expressed their thanks to the Planning Commission and relayed that this draft statement would be reviewed and considered within the next few weeks.

ALVIN SIMON

Alvin Simon requested to meet with the Board regarding zoning. He relayed to the County Board that he would be opposed to zoning regulations in Richardson County.

Mr. Simon also inquired as to where and when the notice of the meeting agenda for the Richardson County Planning Commission is posted. The Board explained to Mr. Simon that the notice of the meetings for the County Planning Commission and the County Board of Commissioners are published within the legal notices of the county's legal newspaper, the Falls City Journal and that the agenda is posted within 24 hours of the meetings at the Courthouse lower lobby, 1st floor lobby and 2nd floor Commissioner's Meeting Room door and also on the Richardson County website, www.richardsoncounty.ne.gov as well as being provided to the local radio station and newspapers.

They also explained to Mr. Simon that the minutes of the County Board meeting are provided to the news media in a DRAFT form within a few days after the meeting to be used as a news release by the different media outlets if so desired and that a legal publication of the approved minutes is printed in the Falls City Journal within 10 working days after the date of the meeting. The final approved minutes are posted on the Richardson County website as well at www.richardsoncounty.ne.gov.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Karly Black, Engagement Zone Coordinator of UNL Extension, presented a quarterly update to the Board of the activity and programs being done within Richardson County Extension Service and also within the Southeast District area of Nebraska.

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER

Subdivision

Motion was made by Caverzagie to approve a subdivision for Chad M and Carol L Herr and Mark S and Denise R Moerer located in S4, T2, R13 and to adopt Resolution 2025-2026-33. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-absent, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. (Resolution Book 28, Page 101)

A letter was sent to the City of Falls City requesting that the 2 benches on the sidewalk area west side of the Courthouse square be removed to make maintenance in the winter months easier for the snow removal equipment that is used on these sidewalks.

A letter was sent to the Utility Department of the City of Falls City requesting that the water meter used for lawn sprinkler system on a small area of the north yard of the Courthouse be removed as this system is no longer utilized.

A memorial donation of \$1,000 was received for the County Veterans Aid Fund from the family of Mona Godemann.

CLAIMS

Motion was made by Campbell to allow the payment of all claims that were submitted today. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-absent, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

(The claims listed below are available for public inspection at the office of the County Clerk during regular business hours.)

March 18, 2026
 CLAIMS (Cont.)

GENERAL FUND

Amazon, supp	199.99
Ameriflex, fee	70.00
AT&T, serv	987.27
Charm-Tex, supp	43.90
City of Falls City, reimb	1074.75
Clerk of District Court, fee	378.00
CMC, serv	5000.00
DAS State Accounting, serv	183.00
Datashield, serv	186.00
Des Moines Stamp Co., supp	204.45
Douglas County Sheriff, fee	9.51
Eickhoff, Mary L., reimb	297.25
Falls City Mercantile, supp	181.62
Fankhauser, Nelsen, Werts, Ziskey & Merwin, serv	4064.00
CR25-49 T. Beccard, CR25-62 Z. Creamer, CI12-62 J. Ross, CR23-87 R. Paxson, CR25-78 R. Paxson, CR25-333 I. Rowland, JV25-31, JV25-45, JV25-46, JV25-47, JV23-20, JV21-20, JV21-19, JV25-42	
First Concord, fee	547.50
Kollasch Law Office, serv	440.00
JV25-41	
NE Assoc. of District Court Clerks, fee	75.00
NE Health & Human Services, serv	616.78
Nemaha County Sheriff's Office, serv	165.00
Nestor & Mercure, serv	9166.66
OPPD, serv	33.10
Physicians Laboratory, serv	250.00
Proserv, serv	471.12
Richardson County EMA Petty Cash, reimb	543.61
Richardson County Sheriff Petty Cash, reimb	11.74
Richardson County Vendor, FICA/retire/etc	24472.03
Riggs, Kim, reimb	152.98
Uline, supp	105.46
Weaver & Merz, reimb	901.94
Payroll Expense	115416.92
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$166,249.58

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND

Falls City Auto Supply, supp	120.69
Falls City Sanitation, serv	60.00
Farm & City Supply, supp	2290.28
Martin Marietta Materials, rock	26241.91
NACO, fee	160.00
NPPD, serv	83.45
Norris Quarries, rock	15140.03
Operation & Expense Account, reimb	10.00
O'Reilly Automotive, supp	839.02
Pierce Arrow, supp	3307.00
Powerplan, supp	286.58
Safety-Kleen Systems, supp	460.70
Unifirst, serv	23.28
Verdon, Village of, serv	30.88
Woods & Aitken, serv	4098.45
Payroll Expense	36057.93
TOTAL ROAD & BRIDGE FUND	\$89,210.20

March 18, 2026
CLAIMS (Cont.)

VETERAN’S AID FUND

Richardson County Veteran’s, transfer	1000.00
TOTAL VETERAN’S AID FUND	\$1,000.00

DRUG COURT FUND

Hawkins, Seth, serv	1300.00
Morrissey, Morrissey & Dalluge, serv	1300.00
TOTAL DRUG COURT FUND	\$2,600.00

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Caverzagie to adjourn the meeting at 11:26 a.m. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-absent, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. The Board will meet again on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. for the next regular weekly meeting in the Commissioner’s Meeting Room, Courthouse, Falls City. The agenda is kept current at the County Clerk’s Office.

John Caverzagie, Chairman

Mary L. Eickhoff, County Clerk