

February 3rd, 2026
Antelope County Board of Commissioners
Neligh, Nebraska

The Antelope County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session on Tuesday, February 3rd, 2026, at 9:05 AM in the County Commissioner's Meeting Room, Antelope County Courthouse Annex, Neligh, Nebraska. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairperson, Charlie Henery, with the following board members in attendance: Jacob, Williby and Henery. Commissioners Dittrich and Krebs were finishing employee reviews. Chairman stated that the open meeting laws are posted on the east wall of the Commissioner's Meeting Room with more copies available at the County Clerk's Office.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the three (3) county newspapers, legal newspapers printed and in general circulation in Antelope County, Nebraska as shown by proof of publication filed in the County Clerk's office. The agenda for said meeting was sent to all members of the County Board of Commissioners.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

9:05 AM: Public Comment: Chairman Henery called for any public comments three (3) times. No comments were voiced.

Commissioners Krebs and Dittrich attend meeting at 9:07 am.

Minutes: Minutes of January 13th, 2026 Board of Commissioner Meeting: Motion by Commissioner Williby, seconded by Commissioner Jacob to approve minutes of January 13th, 2026 Board of Commissioner Meeting. Voting aye: Jacob, Williby and Henery. Nays none. Dittrich and Krebs out of meeting for vote. Motion carried.

Minutes: Minutes of January 13th, 2026 Board of Equalization Meeting: Motion by Commissioner Jacob, seconded by Commissioner Williby to approve minutes of January 13th, 2026 Board of Equalization Meeting. Voting aye: Jacob, Williby and Henery. Nays none. Dittrich and Krebs out of meeting for vote. Motion carried.

Agenda: Motion by Commissioner Williby seconded by Commissioner Jacob to approve agenda as presented. Voting aye: Jacob, Krebs, Dittrich, Williby and Henery. Nays none. Motion carried.

Correspondence was Reviewed: Imprest Pledge Collateral-\$1,000,000.00; Certificate of Liability Insurance: Flock Group-Flock Safe, A&R Construction Co, ; Copy of Contractor's Application for Payment \$107,786.71; Northeast Nebraska Solid Waste Coalition monthly letter; Liberty National reminder of enrollment on February 12th; JEO letter regarding Elgin East regarding half through one (1) year warranty; JEO letter regarding 2025 Micro-surfacing regarding half way through one (1) year warranty; Antelope County LEOP Resolution; Northeast District Meeting-March 13th LLC; Lewis and Clark Lake Watershed Project update; email from State of Nebraska regarding postmark, and penny shortage, postage meter dates; Nebraska Department of Water, Energy and Environment JSMM Elgin Feedlot Animal Feeding Operation; email from Next-link regarding BEAD Grant; Viking billing and proposal for replacing air maintenance device and compressor; Frontier Billing Statement.

Janitorial Quarterly Update: postponed until next week.

Great Plains Telephone: Pete Townsend, sales engineer, and Kellye Starkel met with the Commissioners regarding upgrading to Great Plains Communication telephone and internet. They shared a printed proposal to upgrade the handsets, telephone lines, and internet speed for the Sheriff Office, Weed Department and Courthouse. Long interactive discussion. The proposal would upgrade the internet speed – so much as quadrupling for most of the county lines. Great Plains is not sure of the current wiring situation in the courthouse. Cat 5 wiring is needed to support the proposed system. If the wiring is not what it needs to be it would be at a huge cost. Probably to the County. The Commissioners requested to get a review of the wiring so we can have a better handle on the actual cost. Great Plains was asked to follow-up when they establish a more accurate cost including wiring, devices and monthly bills. No action taken.

NACO Benefits Service representative, Judd Allen met with the Commissioners regarding the cost savings of the current buy down. First Concord Benefits Group currently pays the employees for the last \$2,000.00 of their deductible. They receive the EOB's from Blue Cross and Blue Shield and reimburse the employee directly from the EOB's. Mr. Allen predicts an approximate \$221,000.00 savings by having the higher deductible and buying down to \$600.00. Mr. Allen, and NACO shared a couple of other estimates in case the County wanted to explore 'other' buy down options. The possibility of utilizing a high-deductible health savings account. Mr. Allen indicated he would be willing to meet with the Commissioners in the next couple of months to review other information and discuss different avenues. No further action.

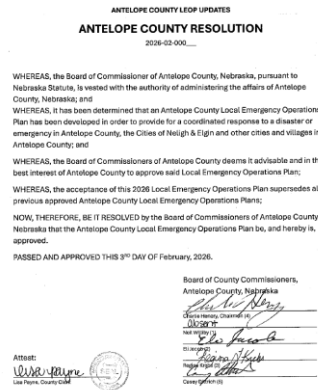
Zoning Administrator Report: no report

10:30 AM Commissioner Williby leaves meeting.

Contractors Application for Payment – Dixon Construction – Brunswick Northwest and Royal North \$107,786.71: A pay application for \$107,786.71 is presented today. Mr. McDonald has forwarded the application to the Commissioners. Antelope County would owe half of this application \$53,893.36. Motion by Commissioner Dittrich seconded by Commissioner Jacob, to approve and authorize chairman to sign pay application and for the claim to be coded for payment next week. Voting aye: Dittrich, Jacob, Krebs and Henery. Williby absent. Nays none. Motion passed.

Contractor's Application for Payment	
Owner: Antelope County, Nebraska	Owner's Project No.: 240778.00
Engineer: JEO Consulting Group, Inc.	Engineer's Project No.:
Contractor: Dixon Construction Co.	Contractor's Project No.:
Project: Brunswick Northwest and Royal North	
Contract: Brunswick Northwest	
Application No.: 3	Application Date: 1/20/2026
Application Period: From 11/24/2025	To 1/20/2026
1. Original Contract Price \$ 619,730.88	
2. Net change by Change Orders \$ -4,653.00	
3. Current Contract Price (Line 1 + Line 2) \$ 615,077.88	
4. Total Work completed and materials stored to date (Sum of Column G Lump Sum Total and Column J Unit Price Total) \$ 574,160.70	
5. Retainage	
a. 5% x \$ 615,077.88 Work Completed = \$ 28,726.94	
b. 5% x \$ - Stored Materials = \$ -	
c. Total Retainage (Line 5.a + Line 5.b) \$ 28,726.94	
6. Amount eligible for date (Line 4 - Line 5.c) \$ 546,433.76	
7. Less previous payments (Line 6 from prior application) \$ 437,660.35	
8. Amount due this application \$ 108,773.41	
9. Balance to finish, including retainage (Line 3 - Line 4 + Line 5.c) \$ 39,433.22	
Contractor's Certification	
The undersigned Contractor certifies, to the best of its knowledge, the following:	
(1) All previous progress payments received from Owner or success of Work done under the Contract have been applied on account to discharge Contractor's legitimate obligations incurred in connection with the Work covered by prior applications for Payment;	
(2) Title to all Work, materials and equipment incorporated in said Work, or otherwise listed in or covered by this Application for Payment, will pass to Owner at time of payment (and title of all items, security interests, and encumbrances listed, such as are covered by a lien acceptable to Owner, identifying Owner against any such items, security interest, or encumbrances); and	
(3) All the Work covered by this Application for Payment is in accordance with the Contract Documents and is not defective.	
Contractor: Dixon Construction-PO Box 47, Correctionville, IA 51016	Date: 1/20/26
Signature: <i>Dixon Construction</i>	Date: <i>1/20/26</i>
Recommended by Engineer	Approved by Owner
By: David Hechick	By: <i>Charlie Henery</i>
Title: Construction Inspector	Title: District Board of Supervisors
Date: 1/20/2026	Date: 1/20/2026
Approved by Funding Agency	
By:	By:
Title:	Title:
Date:	Date:

LEOP – Annually, the Local Emergency Operations Plan is reviewed for updates. Ms. Risor had reviewed the plan and asked the Clerk to update any local contacts as needed. Today, a resolution is presented to approve the current update. Motion by Commissioner Dittrich, seconded by Commissioner to approve resolution as presented. Voting aye: Dittrich, Krebs, Jacob and Henery. Williby absent. Nays none. Motion carried.



Region 11: Commissioner Henery discussed grants and funding and some of the nuances of the current year budget. Some of the grant money has been frozen. Funding is questionable currently. They are running Region 11 and then will worry about the grants. No action taken.

Fire Suppressant System: On February 14th, 2025 the fire suppressant system air compressor started regularly running. Today, the action has not improved although multiple entities have tried to remedy the issues. Viking Fire Protection Group is the latest to review the current system. Three (3) different organizations have inspected the lines and have yet to identify a leak. Coby from Viking was out in December and inspected the lines – at which time he did not identify leaks. Considering that, Viking Fire Protection suggested updating the air compressor and air maintenance device, with an estimate of \$7,300.00. The Commissioners along with Boyd Pedersen, Electrician, who has been doing some trouble shooting agree there has to be a leak and it just has not been identified yet. Per recent discussion a call was place to Kyle Rankin to have the Commissioners follow-up and discuss the plan or lack thereof. Mr. Rankin was not available by phone – he was traveling today, and we might have caught him with low availability. Discussion will circle back around later.

Road Superintendent Report:

- **Underground Permits:** The following underground permits were submitted by Two Rivers irrigation on behalf of landowners. Mr. Kluthe stated all the bores had been completed without incident. All are for irrigation electric motors. All were bored as per Board/Road Superintendent recommendation. Mr. Kluthe recommends approval. Motion by Commissioner Krebs, seconded by Commissioner Jacob to approve permits as submitted. Voting aye: Dittrich, Krebs, Jacob and Henery. Williby absent. Nays none. Motion carried.
 - Underground Permit: 523rd Avenue in the NE¼ Section 7, Township 26, Range 6/Ann Ahlstedt/Two Rivers
 - Underground Permit: 522nd Avenue in the NW¼ Section 7, Township 26, Range 6/Ann Ahlstedt/Two Rivers
 - Underground Permit: 856th Road in the NE¼ Section 13, Township 26, Range 6/Greg Mullins/Two Rivers
 - Underground Permit: 513th Avenue in the NE¼ Section 4, Township 27, Range 8/Val Mosel/Two Rivers
 - Underground Permit: 843rd Road in the SW¼ Section 13, Township 24, Range 8/Dennis Blair/Two Rivers
 - Underground Permit: 852nd Road in the SW¼ Section 31, Township 26, Range 5/Dick Schrader and Tim Kallhoff/Two Rivers
- **Temporary Road Use Permits:** Nick Heithoff, Thunderhead Wind Energy together with Matthew Klabenes of Klabenes Construction submitted two (2) temporary Road Use Permits to install radiuses to aid in the movement of wind turbine blades to 841st Road and turning north on 513th Avenue and turning west off Highway 14 on 841st Road. Discussion of length of time needed for radius placement, signage, and what happens if the radius’ need to be in place longer. Mr. Kluthe believes these temporary roads changes should be in place for only a couple of weeks. Motion by Commissioner Dittrich, seconded by Commissioner Jacob to approve temporary road use agreements – allowing their placement until February 17th. Follow up next week if it looks like the moves are not complete and need more time. Voting aye: Dittrich, Krebs, Jacob and Henery. Williby absent. Nays none. Motion carried. Three (3) blades going in today or tomorrow and two (2) will come out Thursday. The third blade is damaged, so it will be broke on site and hauled out in pieces – regular trucking.
 - Temporary Road Use Permit: Klabenes Construction/Thunderhead Wind-T 17 NE Intersection 513th/841st Rd
 - Temporary Road Use Permit: Klabenes Construction/Thunderhead Wind-T 17 SW Intersection HWY 14/841st Rd
- **Access Permit:** Motion by Commissioner Jacob, seconded by Commissioner Krebs to approve access permit on 513th Avenue in the NW¼ Section 10, Township 26, Range 8, West of the 6th p.m., Antelope County, Nebraska. This access is on 513th Avenue for a field entrance on a hard surface road. Location is just south of Summerland school. Applicant is Larry Barlow. Mr. Kluthe reports no issues. Motion by Commissioner Jacob, seconded by Commissioner Krebs to approve access as submitted. Voting aye: Dittrich, Krebs, Jacob and Henery. Williby absent. Nays none. Motion carried.
- **Access Permit-Temporary:** 835th and 516th Avenue in the SW corner of Section 30, Township 23, Range 7, West of the 6th P.M., Antelope County, Nebraska. This is for a temporary permit to gain access to a tower for replacing blades. Permit was submitted by TerraForm Power. Access on Gary Hoefer property to access Tower on Tom Pelster ground. Mr. Kluthe reports no issues. Motion by Commissioner Jacob, seconded by Commissioner Dittrich to approved access permit on Road Superintendent recommendation. Voting aye: Dittrich, Krebs, Jacob and Henery. Williby absent. Nays none. Motion carried.
- **Oversize Permit:** Oversize Permit for moving wind turbine blades. Going south five (5) miles on 516th Avenue off of Highway 70. Wilkerson Crane Rental submitted the oversize permit to help move products to wind turbine sites. This permit was submitted and paid for after the move happened. Mr. Kluthe stated there were no issues and recommended approval. Motion by Commissioner Dittrich, seconded by Commissioner Jacob to approve oversize permit. Voting aye: Dittrich, Krebs, Jacob and Henery. Williby absent. Nays none. Motion carried.
- **Cat Skid-steer:** leased from CAT is up on March 12. Antelope County is over hours. CAT is sending another lease option to continue. They also will send a ‘buyout’ offer. Mr. Kluthe has requested bids from John Deere, Kayton and Dinkel. Mr. Kluthe will keep the Commissioners informed.
- **1999 International:** Crate motor is \$20,000.00 plus labor to install. The rear bushings need work, they slide. \$6,364.00 parts plus labor.
- **CDL:** As discussed last month O’Neill offers a 2-day classroom and then driving time practice for \$1,200.00. We were to late to get into the class discussed last month. Mr. Kluthe’s research suggests the classes in Norfolk are a 8 week-one semester classes. Currently, there are four (4) crew members who need the class.
- **Annual Nebraska Asphalt Conference** is next week in Kearney, February 10th and 11th. Nathan Thieman, Duane Jones (Buck), and Leigh Kluthe are all scheduled to attend.
- **Razor Tracking:** Mr. Kluthe was able to suspend the weed department tracking until April I. There is no charge for this. Brian Cornett, Antelope County Weed Superintendent will be granted access to the app.
- **Crushing** should be completed in the next two (2) weeks. They are in Norfolk now and will start in Oakdale when available.

- **DOT Inspections:** Mr. Kluthe reports there are several tarps that have holes, arms are broken, or tarp systems needing repair. Vendors including Sioux City Tarp and Lammers Trailer Repairs were discussed.
- **#0221 ProStar Day Cab** 574,494 miles – is down. The Commissioners discussed getting it DOT inspected – so they have a leverageable condemnation. We have pieced out #0224 to keep #0221 running. The DOT inspection will help establish what is wrong and help educate if the truck is salvageable. DOT inspections are normally done by Larry at Jonny Dodge.
- **Snow Truck** – out on Sunday – had to make four (4) passes on Summerland Road (513th Avenue) from Highway 20 to Highway 275. Some of the snow went over the plow to the windshield. It was pretty quick. Worked well. They were able to touch a lot of roads in about five (5) hours. Adding a second plow truck may allow the County to hit every hard surface road in the same amount of time.

852nd Road – West of Clearwater Barn: There has been scuttle but about a cellphone tower going in about ¼ mile west of the barn. The Commissioners did not want to act until a more definitive plan was in place. No action today. The Commissioners discussed a survey should be completed before work begins on the road. There are curves in the area, and we want to make sure it is good to move forward before work is started – completed.

Frontier: last summer a locate was called for the area of 866th Road and 513th Avenue. A couple weeks after the locate expired, during actual road work a frontier line was damaged. Today, a fixing bill is presented for \$1,010.45. Discussion. Commissioner Dittrich will work on this, this week. Mr. Kluthe presented two (2) locate reports, one before damage, one after damage. Commissioner Dittrich will follow-up next week.

Fire Suppressant System: Another phone call was placed to Kyle Rankin at Viking Fire Protection Group – no answer. Commissioners Jacob, Henery, and Dittrich went down and looked at the current system. Commissioners Jacob, Henery and Dittrich inspected the fire suppressant system and basement for approximately 15 minutes. Discussion and scenarios were discussed. No action taken. Commissioner Dittrich said he would try to inspect the courthouse system with some ‘soap’ to help identify leaks. Discussion of the system and current concerns. The Commissioners returned to the meeting room. Mr. Rankin called back while the Commissioners were looking at the system. After returning to the meeting, the Commissioners called Mr. Rankin. The Commissioners intend not to continue to throw money at the system if there is no fix. Mr. Rankin suggested he will come inspect the system for leaks (at no charge to the County) before proceeding with replacement of the air maintenance devise and air compressor. Discussion. Isolation valve is non- existent on this system. He believes the air compressor is not currently a fire system rated compressor and wonders if maybe this would help with some of the issues. He will be out within the next two (2) weeks to follow-up to check to see if there is a leak. No further action today.

Adjournment: Motion was made by Commissioner Jacob seconded by Commissioner Dittrich to **adjourn**. Voting aye: Jacob, Dittrich, Krebs and Henery. Williby was absent. Nays none. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:43 PM.

ANTELOPE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By: _____
Chairman of the Board, Charlie Henery

Attest: _____
County Clerk, Lisa Payne