

Hayes County Commissioners
January 8, 2025

A meeting of the Hayes County Board of Commissioners was scheduled for January 8, 2025, at 4:00 P.M. in the Hayes County Courthouse, 505 Troth Street, Hayes Center, Nebraska. Advanced notice of the meeting, time and place was given to each Commissioner, was published in the *Times Republican* on January 2, 2025, and posted in accordance with law. Chair announced that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act was available for review and was posted in the room where the meeting was being held. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Chairman Unger called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M. Those present were board members: Wayne Christner, Barry Richards, and Jeffrey Unger; Tammy Schwenk, County Treasurer; Susan Messersmith, County Clerk; D. Eugene Garner, County Attorney; Tom Dow, County Sheriff; and Marian Richards, Sign Tech. Visitors present were Kevin Fornoff, Allen Erickson, Blaine Johnson, Bob Littrel, Charlie Andrew, Deb Andrew, Zach Tidyman, Kip Richards, Jarred Fichtner, Mark Clifford, Alysia Messersmith, and Derek Richards.

Richards moved, second by Christner to approve the agenda. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Unger, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding District One Commissioner Elect's residency. Public comment was received from Kevin Fornoff and Mark Clifford. Mr. Fornoff spoke to the issue of residency, stating that he was now living in District 1 and presented an affidavit indicating his intent to live in District One. Clifford spoke in support of Mr. Fornoff.

Mr. Garner provided the Board a copy of the letter dated December 6, 2024 sent to Mr. Fornoff informing of the residency requirements for county commissioners. Mr. Garner also provided the Board with a copy of a Nebraska Supreme Court case which analyzed the residency requirement for county commissioners.

Richards moved to find Mr. Fornoff is not qualified to hold the office of Hayes County Commissioner District One due to not being a resident of District One. Chairman Unger called for a second to the motion. Chairman Unger again called for a second to the motion. Chairman Unger then made a third call for a second to the motion. Motion died for lack of a second.

Unger moved, seconded by Christner to adjourn the meeting. There being no further discussion. Roll call: Unger, yes; Richards, no; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Unger adjourned the meeting at 4:35 P.M.

The next meeting will be on January 14, 2025, at 8:30 AM.

Hayes County Clerk

Board Chairman

Hayes County Commissioners
January 14, 2025

A meeting of the Hayes County Board of Commissioners was scheduled for January 14, 2025, at 8:30 A.M. in the Hayes County Courthouse, 505 Troth Street, Hayes Center, Nebraska. Advanced notice of the meeting, time and place was given to each Commissioner, was published in the *McCook Gazette* on January 10, 2025, and posted in accordance with law. A current copy of the Open Meetings Act was available for review and was posted in the room where the meeting was being held. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Vice-Chairman Christner called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M. Those present were board members: Wayne Christner, Barry Richards, and Kevin Fornoff; Tammy Schwenk, County Treasurer; Susan Messersmith, County Clerk; D. Eugene Garner, County Attorney; Marian Richards, Sign Tech and Joe Miller, Emergency Manager.

Richards moved, second by Christner to amend the agenda to include payroll. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Richards to approve the consent agenda consisting of the financial reports of the Clerk, Clerk of the District Court, Imprest Account and the minutes of December 10 & 30, 2024 meetings. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

The floor was opened for nominations to reorganize the Board for calendar year 2025. Richards nominated Christner and Fornoff second the nomination. Christner nominated Fornoff and Richards second the nomination. Nomination closed. Roll call for Christner as Chairman: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Roll call for Fornoff as Chairman: Christner, no; Fornoff, no; Richards, no. Christner will serve as Board Chairman for 2025.

Christner opened the floor for nomination of Vice-Chairman. Richards nominated Richards and Christner nominated Fornoff. Christner declared nominations closed. Roll call for Richards as Vice-Chairman: Fornoff, no; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Roll call for Fornoff as Vice-Chairman: Richards, no; Christner, no; Fornoff, yes. Richards will serve as Vice-Chairman for 2025.

Fornoff moved, second by Christner to adopt Resolution 2025-1, designation of Pinnacle Bank as Official Hayes County Depository for 2025. Discussion held. Roll call vote: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to adopt Resolution 2025-2, designation of The Hayes Center Times Republican and/or the McCook Gazette as official newspapers of publication for Hayes County for 2025 and to designate the County's website, <http://www.hayescounty.ne.gov> as an additional method of providing notices. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to adopt Resolution 2025-3, authorization for Hayes County Treasurer to invest monies. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to adopt Resolution 2025-4, authorization for Hayes County Treasurer to transfer monies. Discussion held. Roll call vote: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Christner to adopt Resolution 2025-5, authorization for Hayes County Treasurer to have funds secured with a pledge receipt. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Richards to designate the second Tuesday and last business day of each month as regular meeting dates. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to approve holidays to be observed for 2025. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, no. Motion carried.

Chairman Christner made the following 2025 appointments:
Region II Human Service County Representative – Christner
West Central Area of Aging County Representative – Christner
West Central Nebraska Development District Representative – Christner

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department Representative – Fornoff
Economic Development Board - Richards
NIRMA contact person –Messersmith
Safety Committee Chairman –Fornoff

The Board reviewed Oak Creek Engineering agreement for professional services. Fornoff moved, second by Christner to appoint Lance M. Harter, License Number S-1426, Class A License, of Kearney, NE as Hayes County Highway Superintendent for 2025 at \$6000.00 per year with overage at \$95.00/hour and mileage at the IRS rate. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, second by Christner to approve special payroll for \$2,708.42. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, abstain. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Richards to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Emergency Manager Joe Miller reported all FEMA paperwork is completed to date.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to approve the Sheriff’s Report. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to approve claims, excluding claim 2501003, for \$65,175.49. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to approve claim 2501003 for \$194.30. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, abstain; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Board acknowledged receipt of the completed audit for year ending June 30, 2024, from Donald D. Wilson, CPA. Fornoff moved, second by Richards to direct Chairman to sign the one-year audit engagement letter for fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, with Donald D. Wilson, CPA, for \$8,400.00. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, seconded by Fornoff to adjourn the meeting. There being no further discussion. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Christner adjourned the meeting at 11:30 A.M.

The next meeting will be on January 31, 2025, at 8:30 AM.

Hayes County Clerk

Board Chairman

Hayes County Commissioners
January 31, 2025

A meeting of the Hayes County Board of Commissioners was scheduled for January 31, 2025, at 8:30 A.M. in the Hayes County Courthouse, 505 Troth Street, Hayes Center, Nebraska. Advanced notice of the meeting, time and place was given to each Commissioner, was published in the *Times Republican* on January 23, 2025, and posted in accordance with law. Chair announced that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act was available for review and was posted in the room where the meeting was being held. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Chairman Christner called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M. Those present were board members: Wayne Christner, Barry Richards, and Kevin Fornoff; Tammy Schwenk, County Treasurer, and Susan Messersmith, County Clerk.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to approve the agenda. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to approve payroll for \$74,798.89. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, seconded by Fornoff to adjourn the meeting. There being no further discussion. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Christner adjourned the meeting at 9:00 A.M.

The next meeting will be February 11, 2025, at 8:00 A.M.

Hayes County Clerk

Board Chairman

Hayes County Commissioners
February 11, 2025

A meeting of the Hayes County Board of Commissioners was scheduled for February 11, 2025, at 8:00 A.M. in the Hayes County Courthouse, 505 Troth Street, Hayes Center, Nebraska. Advanced notice of the meeting, time and place was given to each Commissioner, was published in the *Times Republican* on February 6, 2025, and posted in accordance with law. A current copy of the Open Meetings Act was available for review and was posted in the room where the meeting was being held. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Chairman Christner called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. Those present were board members: Wayne Christner, Barry Richards, and Kevin Fornoff; Tammy Schwenk, County Treasurer; Susan Messersmith, County Clerk; Marian Richards, Sign Tech; Joe Miller, Emergency Manager; and Tom Dow, County Sheriff.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards approve the agenda. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to approve the consent agenda consisting of the financial reports of the Clerk, Clerk of the District Court, Imprest Account, and the minutes of January 8, 14 & 31, 2025 meetings. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Kimberly Cook, Extension Educator for SW3, Dundy, Hayes, Hitchcock, presented the Board with an annual report for Extension programming and financial summaries.

Fornoff moved, second by Christner to approve the Treasurer's Report. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Christner, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to approve claims, excluding claim 2502041, for \$60,933.06. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to approve claim 2502041 for \$230.47. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, abstain. Motion carried.

Christner moved, seconded by Fornoff to adjourn the meeting. There being no further discussion. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Christner adjourned the meeting at 9:20 A.M.

The next meeting will be on February 28, 2025, at 8:30 AM.

Hayes County Clerk

Board Chairman

Hayes County Board of Commissioners
February 28, 2025

A meeting of the Hayes County Board of Commissioners was scheduled for February 28, 2025, at 8:45 A.M. in the Hayes County Courthouse, 505 Troth Street, Hayes Center, Nebraska. Advanced notice of the meeting, time and place was given to each Commissioner, was published in the *Times Republican* on February 13, 2025, and posted in accordance with law. Chairman Christner called the meeting to order at 9:05 A.M. The Open Meetings Act was available for review and Chair indicated location of such copy in the room where the meeting was being held. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Those present were board members Wayne Christner, Kevin Fornoff; Tammy Schwenk, County Treasurer; Susan Messersmith, County Clerk; Joe Miller, Emergency Manager; and Kerry Miller Deputy Emergency Manager. Guests present were Scott Sleeman, FEMA Representative and Brad Thomas, FEMA Mitigation Team.

Fornoff moved, second by Christner to approve the agenda. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, absent; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Scott Sleeman and Brad Thomas, FEMA representatives, reviewed current status of Hayes County FEMA projects and available funding to assist with repair.

Fornoff moved, second by Christner to approve payroll for \$78,256.98. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, absent. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, seconded by Christner to adopt Resolution 2025-06, Temporary Moratorium on Wind Energy Installations & Solar Power Generation Systems. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, absent; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to adopt Resolution 2025-07, Temporary Moratorium on Data Centers & Crypto Mining Facilities. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, absent; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Christner to appoint Shawn Sullivan as District One Planning and Zoning Board representative. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, absent. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to appoint Josh Skelton as District Three Planning and Zoning Board representative. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, absent; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to set 8:00 A.M. as meeting time for March 11, 2025 Commissioner meeting. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, absent; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

The Employee Handbook General Personnel Policies regarding smoking were reviewed. Christner moved, second by Fornoff to enforce the current policy designation of nonsmoking facilities and vehicles. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, absent; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, seconded by Fornoff to adjourn the meeting. There being no further discussion. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, absent; Christner, yes. Motion carried

Chairman Christner adjourned the meeting at 11:00 A.M.

The next meeting will be March 11, 2025, at 8:00 A.M.

Hayes County Clerk

Board Chairman

Hayes County Commissioners
March 11, 2025

A meeting of the Hayes County Board of Commissioners was scheduled for March 11, 2025, at 8:00 A.M. in the Hayes County Courthouse, 505 Troth Street, Hayes Center, Nebraska. Advanced notice of the meeting, time and place was given to each Commissioner, was published in the *Times Republican* on March 6, 2025, and posted in accordance with law. A current copy of the Open Meetings Act was available for review and was posted in the room where the meeting was being held. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Chairman Christner called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. Those present were board members: Wayne Christner, Barry Richards, and Kevin Fornoff; Tammy Schwenk, County Treasurer; Susan Messersmith, County Clerk; Marian Richards, Sign Tech; D. Eugene Garner, County Attorney; Kim Cook, Baleigh Abbott, Brandi Hagemann and Alysia Messersmith with UNL Extension, and Brett Widger.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards approve the agenda. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to approve the consent agenda consisting of the financial reports of the Clerk, Clerk of the District Court, Imprest Account, and the minutes of February 11 & 28, 2025 meetings. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Two applications were received for Weed Superintendent. Christner moved, second by Fornoff to appoint Brett Widger as Hayes County Weed Superintendent at \$450.00/month. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Marian Richards discussed needed building repairs to the shop behind the courthouse.

Kim Cook, Extension Educator joined the meeting to introduce new UNL Extension staff members Baleigh Abbott, Food & Nutrition, and Brandi Hagemann, Extension Zone Coordinator.

Fornoff moved, second by Christner to approve application to occupy road right-of-way, 2025-01 from Consolidated Companies, for installation of fiber optic cable at mapped sites in T-7N, and T-8N in R-31W. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, no; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to approve the Treasurer's Report. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Christner to approve claims, excluding claim 2503039, for \$66,719.95. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to approve claim 2503039 for \$438.00. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, abstain; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, second by Christner to authorize the Hayes County Attorney to offer \$6,982.73 for rock and gravel to repair water damage on Avenue 360A. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, abstain; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff left the meeting at 10:37 A.M.

Christner moved, seconded by Richards to adjourn the meeting. There being no further discussion. Roll call: Fornoff, absent; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Christner adjourned the meeting at 11:22 A.M.

The next meeting will be on March 31, 2025, at 8:30 AM.

Hayes County Board of Commissioners
March 31, 2025

A meeting of the Hayes County Board of Commissioners was scheduled for March 31, 2025, at 8:30 A.M. in the Hayes County Courthouse, 505 Troth Street, Hayes Center, Nebraska. Advanced notice of the meeting, time and place was given to each Commissioner, was published in the *Times Republican* on March 20, 2025, and posted in accordance with law. Chairman Christner called the meeting to order at 8:32 A.M. The Open Meetings Act was available for review and Chair indicated location of such copy in the room where the meeting was being held. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Those present were board members Wayne Christner, Kevin Fornoff and Barry Richards; Tammy Schwenk, County Treasurer; Susan Messersmith, County Clerk; Joe Miller, Emergency Manager; and Marian Richards, Sign Tech.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to approve the agenda. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Joe Miller, visited with the Board regarding the courthouse elevator and FEMA projects.

The Board discussed repair options for the 140H road grader.

Richards moved second by Fornoff to appoint Ed Lawson as District Two Planning and Zoning Board representative. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to approve payroll for \$78,128.91. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, seconded by Christner to adjourn the meeting. There being no further discussion, Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried

Chairman Christner adjourned the meeting at 10:55 A.M.

The next meeting will be April 8, 2025, at 8:30 A.M.

Hayes County Clerk

Board Chairman

Hayes County Commissioners
April 8, 2025

A meeting of the Hayes County Board of Commissioners was scheduled for April 8, 2025, at 8:30 A.M. in the Hayes County Courthouse, 505 Troth Street, Hayes Center, Nebraska. Advanced notice of the meeting, time and place was given to each Commissioner, was published in the *Times Republican* on April 3, 2025, and posted in accordance with law. A current copy of the Open Meetings Act was available for review and was posted in the room where the meeting was being held. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Chairman Christner called the meeting to order at 8:33 A.M. Those present were board members: Wayne Christner and Barry Richards; Tammy Schwenk, County Treasurer; Susan Messersmith, County Clerk; and D. Eugene Garner, County Attorney.

Christner moved, second by Richards to approve the agenda. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, absent. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Richards to approve the consent agenda consisting of the financial reports of the Clerk, Clerk of the District Court, Imprest Account, and the minutes of March 11 & 31, 2025 meetings. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, absent; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Designation of Tribal Funds was discussed.

Richards moved, second by Christner to direct Chairman to sign a letter of intent to continue financial support for public transportation services offered to Hayes County citizens by Hitch & Hay Transit for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 budget years. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, absent; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Richards to approve the Sheriff's Quarterly Report. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, absent. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Richards to appoint Tessa Stinson as a Planning and Zoning Commission member for District Three. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, absent; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Richards to accept the resignation of Kerry Miller as Planning and Zoning Administrator. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, absent; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Richards to set the base pay for road and bridge employees at \$19.50 per hour. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, absent. Motion carried.

Fornoff arrived at 11:02 A.M.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to approve claims, excluding claim 2504043, for \$54,402.33. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to approve claim 2504043 for \$12,500.00. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, abstain; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to approve the Treasurers Report. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, seconded by Fornoff to adjourn the meeting. There being no further discussion. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Christner adjourned the meeting at 11:32 A.M.

The next meeting will be on April 30, 2025, at 8:30 AM.

Hayes County Clerk

Board Chairman

Hayes County Board of Commissioners
April 29, 2025

A meeting of the Hayes County Board of Commissioners was scheduled for April 29, 2025, at 8:30 A.M. in the Hayes County Courthouse, 505 Troth Street, Hayes Center, Nebraska. Advanced notice of the meeting, time and place was given to each Commissioner, was published in the *Times Republican* on April 24, 2025, and posted in accordance with law. Chairman Christner called the meeting to order at 8:32 A.M. The Open Meetings Act was available for review and Chair indicated location of such copy in the room where the meeting was being held. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Those present were board members Wayne Christner, Kevin Fornoff and Barry Richards; Susan Messersmith, County Clerk; Brett Widger, Weed Superintendent; Joe Miller, Emergency Manager; and via phone, D Eugene Garner, Hayes County Attorney.

Christner moved, second by Richards to approve the agenda. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Brett Widger joined the meeting to review the Weed Superintendent's annual weed reports. Richards moved, second by Fornoff to approve the five annual weed reports for 2024 and direct Chairman to sign the same. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to appoint Leon Kolbet as Zoning Administrator for the remainder of 2025 or until the position is filled. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

The Board discussed expenses regarding Road 360A.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to approve payroll for \$84,219.20. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, seconded by Fornoff to adjourn the meeting. There being no further discussion. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Christner adjourned the meeting at 10:07 A.M.

The next meeting will be May 13, 2025, at 8:30 A.M.

Hayes County Clerk

Board Chairman

Hayes County Board of Commissioners

A meeting of the Hayes County Board of Commissioners was scheduled for May 13, 2025, at 8:40 A.M. in the Hayes County Courthouse, 505 Troth Street, Hayes Center, Nebraska. Advanced notice of the meeting, time and place was given to each Commissioner, was published in the *Times Republican* on May 8, 2025, and posted in accordance with law. Chairman Christner called the meeting to order at 8:40 A.M. The Open Meetings Act was available for review and Chair indicated location of such copy in the room where the meeting was being held. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Those present were board members Wayne Christner, Kevin Fornoff and Barry Richards; and Susan Messersmith, County Clerk.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to approve the agenda. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Richards to approve the consent agenda consisting of the financial reports of the Clerk, Clerk of the District Court, Imprest Account, and the minutes of April 8 & 29, 2025 meetings. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to approve the Treasurers Report. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to recess the meeting at 8:55 AM, May 13, 2025, to attend a funeral. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

The meeting was reconvened at 3:39 PM. May 13, 2025.

Those present were board members Wayne Christner, Kevin Fornoff and Barry Richards; Susan Messersmith, County Clerk; and D Eugene Garner, Hayes County Attorney.

Fornoff moved, second by Christner to add Class 7, Extension Office, to family health coverage. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to pay/reimburse actual cost up to \$150.00 for county employee CDL physicals. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to approve claims, excluding claim 2505055 and 2505034, for \$210,481.14. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to approve claim 2505055 for \$11,107.40. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, abstain. Motion carried.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to approve claim 2502034 for \$7.60. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, abstain. Motion carried.

Christner moved, seconded by Richards to adjourn the meeting. There being no further discussion. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Christner adjourned the meeting at 5:31 P.M.

The next meeting will be May 30, 2025, at 8:30 A.M.

Hayes County Clerk

Board Chairman

Hayes County Board of Commissioners
May 30, 2025

A meeting of the Hayes County Board of Commissioners was scheduled for May 30, 2025, at 8:35 A.M. in the Hayes County Courthouse, 505 Troth Street, Hayes Center, Nebraska. Advanced notice of the meeting, time and place was given to each Commissioner, was published in the *Times Republican* on May 28, 2025, and posted in accordance with law. Chairman Christner called the meeting to order at 9:13 A.M. The Open Meetings Act was available for review and Chair indicated location of such copy in the room where the meeting was being held. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Those present were board members Wayne Christner, Kevin Fornoff and Barry Richards; Susan Messersmith, County Clerk; Tammy Schwenk, County Treasurer; and D. Eugene Garner, Hayes County Attorney. Visitor present was Brian Schafer.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to approve Katie Collins for temporary part-time employment in the County Treasurers office. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to approve the agenda. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Brian Schafer was present to visit with the Board regarding Road 360A and pending litigation. Garner made the Board aware that an attorney had made appearance in the Hayes County Court Case CR 24-12, in which Paul Wood had been appointed as special prosecutor. Garner also informed the Board that based upon a recent conversation with Mr. Schafer, he also had retained counsel. Mr. Garner informed the Board of his ethical duty to not communicate with the defendants without their legal counsel present and advised against the Board communicating with the Defendants without their legal counsel being present. Garner advised the Board to schedule a specific time on the June 10, 2025 agenda, which is prior to the scheduled June 18, 2025 court hearings, to ensure all counsel could be present. Richards asked if the Board could do anything at this time since Mr. Schafer was present. Mr. Garner again advised he cannot communicate with the parties without their counsel present and advised again that the board not meet with them without counsel present. Garner left the meeting at 9:50 A.M. and returned to the meeting at 11:03 A.M. upon Board request.

Christner moved, second by Richards to direct Hayes County Attorney to dismiss the pending Hayes County Court Case CR 25-1 against Defendant Brian T Schafer. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, abstain; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, second by Christner to direct Special Prosecutor Wood, to dismiss the pending Hayes County Court Case CR 24-12 against Defendant Kevin Fornoff with Defendant to pay court costs and the county settles damages to Road 360A for a total sum of \$1,000.00. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, abstain; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to approve payroll for \$80,043.42. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to pay NIRMA insurance keeping current deductibles in place. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to approve Hayes County State of Emergency Official Notification relating to the tornados and storms on May 18, 2025. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Christner to add a November 1, 2025 effective date to the May 13th, 2025, motion which reads "*Fornoff moved, second by Christner to add Class 7, Extension Office, to family health coverage.*" Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to contribute \$1,000.00 to Bridge of Hope Child Advocacy Center for the 2025-26 budget year. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, seconded by Fornoff to adjourn the meeting. There being no further discussion. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Christner adjourned the meeting at 12:02 P.M.

The next meeting will be June 10, 2025, at 8:30 A.M.

Hayes County Clerk

Board Chairman

Hayes County Board of Commissioners

A meeting of the Hayes County Board of Commissioners was scheduled for June 10, 2025, at 8:30 A.M. in the Hayes County Courthouse, 505 Troth Street, Hayes Center, Nebraska. Advanced notice of the meeting, time and place was given to each Commissioner, was published in the *Times Republican* on June 5, 2025, and posted in accordance with law. Chairman Christner called the meeting to order at 8:33 A.M. The Open Meetings Act was available for review and Chair indicated location of such copy in the room where the meeting was being held. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Those present were board members Wayne Christner, Kevin Fornoff and Barry Richards; and Susan Messersmith, County Clerk; Marian Richards, Sign Tech, and visitor Kaye Bieck

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to approve the agenda. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Kaye Bieck, the new Director of Family Resource Center, summarized the services provided by FRC and reviewed the income/expense of FRC for the 24-25 budget year.

Fornoff left the meeting at 8:46 A.M.

M. Richards, Sign Tech, presented an inventory of 911 signs and road signs. Discussion was held regarding future needs and costs associated with those needs.

Richards moved, second by Christner to approve the consent agenda consisting of the financial reports of the Clerk, Clerk of the District Court, Imprest Account, and the minutes of May 13 & 30, 2025 meetings. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, absent; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Richards to approve claims, excluding claim 2506047, for \$183,631.31. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, absent; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Richards to approve claim 2506047 for \$5,000.00. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, abstain; Christner, yes; Fornoff, absent. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Richards to approve the Treasurers Report. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, absent; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, seconded by Richards to adjourn the meeting. There being no further discussion. Roll call: Fornoff, absent; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Christner adjourned the meeting at 10:26 A.M.

The next meeting will be June 27, 2025, at 8:30 A.M.

Hayes County Clerk

Board Chairman

Hayes County Board of Commissioners
June 27, 2025

A meeting of the Hayes County Board of Commissioners was scheduled for June 27, 2025, at 8:30 A.M. in the Hayes County Courthouse, 505 Troth Street, Hayes Center, Nebraska. Advanced notice of the meeting, time and place was given to each Commissioner, was published in the *Times Republican* on June 19, 2025, and posted in accordance with law. Chairman Christner called the meeting to order at 8:39 A.M. The Open Meetings Act was available for review and Chair indicated location of such copy in the room where the meeting was being held. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Those present were board members Wayne Christner, Kevin Fornoff and Barry Richards; Susan Messersmith, County Clerk; D. Eugene Garner, Hayes County Attorney, and Marian Richards, Sign Tech. Visitors present were Gypsy & Bob Emerick.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to approve the agenda. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Bob & Gypsy Emerick visited with the Board regarding the current status of the Southwest Nebraska News. The Times is hosting a Town Hall meeting on July 16th, 2025. The location and time will be announced soon.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to direct Chairman to sign the Budget Preparation Engagement Letter appointing Daniel D. Miller, CPA, for budget services for the fiscal year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 at the cost of \$3,250.00. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to approve the application of Happy's LLC, as a Special Designated License Retail License Holder for an event to be held at the Hayes County Fair Grounds on August 1, 2025. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to direct Chairman to sign the Donation of Soil/Dirt Material & Temporary Easement Agreement between Hayes County, and D. Tim & Cynthia Sue McKillip. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved second by Richards to direct Chairman to sign the Hayes County State of Emergency Official Notification relating to storms occurring on June 24, 2025. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

County Attorney Garner visited with the Board regarding the Court of Appeals decision in Hayes County Vs. Frontier County Court Case CI 23-35 (A-24-0357).

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to approve payroll for \$99,780.04. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Christner to adopt Resolution 2025-08, General Fund Function Transfer Authorization. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Unger, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Christner to approve claims, excluding claim 2506104, for \$57,971.83. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to approve claim 2506104 for \$7,163.28. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, abstain; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, seconded by Fornoff to adjourn the meeting. There being no further discussion. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Christner adjourned the meeting at 11:27 A.M.

The next meeting will be July 8, 2025, at 8:30 A.M.

Hayes County Board of Commissioners

A meeting of the Hayes County Board of Commissioners was scheduled for July 8, 2025, at 8:30 A.M. in the Hayes County Courthouse, 505 Troth Street, Hayes Center, Nebraska. Advanced notice of the meeting, time and place was given to each Commissioner, was published in the *Times Republican* on July 3, 2025, and posted in accordance with law. Chairman Christner called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M. The Open Meetings Act was available for review and Chair indicated location of such copy in the room where the meeting was being held. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Those present were board members Wayne Christner, Kevin Fornoff and Barry Richards; Susan Messersmith, County Clerk; Tammy Schwenk, County Treasurer; D. Eugene Garner, County Attorney. Visitors present were Alta Keating, Elaine Menzel, Kylie Joyce and John Rundel. Chris Hogue and Todd McWha joined via telephone.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to approve the agenda. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Alta Keating spoke with the Board regarding road conditions.

Elaine Menzel, legal counsel for Nebraska Association of County Officials, joined the meeting. Menzel spoke on services offer by NACO, the new open meetings law, bitcoin mining, AI, data storage, zoning permits, the salary study and the legislative process.

Kylie Joyce, Region II Director, gave an overview of program services and funding.

Chris Hogue joined the meeting via phone to request information regarding road access between Sections 23 & 24; T-7-N; R-35W.

Mr. Todd McWha, Attorney with Waite & McWha Law Firm, joined the meeting via phone. Richards moved, second by Fornoff to enter closed session at 10:03 A.M. to discuss litigation involving Frontier County and the county line bridge and being clearly necessary for the protection of public interest. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to exit closed session at 10:34 A.M. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

John Rundel, Southwest Area Weed Management, reviewed services assisting area land owners in control of invasive vegetation.

Richards moved, second by Christner to approve the consent agenda consisting of the financial reports of the Clerk, Clerk of the District Court, Imprest Account, and the minutes of June 10 & 27, 2025 meetings. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Richards to approve the Treasurers Report. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to approve the Sheriff's Quarterly Report. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Richards to approve claims, excluding claim 2507031 and 250732, for \$52,027.05. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to approve claim 2507031 and 250732 for \$32,582.00. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, abstain. Motion carried.

Christner moved, seconded by Fornoff to adjourn the meeting. There being no further discussion. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Christner adjourned the meeting at 12:12 P.M.

The next meeting will be July 22, 2025, at 8:30 A.M.

Hayes County Clerk

Board Chairman

Hayes County Board of Commissioners
July 28, 2025

A meeting of the Hayes County Board of Commissioners was scheduled for July 28, 2025, at 4:00 P.M. in the Hayes County Courthouse, 505 Troth Street, Hayes Center, Nebraska. Advanced notice of the meeting, time and place was given to each Commissioner, was published in the *Times Republican* on July 24, 2025, and posted in accordance with law. Chairman Christner called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M. The Open Meetings Act was available for review and Chair indicated location of such copy in the room where the meeting was being held. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Those present were board members Wayne Christner, Kevin Fornoff and Barry Richards; Susan Messersmith, County Clerk; and D. Eugene Garner, Hayes County Attorney.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to approve the agenda. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to approve August 1, 2025 payroll for \$90,394.11. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to approve claim 2507058 for \$107.57. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to designate MIPS as the full-service printer and mailer for Hayes County for joint public hearing postcards. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Preliminary 2025-26 budget requests for General and Road & Bridge funds were reviewed.

Christner moved, seconded by Fornoff to adjourn the meeting. There being no further discussion. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Christner adjourned the meeting at 5:39 P.M.

The next meeting will be August 12, 2025, at 8:30 A.M.

Hayes County Clerk

Board Chairman

Hayes County Board of Commissioners
July 28, 2025

A meeting of the Hayes County Board of Commissioners was scheduled for July 28, 2025, at 4:00 P.M. in the Hayes County Courthouse, 505 Troth Street, Hayes Center, Nebraska. Advanced notice of the meeting, time and place was given to each Commissioner, was published in the *Times Republican* on July 24, 2025, and posted in accordance with law. Chairman Christner called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M. The Open Meetings Act was available for review and Chair indicated location of such copy in the room where the meeting was being held. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Those present were board members Wayne Christner, Kevin Fornoff and Barry Richards; Susan Messersmith, County Clerk; and D. Eugene Garner, Hayes County Attorney.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to approve the agenda. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to approve August 1, 2025 payroll for \$90,394.11. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to approve claim 2507058 for \$107.57. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to designate MIPS as the full-service printer and mailer for Hayes County for joint public hearing postcards. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Preliminary 2025-26 budget requests for General and Road & Bridge funds were reviewed.

Christner moved, seconded by Fornoff to adjourn the meeting. There being no further discussion. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Christner adjourned the meeting at 5:39 P.M.

The next meeting will be August 12, 2025, at 8:30 A.M.

Hayes County Clerk

Board Chairman

Hayes County Board of Commissioners

A meeting of the Hayes County Board of Commissioners was scheduled for August 12, 2025, at 8:30 A.M. in the Hayes County Courthouse, 505 Troth Street, Hayes Center, Nebraska. Advanced notice of the meeting, time and place was given to each Commissioner, was published in the *Times Republican* on August 7, 2025, and posted in accordance with law. Chairman Christner called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M. The Open Meetings Act was available for review and Chair indicated location of such copy in the room where the meeting was being held. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Those present were board members Wayne Christner, Kevin Fornoff and Barry Richards; Susan Messersmith, County Clerk; Tammy Schwenk, County Treasurer; D. Eugene Garner, County Attorney. Visitors present were Kris and Jeannie Kressin.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to approve the agenda. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to approve the consent agenda consisting of the financial reports of the Clerk, Clerk of the District Court, Imprest Account, and the minutes of July 8, 22, and 28, 2025 meetings. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Dan Miller joined the meeting to discuss the 2025-2026 budget. The budget hearing will be September 9, 2025, at 1:30 P.M. with the final tax request hearing to follow. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Kris & Jeannie Kressin joined the meeting to discuss minimum maintenance Avenue 732A and installation of an underground water line on Road 363.

Christner moved, second by Richards to approve application 2025-03, from Kris Kressin, to occupy road right-of-way for installation of a water line at mapped sites in section 34 of T-5N, R-33W. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to approve the Treasurers Report. Discussion held. Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to approve claims, excluding claims 2508054 and 2508055, for \$146,219.62. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to approve claim 2508054 and 2508055 for \$7,880.70. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, abstain; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to direct Chair to sign Resolution 2025-09, Signing of the County Annual Certification of Program Compliance 2025. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to request the County Surveyor complete a survey of the section line between Sections 23 & 24; T-7-N; R-35W and 33 feet each side of said section line. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Pursuant to publication requirements of § 23-122 the following is a list of Hayes County job titles and current salaries: Commissioners-\$22,763.95/Yr, Sheriff-\$55,848.67/Yr, Part-Time Law Enforcement \$28.50/Hr, Treasurer-\$55,848.67/Yr, Deputy Treasurer-\$35,938.80/Yr, Ex-Officio Clerk-\$55,848.67/Yr, Ex-Officio Deputy Clerk-\$45,320.04; Clerk Office Assistant-\$19.50-\$20.95/Hr, Extension Office-\$40,950.00/Yr, County Attorney-\$41,813.68/Yr, Co Attorney Secretary-\$18.25/Hr, Road Department Employees-\$19.50-\$21.50/Hr, Zoning Administrator-\$1,800.00/Yr, Zoning Admin Secretary-\$19.50/Hr, Highway Superintendent-\$6,000.00/Yr, Emergency Manager-\$12,000.00/Yr, Deputy Emergency Manager-\$5,400.00/Yr, Veterans Service Admin-\$2,100.00/Yr, Weed Superintendent-\$5,400.00/Yr, Economic Dev Coordinator-\$25.00/Hr, Courthouse Maintenance-\$3,300.00/Yr.

Christner moved, seconded by Fornoff to adjourn the meeting. There being no further discussion. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Christner adjourned the meeting at 12:06 P.M.

The meeting will be August 29, 2025, at 8:30 A.M.

Hayes County Clerk

Board Chairman

Hayes County Board of Commissioners
August 29, 2025

A meeting of the Hayes County Board of Commissioners was scheduled for August 29, 2025, at 8:30 A.M. in the Hayes County Courthouse, 505 Troth Street, Hayes Center, Nebraska. Advanced notice of the meeting, time and place was given to each Commissioner, was published in the *Times Republican* on August 21, 2025, and posted in accordance with law. Chairman Christner called the meeting to order at 8:34 A.M. The Open Meetings Act was available for review and Chair indicated location of such copy in the room where the meeting was being held. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Those present were board members Wayne Christner, Barry Richards; Susan Messersmith, County Clerk; Leon Kolbet, Planning & Zoning Administrator and Jarvis Culler.

Christner moved, second by Richards to approve the agenda. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, absent. Motion carried.

Jarvis Culler, Hayes County IT provider with Applied Connective Technologies, reviewed current managed services and suggested new services related to the SLCGP Grant award.

Leon Kolbet, Planning & Zoning Administrator, spoke with the Commissioners about updating regulations in the county zoning book to address wind, solar and nuclear power cold fusion plants.

Christner moved, second by Richards to approve the Applied Connective Technologies quote for managed services for the 2025-2026 fiscal year and direct Hayes County Clerk to electronically sign the invoice for these services. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, absent; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Richards to approve September 2, 2025 payroll for \$88,936.44. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, absent; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, second by Christner to direct Chairman to sign the Contract for Professional Appraisals Services for Oil & Gas properties for the 2026 and 2027 appraisal years at the cost of \$1,300.00/year. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, absent. Motion carried.

Christner moved, seconded by Richards to adjourn the meeting. There being no further discussion. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, absent; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Christner adjourned the meeting at 11:54 A.M.

The next meeting will be September 9, 2025. The Budget Hearing will begin at 1:30 P.M. followed by the Final Tax Request Hearing and the regular meeting.

Hayes County Clerk

Board Chairman

Hayes County Board of Commissioners

A meeting of the Hayes County Board of Commissioners was scheduled for September 9, 2025, at 1:30 P.M. in the Hayes County Courthouse, 505 Troth Street, Hayes Center, Nebraska. Advanced notice of the meeting, time and place was given to each Commissioner, was published in the *Southwest Nebraska Times Republican* on September 4, 2025, and posted in accordance with law. Chairman Christner called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. The Open Meetings Act was available for review and Chair indicated location of such copy in the room where the meeting was being held. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Those present were board members Wayne Christner, Kevin Fornoff and Barry Richards; Susan Messersmith, County Clerk; Tammy Schwenk, County Treasurer; D. Eugene Garner, County Attorney; and Marian Richards, Sign Tech. Visitors present were Dan Miller and Zac Richards.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to approve the agenda. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Christner recessed the regular meeting at 1:35 P.M. and opened the 2025/2026 Budget Hearing as published in the *Southwest Nebraska Times Republican* on September 4th, 2025. The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony in support, opposition, criticism, suggestions, or observation of taxpayers relating to the proposed budget.

Dan Miller, CPA, was present and made a presentation outlining provisions of the proposed budget, including a comparison with the previous year's budget. Three copies of said budget were made available. Chairman Christner asked for comments. No public comment was received.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to close the Budget Hearing at 2:00 P.M. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Richards to open the Special Hearing to Set Final Tax Request as published in the *Southwest Nebraska Times Republican* on September 4th, 2025. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried. The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony in support, opposition, criticism, suggestions, or observation of taxpayers relating to the proposed budget. Christner asked for comments. No public comment was received.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to close the Final Tax Request Hearing at 2:04 P.M. and return to the Regular Meeting. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Christner to adopt Resolution #2025-11.

RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION AND APPROPRIATIONS

WHEREAS, a proposed County Budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, prepared by the Budget Making Authority, was transmitted to the County Board on the 9th day of September, 2025.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of COMMISSIONERS of HAYES County, Nebraska as follows:

SECTION 1. That the budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, as categorically evidenced by the Budget Document be, and the same hereby is, adopted as the Budget for HAYES County for said fiscal year.

SECTION 2. That the offices, departments, activities and institutions herein named are hereby authorized to expend the amounts herein appropriated to them during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

SECTION 3. That the income necessary to finance the appropriations made and expenditures authorized shall be provided out of the unencumbered cash balance in each fund, revenues other than taxation to be collected during the fiscal year in each fund, and tax levy requirements for each fund.

Dated and passed this 9TH day of September, 2025.

Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to adopt Resolution # 2025-10.

RESOLUTION SETTING THE PROPERTY TAX REQUEST

WHEREAS, Nebraska Revised Statute 77-1632 and 77-1633 provide that the Governing Body of HAYES County passes by a majority vote a resolution or ordinance setting the tax request; and
WHEREAS, a special public hearing was held as required by law to hear and consider comments concerning the property tax request;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Governing Body of the County of HAYES resolves that:

SECTION 1. The 2025-2026 property tax request for the General Fund be set at \$1,089,957.00.

SECTION 2. The total assessed value of property differs from last year's total assessed value by 12.5 percent.

SECTION 3. The tax rate which would levy the same amount of property taxes as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of property, would be \$0.155319 per \$100 of assessed value.

SECTION 4. The County of HAYES proposes to adopt a property tax request that will cause its tax rate to be \$0.158888 per \$100 of assessed value.

SECTION 5. Based on the proposed property tax request and changes in other revenue, the total operating budget of the County of HAYES will increase last year's budget by 2.94%.

SECTION 6. A copy of this resolution be certified and forwarded to the County Clerk on or before October 15, 2025.

Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Zac Richards visited with the Commissioners regarding availability of gravel.

Marian Richards, Sign Tech, discussed tracking missing signage.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to approve the Treasurers Report. Discussion held. Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to approve claims, excluding claims 2509044 and 2509045, for \$66,720.64. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to approve claims 2509044 and 2508045 for \$19,486.94. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, abstain; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to appoint J.D. Grimes to Hayes County Board of Adjustments. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Board acknowledged receipt of the following inventories: District 1, 2, and 3 Road Departments, Sign Tech, Commissioner and Superintendent Rooms, County Court, Extension Educator, County Clerk, County Treasurer, Zoning Administrator, Weed Superintendent, County Attorney, County Sheriff, Courthouse Custodian, Veterans Service Officer, and Emergency Manager.

Richards moved, second by Christner to authorize and direct the Clerk to sign First Concord plan documents. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Christner to declare one Dell Precision 3430 computer and monitor as surplus property. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to approve the consent agenda consisting of the financial reports of the Clerk, Clerk of the District Court, Imprest Account, and the minutes of August 12 and 29, 2025 meetings. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, seconded by Fornoff to adjourn the meeting. There being no further discussion. Roll call: Christner, yes; Richards, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Christner adjourned the meeting at 3:56 P.M.

The next meeting will be September 30, 2025, at 8:30 A.M.

Hayes County Board of Commissioners
September 30, 2025

A meeting of the Hayes County Board of Commissioners was scheduled for September 30, 2025, at 8:30 A.M. in the Hayes County Courthouse, 505 Troth Street, Hayes Center, Nebraska. Advanced notice of the meeting, time and place was given to each Commissioner, was published in the *Times Republican* on September 25, 2025, and posted in accordance with law. Chairman Christner called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M. The Open Meetings Act was available for review and Chair indicated location of such copy in the room where the meeting was being held. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Those present were board members Wayne Christner, Kevin Fornoff and Barry Richards; Susan Messersmith, County Clerk; Tammy Schwenk, County Treasurer; Brett Widger, County Weed Superintendent; Joe Miller, Emergency Manager and Zac Richards.

Christner moved, second by Richards to approve the agenda. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to approve October 1, 2025 payroll for \$94,948.334. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes.

Brett Widger visited with the Commissioners regarding Weed Superintendent qualifications and plans for the upcoming year.

Discussion was held regarding possible purchase of property at 307 Maple Street in Hamlet, NE. It was the consensus of the Board to have the County Attorney prepare paperwork.

Joe Miller updated the Commissioners on current FEMA projects.

Richards left the meeting at 9:20 A.M.

Handbook updates and bids for gravel were discussed.

Christner moved, seconded by Fornoff to adjourn the meeting. There being no further discussion. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, absent. Motion carried.

Chairman Christner adjourned the meeting at 10:15 A.M.

The next meeting will be October 14, 2025.

Hayes County Clerk

Board Chairman

Hayes County Board of Commissioners

A meeting of the Hayes County Board of Commissioners was scheduled for October 14, 2025, at 8:40 A.M. in the Hayes County Courthouse, 505 Troth Street, Hayes Center, Nebraska. Advanced notice of the meeting, time and place was given to each Commissioner, was published in the *Southwest Nebraska Times Republican* on October 9, 2025, and posted in accordance with law. Chairman Christner called the meeting to order at 8:54 A.M. The Open Meetings Act was available for review and Chair indicated location of such copy in the room where the meeting was being held. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Those present were board members Wayne Christner, Kevin Fornoff and Barry Richards; Susan Messersmith, County Clerk; Tammy Schwenk, County Treasurer; D. Eugene Garner, County Attorney; Marian Richards, Sign Tech; Leon Kolbet, Planning & Zoning Administrator and visitor, Mark Wilcox.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to approve the agenda. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Christner asked for public comments. There were none.

Fornoff moved, second by Christner to approve the consent agenda consisting of the financial reports of the Clerk, Clerk of the District Court, Imprest Account, and the minutes of September 9 and 30, 2025 meetings. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Mark Wilcox, Wilcox Financial, joined the meeting. Mr. Wilcox reviewed the county health insurance plan and summary report as well as addressed questions and concerns.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to authorize payment of Point C Claim #5984047. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Leon Kolbet, Planning and Zoning Administrator, updated the Board on the need to update the current zoning plan.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to approve the Treasurers Report. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to approve the Treasurers Report. Discussion held. Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to approve claims, excluding claims 2510035, 2510040 and 2510049, for \$172,927.54. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to approve claims 2510040 and 2510049 for \$6,930.30. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, abstain; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to approve claim 2010035 for \$100.00. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, abstain; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Lance Harter, Highway Superintendent, joined the meeting by phone. Future projects, funding options and time lines were discussed.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to confirm the county's continued interest in the BUILD project for structure C004304710. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to direct Highway Superintendent, Lance Harter, to submit structure C004303605P for the County Bridge Match Program. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to direct Chairman to sign Resolution 2025-13, Resolution certifying proper completion of project, and the reimbursement for County Bridge Match. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Christner to approve the Sheriff’s Quarterly Report. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, second by Christner for the balance of the 25-26 fiscal year, to purchase 70% of Hayes County gravel from Richards Gravel Pit at \$8.50/ton, provided availability at supplier location. Roll call: Fornoff, no; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to direct Chairman to sign Family Resource Center Service Agreement for 2025-26 year. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to set October 30, 2025 as payroll meeting date and November 10, 2025 as the regular November meeting date. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, seconded by Fornoff to adjourn the meeting. There being no further discussion. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Christner adjourned the meeting at 2:08 P.M.

The next meeting will be October 30, 2025, at 8:30 A.M.

Hayes County Clerk	Board Chairman

Hayes County Board of Commissioners

October 30, 2025

A meeting of the Hayes County Board of Commissioners was scheduled for October 30, 2025, at 8:30 A.M. in the Hayes County Courthouse, 505 Troth Street, Hayes Center, Nebraska. Advanced notice of the meeting, time and place was given to each Commissioner, was published in the *Southwest Nebraska Times Republican* on October 23, 2025, and posted in accordance with law.

Chairman Christner called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M. The Open Meetings Act was available for review and Chair indicated location of such copy in the room where the meeting was being held. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Those present were board members Wayne Christner, Kevin Fornoff and Barry Richards; Susan Messersmith, County Clerk; Tammy Schwenk, County Treasurer; D. Eugene Garner, County Attorney; Rebecca Grimes, Deputy Clerk and Marian Richards, County Sign Tech. Visitors were Gypsy Emerick and Judd Allen.

Richards moved, second by Christner to approve the agenda. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to adopt Resolution 2025-14, a Resolution directing the County Treasure to issue Tax Sale Certificates. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Board acknowledged receipt of the County Distress Warrant Notice Listing for 2024.

Board acknowledged receipt of the Auditor's finding and will send a response.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to direct chair to sign the Auditor's Management Representation Letter. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to adopt employee handbook updates relating to travel expenses and reimbursement. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to approve the November 3, 2025, payroll for \$86,910.86. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

December Payroll meeting will be held November 26, 2025 at 4:00 P.M.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to direct Chair to sign the Annual Certification of HBP/STP Funds. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Gypsy Emerick, Editor of the Southwest Nebraska Times Republican joined the meeting. The Southwest Nebraska Times Republican will be transitioning to an online-only platform. The final print edition will be November 6, 2025. Future legals for Hayes County will be published in the McCook Gazette.

Judd Allen, NACO Representative, joined the meeting to review NACO's health insurance proposal for Hayes County.

Christner moved, seconded by Fornoff to adjourn the meeting. There being no further discussion. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Christner adjourned the meeting at 11:48 A.M.

The next meeting will be November 10, 2025 at 8:30 A.M..

Hayes County Clerk

Board Chairman

Hayes County Board of Commissioners

A meeting of the Hayes County Board of Commissioners was scheduled for November 10, 2025, at 8:30 A.M. in the Hayes County Courthouse, 505 Troth Street, Hayes Center, Nebraska. Advanced notice of the meeting, time and place was given to each Commissioner, was published in the *Southwest Nebraska Times Republican* on November 6, 2025, and posted in accordance with law. Chairman Christner called the meeting to order at 8:33 A.M. The Open Meetings Act was available for review and Chair indicated location of such copy in the room where the meeting was being held. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Those present were board members Wayne Christner, Kevin Fornoff and Barry Richards; Susan Messersmith, County Clerk; Tammy Schwenk, County Treasurer; D. Eugene Garner, County Attorney; Marian Richards, Sign Tech; Leon Kolbet, Planning & Zoning Administrator; Joe Miller, Emergency Manager; Tom Dow, Sheriff; Rebecca Grimes, Tiffani Miller and Maria Carroll, office staff, and visitor, Judd Allen.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to approve the agenda. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Christner asked for public comments. There were none.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to approve the consent agenda consisting of the financial reports of the Clerk, Clerk of the District Court, Imprest Account, and the minutes of October 14 and 30, 2025 meetings. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to approve claims, excluding claim 2511044, for \$136,802.20. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to approve claim 2511044 for \$10,623.10. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, abstain; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to approve the Treasurers Report. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, second by Christner to direct Chairman to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between Arthur, Chase, Dundy, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Perkins, and Red Willow Counties for Community-Based Juvenile Services Aid Program. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Board acknowledged receipt of the completed audit for year ending June 30, 2025, from Donald D. Wilson, CPA.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards adopt Resolution 2025-15, Signing of the Year-End Certification of County Highway Superintendent 2025. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Leon Kolbet, Planning and Zoning Administrator, discussed needed updates to the current zoning regulations. Discussion via telephone with Edward Dunn of West Central Nebraska Development District regarding options and resources available through WCNDD to assist with updates.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to offer Single NACO BC/BS \$1600.00 deductible PPO to all county employees effective December 1, 2025. Employees may add spouse or child for an additional \$150.00 and family for an additional \$200.00. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to offer Single NACO BC/BS Dental Insurance to all employees effective December 1, 2025. Employees may add spouse, child or family at their expense. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to authorize Chair to sign termination/non-renewal notice to PHA/Point C at Wilcox Companies. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to approve and direct Chairman to sign purchase agreement for the purchase of 307 Maple Street in Hamlet, NE for \$17,000.00. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Christner to adopt the Permit to Construct Utilities on County Road Right-of-way, including Utility Permit Requirements, effective January 1, 2026. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes. Chair then moved to table the motion. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. The motion to table was carried, and the original motion was laid on the table.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to adjourn the meeting. There being no further discussion. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Christner adjourned the meeting at 12:24 A.M.

The next meeting will be November 26, 2025, at 4:00 P.M.

Hayes County Clerk

Board Chairman

Hayes County Board of Commissioners
November 26, 2025

A meeting of the Hayes County Board of Commissioners was scheduled for November 26, 2025, at 4:00 P.M. in the Hayes County Courthouse, 505 Troth Street, Hayes Center, Nebraska. Advanced notice of the meeting, time and place was given to each Commissioner, was published in the *McCook Gazette* on November 20, 2025, and posted in accordance with law.

Vice Chairman Richards called the meeting to order at 4:45 P.M. The Open Meetings Act was available for review and Chair indicated location of such copy in the room where the meeting was being held. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Those present were board members Kevin Fornoff and Barry Richards and Susan Messersmith, County Clerk.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to approve the agenda. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, absent; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to authorize and direct D. Eugene Garner to execute the Mutual Termination Agreement between the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and Hayes County. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, absent; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to approve payroll for \$100,054.03. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, absent. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to submit a grant application for SLCG (State and Local Cybersecurity Grant) Round 3 with cost share of 70/30 between the grant funding (70%) and the County (30%). Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, absent; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to solicit audit quotes for fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, 2027 and 2028. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, absent; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to approve the Commissioner response to PHA Health (Wilcox Companies) regarding Health Insurance change. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, absent. Motion carried.

Richards moved, seconded by Fornoff to adjourn the meeting. There being no further discussion. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, absent; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Vice Chairman Richards adjourned the meeting at 5:15 P.M.

The next meeting will be December 30, 2025 at 8:30 A.M.

Hayes County Clerk

Board Chairman

Hayes County Board of Commissioners

A meeting of the Hayes County Board of Commissioners was scheduled for December 9, 2025, at 8:30 A.M. in the Hayes County Courthouse, 505 Troth Street, Hayes Center, Nebraska. Advanced notice of the meeting, time and place was given to each Commissioner, was published in the McCook Gazette on December 4, 2025, and posted in accordance with law. Chairman Christner called the meeting to order at 8:34 A.M. The Open Meetings Act was available for review and Chair indicated location of such copy in the room where the meeting was being held. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Those present were board members Wayne Christner, Kevin Forno and Barry Richards; Susan Messersmith, County Clerk; Tammy Schwenk, County Treasurer; D. Eugene Garner, County Attorney; Marian Richards, Sign Tech; Joe Miller, Emergency Manager; and Lance Harter, Hayes County Highway Superintendent.

Richards moved, second by Christner to approve the agenda. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Forno, yes. Motion carried.

Christner asked for public comments. There were none.

Richards moved, second by Forno to approve the consent agenda consisting of the financial reports of the Clerk, Clerk of the District Court, Imprest Account, and the minutes of November 10 and 26, 2025 meetings. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Forno, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Forno moved, second by Richards to approve the Treasurers Report. Discussion held. Roll call: Forno, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Forno to enter into an agreement with Point C to administer run-out claims for medical and dental expenses. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Forno, yes. Motion carried.

Lance Harter, Hayes County Highway Superintendent, joined the meeting. Harter explained the new bridge bundling grant and current costs of updates/replacement for structure C004303605P.

Forno left the meeting at 9:55A.M.

Christner moved, second by Richards to approve claims, excluding claim 2512041, for \$60,180.24. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Forno, absent; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Richards to approve claim 2512041 for \$4,332.40 Discussion held. Roll call: Forno, absent; Richards, abstain; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Credit card use policy was discussed. Final reading and approval will be at the December 30, 2025 meeting.

Forno rejoined the meeting at 11:25 A.M.

Richards moved, second by Forno to effectuate the purchase of 307 Maple Street in Hamlet, NE. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Forno, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Forno to set Cash in-lieu payment at \$600.00 per month. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Forno, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Board acknowledged receipt of the Sheriff's 2024 Final Distress Warrant Report.

Christner moved, second by Forno to adjourn the meeting. There being no further discussion. Roll call: Forno, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Christner adjourned the meeting at 12:33 P.M.

The next meeting will be December 30, 2025, at 8:30 A.M.

Hayes County Board of Commissioners
December 30, 2025

A meeting of the Hayes County Board of Commissioners was scheduled for December 30, 2025, at 8:30 A.M. in the Hayes County Courthouse, 505 Troth Street, Hayes Center, Nebraska. Advanced notice of the meeting, time and place was given to each Commissioner, was published in the *McCook Gazette* on December 23, 2025, and posted in accordance with law.

Chairman Christner called the meeting to order at 8:32 A.M. The Open Meetings Act was available for review and Chair indicated location of such copy in the room where the meeting was being held. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Those present were board members Wayne Christner, Kevin Fornoff and Barry Richards; Susan Messersmith, County Clerk; Tammy Schwenk, County Treasurer and D. Eugene Garner, County Attorney. Visitors present were Tim McKillip and Alec McKillip. Lance Harter joined via telephone.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to approve the agenda. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Alec McKillip visited with the Board regarding county law enforcement responsibilities and compensation.

Discussion was held regarding handbook requirements to document/map all road department work.

Lance Harter, Highway Superintendent, joined the meeting via telephone. Discussion held regarding replacement of structure C004353810.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to approve payroll, excluding Road & Bridge employees #35, #93 and #13, for \$82,668.30. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to approve road and bridge employee #35 payroll for \$2,080.23. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, abstain; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to approve road and bridge employee #13 payroll for \$451.94. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, abstain; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, second by Christner to approve road and bridge employee #93 payroll for \$2,971.88. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, abstain; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to execute an agreement up to \$73,000 with Ace/Eaton out of Kearney, NE for Twin 9" tubes for replacement of structure C004353810. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to withdraw from participation in the BUILD Grouped Bridge Application. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Christner to set salaries for certain County Officers for the new term beginning January 7th, 2027, and ending January 2nd, 2031. County Clerk and County Treasurer, \$60,525.00; County Sheriff, \$62,500.00; County Attorney, \$45,200.00; plus an increase during the term of office (2028, 2029, 2030) of two percent (2%) annually. Salary for County Commissioner will be \$24,075.00. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to approve the credit card use policy. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, seconded by Fornoff to adjourn the meeting. There being no further discussion. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Christner adjourned the meeting at 1:41 P.M.

The next meeting will be January 13, 2026 at 1:30 P.M.

Hayes County Clerk

Board Chairman