

The Gage County Board of Supervisors met on February 18, 2026, at 8:45 a.m. as per public notice given on the county website and in the Beatrice Daily Sun on February 3, 2026, 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, Rick Clabaugh, Emily Haxby, Gary Lytle, Eddie Dorn, and Terry Jurgens present, Erich Tiemann absent.

Let the record show that all proceedings are electronically recorded.

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Vice Chairman Haxby 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 \$596,798.76, which does not include claim #2602000189 to Johnny’s Welding in the amount of \$10.77 to be voted on separately; 4. approve correspondence received and place on file; 5. Approve specs and call for bids for Fertilization, Mowing, Bagging, Trimming & blowing of clippings for the Gage County Courthouse, Sheriff Dept, Evidence Building, Tri-plex and parking lot parkways for 2026 & 2027. Bids to be opened on March 4, 2026 @ 9:30 a.m.; 6. Approve Specs and call for bids on 2026 Box Culvert Projects C-34(1268) and C-34(1271). Bids to be opened on March 18th at 9:30 a.m.; 7. Approve Specs and call for bids on 2026 Armor Coating to be opened on March 18th at 9:45 a.m.

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount Allowed</u>
Courthouse Employees	Gross pay	178,361.15
Advanced Correctional Healthcare	Jail onsite medical	10,972.83
All Copy Products	EM copier lease	169.40
Amazon Capital Svcs.	Co Ct supplies	60.14
Applied Connective Technologies	IT svcs., surveillance, Shf equip.	41,519.36
AutoZone	Shf supplies	159.79
Beatrice Board of Public Works	Utilities	6253.09
Bearice Humane Society	Svcs	2833.33
Beatrice Iron & Metal	Shf supplies	1095.00
Beatrice Lawn Care	Snow removal & ice melt	1025.00
Capital Business Systems	ROD copy overage	34.48
Cardinal Assessment Group	Bldg permit, sales/ag reviews	19,312.50
Charm-Tex, Inc.	Jail janitorial suppl	506.50
Charter Comm. Spectrum 2019	Prob. internet	420.00
Cidnet	Jail commissary	999.90
City of Beatrice	Gbg svc	354.00
Classic Catering	Co recog dinner	2531.00
Clearly Communications	Co phones	5683.04
Column Software	Publications	1055.37
Culligan of Lincoln	Water cooler	185.00
Datashield Corp.	Doc shredding	31.36
Davis Design, Inc.	Svc.	1973.75
Diode Technologies	Monitoring	62.94
Dr. Eric Thomsen	Mntl Hlth hrng	125.00
Eakes Office Solutions	Offc suppl.	1155.42
Echo Group	Bulbs	166.40
Farmer’s Coop.	Fuel	1661.29
First Wireless	EM svc maint.	739.38
Gage Co. Court	Court costs	1511.00
Glenwood Telecomm., Inc.	Prob. phones	159.80
Great Plains Uniforms	Shf uniforms	1821.08
Hometown Leasing	Prob & Co Atty copier leases	610.97
ISolved Benefit Svcs.	FBA admin svcs	157.82
Johnson Co. Shf.	Boarding inmates	455.00
Ken’s Pest Control	Jail spraying	400.00
Kraviec, Maurstad Law	Child Suppt. Enf. Atty, pstg	3123.72
Kristine Riekenberg	Mntl hlth hrng	125.00

Lammel Plumbing	Jail svc calls	1624.35
Lepant Law Offc.	Mntl hlth hrng	125.00
Lynn Peavey Co.	Shf suppl.	1058.50
Michael Maseth, Atty Gen	Trial signs	98.65
Microfilm Imaging Systems	Court scanning	457.00
Midwest Process Svcs.	Civil process fees	290.14
MIPS, Inc.	Data proc., checks	5472.13
Murray Law	Atty fees	1963.00
NACO	Mtg fee	40.00
Nelson, Clark & Timan	Public Defender	6346.15
NI Government Svcs.	Sat phone	178.04
Norris Public Power	Horvath Twr utilities	40.88
Northeast Auto	Shf veh lease	550.00
Paper Tiger Shredding	Doc shredding	115.00
Pell Reporting	Depo transcript	142.30
Philippi Electric	Repairs	223.00
Physicians Lab	Autopsy expns	6465.00
Pinnacle Bank – Ct.	Cr cd purch	51.20
Pinpoint Comm.	Internet	540.34
Precision Auto Tune	Shf veh repair	732.53
Priority Printing	EM supplies	70.87
Production Creek	Shf uniforms	151.50
Quadient, Inc.	Env opener	1255.32
Quill – Ext.	Offc suppl.	75.61
Quill – Prob.	Offc suppl.	347.04
Quill – Treas.	Offc suppl.	175.23
Region V Systems	EPC	1712.00
Sack Lumber	Insulation	79.48
Sapp Bros. Petroleum	Shf/Jail fuel	1948.30
SE NE Communications	Prob phones	112.07
Security Services	Shf/Ext monitoring	70.00
SENDD	Grant admin svcs	5000.00
Sheridan Industries	Ext Offc janitorial svcs	120.00
Sherry Ullman	Court supplies reimb.	64.65
Slim’s Body Shop	Ded. for veh repair, buckle	1144.25
T-Mobile USA, Inc.	Cell twr dump	100.00
Thomson Reuters	Law Library subscr.	3763.97
TreviPay	Prob supplies	47.97
UNITI	Wilber Prob phones	54.94
US Bank Purchase Cards	Supplies, meals, fuel, etc.	4311.85
Verizon Wireless GCSO	Cell phones	930.46
Verizon Wireless Prob 339-1	Cell phones	312.93
Washington Co. NE Shf	Boarding inmates	5135.00
Washington Co. KS Shf	Boarding inmates	13,950.00
Westlake Ace Hardware	Supplies	409.35
Willet & Carothers	Atty fees	2265.50
Zultys, Inc.	Prob. phones	473.83
<u>Road Fund</u>		
Highway Department Employees	Gross pay	42,727.23
Bauer Built Tire	Tires	552.00
Beatrice Board of Public Works	Utilities	1009.78
Beatrice Concrete Co., Inc.	Rock	653.57
Beatrice Iron & Metal	Parts, tools, supplies	514.16
Central States Hydraulic Svcs.	Part	455.86
City of Wymore	Utilities	197.65
Column Software	Publications	107.20
Concrete Industries	Crack sealant	8505.00
Constellation NewEnergy Gas Div.	Utilities	271.98
Farmer’s Coop.	Fuel	380.41
Heartland Tires & Treads	Tires	8104.80
Inland Truck Parts & Svc.	Parts	1595.44
Jim Hawk Truck Trailers	Part, brake clnr	216.12
Johnny’s Welding	Iron	10.77
Landmark Imp.	Parts	1638.71
Michael Todd Industrial Supply	Tar squeegee	87.05
MIPS, Inc.	Hwy prog.	192.32
Newman Signs, Inc.	Signs, stands	2071.86

Nutrien Ag Solutions	Weed chemicals	162.50
O'Reilly Auto Parts	Parts, supplies	470.64
PowerPlan	Parts	322.29
RDO Truck Center	Parts	80.65
Rose Equipment	Part	4024.81
Sapp Bros. Petroleum	Fuel, grease, propane	11,764.70
Smith Auto, Inc.	Part	350.00
Twin Rivers	Parts	421.74
US Auto Force	Tires	1472.08
Verizon Connect Fleet USA	Veh GPS	380.60
Village of Odell	Utilities	60.75
Winter Equip.	Bits for blades	1672.02

Register of Deeds Preservation & Modernization Fund

Capital Business Systems	Copier lease	347.00
MIPS, Inc.	Deeds online w/ numerical indexes	228.27

Insurance Fund

Gage Co. Health Insurance	Employee hlth ins claims paid	43,762.31
Mutual of Omaha	Empl. life ins.	529.51

Diversion Program Fund

Diversion Employees	Gross pay	2328.73
Yellow Cab of Beatrice	Safe Ride Home vouchers	1220.00

Inheritance Fund

Nancy Weldon Trust	Inher. tax refund	304.61
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General Fund

Ameritas	County share of Employees Retirement	12,919.09
Security First Bank	Co. share of Empl. Soc. Sec. & Medicare	12,858.32
Gage County Clerk – Health Plan	Co. share of Empl. health ins. – Gen & Road	66,801.75

Road Fund

Ameritas	County share of Employees Retirement	2,884.08
Security First Bank	Co. share of Empl. Soc. Sec. & Medicare	3,137.51

Diversion Program Fund

Ameritas	County share of Employees Retirement	104.93
Security First Bank	Co. share of Empl. Soc. Sec. & Medicare	178.15

Motion made by Lytle, seconded by Dorn to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Clabaugh, seconded by Dorn to approve claim #2602000189 to Johnny's Welding in the amount of \$10.77, bringing the total amount of claims paid through February 18, 2026, to \$596,809.53. Motion carried 5-0-1 with Jurgens abstaining due to conflict of interest.

Deryl Janda, 5173 St. Hwy 43, Adams NE, spoke under public comments about needing "no jake brake" signs for truck traffic around the ethanol plant. He said the village says they don't have jurisdiction. Haxby said the board can't discuss during public comments but that they would talk about the issue during committee reports.

Committee reports were given by Dave Jones on Bldg. & Grounds/Winter Lights; Haxby on Equalization; and Jurgens on Finance/Insurance. Break in committee reports for timed agenda item.

Motion by Lytle, seconded by Dorn to close bidding at 9:15 a.m. for 2026 Rock & Gravel. Motion carried 6-0.

Back to committee reports by Lisa Wiegand, Shf. Gustafson and Adams on Law Enf./Emergency Management; and Jurgens and Haxby on Road & Bridge. Items discussed were upcoming Lawn Care bids; Fire alarm tests; generators serviced; lighting plans for semi quincennial with red, white & blue lights on the tree dedicated to JT Thornburg, lights at Charles Park and on the canon at the courthouse, and red, white & blue flowers on the South side of the courthouse; flags out July 1-6; blue lights for Down Syndrome; P&Z mtg. Feb. 19 at 7:00 p.m., with public hearing at 7:15 p.m.; Storm Spotter training; maps showing setbacks; concerns with speed limit S of Adams; jake brake concern on Hwy 43, who has jurisdiction, etc., Hwy Supt. Kuhnke said he volunteered to pay for the sign and the State would install it; box culvert bids; added post-project groom and

paint stripe to specs for 2026 armor coating; update on current grants and dollar amounts Haxby's efforts have brought into county: Bridge Match, bridges replaced with culverts, 55% match up to \$500,000, \$4 million available last year and this year, last year in Round 9 we were awarded the maximum \$500,000, this year in Round 10 we were awarded \$440,275; 2 years ago, CPF Funding grant through Congressman Smith, received \$5.4 million for milling and overlaying Christ Lutheran Road and Odell Road, will be 100% grant-funded; Senator Fischer's CDS Grant, applied and made it through appropriations but they didn't fund it that year, so the next year Sen. Fischer prioritized those that had made it through appropriations the previous year so they'd be listed first, funded at 80/20 match, to pave last 4 miles of Hickory Road and add turn lanes off of Hwy 77 and Hwy 103 with overhead nighttime lighting, \$4.733 million; \$880,000, 80/20 match for Adams Bypass, create T intersection and pave a strip that goes north on 148th Road that ties into Hwy 41; \$1.3 million for new Fire Hall in Clatonia, town of 200, hard to fund a project like that, Fire Dept. covers 90 square miles with a good portion of that being along Hwy 77, also worked with SENDD to get \$630,000 from CDBG grants; received \$4 million in ARPA funds that the county invested into a Broadband Project, along with \$9 million in outside investments, which totaled \$13 million. Tiemann had asked Haxby for a grand total which she calculated to be just over \$22 million that she has worked to get for the county. Haxby also stated that she's continuing to work on BIP and RAISE Grants also. She will be visiting all of our delegations in D.C. and will take the Thank You cards that residents signed, and tell them how much it means for our county. She added, it will also give her the chance to talk to them about the applications we will be putting in for future grants.

2026 Rock and Gravel bids were received by Rock On, Beatrice NE (hauling only); R.L. Tiemann Construction, Beatrice NE; Hard Rock Quarries, LLO, Beatrice NE; and Beatrice Sand & Gravel, Beatrice NE.

Motion by Jurgens, seconded by Lytle to approve accepting all bids and referring to Hwy Dept., directing them to start with the lowest bid contingent on product availability, and go up from there. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Lytle, seconded by Dorn to approve County Bridge Match Program Agreement BL2604, Project No. STWD-CBMP(10). Motion carried 6-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-02

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GAGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS (GAGE COUNTY) OF GAGE COUNTY, NEBRASKA:

WHEREAS, the Gage County Board of Supervisors finds that the Clatonia–DeWitt and Hickory Road Transportation and Safety Project is of significant importance to the safety, mobility, and economic vitality of Gage County; and

WHEREAS, due to the importance and scale of the project, Gage County is pursuing multiple funding opportunities for different components of the overall project, including funding through the Community Development Services (CDS) Grant, the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD), and the Bridge Investment Program (BIP); and

WHEREAS, Gage County has been awarded funding through the CDS Grant Program for the completion of the Hickory Road portion of the project; and

WHEREAS, Gage County commits to providing the required twenty percent (20%) local match for any awarded federal funding related to the Clatonia–DeWitt and Hickory Road Transportation and Safety Project; and

WHEREAS, the Gage County Board of Supervisors proposes to apply for assistance from the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program to complete the Clatonia–DeWitt and Hickory Road Transportation and Safety Project; and

WHEREAS, Gage County commits to the project's development, implementation, construction, maintenance, management, and financing; and

WHEREAS, Gage County commits contingency funds to guarantee the project's success if unforeseen challenges occur; and

WHEREAS, Gage County understands that property right-of-way may be necessary for completion of the proposed project. Gage County further understands that it may be

necessary to acquire such property by condemnation, which is defined as the legal process by which a governmental body exercises its right of eminent domain to acquire private property for public use. Condemnation includes a resolution of public need, an offer to purchase, and, if a negotiated purchase is not possible, a condemnation action; and

WHEREAS, the proposed application and potential need to use condemnation to acquire property rights-of-way were made available for public review at a properly announced meeting of the Gage County Board of Supervisors;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GAGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPVISORS OF GAGE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, that Gage County applies for assistance from the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program for the purpose of completing the Clatonia–DeWitt and Hickory Road Transportation and Safety Project.

Passed and approved this 18th day of February, 2026.

Emily M. Haxby
Vice Chairman

ATTEST:

Michelle K. Bloomquist
Deputy County Clerk

Motion by Lytle, seconded by Dorn to approve adopting Resolution #26-02 to apply for the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program for the Clatonia-DeWitt and Hickory Road Transportation and Safety Project, including commitment of required matching and contingency funds. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Lytle, seconded by Dorn to close bidding at 9:30 a.m. for 2026 County Fuel Bids. Bid specs are for 63,000 gallons of #2 Premium Diesel, and 33,000 gallons of Unleaded 87 (E10) Gasoline. Motion carried 6-0.

Bids were received from Farmer’s Cooperative, Beatrice NE, in the amounts of \$2.69 per gallon for diesel and \$2.64 per gallon of (E10) unleaded gasoline; and Sapp Bros. Petroleum, Inc. of Beatrice NE, in the amounts of \$2.558 per gallon for diesel and \$2.449 per gallon for (E10) unleaded gasoline.

Motion by Lytle, seconded by Dorn to approve accepting the low bid from Sapp Bros. Petroleum, Inc. as the low bid in the amounts of \$2.558 per gallon for diesel and \$2.449 per gallon for (E10) unleaded gasoline. Motion carried 6-0.

RESOLUTION

SIGNING OF THE PROJECT PROGRAM AGREEMENT – BL-2604

Gage County
Resolution No. 26-03

Whereas: Gage County is proposing a transportation project for which it would like to obtain County Bridge Match funds; and

Whereas: Gage County understands that it must strictly follow all State and local laws, rules, regulations, policies and guidelines applicable to the funding of the project; and

Whereas: Gage County and Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) wish to enter into a new Project Program Agreement setting out the various duties and funding responsibilities for the project.

Be It Resolved: by the Board of Supervisors of Gage County that:

Chair of the Gage County Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized to sign the attached Project Program Agreement between Gage County and the NDOT.

Gage County is committed to providing local funds for the project as required by the Project Program Agreement.

NDOT Project Number: STWD-CBMP(10)

NDOT Control Number: 00974J

NDOT Project Name: County Bridge Match Program

Adopted this 18th day of February, 2026 at Beatrice, Nebraska.

The Board of Supervisors of Gage County

/s/ Gary Lytle

/s/ Richard Clabaugh

/s/ Eddie Dorn

/s/ Emily M. Haxby

/s/ Terry Jurgens

/s/ Rex Adams

Board Member Adams moved the adoption of said resolution. Member Clabaugh seconded the motion.

Roll Call: 6 Yes 0 No 0 Abstained 1 Absent

Resolution adopted, signed and billed as adopted.

Attest:

/s/ Michelle K. Bloomquist

Signature Deputy County Clerk

Motion by Adams, seconded by Clabaugh to approve adopting Resolution #26-03 for the signing of the Project Program Agreement BL2604, Project No. STWD-CBMP(10), County Bridge Match. Motion carried 6-0.

Break at 9:39 a.m. Back in session at 9:46 a.m. with all members previously listed present.

Executive Director of Gage Development Coalition Caleb Fjone gave a presentation on the new Gage App being developed called Gage Connect. It will be accessible to the county under an admin function so we will be able to add and delete events, warnings, notices, tourism spotlights, etc. There will be a “Communities” section for towns and villages also, and an AI Assistant, Gage, can be used within the app. It is still in the development phase so will likely take Requests for Proposals for a web developer when we’re closer to launching the app.

Christian Petrick with Davis Design provided an update on a proposed jail project assessment, programming, and bond planning stages. They are creating building plan options for changes at the current site, and/or a new and different site. They are discussing the pros and cons of each option. They are estimating a cost of \$600 to \$650 per square foot for construction, and the need for 5-7 acres of land to build off-site for a 50,000 to 55,000 square foot facility. They are also considering potential project financing options. Town Hall informational meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. on March 4th and March 6th at the Beatrice High School Hevelone Center to raise public awareness, do a formal survey, and get feedback from the public. An online survey will also be created to get public feedback, and follow-up Town Hall meetings will be held leading up to the November 2026 General Election, which is the goal for having the issue on the ballot. Haxby added that the Board wants to be very clear about the importance of getting public input from the meetings and the surveys as part of this process to find out what the public thinks is appropriate and what they would like to see happen so we can work through a cost analysis of the different “build” or “no build” options. Lytle also added that the current facility is operating under a “grandfather” clause and at some point may become non-operational which would force all inmates to be sent out of county, but we would still have to have some type of short-term holding facility that we would then be forced to build for intake and processing. Petrick also pointed out the other services that the office provides such as housing the investigators, fingerprinting services, vehicle inspections, and the Sheriff Department patrol officers and staff, so the need for a facility will never go away. Haxby also added that the facilities in surrounding areas are mostly the same age as ours so they may be in this same situation soon with needing to outsource inmate housing to a different facility, so what would it look like for us to be that for other counties. These are all things that will go into creating a cost analysis.

Motion by Adams, seconded by Lytle to move into closed session at 10:31 a.m. for personnel, possible litigation and contract negotiations. Motion carried 6-0.

Jurgens and Clabaugh left meeting at 11:14 a.m.

Motion by Adams, seconded by Dorn to come out of closed session at 11:16 a.m. Motion carried 4-0.

Chairman declared Board of Supervisors meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m. until March 4, 2026.

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

/s/ Michelle K. Bloomquist
Michelle K. Bloomquist
Deputy Gage County Clerk

/s/ Emily M. Haxby
Emily M. Haxby, Vice Chairman
Gage County Board of Supervisors

I, Michelle K. Bloomquist, Deputy 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 18th day of February, 2026.

(SEAL)

/s/ Michelle K. Bloomquist
Michelle K. Bloomquist
Deputy Gage County Clerk