

The regular meeting of the Dundy County Commissioners was held on May 18, 2026, in the Commissioner Room. The notice of this meeting was published on May 14, 2026, in the issue of the Scoop Media News.

Present: Chairman Sye Tecker, Commissioner Tom Richard, Deputy Clerk – Christina Collier, Assessor-Tish Burrell, Treasurer-Penny Denny, Sheriff Bang, County Attorney-Arlan Wine, Karen Baker, Deputy Lucci, Steve Melnick (Colonial Life), Joann Decker, Bob Willis, Russell Stamm, Wendi Vanderford, and Brian Hill (Lake Mac Assessments).

Chairman Sye Tecker called the meeting to order at 8:32 AM and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act on the board on the south wall.

Motion was made by Commissioner Richard to approve the agenda, seconded by Chairman Tecker. Ayes: Richard, Tecker. Absent – Keiser.

Commissioner Richard moved to approve the minutes of May 4, 2026, seconded by Chairman Tecker. Ayes: Richard, Tecker. Absent – Keiser.

Public Comment: Steve Melnick addressed the commissioners to share there are no changes with the Colonial Life premium fees and thanked the county for their business.

Brian Hill with Lake Mac Assessments addressed the commissioners to share findings for the previous year's property assessments. Approximately 700, rural properties were evaluated with no major changes due to assessment tables being similar to previous years. There was approximately \$25 million in new construction, primarily from Blackshirt Feeders. Notices of Valuation Changes will be mailed by June 2, 2026, with Lake Mac Assessments to be here to assist with any valuation protests. The coming year's assessments will be for commercial properties.

The Benkelman Cemetery Board spoke with the commissioners about their concerns for the future of the cemetery. The most important concern is the upkeep of the cemetery grounds. Currently, there is no cemetery sexton to take over when Bob Willis ceases his maintenance duties at the end of May (totaling 32 years). The tax income for the cemetery each year is approximately \$14,000 with insurance costs last year of \$4,104.44. This does not leave enough funds to properly pay sextons even though they recently raised the rate for plot purchases. The cemetery board asked if the county would be willing to take on the grounds keeping as they may have an easier time hiring a sexton. Chairman Tecker would like to be able to look over budgeting information and revisit at the next meeting.

Commissioners reviewed claims for the pay period of April 26 – May 9, 2026. Questions and/or comments were addressed and discussed as presented. Motion made by Commissioner Richard to approve claims as presented, seconded by Chairman Tecker. Ayes: Richard, Tecker. Absent – Keiser.

General Fund		Amount
Aflac	Employee Benefits	692.25
Ambrosek, Yolanda	Poll Worker	217.5
Ameritas	Employee Retirement	6700.23
Applied Connective Technologies	IT Support Agreement	3160.27
AT&T	Sheriff Cell Phones	567.63
Baker, Karen	Reimbursement/Mileage	762.15
Baney, Lora	Poll Worker	240
Beall, Tina	Poll Worker	202.5
Black Hills Energy	Utilities	448.85
Blair, Joyce	Poll Worker	202.5
Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska	Employee Health Insurance	8948.34
Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska	Employee Dental Insurance	385.69
BW Telcom	Phone Services	258.57
City of Benkelman	Utilities	2001.6
Collier, Christina	Mileage	94.8
Colonial Life	Employee Benefits	569.17
Cook, Kimberly	Communications/Mileage	178.95
Credit Management Services	Garnishment	268.24
DAS State Acct - Central Finance	Program Support	623.15
DataShield Corporation	Document Shredding	48
Discover Bank	Garnishment	504.26
Dundy County Court	Court Fees	67
Dundy County District Court	Court Fees	39
Eakes Office Supplies	Office Supplies	41.46
EFTPS	Payroll Taxes	14894.33
Election Systems & Software, LLC	Election Supplies	813.56
First Concord "HRA" County	Employee Benefits	1347.2
First Concord "HSA"	Employee Benefits	1174.93
Frenchman Valley COOP	Sheriff Fuel	2918.33
GWorks	Annual Maintenance	7277
Harford, Karen	Poll Worker	284.13
Hilton Omaha	Conference Lodging	350
Hometown Leasing	Copier Lease	241.01
Ideal Linen Supply	Janitorial Agreement	74.66
La Quinta Inns & Suites Kearney	Conference Lodging	624.75
Lashley, Baleigh	Communications/Mileage	27.03
Law Office of Ashley K Spahn	Court Appointment	1900
Liberty National Life Insurance Co	Employee Benefits	31.33
Madison National Life Ins Co, Inc	Employee Benefits	116.28
Medical Air Services Association	Employee Benefits	131.82
MIPS Inc.	Program Support	2554.83
Morris, Rick	Poll Worker	251.58

Mousel, Brooks, Schneider, Mustion	Court Appointment	1140.8
Nebraska Department of Revenue	Payroll Taxes	2439.43
Nebraska Juvenile Justice Assoc.	Conference Fees	185
Nelms, Sue	Poll Worker	217.5
North America Benefits Co	Employee Benefits	221.68
Parker, Mary	Poll Worker	240
Parman, Wanda	Poll Worker	217.5
Peterson, Carol	Poll Worker	304.5
Pinnacle Bank	Office Supplies	84.36
Prairie States Communication Serv.	Equipment Repair	1459.96
Quill Corporation	Office Supplies	660.94
Raile, Loretta	Poll Worker	240
Red Willow County Sheriff	Inmate Lodging	1950
Region 51 Emergency Management	Quarterly Payment	8511.25
Reichert, Pam	Phone/Internet Use	50
Reinick, Nina	Poll Worker	261
Rettele, Lori	Poll Worker	217.5
Scoop Media LLC	Partial May Publishing	2532.27
Seabolt, Linda	Poll Worker	225
Stamm, Deborah	Poll Worker	217.5
US Postal Service (District Court)	Postage	234
US Postal Service (County Court)	Postage	390
Vision Service Plan	Employee Vision Insurance	142.17
Warne Chemical & Equipment Co.	Sprayer Parts	387.57
Warning, Rita	Poll Worker	240
Westfield Pharmacy	Inmate Medical	1.89
Wine, Arlan	Reimbursement/Mileage	503.82
Salaries		36193.78
Road Fund		
Ameritas	Employee Retirement	1690.63
Black Hills Energy	Utilities	180.14
Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska	Employee Health Insurance	5431.5
Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska	Employee Dental Insurance	121.52
Bush Tire & Service	Tire Parts	46.51
Colonial Life	Employee Benefits	12.91
Dickinson Land Surveyors, Inc.	Section Corners/Project	1800
EFTPS	Payroll Taxes	1852.15
First Concord "HSA"	Employee Benefits	378.03
Floyd's Truck Center	Parts	469.55
Frenchman Valley COOP	Tire Repair/Fuel	12253.15
Imperial NAPA	Parts/Tools	747.71
John Deere Financial	Parts	50.69
Madison National Life Ins Co, Inc	Employee Benefits	5.68

Medical Air Services Association	Employee Benefits	68.18
Medical Enterprises, Inc.	Drug Testing	41
Nichols, Justin	Parts	90.9
Powerplan	Parts/Repairs	3660.21
Sapp Bros., Inc.	Fuel	24080
Slick Spot Farm Truck & Auto	Parts/Repairs	4443.58
Southwest Public Power District	Utilities	119.36
St. Francis Equity	Fuel	13587.42
Tremain, Kurt	CDL Exam	700
Waste Connections, Inc.	Waste Disposal	90
Salaries		17356.23
Ambulance Fund		
Bolio, Roger	EMT Labor	60
EFTPS	Payroll Taxes	9.74
Ham, Brandy	EMT Labor	10
One Billing Solutions	Ambulance Billing	1137.55
Reichert, Pam	EMT Labor	50
Turpin, Shauna	EMT Labor	191.91
Turpin, Vince	EMT Labor	102.48
Unger, Keisha	EMT Labor	62.48
Salaries		115.66

No monies were transferred from the Inheritance Tax account.

Penny Denny addressed the commissioners on behalf of the Methodist Church. The church is hosting Vacation Bible School next week and would like to use the grass area to the north of the courthouse. The commissioners agreed that would be an acceptable use of the area.

Christina Collier shared information pertaining to the recent primary election. She reported there were no major issues on election day and appreciated the extra help from Dave Shively, sent to help by Secretary of State Evnen's office. The deputy clerk thanked Sheriff Bang and Chief Deputy Lucci for their assistance transferring voting machines to and from Haigler. She wanted to especially thank the poll workers and businesses/groups that allow their buildings to be used as polling places.

Karen Baker spoke on changes that were approved for the employee handbook in December 2025 but had not been followed through on. In the meeting minutes from December 15, 2025, there were three changes to take effect. Firstly, changing "Probationary Period" to "Introductory Period". Second, changing billing hours from 35 to 32 for employees to earn PTO hours. Lastly, there was a change regarding the use of PTO hours, from a minimum of two-week notice to as much notice as practicable. Chairman

Tecker instructed the deputy clerk to insert a copy into each employee paystub for employee knowledge.

Ms. Baker also addressed the ongoing issue of the emergency phone in the courthouse elevator, which has been out of compliance for over a year. Approximately a month to a month and a half ago, she had given information to the County Clerk to contact Kone Service Center and was informed the company doesn't come here. Ms. Baker felt that it was possible the information wasn't relayed correctly so she contacted the company herself. She was informed that the company provides services for several counties in our region and they are willing to come here to do repairs. Sheriff Bang asked about the phone control being ajar from its control panel and the door open as he feels it could be a safety concern. Ms. Baker informed the group that there had been an attempt to correct the issue by the County Clerk and phone had never been put back into its proper position. The issue has been continued until the next meeting so that the board can review forms presented to allow services to be completed by KONE.

Mike Boden and Jessica Witting with NACO presented material and addressed the commissioners with the changes coming as it is nearly time for open enrollment for county employees. It looks as though the rate for the plans we have will go up 4.68% from the current year. Commissioner Richard mentioned the difficulty of finding applicants for open positions with no paid family insurance coverage. Mr. Boden stated that there are several counties that are going or have gone to partial pay for family insurance. The commissioners asked for information on some plans with family options for the next meeting.

Elaine Menzel, also with NACO, discussed different pieces of legislation that have been passed or failed to pass in the state of Nebraska and how they pertain to Dundy County. Some of those are LB 663, LB 468, LB 1219, LB 596, and LB 803.

Approving the bid(s) for contract hauling gravel will be added to the 6/1/26 agenda.

Next on the agenda was to approve the gravel agreement with Windmill Ranch, LLC. The agreement is for \$7/ton and will not renew automatically on an annual basis. Commissioner Richard made a motion to approve the agreement as written, seconded by Chairman Tecker. Ayes: Richard, Tecker. Absent – Keiser.

With the absence of Commissioner Keiser, the topics of truck leasing bids and road maintenance routes will be moved to the 6/1/26 agenda.

County Attorney Arlan Wine addressed the commissioners on the Region 51 Emergency Management Agreement that the commissioners approved at the 5/4/26 meeting. The agreement has been sent to the City of Benkelman for their meeting this evening. After the city has approved the details, the agreement will be sent to the Village of Haigler.

The next topic for Mr. Wine was the Max tornado siren. Brophy Electric inspected the current siren and deemed it unusable. The estimated cost to replace it is \$10,000-\$25,000. Brandon Meyers with Region 51 Emergency Management is working on a grant for the expense of replacing the siren. The siren must be functioning or taken down; therefore, it will be completely removed until a replacement has been found.

Sheriff Bang presented his April report including 38 calls for the month. There are two inmates in long-term lodging, one in Red Willow County and one in Lincoln County.

Deputy Clerk Collier asked for a discussion in executive session to protect the information and reputation of a county employee. A motion was made by Commissioner Richard to go into executive session at 10:15 am, seconded by Chairman Tecker. Ayes: Richard, Tecker. Absent – Keiser.

At 11:02 am, Chairman Tecker made a motion to exit executive session, seconded by Commissioner Richard. Ayes: Richard, Tecker. Absent – Keiser.

Regarding the executive session, Mr. Wine will draft a letter to the employee discussed. The commissioners also approved the hire of a full-time employee for the County Clerk's office.

With no further business, there was a motion made by Commissioner Richard to adjourn the meeting at 11:04 am, seconded by Chairman Tecker. Ayes: Richard, Tecker. Absent – Keiser. The next meeting is scheduled for June 1, 2026, at 8:30 A.M. in the Commissioners Room.

These minutes are not the official record and may be corrected. A copy of the approved minutes is available to The Public in the Dundy County Clerk's Office. Any resolutions contained herein are available for viewing at the Dundy County Clerk's Office.

/s/ Christina Collier

Deputy County Clerk

/s/ Sye Tecker

Chairman