

**BUFFALO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
BUFFALO COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION  
TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026**

The Buffalo County Board of Commissioners and the Buffalo County Board of Equalization met on Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 9:00 A.M. and 9:30 A.M. Chairperson Morrow called the meeting to order and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. The following Board members responded to roll call: Ivan Klein, Myron Kouba, Ronald Loeffelholz, Daniel Lynch, Bill Maendele and Sherry Morrow. Absent: Timothy Higgins. A copy of the acknowledgment and receipt of notice and agenda by the Board of Commissioners is attached to these minutes. Public notice of this meeting was published/posted in the Kearney Hub, on the Buffalo County website, and the bulletin boards located outside the County Clerk's office and County Board Room on May 7, 2026. Chairperson Morrow announced that in accordance with Section 84-1412 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes, a current copy of the Open Meetings Act is available for review and posted at the back of the Board Room. County Clerk Heather Christensen took all proceedings hereinafter shown; while the convened meeting was open to the public.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

Moved by Maendele and seconded by Loeffelholz to approve the April 28, 2026 minutes with the following Amendment to the fourth to last paragraph to add a failed motion regarding the new hire and the County Attorney's recommendation. The added portion should read "Moved by Maendele and seconded by Lynch to reject the new hire as per employee handbook. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Maendele, Lynch and Higgins. "Nay": Klein, Kouba, Loeffelholz and Morrow. Motion declared failed. County Attorney Eatherton recommended calling another motion to approve agenda item." Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Maendele, Loeffelholz, Klein, Kouba, Lynch and Morrow. Absent: Higgins. Motion declared carried.

At 9:03 A.M. Deputy County Attorney Andrew Hoffmeister and Deputy County Attorney Josiah Davis arrived.

Sheriff Neil Miller, Chief Deputy Daniel Schleusener, Sergeant David Gibbs, as well as Buffalo County Sheriff Deputies, Nicholas Alexander and Christopher Jarmin were present for the Proclamation of the National Police Week. Commissioner Lynch read into record the Proclamation of National Police Week. Moved by Lynch and seconded by Kouba to proclaim the week of May 10, 2026 through May 16, 2026 as "National Police Week" in Buffalo County with the following Resolution 2026-18. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Lynch, Kouba, Klein, Loeffelholz, Maendele and Morrow. Absent: Higgins. Motion declared carried.

**RESOLUTION 2026-18**

**PROCLAMATION**

**Name the Week of May 10, 2026 through May 16, 2026 as  
"National Police Week" in Buffalo County**

**WHEREAS**, National Police Week was first proclaimed in 1963 by President Kennedy when he signed Proclamation 3537 creating "National Police Week" to recognize the service given by men and women who, night and day, protect us through enforcement of our laws, and

**WHEREAS**, the members of the law enforcement agencies of Buffalo County play an important role in safeguarding the rights and freedoms of Buffalo County; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important that our citizens know and understand the duties, responsibilities, hazards, and sacrifices of their law enforcement agencies, and that members of our law enforcement agencies recognize their duty to serve the people by safeguarding life and property, by protecting them against violence or disorder, and protecting the innocent against deception and the weak against oppression or intimidation; and;

**WHEREAS**, the men and women of the Buffalo County Sheriff's Office unceasingly provide vital public services;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Buffalo County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaim the week of May 10<sup>th</sup> through May 16<sup>th</sup> as "National Police Week" to honor those law enforcement officers, who, through their courageous deeds, have made the ultimate sacrifices in service to their community or have been disabled in the performance of duty, and let us recognize and pay respect to the survivors of our fallen heroes. All Buffalo County citizens are encouraged to pay tribute to the many law enforcement officers, past and present, who by their faithful and loyal devotion to their responsibilities have rendered a dedicated service to their communities and, in so doing, have established for themselves an enviable and enduring reputation for preserving the rights and security of all citizens.

At 9:07 A.M. County Attorney Shawn Eatherton arrived.

Pleasanton Volunteer Fire Department member Chad Dixon, Ravenna Volunteer Fire Department member Peg Dethlefs, Gibbon Volunteer Fire Department members Trista Cress and Ben Burklund and Elm Creek Volunteer Fire Department members Ron Knapp and Scott Shubert were present for the Proclamation of the Emergency Medical Services Week. Commissioner Maendele read into record the Proclamation of Emergency Medical Services Week. Moved by Maendele and seconded by Loeffelholz to proclaim the week of May 17, 2026 through May 23, 2026 as “Emergency Medical Services Week” in Buffalo County with the following Resolution 2026-19. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Maendele, Loeffelholz, Klein, Kouba, Lynch and Morrow. Absent: Higgins. Motion declared carried.

**RESOLUTION 2026-19**

**PROCLAMATION**

**Name the Week of May 17, 2026 through May 23, 2026 as  
“Emergency Medical Services Week” in Buffalo County**

**WHEREAS**, emergency medical services is a vital public service; and

**WHEREAS**, the members of emergency medical services teams are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

**WHEREAS**, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

**WHEREAS**, emergency medical services fills healthcare gaps by providing important, out-of-hospital care, including preventative medicine, follow-up care, and access to telemedicine; and

**WHEREAS**, the emergency medical services system consists of first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, firefighters, police officers, educators, administrators, pre-hospital nurses, emergency nurses, emergency physicians, trained members of the public, and other out of hospital medical care providers; and

**WHEREAS**, the members of emergency medical services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and

**WHEREAS**, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of emergency medical services providers by designating the Emergency Medical Services Week;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Buffalo County Commissioners in recognition of this event do hereby proclaim the week of May 17 - 23, 2026, as “Emergency Medical Services Week.” The 52nd anniversary of EMS Week theme is EMS WEEK: Improving Outcomes, Together. All Buffalo County citizens are encouraged to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities in honor of the EMS profession and the essential service it provides.

Moved by Loeffelholz and seconded by Lynch to ratify the following May 1, 2026 payroll claims processed by the County Clerk. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Loeffelholz, Lynch, Klein, Kouba, Maendele and Morrow. Absent: Higgins. Motion declared carried.

**May 1, 2026 PAYROLL**

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>			
NET PAYROLL			391,646.05
AMERICAN FAMILY LIFE	I	PREMIUMS	1,185.56
RETIREMENT PLANS AMERITAS	R	EMPE RET	68,483.11
BUFFALO CO TREASURER	I	PREMIUMS	182,659.00
EMPOWER ANNUITY INS	R	DEFERRED COMP	1,075.00
FIRST CONCORD	E	FLEX FUNDS	8,198.54
FIRST NATIONAL BANK	T	FEDERAL TAXES	128,003.63
KEARNEY UNITED WAY	E	DONATIONS	40.00
MADISON NATIONAL	I	PREMIUMS	1,192.10
MADISON NATIONAL	I	LT DISABILITY	334.70
METLIFE	E	DENTAL	4,540.78
NATIONWIDE RETIREMENT	R	DEFERRED COMP	2,382.00
NE CHILD SUPPORT	E	CHILD SUPPORT	876.50
STATE OF NE	T	STATE TAXES	17,997.05
VISION SERVICE PLAN	E	EMPE VSP EYE	1,252.91
<b>ROAD FUND</b>			
NET PAYROLL			69,234.75
AMERICAN FAMILY LIFE	I	PREMIUMS	873.38

RETIREMENT PLANS AMERITAS	R	EMPE RET	11,071.70
BUFFALO CO TREASURER	I	PREMIUMS	5,266.00
FAMILY SUPPORT REGISTRY	E	GARNISHMENT	75.00
FIRST CONCORD	E	FLEX FUNDS	1,087.46
FIRST NATIONAL BANK	T	FEDERAL TAXES	19,696.18
MADISON NATIONAL	I	PREMIUMS	221.56
MADISON NATIONAL	I	LT DISABILITY	101.14
METLIFE	E	DENTAL	1,029.14
NATIONWIDE RETIREMENT	R	DEFERRED COMP	272.50
STATE OF NE	T	STATE TAXES	2,687.75
VISION SERVICE PLAN	E	EMPE VSP EYE	324.54
<b>WEED FUND</b>			
NET PAYROLL			6,048.95
RETIREMENT PLANS AMERITAS	R	EMPE RET	952.19
BUFFALO CO TREASURER	I	PREMIUMS	423.00
FIRST CONCORD	E	FLEX FUNDS	33.33
FIRST NATIONAL BANK	T	FEDERAL TAXES	1,861.61
MADISON NATIONAL	I	LT DISABILITY	4.18
METLIFE	E	DENTAL	66.92
STATE OF NE	T	STATE TAXES	252.48

Moved by Maendele and seconded by Klein to acknowledge receipt of Buffalo County Clerk April 2026 Journal Entries. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Maendele, Klein, Kouba, Loeffelholz, Lynch and Morrow. Absent: Higgins. Motion declared carried.

Moved by Lynch and seconded by Klein to acknowledge receipt of the Clerk of the District Court April 2026 Report. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Lynch, Klein, Kouba, Loeffelholz, Maendele and Morrow. Absent: Higgins. Motion declared carried.

Moved by Loeffelholz and seconded by Lynch to acknowledge receipt of the Buffalo County Treasurer April 2026 Fund Balance Report. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Loeffelholz, Lynch, Klein, Kouba, Maendele and Morrow. Absent: Higgins. Motion declared carried.

Moved by Maendele and seconded by Kouba to acknowledge receipt of 2025 Tax Increment Financing Report for the City of Ravenna. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Maendele, Kouba, Klein, Loeffelholz, Lynch and Morrow. Absent: Higgins. Motion declared carried.

After discussion, it was moved by Kouba and seconded by Loeffelholz to approve the EPC Agreement with Region 3 Behavioral Health Services for July 2026 – June 2028. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Kouba, Loeffelholz, Klein, Lynch and Morrow. Abstain: Maendele. Absent: Higgins. Motion declared carried.

Weed Superintendent Bret Stubbs presented the State Weed Report with a copy filed in the Clerk's office. Following discussion, it was moved by Klein and seconded by Kouba to approve the State Weed Report. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Klein, Kouba, Loeffelholz, Lynch, Maendele and Morrow. Absent: Higgins. Motion declared carried.

Wildlife District Supervisor Ryan Powers and Local Wildlife Representative Kyle Brown were present for the following agenda items. After discussion, it was moved by Klein and seconded by Lynch to approve the USDA Wildlife Cooperative service agreement. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Klein, Lynch, Kouba, Loeffelholz, Maendele and Morrow. Absent: Higgins. Motion declared carried.

Moved by Klein and seconded by Lynch to approve the USDA Wildlife Service Work/Financial Plan. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Klein, Lynch, Kouba, Loeffelholz, Maendele and Morrow. Absent: Higgins. Motion declared carried.

Succeeding discussion, it was moved by Kouba and seconded by Maendele to approve Holmes Murphy for the Employee Health Benefit Consultant RFP opened in the April 14, 2026 meeting. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Kouba, Maendele, Klein, Loeffelholz, Lynch and Morrow. Absent: Higgins. Motion declared carried.

Chairperson Morrow reviewed the following correspondence. City of Kearney sent a letter regarding the Planning Commission Agenda for May 15, 2026. City of Kearney also sent letters regarding the Annexation of 12 Kids Addition, Spruce Hollow Estates Ninth Addition, and Fountain Hills Sixteenth Addition.

## ZONING

Zoning Administrator Dennise Daniels was present for the following Zoning agenda items.

Chairperson Morrow opened the public hearing at 9:35 A.M. for an Administrative Subdivision filed by Mitch Humphrey, licensed land surveyor, on behalf of Timothy K. Erickson and Kathleen J. Erickson for Administrative Subdivision to be known as “Erickson Second Administrative Subdivision”. This property is located in Part of Government Lot 14, of Section Seven (7), Township Nine (9) North, Range Sixteen (16) West of the Sixth Principal Meridian, Buffalo County, Nebraska. Licensed land surveyor Humphrey was present to review the application and answer questions. No one else addressed the Board and Chairperson Morrow closed the hearing at 9:37 A.M. Moved by Loeffelholz and seconded by Lynch to approve the Administrative Subdivision to be known as “Erickson Second Administrative Subdivision” with the following Resolution 2026-20. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Loeffelholz, Lynch, Klein, Kouba, Maendele and Morrow. Absent: Higgins. Motion declared carried.

### **RESOLUTION 2026-20**

WHEREAS, Mitch Humphrey, licensed land surveyor, on behalf of Timothy K. Erickson and Kathleen J. Erickson, hereinafter referred to as “applicant”, has filed for an Administrative Subdivision for “Erickson Second Administrative Subdivision”, with the Buffalo County Clerk and/or Zoning Administrator, and

WHEREAS, the Zoning Administrator forwarded this application to this Board, and

WHEREAS, on May 12, 2026, this Board conducted a public hearing and finds:

1. The proposed “Erickson Second Administrative Subdivision” is in the Agricultural – Residential 2 (AGR – 2) Zoning District for Buffalo County, Nebraska.
2. The subject tract, presently owned Timothy K. Erickson and Kathleen J. Erickson is referred to as part of parcel 560385190 and is situated in part of Government Lot 13 and part of Government Lot 14, in Section Seven (7), Township Nine (9) North, Range Sixteen (16) West of the Sixth Principal Meridian, Buffalo County, Nebraska. The remnancy of the ownership owned by Timothy K. Erickson and Kathleen J. Erickson is approximately 74 acres.
3. The proposed plat for this subdivision fulfills Buffalo County’s Subdivision Resolution requirements for administrative subdivisions specifically allowed under Section 3.02, together with other provisions applicable, thereto.
4. Dove Hill Avenue is a county-maintained, open public road and the road abuts on the subdivision’s west side. The width of Dove Hill Avenue meets this county’s minimum width standards.
5. Title search paperwork has been provided to the Buffalo County Attorney’s Office and that office has cleared title as concerns Buffalo County’s interests based upon the title search documents delivered to that office by applicant.
6. This proposed administrative subdivision should be approved.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BUFFALO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS in regular session with a quorum present, that the plat, “Erickson Second Administrative Subdivision”, an administrative subdivision located in Part of Government Lot 14, Section Seven (7), Township Nine (9) North, Range Sixteen (16) West of the Sixth Principal Meridian, Buffalo County, Nebraska, duly made out, acknowledged and certified, is hereby approved, accepted, ratified, and authorized to be filed and recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds, Buffalo County, Nebraska

Moved by Maendele and seconded by Kouba to recess the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners at 9:37 A.M. and reconvene as a Board of Equalization. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Maendele, Kouba, Klein, Loeffelholz, Lynch and Morrow. Absent: Higgins. Motion declared carried.

### **BOARD OF EQUALIZATION**

Chairperson Morrow called the Board of Equalization to order in open session. County Assessor Roy Meusch was present.

Moved by Maendele and seconded by Kouba to approve Tax List Corrections numbered 5222 – 5226 submitted by County Assessor Meusch. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Maendele, Kouba, Klein, Loeffelholz, Lynch and Morrow. Absent: Higgins. Motion declared carried.

Moved by Loeffelholz and seconded by Klein to adjourn the Board of Equalization and return to the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners at 9:40 A.M. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Loeffelholz, Klein, Kouba, Lynch, Maendele and Morrow. Absent: Higgins. Motion declared carried.

### **ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Highway Superintendent John Maul was present for the following agenda items.

Following discussion, it was moved by Klein and seconded by Maendele to approve the purchase of 2026 John Deere 335P Skid Loader through SourceWell Pricing. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Klein, Maendele, Kouba, Loeffelholz, Lynch and Morrow. Absent: Higgins. Motion declared carried.

After discussion, it was moved by Lynch and seconded by Klein to approve the purchase of 2026 John Deere 6130M Tractor through SourceWell Pricing. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Lynch, Klein, Kouba, Loeffelholz, Maendele and Morrow. Absent: Higgins. Motion declared carried.

### **FACILITIES**

Facilities Director Stephen Gaasch presented a review of the current construction projects in Buffalo County with the Board.

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

Executive Director Sharon Hueftle presented an update from South Central Economic Development District.

Chairperson Morrow called on each Board member present for Committee reports and recommendation.

Chairperson Morrow called for Citizen's forum. No one addressed the Board.

At 10:19 A.M., Chairperson Morrow asked if there was anything else to come before the Board before she declared the meeting adjourned until the regular meeting at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, May 26, 2026.

ATTEST:

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Sherry L. Morrow, Chairperson  
Buffalo County Board of Commissioners

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Heather A. Christensen  
Buffalo County Clerk

(SEAL)