

THURSTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PROCEEDING
January 26, 2026

A regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Thurston County, Nebraska was held at the regular meeting place of the board room in Thurston County, Nebraska Courthouse in Pender, Nebraska on January 12th, 2026. Present were Davin French, Georgia Mayberry, Benjamin Walker Jr., James Price, Jim Mueller, Robb Roeber. Absent were Mark English. Also, present were Steven Schneider County Clerk, Emergency Manager Tom Perez, Mat Frazey Road Supervisor, Sheriff Russ Briggs, County Attorney Tammy Maul Bodlak, Sign and Weeds Superintendent Mark Heckenlaible, Matthew Smith Village of Pender, Micaela Welsh, Dispatch Supervisor Laura Novak and Zachery Randall with Pender Times. Notice of the meeting was given to all members of the Board of Supervisors and a copy of their acknowledgement of their notice and receipt of the notice on the agenda is attached hereto. The availability of the agenda was communicated in advance and in the notice to the Board of Supervisors of this meeting. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Davin French at 9:00 a.m. stated that the open meeting laws will be followed during this meeting and are posted in the back of the boardroom for anyone that would like to review them.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motioned by Mueller seconded by Roeber to approve the Board Minutes of January 12, 2026. Roll call aye: Mayberry, Mueller, Price Roeber, Walker and French. Absent: English. Motion carried.

Public Comments: Matthew Smith from the Village of Pender as owners of a gas system needs to have a meeting with the public officials once every three years. This meeting will be on February 6, 2026, at 11:00am at the Village office, to review the gas system protocols and is requesting one or two county board members to attend.

Unfinished Business: Letter to Tammy for letter of Support for the D Ave Grant

Committee Report: Mayberry attended the Northeast Health Department meeting and reported The State of Nebraska left their budgets alone. This spring they will move into their new building and will host an open house. They are also looking to install more vending style machines in the area, like the one installed in Wayne that contains items like NARCAN and testing kits for syphilis.

Motioned by Mayberry seconded by Price to approve County Attorney's Signature on Thomson Reuters Westlaw Contract. Roll call aye: Mayberry, Mueller, Price Roeber, Walker and French. Absent: English. Motion carried.

Mark Heckenlaible reported to the board with the moisture this year numbers are up. Also informed the board about how utilities companies subcontract the spraying under the powerlines and causes complaints, often misdirected to the county weed, who does not spray these areas, however, are seen spraying other areas. Price asked about the poison hemlocks and best method of getting rid of it.

Motioned by Mayberry seconded by Price to approve 2025 Noxious Weed Department Annual Report as presented by Mark Heckenlaible. Roll call aye: Mayberry, Mueller, Price Roeber, Walker and French. Absent: English. Motion carried.

Motioned by Mayberry seconded by Roeber to approve MOU with the Nebraska Department VA. Roll call aye: Mayberry, Mueller, Price Roeber, Walker and French. Absent: English. Motion carried.

9:15 Open bids to purchase one or two new Cross Dump Belly Dump Trailers. B-3 truck sale-Construction Trailer Specialist (CTS) trailer, \$50,880.00 each, delivered to Walthill; Active Trailers Sales- Renegade trailer, \$54,133.00 discount \$750.00 per trailer if 2 were purchased, delivered to Walthill; Cross Roads Trailer Sales- Construction Trailer Specialist (CTS) trailer, \$43,500 single trailer \$42,500.00 for 2 trailers delivered to Walthill. All delivery with end of March to April delivery.

Motioned by Mueller seconded by Roeber to accept the bid on the Cross Dump Belly Dump Trailers. Awarded the bid to Cross Roads Trailer Sales- Construction Trailer Specialist (CTS) trailer for the bid of \$42,500.00 for two trailers. Roll call aye: Mayberry, Mueller, Price Roeber, Walker and French. Absent: English. Motion carried.

Motioned by Price was seconded by Mayberry to write a letter of support for grant project on Highway 75 by the Omaha Tribe. French will write a letter of support and will let County Attorney look it over before French signs it. Roll call aye: Mayberry, Mueller, Price Roeber, Walker and French. Absent: English. Motion carried.

County Clerk Schneider spoke to the board about needing all supervisors to sign a document for the secretary of state for verifying signatures. Also discussed the Disclosure and Accountability forms for the state and filing deadlines for the election.

9:30 a.m. Board of Equalization motioned by Mueller seconded by Roeber. Roll call aye: Mayberry, Mueller, Price Roeber, Walker and French. Absent: English. Motion carried.

Motioned by French seconded by Price to approve Pender Care Centre District Inc, application for exemption on three vehicles. Roll call aye: Mueller, Price Roeber, Walker, French and Mayberry. Absent: English. Motion carried.

Motioned by Roeber seconded by French to approve Pender Community Hospital Healthcare Foundation application for Exemption on two vehicles. Roll call aye: Mueller, Price Roeber, Walker, French and Mayberry. Absent: English. Motion carried.

Motioned by Mueller seconded by French to approve Pender Medical Clinic application for exemption on three vehicles. Roll call aye: Mueller, Price Roeber, Walker, French and Mayberry. Absent: English. Motion carried.

Motioned by French seconded by Mueller to approve Pender Community Hospital District application for exemption on seven vehicles. Roll call aye: Mueller, Price Roeber, Walker, French and Mayberry. Absent: English. Motion carried.

Motioned by Walker seconded by Mueller to approve Atlas of Winnebago for application for exemptions on four vehicles. Roll call aye: Mueller, Price Roeber, Walker, French and Mayberry. Absent: English. Motion carried.

Motioned by Price seconded by Roeber to approve Little Priest Tribal College for application for exemption on one vehicle. Roll call aye: Mueller, Price Roeber, Walker, French and Mayberry. Absent: English. Motion carried.

Motioned by Priced seconded by Walker to approve St. Augustine Indian Mission application for exemption on ten vehicles. Roll call aye: Mueller, Price Roeber, Walker, French and Mayberry. Absent: English. Motion carried.

Motioned by Mueller seconded by Price to approve Northeast Nebraska Community Action Partnership, Inc application for exemption on 27 vehicles. Roll call aye: Mueller, Price Roeber, Walker, French and Mayberry. Absent: English. Motion carried.

Motioned by Price seconded by Mueller to approve Light of the World Gospel application for exemption on five vehicles. Roll call aye: Mueller, Price Roeber, Walker, French and Mayberry. Absent: English. Motion carried.

Motioned by French seconded by Mueller to adjourn board of Equalization at 9:36 a.m. Roll call aye: Mueller, Price Roeber, Walker, French and Mayberry. Absent: English. Motion carried.

Committees-

Finance Committee – French, English, Roeber

Building Committee- Mayberry & French

Region IV North Star- Mayberry

Reg IV Mental Health Serv- Mayberry

Area Agency on Aging- Walker

NE Neb Public Health District- Mayberry

Safety Committee- Price, Walker & English

Jail Inspection- Mueller, Price & Walker

911 Committee- Mayberry, Price & English

Loess Hills R C & D- French

County Physician-Dr Matthew Felber

Evaluation Performance- Mueller, Roeber & English

Jail Building Committee- Mueller, Roeber & Mayberry

All Hazard Mitigation- English, French, Walker & Tom

Roads Policy Committee- Price, Mueller & Roeber

Heartland Counseling Service- Mayberry & Walker

Emergency Management- Roeber, Walker & English

Handbook -Roeber & French

NE Nebraska Economic Board- French & Mueller

Grant Committee- Roeber, Mayberry & French

Tom Perez, been working on filing a 4420 and getting licenses and everything in place for the rest of the year. Last week, being a short week, worked with some of the issues at the law enforcement center to be discussed later in the meeting.

Mat Frazey reported doing some blading, weather permitting. However, they are not hauling any gravel on the roads as they are cut off on stockpiling for right now. Working on trees, brush and items around the shops. Mayberry received a complaint about condition of a road where work was done in the right of way and communicate the 33 feet road right of way from the center of the road. Mayberry and Mat were going to go, measure and speak with the landowner.

A report was presented by Micaela Welsh and Sheriff Briggs, prepared by Atlas Technical Consultants, LLC., regarding mold at the Law Enforcement Center, West and South side of building, conference room, and all the offices. There is mold down by the baseboard on that rubberized trim that goes across there. On January 15, Russ had Atlas Technical Consultants LLC come in to conduct air testing and do a report on the mold in offices and in jail. All the reports came back high. Atlas came back out on site to test inside the jail area; Russ is not concerned about the jail. It is completely different in there, little mold on the concrete, there is no carpet or sheetrock in those areas. The receiving door has water coming in there and needs to be remedy. Concrete work and elevate the drain to prevent the water coming in that door as it is creating little mold in that area. Atlas came back on January 23rd and did advise the entire admin to evacuate the offices. Dispatch relocated back to the courthouse on Friday. Micaela, Julie and Jacob relocated their offices back to the jail area.

Dixon County has been instrumental in helping with 911 calls and would like to thank them for their help. Work continues to get radios systems working correctly.

There has been contact with the architect. Last year Ben, Rob and Micaela met with the architect and did a thorough walk around the building. The architect has been in the loop of everything going on. He was going to send people back out and never did.

The mold needs to be cleaned up and not going to do any good if we don't get it figured out. By the end of the week, to get an estimate from Serve Pro and Atlas.

They started pulling up carpet, cracks in the floor concrete. Moisture could be coming up through the cracks. Anywhere there is a window on the west side of the building, you see the mold. When it rains, the water goes the wall. The windows will need to be fixed.

Once the air testing results are back from the jail, there will be a plan that will be drawn up, and an estimate on everything. Should know more about it later this week. We also got a plan for putting that garage epoxy down in that back receiving area, after dirt work and little concrete work gets completed.

County Board Members are going to look at the office area after the meeting.

Tom Perez will investigate getting key fobs for the front door since there is more people that are coming in and out of the courthouse.

Informal bids to equip the new Law Enforcement Tahoe. All three bids that came back was for lights, sirens and installation of everything for the Tahoe. Groves Emergency bid is \$13,407.18; Karl Emergency vehicles is \$27,142.35; Jones equipment out of Omaha never sent in a bid.

Motioned by Mayberry seconded by Mueller to approve the bid from Groves Emergency bid of \$13,407.18. Not to exceed that amount, hopefully we can do it for less after we salvage some items from the truck. Roll call aye: Mueller, Price Roeber, Walker, French and Mayberry. Absent: English. Motion carried.

Correspondence: Commission of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, it's just a compliance. It talked about how the governor is trying to move property taxes from 75% cap to a 50% limit. This will have a big effect that will affect property taxes a lot.

Motioned by Mayberry seconded by Mueller to approve the claims. Roll call aye: Mueller, Price Roeber, Walker, French and Mayberry. Absent: English. Motion carried.

Motioned by Mayberry seconded by Mueller to adjourn at 10:02a.m. Roll call aye: Mueller, Price Roeber, Walker, French and Mayberry. Absent: English. Motion carried.

Steven Schneider- County Clerk

Davin French- Chairman