

REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
KEARNEY COUNTY, NEBRASKA
January 8, 2026 – 9:30 A.M.

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Kearney County, NE was held January 8, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. in the Board Room of the Courthouse in Minden, NE. Present were Chairman Brent Stewart and Board Members Heath Hofstetter, James Miller, Robert Swanson, Jason Sinsel, Jeff England and Nathan Avery. Also present were County Clerk Jenni Lupkes, Melodie Bellamy Co. Atty., Scott White Co. Sheriff, Joe Anderson Hwy Supt. and Cindy Ramsey of the Minden Courier.

Detailed Minutes from the Board of Commissioners Meeting are available for inspection at the County Clerk's Office.

The Board of Commissioners took the following action:

- Approved minutes of the Board of Commissioners meeting on December 16, 2025.
- Approved Bills and Claims, December payroll and Hospital Taxes. (See below)
- Held a Public comment from 9:30 to 9:35 a.m.
- Approved the County Clerk and Clerk of the District Court Fee Reports for December 2025.
- Approved the Co. Sheriffs quarterly report ending 12-31-2025.
- Reviewed correspondence, invitation to participate from NDOT
- Approved Joe Anderson, Hwy Supt. to sign Agreement between Kearney Co and Oak Creek Engineering for Bridge Inspections.
- Reviewed correspondence from Minden Rotary
- Met with Joe Anderson, Hwy Supt to discuss Road Dept. purchasing a shipping container.
- Met with Dave Arnold from Royal Engineered Composites to discuss possible Do Not Build Easement, agreed to view a drafted Easement presented by Royal Engineered Composites at a future meeting.
- Opened bids for the 40 Rd Overlay Project with 2 bids being submitted. Bids listed below:
Werner Construction, Inc., -Hastings, NE –\$722,505.09; Vontz Paving - Hastings, NE - \$729,601.20
Oak Creek Engineering will review the bids and make a recommendation at the next meeting.
- Held a Closed Session from 10:55 a.m. to 11:43 a.m. to discuss possible litigation.

Board moved directly into Reorganizational Meeting

A Reorganizational Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Kearney County, NE was held January 8, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Room of the Courthouse in Minden, NE. Present were Chairman Brent Stewart and Board Members Jason Sinsel, Heath Hofstetter, James Miller, Robert Swanson, Nathan Avery and Jeff England. Also present were County Clerk Jenni Lupkes, Jody Payne County Treasurer, Melodie Bellamy Co. Attorney and Cindy Ramsey from the Minden Courier.

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The Board of Commissioners took the following action for the reorganizational meeting:

- Elected Brent Stewart, Chairman and James Miller as Vice Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for 2026.
- Adopted a resolution to authorize the Kearney Co Treasurer to invest surplus funds.
- Approved the applications of Minden Exchange Bank & Trust Co. of Minden NE, First Bank & Trust Co. of Minden, NE, First State Bank of Axtell, NE, Cornerstone Bank of Wilcox, NE to serve as depositories for Kearney County funds for 2026.
- Approved the Regular Meeting days of the Kearney County Board of Commissioners to be as follows: the first Tuesday after the first Monday, and the third Tuesday of each month (Except, Nov. 5th will be the first meeting in November as Nov. 3rd is election day) at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Kearney County Courthouse, Minden, NE in 2026.
- Approved the following holidays for 2026 that the Kearney County Courthouse will be closed. Martin Luther King Jr. Day - January 19, President's Day - February 16, Arbor Day - April 24, Memorial Day - May 25,

Juneteenth National Independence Day-June 19, Independence Day - July 3, Labor Day – September 7, Columbus Day - October 12, Veteran’s Day -November 11, Thanksgiving - November 26 & 27, Christmas – December 24 & 25, ½ day December 31, New Year’s – January 1. And any other Federal/State declared day of observance.

-The following appointments were made by the Board of Commissioners for 2026.

-KEARNEY COUNTY DOCTOR – Dr. Andy Craig

-KEARNEY COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES BOARD OF TRUSTEES – RE: Section 23-3502, R.R.S., Nebraska, 1943 **(6 Year Terms)**: Trustees and expiration of terms are as follows: Steve Olson (January – 2032); A.J. Dahlgren (January – 2028); Sam Stadler (January – 2030); Jeffrey Hanson (January – 2030); and Andy Grollmes (January – 2032).

-KEARNEY COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – Craig Lupkes, County Emergency Management Director; Amy Hickenbottom, County Emergency Management Deputy Director; Vacant, Duty Officer; Melodie Bellamy, County Attorney; Jenni Lupkes, County Clerk; and the entire Board of Commissioners.

-FORT KEARNY PRESERVATION, RESTORATION AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD (3 Year Terms) – Members and expiration of terms are as follows: Michael D. Hauff (January – 2028); Jane Kuehn (January – 2029) and Grant Newbold (January – 2027). Supervisor Nathan Avery serves as the County Board Liaison to the Fort Kearny Preservation, Restoration and Development Board.

-KEARNEY COUNTY VISITORS PROMOTION COMMITTEE (4 Year Terms) – Marcy Brandt, Minden, Nebraska (January – 2027); Eugene Hunt, Kearney, Nebraska (January – 2027); Linda Ard, Minden, Nebraska (January – 2027); Holly England, Axtell, Nebraska (January 2029); and Jennifer Kinerk, Wilcox, Nebraska (January – 2029).

-KEARNEY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION (3 Year Terms) – Members to the Kearney County Planning Commission and expiration of terms are as follows: Terry Buettner – January 2027; Jody Casper – January 2027; Patty Lundeen – January 2027; Kevin Raun – January 2028; Tom Anderson – January 2028; Bennett Peterson – January 2029; and Malcom Dornhoff – January 2029.

-KEARNEY COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT (3 Year Terms) – Members are as follows:
Regular Members – David McCroden-January 2028, Mike Miller-January 2028,
Paul Steen-January 2029 and Dale Blum-January 2029.

Alternate – David Raffety; Representative from the Planning Commission – Patty Lundeen

-APPOINTED OFFICIALS (calendar year 2026) – Joe Anderson/Hwy. Supt., Joe Anderson/Weed Supt., Planning Zoning Floodplain Administrator/ Carrie Favinger, Veteran Service Officer/Phil Heun, Emergency Manager/Craig Lupkes, Rebecca Miller/Child Support Attorney.

-COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS BY CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ROAD AND BRIDGE COMM.-Chairman, James Miller, Robert M. Swanson; Nathan Avery, Joe Anderson Highway Supt.

BOARD OF EQUAL.- Robert Swanson, Chm; Nathan Avery, Vice Chm. & entire Board of Commissioners

BILLS AND CLAIMS COMM.- James W. Miller, Chairman; Jason Sinsel, Nathan Avery

BONDS AND INSURANCE COMM.- James Miller, Chairman; Robert M. Swanson, Nathan Avery

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE –James Miller Chm., Jeff England, Heath Hofstetter

SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE - - Brent Stewart, Chairman; the entire Board of Commissioners

PAYROLL COMMITTEE – Heath Hofstetter, Chairman, Brent Stewart, Jeff England

APPOINTED OFFICIALS COMMITTEE – Brent Stewart Chairman, Nathan Avery, Robert Swanson

SPECIAL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS FOR 2026

REGION III GOVERNING BOARD - - Jeff England

MID-NEBRASKA INDIVIDUAL SERVICES, INC. (Local & Regional) – Heath Hofstetter

COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP OF MID-NEBRASKA - Nathan Avery

TWO RIVERS HEALTH DEPARTMENT - Heath Hofstetter

BUDGETS, VALUATIONS AND LEVIES - Jeff England, Chm. and entire Board of Commissioners

BLOCK GRANTS - Entire Board of Commissioners

SOUTH CENTRAL NEBRASKA AREA AGENCY ON AGING – Robert M. Swanson

CENTRAL COMM. COLLEGE ADVISORY COUNCIL - Robert M. Swanson

TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT LIAISON MEMBER -Jason Sinsel

EXTENSION BOARD LIAISON – Jason Sinsel

SOUTH CENTRAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Robert Swanson, Repr. Heath Hofstetter, Alt.

KEARNEY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Jeff England, Repr, Heath Hofstetter, Alt

KEARNEY CO. PERSONNEL AND HANDBOOK COMM.- Brent Stewart, Chm., Jenni Lupkes, Jody Payne, Scott K. White, Hwy. Supt., Melodie Bellamy, Jennifer Pittner, Angela Follmer

KEARNEY CO. HEALTH SERVICES LIAISON MEMBER - Brent Stewart

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT REPRESENTATIVES - Brent Stewart, Chairman; Hwy Supt., Scott K. White

MINDEN JOINT AIRPORT ZONING BOARD - vacant

KEARNEY CO. SAFETY COMM.- Tiffany Holsten Chairman; Craig Lupkes, Doug Kring, Cody Struss, James W. Miller, Joe Anderson, Darin Haight

VETERANS' SERVICE COMM.(Effective Dates to June 30) – Members and expiration of terms are as follows: Gary Smidt – June 30, 2030; Robert Thompson – June 30, 2029; James M. Kuehn – June 30, 2027; Matt Cavanaugh– June 30, 2026; and Ron Knaus – June 30, 2028. Board Liaison is Nathan Avery. Phil Heun serves as the Veterans' Service Officer for Kearney County, Nebraska.

TECHNOLOGY COMM.- Joe Anderson (Hwy Supt), Carrie Favinger (Planning & Zoning) Markus Ramsey (Clerk's Office), Entire Board (Commissioner), Laura Tobiassen (Clerk Magistrate's Office), Angela Follmer (Clerk of the District Court Office), Jennifer Miller (Sheriff's Office), Shelly Gibbins (UNL Extension Office), Jody Payne, (Treasurer's Office), Jennifer Pittner (Assessor's Office), (Road Department), Melodie Bellamy (Co. Attorney)

AUDIT COMMITTEE – Jason Sinsel, Jeff England, Jenni Lupkes, Brent Stewart

CENTRAL NEBRASKA DRUG COURT – Nathan Avery

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS COMMITTEE – Heath Hofstetter, Melodie Bellamy, Jeff England, Joe Anderson.

-Approved Fee Schedules -

-County Sheriff Fee Schedule

Finger Print: \$5.00

Photocopies: \$2.50

Pictures (disc): \$10.00

Work Release: \$10.00 per day

Additional: \$6.95 for ankle monitor

Accident Reports: \$5.00

County Clerk Fee Schedule

Copies: \$.25

Copies Faxed: \$1.25

Copies Mailed: \$1.00 first page
: \$.25 each additional page

-Approved Roberts Rules of Order as the rules by which the meetings of the Kearney Co. Board of Commissioners shall be governed.

-Approved the mileage rate of \$.725 per mile set by the IRS and the Department of Administrative Services effective January, 1, 2026. The Sheriff is entitled to charge an additional \$0.03 per mile for serving papers and orders.

- The Minden Courier is designated as the official Kearney County Newspaper for 2026 and to post the Board Meeting dates on the Kearney County website calendar.

-Set the hours for the County offices in the Courthouse M-F 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

-Adjourned the Board of Commissioners meeting at 10:55 a.m.

/s/ Brent Stewart, Chairman
Kearney County
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

/s/ Jenni Lupkes

Kearney County Clerk
(SEAL)

GENERAL FUND

Payroll, Dec 2025

Sv

\$256,254.62

394.16

Kearney Co Payroll
AT & T

Melodie Bellamy, Co Attny	Phone	30.00
Black Hills	Ut	2,154.85
Business World	Su	258.63
City of Minden	Ut	1,051.89
Clerk District Court- Kearney Co	Sv	219.00
Care Assist	Sv	165.00
Eakes	Su	372.16
Carrie Favinger, P&Z Admin	NACO Reg	175.00
Fifth Street Print	Su	1,583.44
First Concord Ben Grp	Self-Fund Ded/Fees	382.27
First Concord Ben Grp	Caf Plan	120.00
Great Plains Comm	Sv	647.64
Kelly Hartman, Bailiff	Mile	243.60
Rhonda Herrick, Exten Ed	Mile	234.01
Hometown Leasing	Sv	344.89
Kearney Co Court	Fees	357.87
Kearney Co Road and Bridge Fund	Cash Transfer	64,000.00
Kearney Co Sheriff's Fund	Sv	196.57
Kearney C Treasurer	Title	15.00
Courtney Larson, Sheriff Deputy	Fuel	48.50
Craig Lupkes, B&G Super	Su	236.39
Jenni Lupkes, Kearney Co Clerk	Mile	82.74
Madison Natl Life	Ins	970.86
Mason's Sprmrkt	Su	93.06
Minden Exchange	Sv	20.80
Minden Hrdwr	Su	44.95
Minden Lawn	Sv	1,496.00
MIPS	Sv	3,424.44
Ne Clerks of District Court Assn	Dues	50.00
Ne Assoc of Co Off	NACO Reg	175.00
Phelps Co Sheriff's Ofc	Sv	35.98
Planet Tech	Sv	5,351.64
Presto-X	Sv	95.50
Quadient Leasing	Lease	894.96
Quill Corp	Su	25.98
Region 3	3 rd Quarter Co Match	4,421.03
Soarin Group	Sv	1,276.00
State of Ne Dept of Correctl Sv	Sv	2,730.73
Thomas Stewart, Attorney at Law	Sv	198.03
Sulu Counseling	Witness Fees	782.20
Syndicate Publish	Sv	309.69
Verizon	Sv	102.02
Woodward's Disposal	Sv	51.29
TOTAL		\$352,118.39

ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND

Kearney Co Payroll	Payroll, Dec 2025	\$101,986.83
Dennis Albers	Prior Sv	132.00
Joe Anderson, Hwy Supr	Phone	106.00
Black Hills	Sv	748.16
Katherine Campbell	Prior Sv	96.00
Dennis Carlson	Prior Sv	48.00

Carquest/Landmark	Su	971.58
Central Ne Equip	Su	6,614.37
City of Minden	Su	234.86
Coop Producers	Fuel	19,726.33
Eakes	Su	81.93
Figgins Construct	Sv	42,371.00
First Concord Ben Grp	Self Fund Ded	1,512.52
Great Plains Comm	Sv	136.58
Larry Harsin	Prior Sv	84.00
Jim's OK Tire Store	Su	7,908.92
Kimball Midwest	Su	170.16
Jason Kuehn, Equip Optr	Sv	150.00
Menards	Su	112.95
Minden Hrdwr	Su	158.88
MIPS	Sv	124.16
NAPA	Su	9.76
Ne Assoc of Co Off	NACO Reg	160.00
Ne Weed Control Assoc	Reg	150.00
Randy Pracht, Road Mechanic	Phone	30.00
Presto-X	Sv	77.62
Quality Sound and Comm	Rental	79.00
Southern Public Power District	Sv	741.79
State of Ne Dept of Rev	Fuel	1,312.00
Syndicate Publish	Sv	7.77
Douglas Wilbeck	Prior Sv	60.00
Wilcox Ut Dept	Sv	34.16
TOTAL		\$186,137.33

911 WIRELESS SERVICE FUND

CenturyLink	Sv	\$597.85
TOTAL		\$597.85

JUVENILE SERVICES AID FUND

Kearney Co Payroll	Payroll, Dec 2025	\$5,502.76
F Johnson Building	Office Rent	1,005.00
Verizon	Sv	39.94
Morgan Wicht, JV Aid	Mile	190.08
TOTAL		\$6,737.78

COMMUNICATIONS FUND

Kearney Co Payroll	Payroll, Dec 2025	\$26,270.31
Carquest/ Landmark	Sv	97.27
City of Minden	Sv	64.09
Eakes	Su	111.49
First Concord Ben Grp	Self-Fund Ded	508.00
Great Plains Comm	Sv	73.92
State of Ne DAS	Sv	537.60
Scott K. White, Co Sheriff	Su	57.99
TOTAL		\$27,720.67