

THURSTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PROCEEDING
February 23, 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 February 23rd, 2026. Present were Davin French, Benjamin Walker Jr., James Price, Jim Mueller, Robb Roeber and Mark English. Georgia Mayberry joined the meeting at 9:02 am. Also, present were Steven Schneider County Clerk, Emergency Manager Tom Perez, Sheriff Russ Briggs, Deputy Sheriff Derek Herron, Laura Novak with Dispatch, County Attorney Tammy Maul Bodlak, County Treasurer Robin Christiansen, Paul Randall, Leonard Peters, Penny Bruns, Mark Lorensen, Brian Kent, Laura Gamble, Glen Gralheer and Zachery Randall with Pender Times. Leonard Peters attended the meeting at 9:30 am. 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 Walker seconded by Mueller to approve the Board Minutes of February 9, 2026. Roll call aye: Mayberry, Mueller, Price, Roeber, Walker and French. Abstained English Motion carried.

Public Comments: None

Unfinished Business:

Committee Report: Roads committee report was tabled until next meeting, the site has been surveyed.

Jail Committee was included in later action item.

Paul Randall spoke to the board about the flooring in the bathrooms at the Welfare Building needing to be replaced and presented 3 informal bids to complete this work. The three bids were Creative Carpets at \$870.41, Jason Sears Flooring at \$1,256.30, and Mozak's Furniture and Flooring at \$1,239.05. Paul recommended the bid from Creative Carpets. Project hopefully to be completed in one week from acceptance of Bid.

Motioned by Price seconded by Walker to accept the bid from Creative Carpet in the amount of \$870.41. Roll call: Mayberry, English, Mueller, Price, Roeber, Walker French. Motioned carried.

County Clerk Steven Schneider spoke to the board about the new MIPS program and conversion of the old system. The training on the program went well. The Claims sheets do look a little different, however the information is the same. Instead of having two checks for reimbursement and cash in lieu of, only one check, reducing printing cost. Some other reports do look different. During this transition and due to changes from Frontier Bank to Equity Bank, we are asking everyone to complete new banking information sheets to ensure we have correct information. The County is looking to save some cost in future due to not needing the state system and less printing that we can now do in house.

Motioned by Mueller seconded by Price for Chairmans signature on a Letter of Support for D Ave Grant Application pending County Attorney approval. Roll call aye: Mayberry, English, Mueller, Price, Roeber, Walker and French. Motion carried.

Motioned by Price seconded by Roeber for Chairmans signature on a Letter of Support for Omaha Tribe round about Grant Application, pending County Attorney approval. Roll call aye: Mayberry, English, Mueller, Price, Roeber, Walker and French. Motion carried.

Motioned by English seconded by Mueller for Chairmans signature on a Letter of Support for I-HUB Grant Application that Howard County is lead county for some bridge replacements, pending County Attorney approval. Roll call aye: Mayberry, English, Mueller, Price, Roeber, Walker and French. Motion carried.

Mat Frazey roads report: Mat was absent

Tom Perez emergency manager report: There were two classes on the new LEOP format and new expectations from the state regarding integration locally and regionally. He also worked with dispatch, getting things moved around. He also worked on some tower locations regarding 911. Also was keeping people informed on the winter weather. English thanked Tom for getting new ID cards for the fire departments. English asked about the ID cards for the Board, Tom stated that once he gets some more room to print stuff out, he will get it taken care of.

Heidi Borg with Congressman Adrian Smith's office spoke to the board regarding the work they have been doing. Also was going to be conducting a mobile office for an hour in the lobby of the Courthouse. The Third Congressional district covers 80 of Nebraska's 93 counties with offices in Grand Island, Scottsbluff and a recently opened one in Nebraska City. Congressman Smith continues to serve on the Ways and Means Committee as a senior member and is the Chairman of the Trade Subcommittee. His office can help with federal agencies. Constituents visiting DC can request tours and tickets based on a first come first served basis. Internships in the district and in DC are available. They also asked if any events going on in the community to please let them know. Update from legislative team, E15 legislation continued progress he was pleased with, he continues to work with refiners, AG producers, oil producers, retailers and supports a policy which brings certainty to the fuel supply chain and greater choice to customers. The Safeguard American voter eligibility Act (Safe Act) passed the house two weeks ago and with Congressman Smith's support. This passage marks an important first step towards strengthening safeguards, improving accountability and reinforcing public trust in our democratic process.

English Thanked Heidi for assisting in reimbursements from the BIA for fires. Adrian's office was very supportive in helping get this funding.

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

Motioned by French seconded by Price to approve Application for Exemption- Little Priest Tribal Collage, Ford F-150, H & H Trailer Roll call aye: English, Mueller, Price, Roeber, Walker, French and Mayberry. Motion carried.

Motioned by French seconded by Roeber to adjourn board of Equalization at 9:35 a.m. Roll call aye: English, Mueller, Price, Roeber, Walker, French and Mayberry. Absent: English. Motion carried.

Leonard Peter regarding a formal letter supporting construction of the north bridge and bypass route and express willingness to assume ownership of the current east-side Pender Bridge to prevent its unnecessary demolition. He stated that reason the bridge is being replaced is that it does not meet specifications anymore, it currently has a 60,000# capacity (30 ton) and is in good shape, and 2 million dollars were just spent on it. The cost of taking ownership of the bridge in the original agreement was going to be none. With it taking probably 2 years to replace the current bridge the effects on county roads and other effects from replacing the current bridge. Also, business and living easier. The county would also need to take ownership of the half mile or mile of black top road to the current bridge. He also said that if he was still on the board, he would return it to a gravel road to reduce maintenance cost and reduce traffic crossing the old bridge.

Brian Kent Spoke to the board about the truck traffic on main street is a problem on a daily basis especially at the corner turning on main street. He has had his vehicle hit twice by Trucks and witnessed one get hit a week or two ago. With people parking on the corner, trucks are not being able to turn the corner. Mr. Peters added a safety concern about Main Street that getting the truck traffic off Main Street would be much safer.

Laura Gamble, Pender Hospital CEO spoke of the concern of a viable way to get people to the hospital in a quick manner. Otherwise, it would add time and could create a crisis for patients in this area.

Mark Lorensen with Lorensen Lumber, spoke about safety. They drive forklifts back and forth across the road with an older work force. The danger from the speed and volume of traffic.

Mr. Kent spoke that last summer he had someone counting Semi Truck traffic on main street and peak in summer at 230 trucks between 9 am & 5 pm.

A discussion lead by English was held concerning the reduction of customer traffic on Main street and how it may affect business. Mr. Peters did not think rerouting truck traffic would be affecting these concerns.

English also discussed a prior meeting with the Nebraska Department of Roads two years ago, that there was some concerns about funding and they were not interested in keeping the old bridge.

Motioned by English seconded by Mueller for Chairmans signature on a formal letter supporting construction of the north bridge, bypass route and express willingness to assume ownership of the

current east-side Pender Bridge, pending County Attorney approval. Roll call aye: Mayberry, English, Mueller, Price, Roeber, Walker and French. Motion carried.

Motioned by Roeber seconded by English to appoint the Treasurer's Office to complete and submit the Opioid Report and report back to the board. Roll call aye: Mayberry, English, Mueller, Price, Roeber, Walker and French. Motion carried.

Sheriff Russ Briggs spoke to the board about the mold issue at the LEC. He has been having conversations back and forth with the architect regarding the issue. Russ feels he needs the committee to be responding with architect, not just him, and would like some help with this project. Russ would like a sit-down meeting to help with a response back to this architect. Also, a discussion about windows and the HVAC system. French requested if the Architect could be available for a meeting to answer some of the question.

Correspondence: A Letter from Bernard Drake, No action taken. It is unclear what the meaning of the letter was or if it was even addressed to the proper county or persons.

Motioned by English seconded by Mueller to approve Resolution #26-07 to transfer \$5,000.00 from County General Fund to County Building Fund. Roll call aye: Mayberry, English, Mueller, Price, Roeber, Walker and French. Motion carried.

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

Motioned by Mayberry seconded by Roeber to adjourn at 9:58 a.m. Roll call aye: Mayberry, English, Mueller, Price, Roeber, Walker, French. Motion carried.

Steven Schneider- County Clerk

Davin French- Chairman