

Commissioner's Record No. 28

MADISON COUNTY, NEBRASKA

COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS SPECIAL – BUDGET HEARING

Madison, Nebraska

September 8, 2025

The Board of County Commissioners of Madison County, Nebraska met in special session at 6:00 P.M.

Advance notice of meeting was published in the Wednesday, September 3, 2025 edition of The Norfolk Daily News and posted on the Madison County website. A copy of said notice was provided to each Board member. An affidavit of acknowledgment of receipt of notice of meeting as published was executed.

Following a moment of Silence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, Chairman Troy Uhlir called the meeting to order and notified the public of the copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room.

Present: Commissioners Eric Stinson, Ronald Schmidt, and Troy Uhlir, County Clerk Anne Pruss, County Highway Superintendent Richard Johnson, Public Defender Matthew Headley, and Chief Deputy Megan Hoins, and County Sheriff Todd Volk. Norfolk Daily News reporters Austin Svehla was present.

Pursuant to published legal notice in the Wednesday, September 3, 2025 edition of the Norfolk Daily News, Chairman Uhlir opened a public hearing at 6:00 P.M. to receive comments regarding the 2025-2026 budget request amount different from the prior fiscal year.

Budget committee members Troy Uhlir, Anne Pruss, and Richard Johnson, presented information on the 2025-2026 fiscal year budget. Documents were presented to the board.

Chairman Uhlir that citizens that were in attendance of the Budget Hearing. He stated that the hearing is an opportunity for the public to provide input and answer any questions they might have. Mr. Uhlir explained that the County has three funds that are used to calculate the levy and they are the General, Federal Aid Secondary Aid, and Road/Bridge Bond. With this in mind, the total all funds request is \$19,750,829 all other funds receive revenues that have to match each departments expenditures. He went on to read the Budget Message, and Appropriations Resolution.

Chairman Uhlir explained that the budget worked very hard to keep the numbers down which prevents the County to participate in the Joint Public Hearing. How this is calculated, you take the prior year total property tax request, then add the base limitation percent increase of 2.00% and real growth percentage increase of 3.59% together for a total 5.59% of allowable growth. Then you use the percentage times the prior year's property tax request to get the allowable dollar amount of increase of property tax. The county is allowed \$19,765,376.11 but the actual requested for the 2025-2026 property tax is \$19,750,829.07 which is \$14,547.04 below.

The County Board and County Clerk Anne Pruss reviewed all budgets. Questions were asked and the board asked County Clerk Anne Pruss to look further into the following:

- Reviewed the County Assessor Deputy wage.
- Reduced the Election budget in the election workers' salaries.
- Reviewed the Public Defender's budget; it was questioned why the 2024–2025 actuals were higher than the request.
- Corrected a typographical error in Veterans Aid, changing the amount from \$60,000 to \$6,000.
- Investigate Veterans Service budget to ensure the full-time employee's salary calculated properly at **\$20.00/hour**.
- Investigate Fund 2910 911 Emergency Management to make sure the County can cover a shortage from the previous fiscal year.

Chairman Uhlir presented the Schedule of Budgeted Disbursements for all funds and some questions were clarified or explained to the citizens. He explained the summary of uncollected tax 2022, 2023, with \$23,152,136.59 for 2024.

After questions from the public, Chairman Uhlir closed the hearing at 7:48 P.M.

No action taken.

The Board adjourned at 7:56 P.M.

ATTEST:



County Clerk Anne M. Pruss

Troy Uhlir, Chairman
County Board of Commissioners