

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

The Antelope County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session on Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026, at 9:00 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, Krebs, Dittrich, Williby and Henery. 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.

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.

Minutes: Minutes of February 10th, 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, Dittrich, Krebs and Henery. Nays none. Motion carried.

Minutes: Minutes of February 10th, 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, Dittrich, Krebs and Henery. Nays none. Motion carried.

Leave of absence: Mrs. Schindler will follow-up with the Commissioners next week. At this point, her plan is not happening on the timeline as reported in February. No action.

Correspondence was Reviewed: Email from Viking regarding fire suppressant system; email from Tanner Gordon regarding painting of St. Peters Church; Certificate of Liability – Majerus SDUMPN; copy of bid advertisement for gravel, asphalt, hot mix, and armor coat; public defender letter from Stratton, DeLay, Carlson, Stover, Stratton PC LLO; Hall County Weed Department resolution and information regarding weed notices; information from the weed department regarding noxious weed control; copy of minutes from Weed Board meeting on 03/02/2026; Northeast Nebraska Solid Waste Coalition monthly letter; Thiesen Construction Inc. proposal for bridge redecking; resolution opposing veteran benefits cuts; Applied Connective Technologies – telephone proposals; Nextlink NE BEAD grant information; NIRMA annual Report.

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

Weed Report: Mr. Cornett met with the Commissioners in follow-up of the discussion last month of setting fees, and 10- or 15- day notices. He shared with the Commissioners copies of Hall Counties fees for spraying and general duties of the Weed Control Authority. Discussion of the fees and how they should be set. It was agreed the fees should not be competitive and carry a heavier weight as we do NOT want the public to rely or even 'fall back' on the County to control weeds and invasive growth. It was requested for Mr. Cornett to figure out a rate to charge for application and to follow up with the clerk so a resolution can be prepared. All products will be at two (2) times the cost of chemicals, the application fees need to be set. Brian stated in the past they were competitive, however, today they don't need to be competitive as there are plenty of agronomy supply places.

Public Defender: County Attorney Joe Smith met with the Commissioners in follow-up of discussion regarding contracting a public defender. Discussion continued with Stratton's Office at \$60,000, Jamie Miller Legal Services LLC at \$60,000.00, and Kyle Petersen Law Services LLC at \$48,000. Mr. Smith suggested that Stratton's Office and Kyle Petersen appeared to be the best options. Mr. Petersen has an office in Tilden, and Stratton's home office is in Norfolk. Discussion. Motion by Commissioner Krebs, seconded by Commissioner Williby, to authorize the County Attorney to further discuss the agreement with Stratton's Office and try to negotiate a two (2) year agreement. Voting aye: Jacob, Williby, Dittrich, Krebs and Henery. Nays none. Motion carried. Mr. Smith will prepare a contract to be signed next week.

Tri-County Hazard Mitigation Plan: Tri-County Hazard Mitigation Plan expires in 2028. Bobbi Risor, Emergency Manager Region 11, met with the Commissioners regarding the plan and any action she should take. The Tri-County Plan consists of Knox, Holt, and Antelope County. Mrs. Risor states she is able to apply for grants that will cost share the Hazard Mitigation. This is a plan that has to be in place in order to receive federal or state money in facing disasters and the aftermath (FEMA/NEMA). Today, she is in the early stages and will be working with Knox and Holt Counties and their participation. She shared a total cost of around \$100,000.00 with a 50% grant match and the remainder being split by the three (3) counties according to population. Mrs. Risor will work on the application with the blessing of the Counties. The Commissioners expressed their desire to pursue this and requested Mrs. Risor to continue to work on the grant application as needed.

NEXtLink Bead Follow-up: Ebony Cooksey, from NEXtLink met with the Commissioners with an update on the facilitation of broadband coverage to rural Antelope County. They are working in northern Antelope County (north of Highway 20) to bring wireless capabilities to the area to improve connectivity.

Micro-surfacing School Roads (13 miles): Brian McDonald, Antelope County Highway Superintendent met with the Commissioners regarding the Orchard and Summerland Roads. He is trying to present the best most efficient long-lasting option for the roads. He doesn't believe micro-surfacing is the best option because the road wedge, how it steepens, especially where the road was widened. Going over the outside wing - he does not believe it is going to work. Today, he is suggesting the best option would be milling, wedge and 1" hot mix asphalt after milling the surface for an estimate of \$1.5 million. The original plan was micro-surfacing the roads to hold the shoulder work. Discussion. Commissioner Krebs is working on a grant application through Representative Adrian Smith's Office regarding funding of projects that have a big impact on traffic safety. Mr. McDonald believes the slope and outside edge would be better cured with an asphalt overlay. Discussion continues. Every time this road is discussed it is at least a half million to a million-dollar season after season. Mr. McDonald believes hot mix asphalt would be \$10-30,000.00 a mile more. The Commissioners reminded the road is safer today than it was three (3) years ago. The Commissioners requested an additional week to consider options. No action today.

Concrete Structures-/baffles: Jim Fehringer met with the Commissioners regarding a drainage issue along 841st Road. 9 miles west and 2 miles north of Elgin. His wife owns the quarter on the north side of the road, which has a culvert and dumps water to the point of having a 15-foot hole under the culvert. He states this has been an erosion issue for several years. He presented copies and a map of the water flow and surrounding area. The Fehringers had built the area up with clay in the last couple of years and it held for a little while, although nothing seems to hold long term. The Fehringers are working with NRCS representatives to help with erosion. They have suggested some kind of cement barrier baffles underneath the end of the culvert to help with water pressure digging further into the ground. He understands this would be the County right of way and wants the 'permission' to place the baffles. Mr. Fehringer has spoken with Jim Funk to work with the dirt in the area and place the baffles to slow the water flow and temporarily divert the water. Grading of the road would help with the erosion as well. Mr. McDonald did not want to authorize these actions until he visually inspects the area. Mr. McDonald wondered if there was not any action either up or down the water flow that is causing today's issues. Mr. McDonald will meet Mr. Fehringer out by the area after today's presentation. No formal action today.

Funding/Grant Opportunity: Commissioner Krebs is working on an application through the Congressional Representatives Office for safety projects. She would like to have an opportunity to discuss this further before we set anything in stone.

Re-decking of Oakdale South Bridge (526th Avenue & 839th Road) between Sections 10 & 11 in Township 23, Range 6, West of the 6th P.M. Antelope County, Nebraska. The estimate presented by Thiesen Construction, for \$37,000.00. Discussion. Motion by Commissioner Dittrich, seconded by Commissioner Williby to approve a bid proposal from Thiesen Construction, at \$37,000.00, per recommendation of Highway Superintendent. Voting aye: Jacob, Williby, Dittrich, Krebs and Henery. Nays none. Motion carried.

Telephone - Applied Connective Technologies: Eric Henn, from Applied Connective Technologies met with the Commissioners to review the bid proposal for telephone/internet for the courthouse. This discussion is in follow-up of discussions over the last couple of meetings of supplying phones, phone and internet capabilities throughout the courthouse, Weed Department, and the Sheriff's Office. He presented on a cloud-based system (hosted), which is what was discussed by the previous two (2) companies. The proposal presented today is along the same lines as the other proposals. Applied Connective currently handles Antelope County's IT and security cameras. Next week's meeting will have a follow-up visit with all three of the presented plans so discussion can flow between each vendor, and it should be easier to compare apples to apples. Mr. Henn suggested possibly considering a non-hosted system, which would be able to grow to a cloud base system when that need arises. The non-hosted system would also be able to connect the Law Enforcement Center to the Courthouse with the extension links in place today. No action today. Follow-up with all three (3) vendors next week.

Zoning Administrator Report: Mrs. Wingate confirms the boundary adjustment is not ready. Hopefully it will be ready for next week's meeting.

- Mrs. Wingate is headed to the NPZA Conference today.
- No further report.

Viking Fire Protection: Viking Fire Protection had found about three (3) leaks and planned to fix them. Over the last couple of weeks the air compressor over compressed and set the fire alarm off. During this over compression the wet system was charged. With the assistance of the Viking Fire Protection manager, the system was drained, the electricians realigned the air compressor and today it is in a stand-by mode. Viking plans on sending out two (2) technicians to complete the drain by resetting the flow valve and fixing the leaks found at an earlier visit. This visit is scheduled for Friday, March 6th. Further report next week. Boyd's Electric will be hooking both compressors up after the leaks are fixed.

Road Superintendent Report:

- **Oversize Permits:** 19 Oversize Permits for moving wind turbine blades. These permits were submitted and paid for.. Mr. Kluthe stated there were no issues and recommended approval. Motion by Commissioner Williby, seconded by Commissioner Jacob to approve oversize permits as listed. Voting aye: Dittrich, Krebs, Jacob, Williby and Henery. Nays none. Motion carried.
 - Oversize Permit:(350)525th Ave 840.5 W-524th Ave N 841.5 W 523rd Ave N Hwy 145-100th St-527th Ave-835th E ½mile T 114
 - Oversize Permit:(351-353) Tower 21 to 516th Avenue north to 70 west bound/Hawk Transportation/Cardinal Transport Inc
 - Oversize Permit: (354-357) Thunderhead Tower 17-Tower 07/Barnhart Crane – Rebecca Braaten
 - Oversize Permit: (358-361) Highway 14 N-120th Street E 240th Ave N 100th St E 527th Ave N 835th E to site/Barnhart Crane
 - Oversize Permit: (362-364) Hwy 70 to 516th Avenue south to Tower 23/Cardinal Transport Inc
 - Oversize Load: (365) Highway 14-846th Road to Tower 7/FT&L
 - Oversize Permits: (367-369) 516th Avenue N to Highway 70 (from Tower 23)/Hawk Transportation
- **Oversize Permit:** Oversize Permits for house moving was submitted and paid for. The move is essentially going through Antelope County between Boone and Holt County utilizing 511th Avenue. Mr. Kluthe stated there were no issues and recommended approval. Motion by Commissioner Williby, seconded by Commissioner Jacob to approve oversize permits as listed. Voting aye: Dittrich, Krebs, Jacob, Williby and Henery. Nays none. Motion carried.
 - Oversize Load: (366) Boone – Holt County 511th Avenue-through Antelope County/House Moving
- **Access Permits:** Motion by Commissioner Dittrich, seconded by Commissioner Jacob to approve access permits as listed. Mr. Kluthe reports no issues. Voting aye: Dittrich, Krebs, Williby, Jacob and Henery. Nays none. Motion carried.
 - Access Permit: Airport Road Section 32, Township 25, Range 6 – House/Shabram
 - Access Permit: Section 32, Township 25, Range 8 – 846th Road/Nick Heithoff/Thunderhead/Klabenes Construction
 - Access Permit: 513th Avenue between 864th & 865th Road in S½NW¼ 34-28-8-New House Access/Mast
 - Access Permit: 513th Avenue in the S½NW¼ Section 10, Township 27, Range 8/Stelling
- **Underground Permits:** The following three (3) 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 Dittrich, seconded by Commissioner Jacob to approve permits as submitted. Voting aye: Dittrich, Williby, Krebs, Jacob and Henery. Nays none. Motion carried.
 - Underground Permit: 523rd Ave in NE¼ Section 7, Township 26, Range 6/Ann Ahlstedt & 2 Rivers
 - Underground Permit: 841st Road in SW¼ Section 25, Township 24, Range 6/Jamie Penne & 2 Rivers
 - Underground Permit: 840th Road: NE¼ Section 4, Township 23, Range 7/Moser & 2 Rivers
- **Temporary Road Use Permits:** Nick Heithoff, Thunderhead Wind Energy a temporary Road Use Permits to install a radius to aid in the movement of wind turbine blades to 846th Road and 513th Avenue. This radius has been removed, as it was needed in conjunction with the radius placed last week. Motion by Commissioner Williby, seconded by Commissioner Dittrich to approve temporary road use agreement. Voting aye: Dittrich, Williby, Krebs, Jacob and Henery. Nays none. Motion carried.
 - Temporary Road Use Agreement: 513th Avenue & 846th Road – Blade Turn Radius – 14 Days-Tower 7/Thunderhead
- **Cat Skid-steer:** leased from CAT is up on March 12. Antelope County is over hours. CAT is sending another lease option to continue. New one to be delivered next week.
- **Oakdale Concrete Pile:** Concrete contractor has been on site and will finish up crushing Oakdale this week. He will work on asphalt pile and then he plans to run to O'Neill and crust product, and then back to Orchard to crush that pile,
- **Murphy Tractor:** Sold a motor grader. The purchaser did not want the tires and rims. Jake Ryba reached out to see if Antelope County would be interested in purchasing the six (6) tires and six (6) rims. Mr. Kluthe believes their intention is to sell the lot. He was instructed to contact Murphy to see if we could possibly purchase a single tire/rim.
- **Sign Truck:** is broke down again. Dylan Wilkins believes it is a fuel injector. Mr. Kluthe reports they did not know which one, or if it was multiple.
- **Equipment #0221:** this is the semi-tractor that has been an issue. Today, Mr. Kluthe reports the estimate from Rutjens for this truck to even pass DOT is \$23,078.17. This was a used equipment purchase about seven (7) years ago - Antelope County got its money worth out of the truck. We have been using parts of off equipment #0224 for a couple of years. Discussion. The Commissioners agreed both of these units should be put up for auction. They believe the purchase will be more enticing if the unit is sold with a second unit for parts. The Commissioners also agree equipment #0214 - International and the paddle scrapper should be sold at an auction as well.
- **Semi Replacement:** Leigh Kluthe and Duane (Buck) Jones shared some printed pages of approximately four (4) trucks they have found online to replace the semi that is unrepairable. The search for under 200,000 miles and under \$70,000.00. Discussion. The Commissioners requested them to continue looking. No action. The Commissioners discussed a dealer is T, South Dakota, and recommended to look through them. One of the shared trucks had California emissions on. It was discussed what this entails. It seems to be a good purchase – if the California emissions doesn't set up road blocks in the way of a costly fix.

12:30 PM Commissioner Krebs leaves meeting.

Road Superintendent Report (continues)

- **Dump Truck:** Leigh Kluthe and Duane (Buck) Jones shared some printed pages of approximately four (4) trucks they have found online for a dump truck. Mr. Kluthe reported they are looking for trucks with blades and had not found any. Discussion continues. Commissioners requested them to continue looking. No action.
- **Sign Truck:** Leigh Kluthe and Duane (Buck) Jones shared some printed pages of approximately three (3) trucks they have found online to replace the current sign truck. And suggested they look into repairing the current truck. The Commissioners want to replace the semi and dump truck before the sign truck.

The following agenda items were postponed until next week:

- Leave of absence - Janitorial
- Administrative Plat – Boundary Adjustment Wortman 2-28-05W Tr W2SW4
- Skid Loader Lease Renewal
- Authorize Clerk to advertise for Bids Armor Coating, Asphalt Oil, Gravel and Hot Mix Asphalt-open 4/7 for 2026-2027
- ROW Utility Permit: Hoskins-Neligh/NPPD
- Legislative Updates and possible action/Krebs
- LB 1072 – Discussion and action

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

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.

ANTELOPE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By: _____
Chairman of the Board, Charlie Henery

Attest: _____
County Clerk, Lisa Payne
Lisa Payne