

**BUFFALO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUFFALO COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025**

The Buffalo County Board of Commissioners and the Buffalo County Board of Equalization met on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 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: Timothy Higgins, Ivan Klein, Myron Kouba, Ronald Loeffelholz, Daniel Lynch, Bill Maendele and Sherry Morrow. 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 March 6, 2025. 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. County Attorney Shawn Eatherton and Deputy County Attorney Andrew Hoffmeister were present.

REGULAR AGENDA

Moved by Higgins and seconded by Lynch to approve the February 25, 2025 Board meeting minutes. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Higgins, Lynch, Klein, Kouba, Loeffelholz, Maendele and Morrow. Motion declared carried.

Commissioner Lynch read into the record a Resolution of Commendation to Jennifer Murrish of Buffalo County Historical Society for her 20 years of service. Moved by Higgins and seconded by Klein to approve the following Resolution 2025-12. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Higgins, Klein, Kouba, Loeffelholz, Lynch, Maendele and Morrow. Motion declared carried.

RESOLUTION 2025-12

Whereas, Jennifer Murrish has served with exceptional dedication as the Executive Director of the Buffalo County Historical Society for the past 20 years; and

Whereas, throughout her tenure, Jennifer has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the preservation, collection, and sharing of the rich history of Buffalo County, ensuring that future generations will understand and appreciate the cultural heritage of this community; and

Whereas, under Jennifer's visionary leadership, the Buffalo County Historical Society has experienced significant growth, including the construction of the new Family History Center, which stands as a testament to her foresight and devotion to preserving the county’s history in an accessible and meaningful way; and

Whereas, Jennifer’s efforts have not only strengthened the Historical Society but have also fostered a deeper connection between the people of Buffalo County and their shared history, enriching the community's cultural fabric; and

Whereas, her passion, professionalism, and tireless dedication have inspired countless individuals and organizations to support the mission of the Buffalo County Historical Society, ensuring its continued success for many years to come;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Buffalo County Board of Commissioners that we extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation to Jennifer Murrish for her exemplary service, leadership, and dedication over the past 20 years; and

Be it further resolved, that we honor her contributions and celebrate her lasting impact on the preservation and growth of the Buffalo County Historical Society, as well as her role in enriching the lives of all those who have experienced the history of this remarkable community through her work.

Moved by Higgins and seconded by Kouba to ratify the following March 7, 2025 payroll claims processed by the County Clerk. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Higgins, Kouba, Klein, Loeffelholz, Lynch, Maendele and Morrow. Motion declared carried.

MARCH 7, 2025 PAYROLL

GENERAL FUND			
NET PAYROLL			373,561.63
AMERICAN FAMILY LIFE	I	PREMIUMS	1,554.52
RETIREMENT PLANS AMERITAS	R	EMPE RET	65,977.68

BUFFALO CO TREASURER	I	PREMIUMS	170,895.50
EMPOWER ANNUITY INS	R	DEFERRED COMP	1,075.00
FAMILY SUPPORT REGISTRY	E	GARNISHMENT	75.00
FIRST CONCORD	E	FLEX FUNDS	7,114.10
FIRST NATIONAL BANK	T	FEDERAL TAXES	126,195.28
KEARNEY UNITED WAY	E	DONATIONS	67.42
MADISON NATIONAL	I	PREMIUMS	1,171.61
MADISON NATIONAL	I	LT DISABILITY	309.76
ERIN M MCCARTNEY	E	GARNISHMENT	402.00
METLIFE	E	DENTAL	4,256.08
NATIONWIDE RETIREMENT	R	DEFERRED COMP	2,207.00
NE CHILD SUPPORT	E	CHILD SUPPORT	1,200.50
STATE OF NE	T	STATE TAXES	19,716.50
VISION SERVICE PLAN	E	EMPE VSP EYE	1,242.97
ROAD FUND			
NET PAYROLL			78,115.63
AMERICAN FAMILY LIFE	I	PREMIUMS	1,068.67
RETIREMENT PLANS AMERITAS	R	EMPE RET	12,503.11
BUFFALO CO TREASURER	I	PREMIUMS	3,937.00
BUFFALO CO COURT	E	GARNISHMENT	228.50
FIRST CONCORD	E	FLEX FUNDS	821.66
FIRST NATIONAL BANK	T	FEDERAL TAXES	24,354.58
MADISON NATIONAL	I	PREMIUMS	185.46
MADISON NATIONAL	I	LT DISABILITY	112.99
METLIFE	E	DENTAL	971.12
NATIONWIDE RETIREMENT	R	DEFERRED COMP	272.50
STATE OF NE	T	STATE TAXES	3,731.03
VISION SERVICE PLAN	E	EMPE VSP EYE	309.33
WEED FUND			
NET PAYROLL			5,728.20
RETIREMENT PLANS AMERITAS	R	EMPE RET	900.84
BUFFALO CO TREASURER	I	PREMIUMS	346.00
FIRST CONCORD	E	FLEX FUNDS	33.33
FIRST NATIONAL BANK	T	FEDERAL TAXES	1,789.53
MADISON NATIONAL	I	LT DISABILITY	3.94
METLIFE	E	DENTAL	60.36
STATE OF NE	T	STATE TAXES	264.73

Moved by Loeffelholz and seconded by Lynch to accept the Clerk of the District Court February 2025 Report. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Loeffelholz, Lynch, Higgins, Klein, Kouba, Maendele and Morrow. Motion declared carried.

Moved by Maendele and seconded by Lynch to accept the Buffalo County Treasurer February 2025 Fund Balance Report. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Maendele, Lynch, Higgins, Klein, Kouba, Loeffelholz and Morrow. Motion declared carried.

Moved by Klein and seconded by Higgins to accept the January 2025 Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska RYDE Report. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Klein, Higgins, Loeffelholz, Lynch, Maendele and Morrow. Abstain: Kouba. Motion declared carried.

South Central Economic Development District (SCEDD) Deputy Director LeAnn Jochum was present to give updated reports and filed the 2024 annual report with the County Clerk.

Sheriff Neil Miller and Lieutenant Robert Tubbs were present for the following agenda item. Chairperson Morrow instructed County Clerk Christensen to open and read aloud the submitted bids for the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the support and maintenance of Mitel Phone system for the Buffalo County offices and City of Kearney/Buffalo County Law Enforcement Center bids were submitted from the following companies; HunTel Communications, a CPI Company and Kidwell. Sheriff Miller, Lieutenant Tubbs and the IT Committee will review the bids and come back with recommendations at the next meeting on Tuesday, March 25, 2025.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Highway Superintendent John Maul was present for the following Agenda item.

The Road Committee reviewed the final tabulations for gravel bids submitted on February 25, 2025 and Highway Superintendent Maul presented them to the Board. Moved by Klein and seconded by Lynch to award gravel bids for April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026 to Paulsen Inc. for Zones 1 through 7 and Zones 12 through 13; Ed Broadfoot & Sons Sand & Gravel Inc. for Zone 8 through 11

and Zone 14 and Zone 16; Mid Nebraska Aggregate Inc. for Zones 18 through 26 and Southwest Gravel Products for Zone 15 and Zone 17. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Klein, Lynch, Higgins, Kouba, Loeffelholz, Maendele and Morrow. Motion declared carried.

Moved by Loeffelholz and seconded by Maendele to recess the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners at 9:30 A.M. and reconvene as a Board of Equalization. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Loeffelholz, Maendele, Higgins, Klein, Kouba, Lynch and Morrow. Motion declared carried.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

Chairperson Morrow called the Board of Equalization to order in open session. County Treasurer Brenda Rohrich and County Assessor Roy Meusch were present.

Deputy County Attorney Hoffmeister presented the confession of TERC appeal. After discussion it was moved by Higgins and seconded by Klein that Buffalo County Board of Equalization Confesses Judgment in Tax Equalization & Review Commission Case #24C 0547 in appeal concerning HUB PUBLISHING CO., Appellant, and Buffalo County, Appellee, for property identified as tax parcel # 610065000 and that the Buffalo County Attorney's Office be, and hereby is, authorized to confess judgment on behalf of this Board, that for tax year 2024 that this property had an assessed valuation of \$737,000. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Higgins, Klein, Kouba, Loeffelholz, Lynch, Maendele and Morrow. Motion declared carried.

Moved by Lynch and seconded by Loeffelholz to approve the Motor Vehicle Tax Exemption renewal as indicated on the application by County Treasurer Rohrich for American Red Cross for a 1999 Trailer. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Lynch, Loeffelholz, Higgins, Klein, Kouba, Maendele and Morrow. Motion declared carried.

The following Motor Vehicle Tax Exemption renewal application was moved from the February 25, 2025 meeting due to County Treasurer Rohrich's absence. Moved by Klein and seconded by Kouba to approve the Motor Vehicle Tax Exemption renewal as indicated on the application by County Treasurer Rohrich for the Catholic High School of Kearney for a 2022 Ford Expedition Max XLT 4x4. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Klein, Kouba, Higgins, Loeffelholz, Lynch, Maendele and Morrow. Motion declared carried.

Moved by Loeffelholz and seconded by Lynch to approve the Motor Vehicle Tax Exemption renewal as indicated on the application by County Treasurer Rohrich for First United Methodist Church of Kearney for a 2024 AMP Cooler Trailer. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Loeffelholz, Lynch, Higgins, Klein, Kouba, Maendele and Morrow. Motion declared carried.

Moved by Loeffelholz and seconded by Lynch to approve the Motor Vehicle Tax Exemption renewal as indicated on the application by County Treasurer Rohrich for Seneca Sunrise, LLC for a 2021 Chrysler Pacifica Van. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Loeffelholz, Lynch, Higgins, Klein, Kouba, Maendele and Morrow. Motion declared carried.

Moved by Loeffelholz and seconded by Klein to approve Tax List Corrections numbered 5077 through 5087 submitted by County Assessor Meusch. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Loeffelholz, Klein, Higgins, Kouba, Lynch, Maendele and Morrow. Motion declared carried.

The following Permissive Exemption applications were heard by the Board of Equalization on February 25, 2025. County Assessor Meusch stated the applications were incorrectly submitted and requested they be presented again at today's meeting. Meusch made the recommendations for each application to be denied. Moved by Loeffelholz and seconded by Klein to approve the denial of the following Permissive Exemption applications. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Loeffelholz, Klein, Higgins, Kouba, Lynch, Maendele and Morrow. Motion declared carried.

Name of Organization	Parcel #
EDUCATIONAL	
BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA	604538000
BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA	604535000
BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA	602459000
BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA	604537000
BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA	602458000

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 9:43 A.M. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Loeffelholz, Klein, Higgins, Kouba, Lynch, Maendele and Morrow. Motion declared carried.

REGULAR AGENDA

Chairperson Morrow reviewed the following correspondence. City of Kearney sent a letter regarding the Planning Commission Agenda for March 21, 2025. County Clerk added the last Planning Commission meeting minutes to the Board packets as requested by the

Board. Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) sent an email with a letter attached stating that NDOT is required to give nonmetropolitan local officials the opportunity to comment on planning documents that could potentially impact the local community. A Nebraska resident sent a letter in regards to their recent visit to the Department of Motor Vehicle Licensing office and the inconvenience of the payment process. Chairperson Morrow called on each Board member present for committee reports and recommendations.

Jacob Sertich Managing Principal/Architect of Wilkins Architecture Design and Planning reviewed the current construction projects including the (Law Enforcement Center) LEC Needs Assessment Report in Buffalo County with the Board a copy of the report is on file with the County Clerk.

Moved by Loeffelholz and seconded by Higgins to enter into Executive Session at 10:18 A.M. regarding personnel. In addition to the Board members responding to roll call, County Attorney Eatherton, Sheriff Miller and Board Administrator Lynn Martin. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Loeffelholz, Higgins, Kouba, Lynch, Maendele, Morrow and Klein. Motion declared carried.

Moved by Loeffelholz and seconded by Higgins to move out of Executive Session at 10:36 A.M. and resume the open meeting. Upon roll call vote, the following Board members voted "Aye": Loeffelholz, Higgins, Kouba, Lynch, Maendele, Morrow and Klein. Motion declared carried.

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

Chairperson Morrow asked if there was anything else to come before the Board at 10:37 A.M. before she declared the meeting adjourned until the regular meeting at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, March 25, 2025.

ATTEST:

Sherry L. Morrow, Chairperson
Buffalo County Board of Commissioners

Heather A. Christensen
Buffalo County Clerk

(SEAL)