(ALL MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNITL APPROVED AT THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING)

December 16, 2025

The Brown County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, 1:15 P.M. in the Brown County Courthouse meeting room with members Chairman Dennis Bauer, Jeremiah Dailey, and Donnie Painter present. Also present were Brown County Deputy Clerk (BCDC) Nadine Starkey, Brown County Treasure (BCT) Bruce Mitchell, Brown County Highway Superintendent (BCHS) Kenny Turpin, Brown County Attorney (BCA) Andy Taylor and Brown County Sheriff (BCS) Brent Deibler.

Chairman Bauer acknowledged the Open Meeting Act posted near the entrance to the Meeting Room.

Member Painter led with an opening prayer.

Those in attendance rose and stated the Pledge of Allegiance.

Painter moved to approve the minutes from the regular Commissioner meeting of December 2, 2025, as officially recorded in Commissioner Book 24. Dailey seconded. Roll Call: Dailey and Painter Ayes and Bauer Abstain, motion carried.

BCHS Turpin gave a road department report.

Turpin discussed the department plans to begin filling cracks on the county roads with the newly purchased tar pot machine. He also said his department is planning to work on a drainage near the community fishing pond, and level dirt for a possible picnic shelter area and pending Game and Parks approval possibly putting in an approach from the cowboy trail to the pond. Bauer said once all the dirt work is complete, he will put grass seed down. Turpin mentioned that the old motor grader sold for $56,600.00. BCT Mitchell said he received a check for $51,708.00 on the 15th of December.

BCS Brent Diebler discussed closing the D.A.R.E checking account which had $156.34 in it. Dailey moved to approve Resolution #2025 - 59 to change authorized signors and Direct Disbursements of Funds for the Brown County D.A.R.E. Program Account. Painter seconded. Roll Call: All three Ayes, motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding a budgeted transfer of $18,000.00 from Miscellaneous General within the General Fund to the Reappraisal fund.

Painter moved to approve Resolution #2025 – 60 a budgeted transfer of $18,000.00 from Miscellaneous General within the General Fund to the Reappraisal fund. Bauer seconded. Roll Call: All three Ayes, motion carried.

Discussion was held to set the 2026 Landfill fees.

Dailey made a motion to set the following Landfill fees per Quarter; Residential $50.00, Businesses $70.00 and Cabins will pay $100 for the year. Painter seconded. Roll Call: All three Ayes, motion carried.

Discussion was held on landfill fees for Andrew and Kayla Smidt. The Smidt's were not present. No action taken.

BCT Mitchell discussed past due solid waste fees and that her feels the past due individuals should not be allowed to use the solid waste facility until they have paid their Landfill fees. BCA Taylor said he would send out the letters to notify the individuals.

Discussion was held regarding adding BCDC Nadine Starkey to the Homestead safety deposit box and removing Becky Hardy from all accounts and the safety deposit box located at the Homestead bank.

Bauer moved to add BCDC Nadine Starkey to the Safety Deposit Box located at Homestead Bank and remove Becky Hardy from the Safety Deposit Box. Dailey seconded. Roll Call: All three Ayes, motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding 3 billboard sign permits (802002268SA, 802002517NB, 802002437NB). BCA advised that the landowner needs to sign the permits.

Dailey moved that there is no objection from the board on renewal of permits. Bauer seconded. Roll Call: All three Ayes. Motion carried.

Scott Goodloe and Ann Fiala were present for the Brown County Ambulance Association to discuss trading in 2 LifePac defibrillators which are now obsolete. The Association has received a grant for the new defibrillators. Because they did not plan to receive grant funds in and did not budget to spend the money they will need to amend the budget. Goodloe spoke with Brown County Budget prepare Caleb Johnson regarding the possible amendment. No action was taken. The item will be added to the next agenda so a resolution can be prepared.

Discussion was held regarding the time management system. All the information needed to make a decision has not been received. The item was placed on the next agenda.

The Board discussed the request for tuition reimbursement for Zach Welch. Welch has graduated with straight A's.

Bauer made a motion to pay the $1500.00 tuition reimbursement. Painter seconded. Roll Call: All three Ayes, Motion Carried.

Denny Bauer has recently replaced past board member Macey Vonheeder on the Ainsworth Senior Citizen Center Board. In interest of bringing awareness to the Board and the community of the Ainsworth Senior Center financial situation. In January of 2025 the Senior Center had a checking account balance of $33,000.00 and in October of 2025 there is $17,000.00. Food costs have increased drastically. The rates for meals for 60+ are $6.50, Carry out is $7.00 and if under 60 you can eat for $8.00 a meal. The center served 1,154 meals in October and delivers 25-30 meals per day. The facility does have fundraisers and also receives some reimbursement from area agency on aging. He said the City of Ainsworth donates $2,000.00 annually and Bauer wanted the Board and the community to think about how to help or what other options may be. Bauer questions if the County could pay a bill from the miscellaneous general fund. Bauer said sewer and water is $154.00, gas $156.00, electric $514.00. Bauer would like public comments and ideas on ways to help the budget.

Board tabled the Homestead Bank papers for payroll renewal until next meeting so Brown County Clerk Travee Hobbs can advise on them.

The Board opened a solitary sealed bid on the Long Pine lot. The bid received was from Long Pine Feed Service for $3,500.00.

Painter made a motion to approve the bid and Bauer seconded. Roll Call: All three Ayes, motion carried.

Bauer moved to enter executive session to discuss personnel and to protect the reputations and the persons involved in order to discuss salaries. Painter seconded. Roll Call: All three Ayes, motion carried. Bauer invited BCDC-Nadine Starkey, BCT-Bruce Mitchell, BCS-Brent Diebler, Em Management Deputy-Jessica Pozehl, Veterans Service Officer-Jake Graff, BCA-Peggy Gross, BCA-Andy Taylor and Weed Superintendent -Scott Erthum.

Bauer restated the reason for entering executive session.

The Board entered executive session at 2:23 P.M.

Dailey moved to come out executive session. Painter seconded. Roll Call: All three Ayes, motion carried.

The Board came out of executive session at 3:11 P.M.

Bauer made a motion to set the salaries for the Elected Officials term of 2027 – 2030 which will take effect in January 2027. Brown County Assessor and Brown County Treasurer $74,000.00, Brown County Clerk $77,500.00, Brown County Sheriff which will include Jail Administrator $100,000.00, Brown County Attorney $112,000.00. The above officials will receive an increase of $1,500.00 in January of 2028 2029 and 2030.

Brown County Commissioner salary at $34,500.00. Painter seconded. Roll Call: Bauer and Painter Aye, Dailey No. Motion Carried.

Painter moved to increase the Courthouse Custodian to $23.00 an hour. Dailey seconded. Roll Call: All three Ayes.

Dailey moved to increase the Emergency Management Deputy to $28.00 an hour. Painter seconded. Roll Call: All three Ayes

Painter moved to increase the Veterans Service Officer to $28.50 an hour. Bauer seconded. Roll Call: All three Ayes.

Bauer made a motion to increase the Weed Superintendent to $28.00 an hour. Painter seconded. Roll Call: All three Ayes.

Bauer made a motion to increase the Zoning Administrator to $26.00. Dailey seconded. Roll Call: All three Ayes.

Dailey made a motion to approve all the claims and the Clerk's November monthly Fee report for $1,880.62. Painter seconded. Roll Call: All three Ayes.

The meeting adjourned at 3:22 P.M.

The next regular meeting of the Brown County Commissioners will be Tuesday, January 6, 2025, at 1:15 P.M., Brown County Courthouse, Ainsworth, Nebraska.

This meeting's public notice was published in the Ainsworth Star-Journal, aired on KBRB Radio, and posted at the Brown County Clerk's office, where all agendas and minutes are kept current for public inspection at any time.