

**RICHARDSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY 20, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Richardson County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Caverzagie at 9:05 a.m. on Wednesday, May 20, 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 May 13, 2026, meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-absent, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Caverzagie to approve the 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.

ROAD & BRIDGE DEPT.

Steve Darveau, Jr., Highway Superintendent updated the Board on the routine road and bridge maintenance being done this week. Consideration by Mr. Darveau and EMA Director, Brian Kirkendall was given to determine if there was enough damage to public property, such as county roads and public buildings after the May 18 storm event. The conclusion was that at this time there was not enough damage to justify declaring an emergency disaster.

Mr. Darveau reported that the tire collection event was being held today at the County Road Department. Later in the meeting, Mr. Darveau requested the Board's approval to provide pizza for a quick lunch to the County Road Department employees as the event was proving to be very successful and busy. Motion was made by Campbell to approve the request to purchase pizza for a quick lunch for the county employees that were working at the tire collection today. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-absent, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

Chief Deputy Sheriff, Dexter Holiday updated the Board on the routine business within the Law Enforcement Center and Jail this past week. He reported that there are 14 inmates being held in the jail at this time. Statistics on the activity within the Sheriff's Department during April showed that there were 505 total calls with 232 of those being traffic stops and 39 arrests (5 other agencies, 1 out of county and 33 Sheriff department).

A quote from Airstream Heating & Cooling was received to install a backflow preventer in the kitchen area at the Law Enforcement Center. Motion was made by Campbell to accept the quote from Airstream Heating & Cooling in the amount of \$1,343.66 to replace backflow preventer in the kitchen area. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-absent, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

DIST. 1 PROBATION AND SE NE ADULT DRUG COURT

Chris Reece, SE NE Adult Drug Court Coordinator updated the Board on the activity within the SE NE Adult Drug Court this past year. The budget for FY26-27 was also presented in which Richardson County will contribute \$10,173.08.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to approve and enter into an interlocal agreement for SE NE Adult Drug Court for July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, with Otoe, Nemaha, Johnson and Pawnee counties. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE; Karas-absent, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Melanie Stormer, Chief Probation Officer for District 1, also presented to the Board the FY26-27 budget in which Richardson County will contribute \$8,880.45, a decrease from the prior year of \$1,786.23 (25-26 was \$10,666.68). She also stated that plans were being developed to consolidate county offices to centrally located offices to assist with staffing and reduce office expenses within the next few years.

EMA DIRECTOR

Brian Kirkendall, EMA Director, requested to meet with the Board regarding the request for an increase in wage for the Deputy EMA Director. The Board reported that this matter would be considered further during the preparation of the FY2026-2027 budget.

The Nemaha NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan was presented to the Board with Resolution 2025-2026-39 to formally adopt the plan. Commissioner Campbell requested that this matter be considered at another meeting to allow for more time to review.

The Board also reviewed with Mr. Kirkendall the activity during the storm event in the late afternoon/evening of May 18. Commissioner Campbell had received messages and calls regarding the sounding of the outdoor warning sirens. Mr. Kirkendall explained to the Board and Brian McKim of the Falls City Journal how the warning sirens operate and that on this evening there was a problem with sounding the sirens as the generator at the Courthouse was not operating and the system that runs the outdoor warning sirens was running on a battery backup which quit with the latter warnings that should have sounded the sirens. The repair crew that traveled through the stormy weather and arrived in Falls City that evening to assess the situation on the generator believe that there was lightning damage to it during a storm event on May 16-17. The repairs will and/or are being made to the generator and discussion was also held regarding having a small generator that would be a back-up to the back-up generator available to run the computer system that signals the outdoor warning sirens.

A purchase order was also approved for Emergency Management to replace the map printer with a Cannon image PROGRAF TX-4200 MFP Z36 w/stacker for a price of \$14,645.00. This printer is used by all departments of Richardson County and is available to other local political sub-divisions for making large copies.

LB759 2026 Legislative Session

Correspondence from Grant Brueggemann, MPH, Executive Director of the SE District Health Department, was received regarding LB759 that was passed in the 2026 Legislative Session. This legislation addresses recreational camp inspections and mobile home parks, stating “The local government which exercises jurisdiction over a recreation camp may make inspections of such recreational camp...”. Mr. Brueggemann references the Camp Cornhusker which is located in Richardson County and is requesting the County Board’s intention on whether the County will be adopting any local rules and regulations for this matter. This matter will be discussed at the May 27 Board of Health meeting.

Motion was made by Campbell that Richardson County decline the opportunity to adopt a resolution setting forth any regulations regarding inspections of swimming pools, recreational camps and mobile home parks with regards to LB759 passed in the 2026 Legislative session and to request that the SE District Health Department provide and implement such regulations pursuant to LB759. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-absent, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER

Resolution 2025-2026-40 Subdivision

Motion was made by Campbell to approve a subdivision for Michael D and Cherie L Frederick located in S27, T1, R18 and to adopt Resolution 2025-2026-40. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-absent, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. (Resolution Book 28, Page 109)

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CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER (Cont.)

Notice from County Assessor

Notices from the County Assessor were presented to the Board regarding the completion of the revision of the tax assessment roll and that tax protests may be filed commencing June 1, 2026, and ending at 5:00 p.m. on June 30, 2026.

Notice from NE Tax Equalization & Review Commission

A notice was received from the NE Tax Equalization and Review Commission regarding the findings and order of the value of real property within Richardson County for the Tax Year 2026. The findings stated that within Richardson County the residential class of real property at 95% of actual or fair market value, commercial class of real property at 100% of actual or fair market value, and agricultural and horticultural land class of real property is 70% of actual or fair market value. (2025 was residential—93%; commercial—95%; ag and horticulture at 75%)

Other

A check was received from LG Auction of Hiawatha, KS for \$242.25 for the sale of the surplus equipment and supplies from the auction held on March 29, 2026.

Funds were also received from Kroger Opioid Payment #3 in the amount of \$475.21.

Commissioner Campbell reported that the services have been completed by ServPro of St. Joseph, MO on the restoration/service on areas within the Courthouse that were determined there was a need for restoration services based on a formal mold investigation report dated April 15, 2026, that was completed by Techtron Environmental Solutions. A formal report was received from Techtron after an inspection was made on May 19, 2026, with the completion of the work done by ServPro, which report stated in **5.0 Conclusions & Recommendations** the following: *“Airborne mold levels were not elevated at the time of testing, and no visible mold growth was observed in the remediated area. Therefore, we conclude that the remediation was performed successfully, and no further mold remediation is necessary.”*

CLAIMS

Motion was made by Caverzagie to withdraw a claim that was approved at last week’s meeting and hold for payment pending further review with the County Attorney’s office. Motion second by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-absent, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Caverzagie to approve the payment of all claims that were submitted today. Motion seconded by Campbell. 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.)

GENERAL FUND

AT&T Mobility, serv	1008.71
CMC, serv	5000.00
Eickhoff, Mary L., reimb	121.07
Epler’s Carpet Cleaning, serv	575.00
Falls City Sanitation, serv	60.00
Farm & City Supply, supp	64.95
Humboldt Standard, adv	1764.55
Hy-Vee, supp	70.48
Jones Air Conditioning, serv	297.50
Nebraska Health & Human Services, fees	878.60
OPPD, serv	33.10
Quill, supp	75.23

GENERAL FUND (Cont.)

Richardson County EMA Petty Cash, reimb	195.46
Summit Fire Protection, serv	3112.45
UNL-AEM Business Center, fees	2656.49
Election worker expense	11615.34
*****Poll Workers*****	
<i>Carlee Bailey</i>	23.25
<i>Thomas Bartek</i>	236.38
<i>Christy Berglund</i>	260.53
<i>Ethan Boatright</i>	147.25
<i>Sharon Buckminster</i>	224.76
<i>Tracy Burns</i>	220.88
<i>Tyler Cooper</i>	11.63
<i>Elaine Croston</i>	228.63
<i>Kathy Curfman</i>	228.63
<i>Jan Deckinger</i>	224.76
<i>Doris Dejonge</i>	236.38
<i>Barb Ebel</i>	224.76
<i>Jerri Elwonger</i>	220.88
<i>Deanna Ewing</i>	224.76
<i>Kailyn Frederick</i>	11.63
<i>Kyler Frederick</i>	11.63
<i>Judy Fritz</i>	311.83
<i>Mary Jane Gist</i>	107.45
<i>Carolyn Glathar</i>	107.45
<i>Victoria Gordon</i>	209.25
<i>Dona Hall</i>	257.63
<i>Carol Harris</i>	234.43
<i>Lois Hersh</i>	263.50
<i>Gloria Hunzeker</i>	224.75
<i>Ruth Ann Huppert</i>	289.57
<i>Sue James</i>	209.25
<i>Susan Keholm</i>	232.50
<i>Denise Keithley</i>	244.58
<i>Barb Kelly</i>	232.50
<i>Elizabeth Ketner</i>	317.15
<i>Linda King</i>	315.66
<i>Rita Kreifels</i>	243.13
<i>Phyllis Kreutzer</i>	232.50
<i>Denise Koso</i>	254.98
<i>Denise Kurpgeweit</i>	259.63
<i>Hailey Liberty</i>	209.25
<i>Richard Malcolm</i>	209.25
<i>Nancy McKim</i>	269.35
<i>Jean McNeely</i>	228.63
<i>Carmen Mendenhall</i>	308.45
<i>Pam Mendenhall</i>	232.50
<i>Judy Miller</i>	236.38
<i>Marsha O'Grady</i>	228.63
<i>Mary Beth Rowell</i>	240.25
<i>Deborah Russ-Farwell</i>	224.75
<i>Katherine Perkins</i>	232.98
<i>Dina Sells</i>	235.30
<i>Ann Shafer</i>	107.45
<i>Eldon Snoke</i>	232.50
<i>Eva Stark</i>	244.13
<i>Glenda VonBehren</i>	107.45
<i>Linda Winsterman</i>	236.38
<i>Lana Willman</i>	246.03

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CLAIMS (Cont.)

GENERAL FUND (Cont.)

<i>Kellie Workman</i>	301.20

TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$27,528.93

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND

Black Hills Energy, serv	59.24
Gray Manufacturing, supp	3766.75
Farm & City Supply, supp	4460.34
Hullman's, serv	231.75
Martin Marietta Materials, rock	23307.24
NPPD, serv	73.68
Diversified Safety & Compliance, serv	357.50
Unifirst, supp	125.30
TOTAL ROAD & BRIDGE FUND	\$32,381.80

GENERAL ASSISTANCE FUND

SE NE Housing Partnership, rent	25.00
TOTAL GENERAL ASSISTANCE FUND	\$25.00

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Campbell to adjourn the meeting at 12:14 p.m. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-absent, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. The Board will meet again on Wednesday, May 27, 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