



Gage County Board Minutes

The Gage County Board of Supervisors met on May 14, 2025, at 9:24 a.m. as per public notice given on the county website and in the Beatrice Daily Sun on May 1, 2025, copy of the proof of publication being on file in the County Clerk's Office. The agenda for all meetings is kept continually current and is available for public inspection at the County Clerk's Office during normal business hours and was communicated in the advance notice of the meeting. The Board of Supervisors has the right to modify the agenda to include items of an emergency nature only, at such public meeting. All of the proceedings shown hereafter were taken while in the convened meeting which was open to the attendance of the public.

Supervisors Rex Adams, Emily Haxby, Erich Tiemann, Gary Lytle and Eddie Dorn present, Rick Clabaugh and Terry Jurgens absent.

Let the record show that all proceedings are electronically recorded.

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Chairman Tiemann announced that a complete copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted at the back of the Board of Supervisors Room.

Consent Agenda included the following items: 1. General Agenda; 2. Minutes from previous meeting and committee meetings; 3. claims audit in the amount of \$3,885,380.42 which does not include claim #25050059 to Diversified Drug Testing in the amount of \$230.00, claim #25050096 to Johnny's Welding Inc. in the amount of \$362.40 & claim #25050103 to R.L. Tiemann Const. Inc. in the amount of \$62,488.52 to be voted on separately; 4. approve correspondence received and place on file; 5. Approve District Court Summary Fee Report & Register of Deeds Fee Report for the month of April 2025; 6. Approve receiving and place on file the 2024 Annual Report for Beatrice Fire & Rescue, Cortland Volunteer Fire & Rescue and Pickrell Fire & Rescue; 7. Approve Utility Permit #1330 to Northern Natural Gas, Northern will be replacing electrical equipment and setting up temporary workspaces in Gage County ROW. The 1st location is along Hickroy Road between S. 36th Road and S. 51st Road in the South grade ditch. Located North of Section 17, T-4-N, R-7-E, Logan Twp. The 2nd location is North of intersection 120th and Ash Road, Northern will be working in the East grader ditch of Gage County just outside of BNSF Railroad ROW. Northern will continue to work in BNSF Property. Located East of Section 7, T-6-N, R-8-E, Adams Twp.; 8. Approve Specs and call for bids on six Gage County 2025 Culvert Projects. Bids to be opened on June 11, 2025, at 9:15 a.m.

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount Allowed</u>
Courthouse Employees	Salaries	180,842.46
Advanced Correctional Healthcare	Jail on-site medical svcs	9800.18
Advocates for Human Potential, Inc.	Workbooks	319.74
All Copy Products, Inc.	EM copier lease	154.00
Amazon Capital Services, Inc.	Dist Ct offc supplies	109.83
Applied Connective Technologies	IT supplies/maint. agrmnt	19,453.27
AT&T Mobility Accounts, LLC	Shf mobile phones	646.64
Benchmark Gov. Solutions, LLC	Shf dpty meals at training	376.85
Best Point Web Design	Shf website design & development fnl pmt	4600.00
Black Hills Energy Det 8852	Utilities	243.88
Black Hills Energy Shf 1674	Utilities	251.85
Capital Business Systems	ROD copy overage	16.64
Capital One, NA	Prob supplies	64.87
Charter Comm., Spectrum 2019	Jail cable TV	235.26
Clearly Communications	Co. phones after credit	3.79
Clerk of District Court	Court costs	652.52
Column Software, PBC	Publications	1152.95
Correctional Risk Services, Inc.	Inmate medical	107.43
Critical Hire	Empl reports	25.00
Culligan of Lincoln	Water cooler, water	185.00
Diode Technologies	Cths & Vets monitoring	90.89
Dr. Eric Thomsen	Mntl hlth bd mtg	110.00
Eaks Office Solutions	Offc supplies	617.64
Echo Group, Inc.	Ballasts, bulbs	761.85
Fairfield Inn & Suites, Kearney	Shf/Jail lodging	779.70
Farmers Cooperative	Supplies, tires, etc.	1141.06
Fox Funeral Home	Body bag	100.00

Gage County	Fnd trnsfr – Rd, Rd/Brdg snk, ins., Co bldg.	2,609,135.15
Great Plains Reporting	Deposition transcript	488.3
Green Way Lawn Services	Mowing, fertil.	995.00
gWorks	Annl subscr. Assr, Clk, Emer Mgmt	26,379.67
Hometown Leasing	Prob. 4 offcs copier leases	515.79
ISolved Benefit Svcs.	Admin. svcs	144.50
Jerry Shelton, Atty	Atty fees	2915.00
Ken's Pest Control	Shf pest control	400.00
Kraviec, Maurstad Lawn	Child Suppt. Enf. Atty, postage	2415.42
Lammel Plumbing, Inc.	Plbg supplies, labor	423.38
Lepant Law Office	Mntl hlth hrng	110.00
Mead Lumber	4" screws	44.99
Microfilm Imaging Systems, Inc.	Courts' scanning	457.00
Midwest Process Svcs.	Civil process fees	388.76
MIPS, Inc.	Programming, data proc.	28,699.49
Murray Law, PC LLO	Atty fees	2549.00
NACO	Co offcl directories	150.00
Nelson, Clark & Timan, PC	Public Defender, juv ct cost	7144.15
NIRMA	Lgl svcs above deductible	5360.30
Norris Public Power	Utilities – Horvath Twr	46.07
Paper Tiger Shredding	Doc shredding	146.50
Philippi Electric, Inc.	Det Cntr repair	125.00
Pickrell Lumber	Stain	37.00
Pinpoint Communications	Courthouse internet	270.17
Quill – EMS	Offc supplies	217.98
Quill – Prob.	Offc supplies	369.37
Quill – Treas.	Offc supplies	309.43
R&B Arms	Shf firearms	500.00
Reagan Law Offcs., PC LLO	Atty fees	541.50
Rewound Power Motors	EM generator repair	226.53
Kristine Riekenberg	Mntl hlth hrng	110.00
Sack Lumber	Plywood	51.98
Sapp Bros. Petroleum	Shf/Jail fuel	5146.75
SE NE Communications	Falls City Prob. phones	115.40
Security Services	Shf/Ext monitoring	70.00
Smith, Schaefer, Davis, LLC	Atty fees	105.00
SMPC, LLC	Assr cloud hosted server	5749.19
Spectrum (Charter)	EM cable TV	11.51
Stanard Appraisal Svcs.	Appraisal maint., TERC review	9450.00
Nicole Stoner	April mlg	190.68
Summit Food Service, LLC	Jail meal svc	6221.69
Thomson Reuters West Pmt Cntr.	Law Library subscr.	3619.54
T.K. Elevator Corp.	Elevator maint.	265.63
Tru by Hilton, Lincoln	Assr lodging	440.00
UN of NE Medical Center	Investigative expns	62.00
U.S. Bank – Purchase cards	Supplies, travel, dues, etc.	3784.92
Verizon Wireless GCSO	Shf cell phones	480.12
Verizon Wireless EMS 6384-1	EM cell phones	328.16
Verizon Wireless Prob 339-1	Prob. cell phones	337.34
Mutual of Omaha	Empl. volunteer ins policy	30.00
Westlake Ace Hardware	Supplies	650.87
Windstream Wilber Prob.	Phones	54.90
Zultys, Inc.	Prob phones	473.49

Road Fund

Highway Department Employees	Salaries	43,303.33
All Copy Products, Inc.	Copy overage	28.04
Barnhart Crane & Rigging	Crane rental	2255.00
Bauer Built Tire	Tires	1113.50
Beatrice Concrete Ready Mix	Concrete	238.00
Beatrice Concrete Sand & Gravel	Rock & gravel	20,458.15
Beatrice Iron & Metal	Parts, tools, supplies	1434.25
Cather & Sons Const., Inc.	Asphalt, armor coating C-34(1181)	565,232.29
City of Wymore	Utilities	118.50
Constellation NewEnergy Gas Div.	Utilities	370.75
Diversified Drug Testing	Drug/alcohol testing	230.00
Echo Group, Inc.	Light fixtures	135.18
Farmers Cooperative	Tire repair, propane	201.98

Fastenal Co.	Supplies	56.40
Gage Co. Equipment, Inc.	Parts	53.30
Heartland Tires & Treads	Tires	6820.50
Jim Hawk Truck Trailers	Parts	95.00
Johnny's Welding, Inc.	Parts	362.40
Landmark Implement, Inc.	Parts, tool	317.25
Mainelli Wagner & Associates	Engineering consulting	52,232.80
Menards Lincoln South	Door	115.94
MIPS, Inc.	Hwy prog.	192.32
O'Reilly Auto Parts	Parts, supplies	599.60
Powerplan	Parts	400.54
R.L. Tiemann Const., Inc.	Twp gravel & hauling	62,488.52
RDO Truck Center	Parts	425.16
Rock On, Inc.	Hauling material	13,191.31
Sapp Bros. Petroleum, Inc.	Fuel	20,146.30
T.O. Haas Tire	Tires	310.94
Truck Equipment Service Co.	Parts	468.22
U.S. Bank – Purchase cards	Sand bags	192.08
Verizon Connect Fleet	Veh. GPS	380.60
Village of Odell	Utilities	49.50

Road & Bridge Sinking Fund

Mainelli Wagner & Associates	Engineering consulting C-34(1236, 1237, 1238)	5860.80
------------------------------	---	---------

Register of Deeds Preservation & Modernization Fund

Capital Business Systems, Inc.	Reg of Deeds copier lease, overage	302.00
MIPS, Inc.	Deeds online w/ numerical indexes	220.08

Insurance Fund

Gage County Health Insurance	Employee hlth ins claims pd.	99,408.49
------------------------------	------------------------------	-----------

General Fund

Ameritas	County share of Employees Retirement	13,156.57
Security First Bank	Co. share of Empl. Soc. Sec. & Medicare	13,134.74
Gage County Clerk – Health Plan	Co. share of Empl. health insurance	49,037.27

Road Fund

Ameritas	County share of Employees Retirement	2,922.94
Security First Bank	Co. share of Empl. Soc. Sec. & Medicare	3,172.12
Gage County Clerk – Health Plan	Co. share of Empl. health insurance	15,105.76

Motion made by Dorn, seconded by Adams to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Dorn, seconded by Adams to approve claim #25050059 to Diversified Drug Testing in the amount of \$230.00. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Dorn, seconded by Adams to approve claim #25050096 to Johnny's Welding Inc. in the amount of \$362.40. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Adams, seconded by Lytle to approve claim #25050103 to R.L. Tiemann Const. Inc. in the amount of \$62,488.52, bringing the total amount of claims paid through May 14, 2025, to \$3,948,461.34. Motion carried 4-0-1 with Tiemann abstaining due to conflict of interest.

No public present for comments or request for future agenda items.

Committee reports were given by Dave Jones on Bldg. & Grounds, Tiemann on Equalization, Haxby on Finance/Insurance, Tiemann on Human Resources/Employee Relations, Lytle on Law Enforcement/Emer. Mgmt., and Dorn & Haxby on Road & Bridge. Topics included IT work by Applied Connective; flags will be on Thursday and taken down after the Memorial Day holiday; replacing concrete on ramp; Shf Dept. sponsoring coffee at Park Lodge.

Extension Educator Nicole Stoner presented an Extension Office update and thanked the board for their support for an additional office position.

Tiemann stated that Darrel Stanard talked to Walmart and they accepted the valuation offer presented to them of \$58.00 per square foot, which would change their valuation to \$8,972,600.00. Tiemann asked for motion. Motion made by Adams, seconded by Dorn to change Walmart valuation to \$3,972,600.00. Tiemann added that this means there will be one

less case going to TERC. Tiemann asked for any further discussion, having none, he called for the vote. Motion carried 5-0.

Patrick Kreifels, Regional Administrator at Region V Systems, and Matt Kasik, Director at Apace, presented annual reports to the board. Kreifels thanked Haxby for sitting on the board and for her commitment to behavioral health. He stated that their mission is to support the wellness and recovery of people through the ongoing development and coordination of the behavioral health system of care and they envision that people experiencing, are affected by, or are at risk of mental health issues or substance use challenges, receive care and enhance their personal well-being. He walked the Supervisors through the number of participants in Gage County and the services offered such as Emergency Protective Custody.

Short break at 10:20 a.m. Back in session at 10:24 a.m. with all members previously listed present.

Matt Kasik, CEO of Apace, presented their annual report and also thanked Haxby for her work on the board, saying he knows he can always count on her support. Kasik said they are one of 160 providers for those with developmental disabilities in the state of Nebraska, and the fact that they have elected officials sitting on their board makes them a public entity which provides transparency and accountability to the public. They are the largest provider of developmental disability services in Nebraska. They serve 710 individuals, have 770 employees (700 of which are "hands on"), and have 140 shared living providers where people with disabilities are brought into a family's home much like a foster family situation. Kasik said they support 50 people in Gage County (24 of which are competitively employed which is almost half), have 63 employees, and have 10 shared living providers. He said he wants to recognize and highlight participating employers for taking the chance on employing someone with a disability. Kasik stated that since Cami Erb has taken over operations as the Area Director for Beatrice they have seen many improvements to the program and she's doing a great job. Apace will not be requesting funding this year as they are currently primarily funded by Medicaid. Tiemann asked about the possibility of expanding group homes – Kasik said there are 7 in Beatrice and that the drawback of a group home setting is that they have to have full staff whether there is one resident or it's full, therefore, they are moving more towards the shared living providers. Tiemann also suggested utilizing some of the empty buildings on the State Home campus, Kasik said he would look into it. Adams expressed his appreciation for the employees of Apace and others like it, saying they are people who have a certain skill set and who possess characteristics of compassion and patience that not everyone has.

Motion by Lytle, seconded by Dorn to approve receiving and placing the Region V Systems and Apace reports on file. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion on Interlocal Agreements with Region V Systems and Apace. Haxby stated the agreements are what she and Co. Atty. Harris had been working on to update and reach terms that they and the county could agree on. Tiemann thanked Haxby and Harris for the time and work they both did on these agreements.

Motion by Adams, seconded by Lytle to approve Interlocal Agreements with Region V Systems and Apace. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Lytle, seconded by Haxby to approve receiving all RFP's for jail consultant that were turned in at the April 16, 2025, board meeting, with the intent to proceed with Davis Design of Lincoln, NE, pending contract negotiation. Motion carried 5-0. Lytle and Haxby thanked all those who took the time to put together an RFP for this project, there were a lot of good candidates.

Tiemann opened discussion on the Tourism Agreement saying this leads into giving a 90-day notice to the Beatrice Chamber of Commerce as specified in the agreement, to open contract discussions for updates or changes. Adams questioned whether, after Tourism Coordinator Rachel Kreikemeier was appointed to the State Tourism Board, that Tourism should be under NGage/Economic Development. Discussion included whether that would change the Tourism Coordinator's position, a lot of duplication between Tourism and the Chamber, what percentages of tourism funding goes to the Chamber, what percentage of Tourism Coordinator's time is spent on tourism and what percent on Chamber work, what percent of budget comes from the Chamber and what percent from Tourism, if there is any interest in having a tourism position under the county, concern about responsibility to the people of where dollars are spent and being intertwined with a private business (the Chamber), and discussions in the past between Main Street, the Chamber of Commerce, and NGage about combining. Angie Bruna, Executive Director of the Beatrice Area Chamber of Commerce, shed light on some of the questions from the board with these points: Tourism and the Chamber each have their own budget, which she

provided a copy of, the Tourism Coordinator position is staffed at the equivalent of one full-time position so 75% of Coordinator's salary and 25% of Executive Director's salary are paid by Tourism, have a strong presence in SE Nebraska and are affiliated with the NE Tourism Commission, the SE NE Tourism Council, NE Travel Association, and the Byway 136 Association, have obtained grants for marketing done through social media, NE Travel Guide, and ads in travel magazines, the Chamber side is the bulk of the budget while the Tourism side is based on lodging tax dollars that come in so it's a smaller portion, and clarifying that the Chamber is nonprofit. Tiemann and Adams reiterated that the 90-day Notice is just a required formality according to language in the current agreement in order to enter into discussion on making any changes to the current agreement.

Motion by Adams, seconded by Haxby to approve giving 90-day notice to the Beatrice Chamber of Commerce to open discussions on the Agreement with Gage County Tourism. Motion carried 5-0. County Attorney Roger Harris will send a letter to the Chamber. Tiemann appointed Lytle, Haxby and Adams to a sub-committee with Adams as Chair, to look at current operations and set up some meetings to start discussions on any possible changes to the current agreement. Tiemann stated the intent is to continue to work under the existing agreement with no end cap date, until discussions and negotiations end and there is a decision whether to renew the existing agreement or to present a new agreement.

Discussion on 911 Agreement with the City of Beatrice. Tiemann said we've always had a good working relationship with the City and have had very good luck with them. Last year we proposed a 4-year agreement with no increase, but they denied the proposal because we did not give a 90-day notice, therefore, we had to go with the existing agreement which included a 2% increase, which, at the time, we decided was a pretty good rate, so we didn't pursue it. We did give them a 90-day notice this year that we would like to open negotiations on this agreement. Offers were talked about back & forth. The city wants to find a way to have an a la carte type tier plan where you can choose different layers of services to attract more communities to their services. Tiemann said he prefers to have a renewal option at a set rate instead of what they're proposing, which is a 1-year agreement at 2% increase over our last year's cost and offers no renewal option. Tiemann said what he would propose is to approve the 911 agreement as presented by the city with adding in the old 2% auto-renewal language to the ending. Adams pointed out that other things like towers, repeaters, etc., that the county is responsible for paying for, are in addition to the amount we pay for 911 Dispatch. Tiemann agreed that all those things are separate but that 911 does provide dispatch to all of our rural fire departments, the Sheriff's Department, anyone like that. There are a lot of different pieces that are involved in the services provided. Adams also asked if the 911 Surcharges are being collected on cell phones as they just show 223 and 228 prefixes. Tiemann also brought up that the numerical amount in the agreement and the written amount had a discrepancy, so we would request it be corrected to the written amount of Two Hundred Forty-five, Nine Hundred Seventy-seven dollars and 06/100 (\$245,977.06). Atty Harris said he realizes this is an offer from the city, but there are still a lot of unknowns. Tiemann asked for a motion to go into closed session for further discussion.

Motion by Adams, seconded by Dorn to move into closed session at 11:16 a.m. for contract negotiations and personnel. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Haxby, seconded by Tiemann to come out of closed session at 11:59 a.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Tiemann asked for a motion to approve the 911 agreement as presented by the City with inserting old language for 2-year contract, correction to item #8, county fee to be as alpha-numeric listed as \$245,977.06 to correct typo in agreement, and use wording as in former agreement paragraph #1 – the term of the agreement shall be from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027, this agreement shall automatically renew for an additional 2-year term with annual fee to increase in the amount of 2% each year, unless and until either party to this agreement gives the other party 90 calendar days written notice prior to the end of the term of their intent not to renew this agreement for an additional term. Adams asked about the surcharge on cell phones. Tiemann said they would also look into item #7 on service surcharge. Haxby expressed concern about voting on an agreement when there are still things that needed looked into, and she's disappointed that what originally was intended to be a regional center to lower costs, now has counties pulling out for some reason. Without having it in writing, she's not ready to vote on a contract, therefore, if a vote is taken, she will be voting no. Adams brought out that item #12 states that *an item may be amended at any time with the written authority of both governing bodies, City and County*. So, we can look into it and if we question it then we can put in writing that we want to question it. Tiemann also reminded the board that conversations with the City's Mayor and Administrator leaned towards them, agreeing with the terms we are suggesting. They are trying to find some ways to lessen our costs, but we need something in place until that can be done so I'm thankful they're trying to find options for us. Haxby asked about trying to bring more people in, possibly changing the structure

of who handles things. Tiemann said he was told that is part of the a la carte solution so that if someone comes in with a better rate for certain services it helps everyone not get such large increases in fees. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Haxby, seconded by Dorn to move into closed session at 12:12 p.m. for personnel. Motion carried 5-0.

Adams left meeting at 12:39 a.m.

Motion by Lytle, seconded by Dorn to come out of closed session at 12:41 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

Chairman declared Board of Supervisors meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m. until May 28, 2025.

Board minutes can also be viewed on the Gage County website at www.gagecountyne.gov.

/s/ Dawn Hill

Dawn Hill
Gage County Clerk

/s/ Erich Tiemann

Erich Tiemann, Chairman
Gage County Board of Supervisors

I, Dawn Hill, County Clerk of Gage County, do hereby certify that the above records are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Witness my hand and official seal this 14th day of May, 2025.

(SEAL)

/s/ Dawn Hill

Dawn Hill
Gage County Clerk