

THURSTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PROCEEDING
September 3th, 2026

A special 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 September 3rd, 2026. Present were Davin French, Mark English, James Price, Robb Roeber and Benjamin Walker Jr. Jim Mueller arrived at 2:13 pm. Absent was Georgia Mayberry. Also, present was Steven Schneider County Clerk. 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 2:00 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.

Public Comments: none

Review and approve 2026-2027 allowable growth percentage computation form.

French spoke to the board. First, they have been working with Caleb Johnson, who helped prepare this. He gave some recommendations as far as the budget. French spoke about how insurance has gone up 47.7%, and elected official wages will increase 6.5% making it virtually impossible to meet our budget without having to raise the levy.

English then spoke on this topic to the board. He explained that last year the county requested \$4,814,394.38, This year the request is 5,283,039.17. They are requesting more money than last year but have a higher valuation. The way the valuation works is you allowed 2% base limitation percent increase. Due to real growth percentage increase, the maximum percentage increase is 2.34%. This means that the county budget can only increase 2.34% this year without having to conduct joint public hearings and send the pink post cards. Some of the schools have done the joint public hearings and the pink postcards for several years as they have to do their max levy to receive federal funding. This will be the first time the county will need to do it. Reviewing the budget information provided there was not a department that did not raise their budget by less than 2.34%. He then spoke about how the insurance alone went up by nearly \$200,000. English spoke how the cost of everything is increasing. English encouraged other board members to explain to their constituents how the cost of operations of the county has increased. A lot of things were cut from the budget, and they spent a lot of time on figuring out what they could cut. With the budget we will not be buying equipment outright. Most likely looking to do payments on new purchases.

English said that speaking to Calab that the county will probably have to do the pink cards for many more years. If the money is not requested this year, and you need to do it next year, you cannot request it. It is held against you if you did not request it in prior years. It is better to request it, and even if it not spent, it will rolls over, so we could start next year with a little extra money. Each year we are getting behind, two years ago, we started the budget year with around \$1,000,000 in the general account. Last year we started with around \$486,000, this year we started with around \$350,000 in the general account. French spoke how the county has never had to do this before, but most county around, even with a higher tax base, still do the pink postcard and joint public meetings. English then spoke about how last years levy was .339, this next years levy is .337 and that the levy actually decreased. The reason the levy did not go up is because the valuation went up. So taxes will increase.

Motioned by Roeber seconded by Walker to approve 2026-2027 Allowable Growth Percentage Computation Form. Roll call aye: English, Price, Mueller, Roeber, Walker and French. Absent: Mayberry. Motion carried.

Motioned by Mueller seconded by Price to authorize LB 644 Hearing to exceed Allowable Growth Percentage on September 22nd, 2026, at 7:05 PM. Roll call aye: English, Price, Mueller, Roeber, Walker and French. Absent: Mayberry. Motion carried.

Motioned by English seconded by Roeber to adjourn at 2:21 am. Roll call aye: English, Price, Mueller, Roeber, Walker and French. Absent: Mayberry. Motion carried.

Steven Schneider- County Clerk

Davin French- Chairman