

The Hooker County Board of Commissioners held a regular monthly meeting at 3:30 p.m. in the courthouse on February 13, 2025. Present were commissioners Bryan Crisp, Thad Emerson and Julie Kraye. Also present during the meeting were Jessica Hampton, George Vinton, Crystal Hardy, Todd Yost, Mike Baum, Eric Seacrest, Darlene Osborn, Pam Brooks, Mildred Starr, Kathie Hassett, Mary Lou Isom, Mindy & Dusty Paxton, Bob & Pat Edis, Sharon Sullivan, Sharlyn Bader, Jan Farrow, Nancy Beitel, Sandy Kranvig, Twila Phillips, Deb Daly, Melinda Kraus, Midge Harding and Irya Superko.

~~The minutes of the January 9th, 2025 meeting were read aloud and approved. Thad Emerson made a motion to approve the minutes, Julie Kraye seconded. Roll call vote, three ayes, motion carried. Chairman Bryan Crisp announced the Public Meetings Law posted in the boardroom and copies of it and the agenda are available for the public.~~

The claims on file were audited by the board. Bryan Crisp moved and Thad Emerson seconded the motion that the audited claims be allowed and warrants from the various county funds be issued for their payment. Roll call vote, three ayes, motion carried. Approved claims are listed below. Roads were discussed and monthly expenses reviewed. Mike Baum attended the meeting and updated the commissioners on roads, equipment and the maintenance building. Baum had the fire extinguishers recharged on February 12. NIRWA has been notified and will be performing a site inspection for the maintenance building. Baum is currently researching blade options for shouldering the roads. The state will have millings available for purchase and Baum requested the purchase be in the budget for fiscal year 2025-2026.

At 3:45 p.m. the board recessed to begin the Board of Equalization Hearing. The commissioners reconvened at 3:55 p.m. Eric Seacrest, Executive Director of the Nebraska Community Foundation provided information regarding the foundation and specifically the Childer's Fund. Seacrest informed the board that Hooker County has its own fund from the Childer's donation. The fund is estimated to have a principal of \$4,000,000. Of this \$4,000,000, the interest is used for grants in Hooker County. To date \$192,748 has been granted to various projects in Hooker County. Seacrest estimated a minimum of \$200,000 to be available for the June 2025-May 2026 fiscal year. He encourages Hooker County 501(c)3 entities to apply for grants.

Many members of the public were in attendance to hear further discussion regarding Hooker County Transit. Mindy Paxton addressed the board. Paxton notified the board that Hooker County Community Foundation is willing to grant \$5,000 for the next three years towards the transit program. Paxton asked the commissioners to appoint her to assist Hooker County with vehicle acquisition, grants and donations. Bryan Crisp made a motion and Thad Emerson seconded the motion to appoint Mindy Paxton to assist Hooker County with Hooker County Transit. Roll call vote, three ayes, motion carried. Paxton and Jessica Hampton will gather and prepare information regarding the transit program. One suggestion was to provide a way for the public to donate to the transit program. After discussion it was decided that the best way to receive donations would be through the Hooker County Community Foundation. From there Hooker County could receive the money as a grant and apply it directly to the transit program.

The 2024 Upper Loup NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution was presented to the commissioners. Bryan Crisp made a motion and Julie Kraye seconded the motion to adopt Resolution 2025-4 the most recent and FEMA-approved version of the Upper Loup NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan Update in its entirety. Roll call vote, three ayes, motion carried.

West Central District Health Department requested a Spirited Person appointment from Hooker County. Julie Kraye made a motion and Bryan Crisp seconded the motion to appoint Pam Brooks as the Hooker County Spirited Person for West Central District Health Department. Roll call vote, three ayes, motion carried.

Bryan Crisp made a motion and Julie Kraye seconded the motion to approve the following SDL's: Highway 2 Depot for Polar Bear Tanking 3/7-8/2025 & St. Mary's Church & Missions Fish Fry 3/21/2025. Roll call vote, three ayes, motion carried.

Clerk Jessica Hampton notified the board of current assessment work and the new MIPS Clerk software. Hampton reminded the commissioners of the upcoming West Central District meeting in Ogallala. Hampton requested the March meeting date to be moved to Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup>. No objections from the board. The final audit books were distributed and Hampton stated that the audit has been filed with the state. Crystal Hardy presented the treasurer's report. Hardy also spoke on current cash flow and a spreadsheet was provided to the commissioners. Enough taxes have been collected for the February claims. Hardy will be watching the balances for March, there is a chance that inheritance will need to be requested to cover March payroll. Hardy will provide a better update at the March meeting.

Sheriff Todd Yost updated the board on the Sheriff's Office. Yost has ordered a replacement radar for the deputy's patrol car. Yost also updated the commissioners regarding CIS.org and Hooker County's sanctuary city status. He was able to make contact with a person at CIS.org and they have received all of our documentation stating that Hooker County is not a sanctuary city. Yost is awaiting confirmation that Hooker County will be removed from the web page.

Library budget worksheet was reviewed.

**CLAIMS**

**GENERAL FUND**

Blue Cross Blue Shield, ins	\$ 11,927.65	Windstream of the Midwest Inc	\$ 32.41
Vision Service Plan	\$ 62.35	Todd Yost, exp	\$ 16.00
Applied Connective Technologies	\$ 825.20	IRS	\$ 9,126.46
AT&T Mobility	\$ 275.88	Nebraska Department of Revenue	\$ 1,264.91
Benchmark Government Solutions	\$ 91.60	Ameritas Life Insurance	\$ 3,462.55
Brouillette, Troshynski, Kingston & Jackson	\$ 850.00	MASA Global	\$ 75.00
Cardmember Service	\$ 140.00	George Vinton	\$ 2,250.00
Consolidated Telephone Company	\$ 346.58	Payroll	\$ 29,493.78
Contryman Associates PC	\$ 14,500.00	<b>ROAD FUND</b>	
Cranmore	\$ 376.00	Consolidated Telephone Company	\$ 119.02
DAS State Accounting	\$ 44.00	DAS State Accounting	\$ 44.00
Data Shield	\$ 54.00	Grant County Treasurer	\$ 664.09
Fair Law Office	\$ 600.00	Handyman Hardware	\$ 135.12
Grant County Treasurer	\$ 664.09	Kwik Stop	\$ 516.73
Jessica Hampton, exp	\$ 184.92	Nebraska Safety Center @ UNK	\$ 110.00
Handyman Hardware	\$ 328.95	Sandhill Oil	\$ 360.42
Hooker County Tribune	\$ 163.00	Village of Mullen	\$ 314.74
International Assoc of Chiefs of Police	\$ 190.00	Windstream of the Midwest Inc	\$ 3.22
Kustom Signals Inc	\$ 2,857.96	Custer Public Power District	\$ 131.48
Kwik Stop	\$ 1,135.20	Neal Oil & Auto Center Inc	\$ 1,119.60
Lindemeier Law Office	\$ 945.14	Rose Equipment	\$ 245.75
Macke's Grocery	\$ 47.49	Theford Lumber & Supply	\$ 93.21
Microfilm Imaging Systems, Inc	\$ 20.00	IRS	\$ 4,147.80
Mid-States Organized Crime	\$ 100.00	NE Dept of Revenue	\$ 633.03
MIPS, Inc	\$ 1,158.35	Ameritas Life Insurance	\$ 1,359.28
Mullen Auto & Diesel	\$ 216.40	Payroll	\$ 12,518.86
NACCRD & Election Dues	\$ 50.00	<b>LIBRARY FUND</b>	
NACO	\$ 130.00	Consolidated Telephone	\$ 114.32
		Quill Inc	\$ 57.98

HOOKER COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MEETING  
 FEBRUARY 13, 2025

The Hooker County Board of Equalization convened at 3:45 p.m. in the courthouse on February 13, 2025 to consider one charitable exemption application and six statement of reaffirmation of tax exemption forms.

Bryan Crisp moved and Thad Emerson seconded the motion to approve the following 451A exemptions: Assembly of God Church, Bishop & Trustees of the Diocese of Nebraska, Eclipse Church & Cemetery Inc, Mullen Methodist Church, Sandhills Community Bible Church and St. Mary's Catholic Church. Roll call

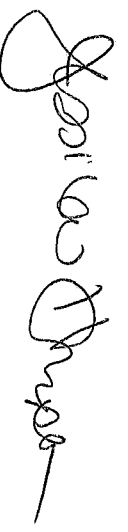
~~NACT~~ ~~thru ayes.~~ motion carried.


NE Law Enforcement Training Center	\$ 75.00	for Sandhills Medical Foundation a tax	\$ 612.69
NE State Patrol	\$ 200.00	Sandhill Oil	\$ 304.15
Quill LLC	\$ 133.00	Village of Mullen	\$ 261.75
Sandhill Oil	\$ 258.56	Brodart Co	\$ 276.08
Sandhills RC&D	\$ 516.29	Junior Library Guild	\$ 135.00
Thomas County Treasurer	\$ 50.00	People Magazine	\$ 329.78
Verizon Wireless	\$ 6,808.08	IRS	\$ 44.50
Verizon Wireless	\$ 51.68	NE Department of Revenue	\$ 162.58
Village of Mullen	\$ 53.93	Ameritas Life Insurance	\$ 1,529.18
JB Walker, exp	\$ 448.99	Payroll	
West Central District Assessor's Assoc	\$ 416.62	<b>911 SURCHARGE FUND</b>	
West Publishing	\$ 25.00	Consolidated Telephone Company	\$ 343.16
Windstream of the Midwest Inc	\$ 298.50	<b>STATE INSTITUTION FUND</b>	
	\$ 20.01	Region II Human Services	\$ 769.07
		Region II Services	\$ 757.00

Meeting was adjourned at 5:33 p.m. Notice is hereby given that the next regular meeting of the Hooker County Board of Commissioners will be held Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. Meetings are held in the Commissioners Room and agendas for these meetings are kept continually current and available for public inspection at the office of the county clerk during normal business hours.

Attest:

Hooker County Board of Commissioners

  
 Jessica Hampton, Hooker County Clerk

  
 Bryan Crisp, Chairman