

Commissioner’s Record No. 28

MADISON COUNTY, NEBRASKA

COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

Madison, Nebraska

July 28, 2026

The Board of County Commissioners of Madison County, Nebraska met in regular session at 9:30 A.M.

Advance notice of meeting was published in the Wednesday, July 22, 2026 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 provided in the meeting room.

Present: Commissioners Ron Schmidt, Eric Stinson, and Troy Uhlir, County Clerk Anne Pruss, County Highway Superintendent Richard Johnson, Clerk Magistrate Monica Rotherham, and County Sheriff Todd Volk. Norfolk Daily News reporter Ben Drozd was present. Eight citizens were in attendance.

Commissioner Uhlir read the following consent agenda items into the record:

- 1) Approval of minutes of July 14, 2026
- 2) Approval of Madison County's payment of one-half of the indigent burial expenses, in the amount of \$697.50, in response to Platte County's request for cost-sharing related to an individual who passed away in Madison County, with total burial expenses of \$1,395.00.
- 3) Approve, pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute § 23-3115, the disposition of a marked 2018 Dodge Ram pickup assigned to the Madison County Sheriff's Office through trade-in or sale to Midwest 911 Cars, Inc., in the amount of \$6,975.00
- 4) Approval of Right-of-way contract with Neva Winter in the amount of \$3,250.00 from Project No. C-59-960
- 5)

RESOLUTION #2026-39

WHEREAS, Check No. 26060533, dated June 16, 2026, and drawn on the Visitor Promotion Fund in the amount of thirty-one thousand seven hundred thirty-one dollars and ninety-five cents (\$31,731.95), was made payable to Norfolk Area Visitors Bureau, and

WHEREAS, Norfolk Area Visitors Bureau, has formally requested cancellation of the payment after discovering request was submitted twice;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Check No. 26060533, dated June 16, 2026, and drawn on the Visitor Promotion Fund in the amount of thirty-one thousand seven hundred thirty-one dollars and ninety-five cents (\$31,731.95), is hereby cancelled.

Motion made by Stinson and seconded by Schmidt to approve consent agenda for the meeting. Roll call vote: Ayes, Schmidt, Stinson, and Uhlir. Nays, none. Motion carried.

Motion made by Schmidt and seconded by Uhlir to approve the regular agenda for the meeting. Roll call vote: Ayes, Schmidt, Stinson and Uhlir. Nays, none. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding an agreement with Traci Jeffrey, Executive Director with Norfolk Area Visitors Bureau to authorize the use of Victory Road, East Coolidge Avenue, South Grandview Drive, East Sherwood Road, and South First Street for the bicycling portion of the triathlon scheduled for September 11, 2027. Under the proposed agreement, Madison County would provide traffic control services, including the delivery, setup, maintenance, and removal of barricades, traffic control signs, and advance warning signs as necessary for the event.

Commissioner Stinson expressed concerns that employees assigned to Road District #2 would be required to work overtime and be responsible for traffic control along the designated route. Sheriff Todd Volk advised the Board that Sheriff's Deputies would be available to assist with traffic control during the event.

After discussion, motion made by Stinson and seconded by Schmidt to table consideration of the agreement pending further review of staffing responsibilities and traffic control arrangements. Roll call vote: Ayes, Schmidt, Stinson, and Uhlir. Nays, none. Motion carried.

Representatives of the City of Newman Grove and its economic development organization appeared before the Board to request financial assistance from Madison County for economic development efforts. The representatives explained that the community's highest identified need through community studies was the development of a childcare facility. They reported that approximately \$55,000 in local economic development funds had already been invested to renovate space within the assisted living

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facility into a daycare center. The daycare is currently operating with one full-time employee and three part-time employees and is nearing financial self-sufficiency, requiring only a few additional enrollments to become cash-flow positive. The representatives stated that the project has already created employment opportunities and has helped address the community's inability to attract teachers and other workers due to the lack of available childcare.

The Board discussed the request for approximately \$21,000 and compared it to the existing economic development funding agreements with the Cities of Madison and Battle Creek. Commissioners indicated support for assisting Newman Grove but expressed a preference for funding the project at \$20,000 to remain consistent with previous agreements. Discussion also focused on ensuring that county funds would be used for authorized economic development purposes through an interlocal agreement rather than being directed specifically toward the daycare operation. Board members discussed the importance of defining the allowable use of funds, obtaining quarterly progress reports, and treating the funding as an annual investment intended to promote economic growth, expand the county's tax base, and benefit the region as a whole. Questions were also raised regarding the County's legal authority and budget authority to provide the funding.

Following discussion, motion made by Stinson and seconded by Schmidt to approve providing \$20,000 in economic development funding to the City of Newman Grove, contingent upon confirmation of budget authority and execution of an interlocal agreement establishing the terms, permitted uses of the funds, and reporting requirements. Roll call vote: Ayes, Schmidt, Stinson, and Uhler. Nays, none. Motion carried.

Kristen Meyer, representing the Northeast Nebraska Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council, presented a request for Madison County to become a sponsoring county through an annual \$2,000 sponsorship. Ms. Meyer provided an overview of the organization's mission, including conservation of natural resources, invasive weed management, household hazardous waste collection, electronics and battery recycling, tourism promotion, and securing grant funding for regional projects. She explained that after the loss of federal funding several years ago, the organization transitioned to operating through county sponsorships, NRD partnerships, and competitive grants.

Board members discussed the organization's efforts to coordinate recycling events throughout northeast Nebraska, opportunities to expand hazardous waste and battery recycling events within Madison County, possible future tire recycling programs, and tourism initiatives that highlight local communities and businesses. Commissioners also discussed potential locations for future collection events, public education efforts, and the benefits of partnering with existing local recycling resources. The Board concluded that the annual sponsorship would provide value by encouraging regional collaboration, improving recycling opportunities, supporting environmental stewardship, and leveraging additional grant funding for projects benefiting Madison County. The Board approved the annual \$2,000 sponsorship and requested that future recycling events be coordinated with the County Clerk's Office so information can be shared with county departments and the public.

Motion made by Stinson and seconded by Schmidt to approve Madison County becoming a sponsoring county of the Northeast Nebraska Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council through an annual sponsorship of \$2,000 to support regional conservation, natural resource management, recycling initiatives, community development, environmental stewardship, and grant-funded projects benefiting Northeast Nebraska. Roll call vote: Ayes, Schmidt, Stinson, and Uhler. Nays, none. Motion carried.

The Board of Commissioners conducted its initial review of the proposed 2026–2027 fiscal year budget requests submitted by county departments. The Budget Committee explained that this meeting served as a preliminary work session to review departmental requests, identify questions, and prepare for budget hearings with elected officials and department heads at the next regular meeting. The Board emphasized that the budget process remained in its early stages, noting that revenues had not yet been finalized and that no final budget decisions were being made.

The County Clerk presented budget summaries, departmental calculations, projected levy information, and wage calculations based upon the Board's previously established guideline of a 3% increase for eligible employees. Commissioners reviewed each departmental budget, comparing prior year actual expenditures with proposed requests, and discussed salary calculations, operating expenses, contractual services, equipment replacement schedules, software and technology costs, election expenses, capital purchases, and other line-item requests. Board members identified several items requiring additional clarification and directed that questions be addressed by the respective elected officials and department heads during the August 11, 2026 budget hearings.

The Board also discussed the importance of maintaining long-term equipment replacement schedules, accurately budgeting for election and technology expenses, and ensuring requested appropriations were supported by anticipated operational needs while remaining fiscally responsible.

No formal action was taken, and the budget review will continue during the scheduled departmental budget presentations.

The following written reports and correspondence were reviewed:

- 1) Fund balance report
- 2) Register of Deeds amended fee report, May 2026
- 3) Sale of Surplus
- 4) City of Norfolk & Norfolk Area Economic Development reports for April, May, & June 2026

The following claims were audited:

Motion was made by Schmidt and seconded by Uhler to approve the claims as audited and authorize the County Clerk to issue checks for payment of said claims. Roll call vote: Ayes, Schmidt, Stinson, and Uhler. Nays, none. Motion carried.

The Board adjourned at 12:39 P.M. to Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 9:30 A.M.

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ATTEST:



County Clerk Anne M. Pruss

Troy Uhler, Chairman