

June 2nd, 2026
Antelope County Board of Commissioners
Neligh, Nebraska

The Antelope County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session on Tuesday, June 2nd, 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 Jacob seconded by Commissioner Krebs to approve agenda as presented. Voting aye: Jacob, Krebs, Dittrich, Williby and Henery. Nays none. Motion carried.

Minutes: Minutes of May 11th, 2026 Board of Commissioner Meeting: Motion by Commissioner Williby, seconded by Commissioner Jacob to approve minutes of April 11th, 2026 Board of Commissioner Meeting. Voting aye: Jacob, Williby, Krebs and Henery. Nays none. Dittrich abstains. Motion carried.

Minutes: Minutes of May 11th, 2026 Board of Equalization Meeting: Motion by Commissioner Jacob, seconded by Commissioner Krebs to approve minutes of May 11th, 2026 Board of Equalization Meeting. Voting aye: Jacob, Williby, Krebs and Henery. Nays none. Dittrich abstains Motion carried.

Correspondence was Reviewed: TERC letter regarding Orlowski protest – denial; TERC letter regarding Antelope County property valuation in compliance; copy of R&B wages; copy of equipment payments; JEO letter regarding one (1) year warranty for Elgin East project; Berggren email regarding exhibitor both at NACO conference; copy of road closing petition; email from Candace Meredith regarding JPH post card printer and mailer; Harbor Freight acceptance of Antelope County credit; Certificate of Liability Insurance for Tea Worx LLC and Tinsley Grain, Inc; Anderson Concrete estimate for crushing concrete; pledge collateral for imprest account; NIRMA letter regarding property and casualty insurance and billing statement; summarized copy of budget expenditures; pictures of roads after the rain on Friday (May 29th); Region 11 proposed budget.

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

Highway Superintendent Report: Brian McDonald met with the Commissioners regarding various project updates. He stated he had looked at the road petition on GIS, and it looks like it should go relatively smoothly. He will go visually to inspect it after the meeting today.

- Project 392 ‘Elgin Northeast’ Project Elgin Culvert on the half mile road. Mr. Kluthe has contacted all three (3) of the property owners we are going to need right-of-way from. Shouldn’t be that bid of deal. There may be some variation of the value-as it reigns from waste land to irrigated. Biggest piece is about half an acre.
- Small bridge south and east on the north/south road. Finishing up a survey – might run into issues with wetlands. We want to make sure this doesn’t explode into a huge expense.
- Road Map – Nebraska DOT has reached out to Brian regarding a current road map. They are asking him to help update the current roads and types. He has been slowly working on them. The plan is to get together with Road Superintendent, Leigh Kluthe and Road Foreman, Duane Jones “Buck” to help with road coverage. Mr. McDonald believes this is what they base the highway allocation on. This is an ongoing process.
- When asked about the bridges on Copenhagen and how to make that a smooth transition and not have huge dips on the abutments. Mr. McDonald recommended spanning out about 100 feet on either side to make the grade smooth and flowy. Grading off the three (3) inches of asphalt should be a gradual fill as it approaches the bridge, and to avoid that weight on the bridge letting the bridge be the height.
- Coring of 539th Avenue. This has been waiting for four (4) months. The Commissioners asked if we could locate a different company to test the samples, as they could be a couple of months out. Brian stated he will work on finding a different company.

Authorize Road Study for closing an approximate two (2) mile stretch of 852nd Road: Alan Bentley requested a petition to close an approximate two (2) mile stretch of 852nd Road. Recently, the signed petition had been returned. The signatures were verified and it is presented today to have the Commissioners authorize the Highway Superintendent to complete a road study. Discussion. Motion by Commissioner Dittrich, seconded by Commissioner Jacob to authorize the Highway Superintendent to complete study. Voting aye: Jacob, Williby, Krebs and Henery. Nays none. Dittrich abstains Motion carried.

Joint Public Hearing Post Card printer and mailer: Annually, NACO sponsors a vendor to help with the Post Card printing notice and mailing. Today an email from NACO is shared for action. NACO plans on partnering with the ‘State Print Shop’ and Pitney Bowes. The are estimating a cost of approximately \$0.62 per postcard. Antelope County Assessor and Clerk agree the cooperation with NACO and the above partners is a very smooth transaction. Discussion. Motion by Commissioner Williby, seconded by Commissioner Dittrich to approve the partnership with NACO in printing and mailing the postcards. Voting aye: Jacob, Williby, Krebs and Henery. Nays none. Dittrich abstains Motion carried.

Function Transfers: Function transfers will be discussed next week and more may follow on the 23rd of June. The clerk will work on a resolution. No action today.

Protest Hearing Date(s): Due to some conflicts during the month of July and the 10-days needed to advertise the meeting of the Board of Equalization, the Clerk requested a couple of dates when Commissioners would be available to hear protest. Discussion. It was agreed; a quorum should be able to meet on June 9th. The Commissioners requested to start at 8:30 AM. The Clerk will advertise as needed. No further action.

Zoning Administrator Report: Mrs. Wingate had no report.

Road Superintendent Report:

- **Oversize Permits:** 34 permits were submitted for oversize transferring cranes and turbine parts. Discussion. Mr. Kluthe and Mr. Jones has worked with the various submitters regarding the transfer routes. No issues were voiced with the permits today. Motion by Commissioner Krebs, seconded by Commissioner Williby to approve the permits as submitted. Voting aye: Williby, Krebs, Jacob, Dittrich and Henery. Nays none. Motion carried. The following were approved.
 - Oversize Loads: (493-495) Pad 81 520th Avenue north NE 70 West/Hawk Transportation
 - Oversize Loads: (496-505) Start Tower 81 @ 520th Avenue and 835th Road to Boone County
 - Oversize Loads: (506-515) Highway 70 to 512th Avenue to tower 21/Thunderhead
 - Oversize Load: (516) Highway 70 north 512th Avenue to tower 21/Borsheim Crane
 - Oversize Loads: (517-519) Highway 70 to 520th Avenue to tower 81/Hawk Transportation/Cardinal
 - Oversize Load: (520) 510th Avenue and 846th Road to 512th Avenue - End at Thunderhead site/Daily Express
 - Oversize Load: (521) 846th Road to 512th Avenue-to Tower 21/Bennett Motor Express
 - Oversize Load: (522-524) 846th Road to 512th Avenue - End at Tower 21/Nomad Permits
 - Oversize Load: (525-527) 846th Road east to 512th Avenue south to Tower 21/Hawk Transportation

- **Access Permit:** 866th Road-SE¼ Section 20, Township 28, Range 5 – Driveway. Dustin Blair submitted a permit application to install a driveway for a new home. The construction on the home has begun and a driveway was installed prior to the permit submission. Mr. Jones believes there should be a culvert under this access. Because the driveway is ‘established’ the Commissioners instructed Mr. Jones to take the culvert out there and to let the landowner install – as the County should not be responsible for the removal of the original access. Motion by Commissioner Jacob, seconded by Commissioner Williby to approve the access with culvert. Voting aye: Jacob, Williby, Dittrich, Krebs and Henery. Nays none. Motion passed.
- **Sign Truck:** During recent meeting discussions it was noted the sign truck was unrepairable. Mr. Jones has worked with some local dealers and some not so local dealers to check availability and inventories. Today, a few trucks were presented by Hill Top Auto owned by Nate Soper and a truck was presented by Jonny Dodge. Mr. Jones had also talked to Jeremy at Old Mill Auto Sales – who did not provide bids. A couple of Road and Bridge employees talked with Mr. Soper and driven a couple of the pickups listed. Their opinion was shared as not being favorable of the inventory offered. Jonny Dodge presented a 2017 RAM 3500 DRW Regular Cab Chassis 4X4. 84-inch cab to axle measurement. 6.4L gas powered Hemi V-8 and heavy-duty Aisin 6 speed automatic transmission and a GVWR of 14,000 lbs. No warranty. Bid price is \$22,500.00. Vehicle is not in dealers’ possession. Discussion on vehicles submitted. The RAM truck was discussed in great detail. The truck appeared ideally on paper, however the Commissioners wanted eyes and ears on the vehicle and engine before engaging in a purchase. The Commissioners suggested Antelope County send two (2) Road and Bridge employees to Ames, Iowa to inspect the vehicle on Thursday. If they felt the vehicle was adequate, they would transport it back to Jonny Dodge, and Antelope County would engage in a purchase from Jonny Dodge at that point. Antelope County employees would take a check from Jonny Dodge and transfer it if the vehicle seemed like something Antelope County wanted to buy, before driving back to Antelope County. If it is brought back the purchase will be an agenda item next week. No further action.
- **Road & Bridge Discussion:**
 - There have been a number of roads severely impacted by the rains received. Mr. Jones reports they are working on these areas. Some of them are starting to show improvements. Discussion of signing these roads if it is known the adverse weather is pending or happening. A number of the existing incidents involve inexperienced gravel/dirt road drivers. Permanent Road closed signs is not an option, as this may cause an indifference to the public regarding signage.
 - Pile of dirt on Jason Rittscher property – maybe contact Brian in the weed department to spray to keep the weeds under control
 - Wind rows. Progress is slow going, more product needed.
 - 140H – transmission is bad. Tim Grubb estimates \$42,980.00. There are 17,000 hours on it now. It should have been completely overhauled every 8,000 hours.
 - Plow Truck (Colorado)- regenerating. International said the Def pump is out. \$1,500.00 fix.
 - 2009 Mack power unit (Dennis) – during driver training – the back end of the transmission was knocked out \$5,500.00
 - Freightliner – in Ewing. Needs injectors – he has the go to fix it.
 - Safety Meeting: discussed wind row up north and road widening
 - CDL – two (2) drivers completed the computer class – and are awaiting the drivers’ class-40 hours driving time.

Region 11: Bobbie Risor who was visiting the meeting explained the Region 11 budget overage. Currently, the Region 11 budget is funded by grants that is normally awarded annually. However, last years grant has not come to fruition. Mrs. Risor reports the money has been promised however, nobody has the actual funds. To prevent this in the future Region 11, will not be counting on these funds and will utilize them in the arrears going forward.

Road Foreman’s Pay Increase: In March of 2025, Antelope County promoted Mr. Duane Jones to Road Foreman. He has inquired about a pay increase. Last month, he reported he asked inquired with the Road Superintendent and has not received an answer or direction. The Road Superintendent had completed an evaluation in August. The Commissioners agreed he has been responsive in getting things done and reporting to them. The Board requested the Road Superintendent to update the evaluation, and report to the Board with a suggested increase and the Board would help come up with a wage – as warranted during the first June meeting-to be implemented in a timely manner. In follow-up of the discussion the Road Forman presents today. Duane Jones requested to go into executive session to discuss his job, performance and evaluation.

10:39 AM Motion by Commissioner Krebs, seconded by Commissioner Williby to go into executive session to evaluate job performance of the Antelope County Road Foreman (Personnel Issues). Voting aye: Jacob, Dittrich, Williby, Krebs, and Henery. Nays none. Motion carried. The five (5) members of the Board of Commissioners met in the Clerk’s vault for approximately 30 minutes. At that time, the Commissioners invited Mr. Jones in for the evaluation. The Board walked out of executive session at 11:31 AM. **11:36 AM**, Commissioner Williby, seconded by Commissioner Jacob to go out of executive session and back to regular meeting. Voting aye: Jacob, Dittrich, Williby, Krebs, and Henery. Nays none. Motion carried. The Chairman announced there was no action during executive session. Discussion of wages. Confirmation of the performance of previous work. Discussion of the length of time elapsed since the initial hiring. Recently, the Road and Bridge Department as a whole was awarded hourly pay increases. Motion by Commissioner Williby, seconded by Commissioner Jacob to change Mr. Jones salary to an hourly amount. The wage will be set at \$28.78 an hour, and to utilize the clock in/out times when available. This is effective May 1, 2026. The discussion of utilizing the Sheriff Office Dispatchers while the availability of a remote log in is reviewed. Voting aye: Jacob, Krebs, Williby, Dittrich and Henery. Nays none. Motion carried.

Clock Tower Project: A member of the public asked the Commissioners where they were on the proposed project that was presented in April. The Commissioners stated the County Attorney was working with Mr. McNally and they had not heard anything else. Commissioner Krebs will try to follow-up with either (or both) attorneys this week.

Brown County Dispatch: Sheriff Moore met with the Commissioners regarding Brown County reaching out for help with their 9-1-1 Dispatch Center. Because of recent developments, most of the staff has walked out and they do not have the manpower to run the dispatch center. They Brown County Sheriff reached out to Sheriff Moore to have the Antelope County Law Enforcement Center help with manning the system remotely. Brown County currently uses the same radio system as Antelope County – so they thought it would be easy enough to transfer the calls. The Brown County Sheriff would probably request training of new employees if/when hired. This would be a temporary arrangement, to get Brown County past the crisis they are in. County Attorney Joe Smith and the Brown County Attorney will work up an interlocal agreement including verbiage for compensation. Sheriff Moore wanted the Commissioners to be aware so when the interlocal agreement is presented next week they had some background information.

Parking Bumpers: On the north and west side of the Courthouse there are parking bumpers. Currently, the bumpers hinder the width of the sidewalk, so snow is not easily shelved by the bobcat. The parking lines seem long – especially on the west side (Main Street) side of the courthouse. The Sheriff was wondering if the city could be asked if the bumpers could be moved about a foot to the west/north to allow the passing of the bobcat. Commissioner Henery stated he will talk to the City Superintendent.

There being nothing more to discuss.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 PM.

ANTELOPE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By: _____
Chairman of the Board, Charlie Henery

Attest: _____
County Clerk, Lisa Payne
Lisa Payne