

September 9, 2025

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on September 9, 2025, to audit and sign regular claims and payroll claims and to take care of such other matters as are on the agenda for this meeting. Advance notice of this meeting was published in the Nebraska City News Press and posted in at least three public places, including the County's website. This meeting was open to the Public, and the agenda was kept current, and is on file for public inspection at the office of the Otoe County Clerk during regular business hours.

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Jerad Sornson. Answering present at roll call were Commissioner Sornson, Commissioner Freshman, Commissioner Parsons, Commissioner Crownover, and Commissioner Cole.

Commissioner Sornson informed the public in attendance that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted near the door of the meeting room. Additional copies are available upon request.

Freshman made a motion, seconded by Parsons, to accept the agenda as posted. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, and Cole. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Crownover made a motion, seconded by Cole, to accept the minutes from the previous meeting and not have them read as each member was furnished with a copy of same. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, Cole, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Having reviewed the regular claims in advance of this meeting, Cole made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to approve payment of the regular claims. Voting aye were Parsons, Crownover, Cole, Sornson, and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Claims Approved September 9, 2025

AMAZON	sup	\$108.32
AMAZON	sup	\$240.57
AMAZON	sup	\$445.15
AMERICAN RECYCLING & SANITATION INC	srv	\$478.93
LARRY D ANDERSON DBA ANDERSON TREE	srv	\$950.00
JULIE E BEAR	srv	\$737.00
BENCHMARK GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS LLC	srv	\$12.90
BOLDT TIRE SUPPLY & SERVICE LLC	srv	\$96.57
BROWNS SHOE FIT	sup	\$140.00
CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS INC	srv	\$176.09
COLIN CAUDILL, SHERIFF	srv	\$255.80
CITY OF SYRACUSE	srv	\$501.69
COLUMN SOFTWARE PBC	srv	\$65.39
DAS STATE ACCOUNTING-CENTRAL FINANC	srv	\$844.80
DOUGLAS TIRE INC	srv	\$1,863.94
EAKES OFFICE SOLUTIONS	sup	\$3,206.86
FIRST WIRELESS INC	srv	\$971.25
GALLS LLC	sup	\$626.60
GENE STEFFY AUTO GROUP	sup	\$86,248.00
HOMETOWN LEASING	srv	\$284.79

LANCASTER COUNTY SHERIFF	srv	\$26.92
LANT HARDWARE	sup	\$41.11
DIANE MERWIN	srv	\$1,408.00
MULTICOUNTY INFORMATION PROGRAMMING	srv	\$1,883.74
NE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES	srv	\$93.00
NE LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER	srv	\$525.00
NEBRASKA CITY CENTER FOR CHILDREN	rent,srv	\$6,810.96
OREILLY AUTOMOTIVE INC	sup	\$160.96
OTOE COUNTY ATTORNEY	srv	\$75.50
PINPOINT COMMUNICATIONS INC	srv	\$246.75
POLICE OFFICERS ASSOC. OF NEBRASKA	sup	\$28.00
THOMAS PRICKETT	srv	\$660.00
QUADIENT FINANCE USA INC	sup	\$37.00
QUILL CORPORATION	sup	\$130.99
REGION V SYSTEMS	srv	\$9,177.50
JANIS A RIEGE, CLERK OF D.C.	srv	\$150.00
SAMS CLUB/SYNCHRONY BANK	sup	\$717.09
STRYKER SALES LLC	sup	\$2,550.00
SYRACUSE VETERINARY SERVICE	srv	\$344.99
THOMSON SURVEYING, LLC	srv	\$2,972.00
DANIEL THOMSON	mileage	\$52.50
TK ELEVATOR CORPORATION	srv	\$342.68
BOBIE A TOUCHSTONE	srv	\$1,653.00
VISA	srv	\$287.99
VISA	srv	\$871.58
VISA	srv	\$4,581.56
WESTLAKE ACE HARDWARE INC	sup	\$291.86
A-RELIEF SERVICES, INC	srv	\$123.00
BIG RED DRAINAGE PIPE SUPPLY INC	srv	\$4,740.00
HARMONY INN & SUITES VALENTINE	srv	\$375.00
HOPKINS AUTOMOTIVE INC	sup	\$47.68
J & A TRAFFIC PRODUCTS	sup	\$1,930.00
KEIM FARM EQUIPMENT CO	sup	\$117.80
MARTIN-MARIETTA AGGREGATES	srv	\$194,350.38
MATHESON TRI-GAS, INC	srv	\$77.05
MIDWEST ENGINEERING INC	srv	\$33,779.00
MILLER SEED COMPANY	srv	\$1,080.00
N C UTILITIES	srv	\$118.96
NEBRASKA MACHINERY COMPANY	srv	\$17,362.45
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES	srv	\$318.00
OPPD	srv	\$30.44
PAPILLION SANITATION	srv	\$79.36
SAFETY KLEEN SYSTEMS INC	srv	\$819.18
TITAN MACHINERY	sup	\$2,396.55
VILLAGE OF PALMYRA	srv	\$26.00
VISA	srv	\$1,186.94

YANT EQUIPMENT INC	sup	\$876.00
TRANS UNION RISK AND ALTERNATIVE	srv	\$215.00
CONTROL SERVICES INC	srv	\$210,706.00
NEBRASKA CITY AREA ECONOMIC	cont	\$17,500.00
WEATHERCRAFT CO OF LINCOLN	srv	\$34,500.00
WINDSTREAM ACCT 091517042	srv	\$1,142.68
WINDSTREAM	srv	\$422.58
CENTURY LINK	srv	\$3,599.85
CASS COUNTY EMA	reim	\$6,000.00
JEFFERSON COUNTY EMA	reim	\$98.85
NEBRASKA REGIONAL INTEROPERABILITY	reim	\$500.00
Regular Claims Total \$668,894.08		
Payroll Claims Total \$337,517.93		
Grand Total \$1,006,412.01		

Parsons made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to audit and sign payroll claims. Voting aye were Crownover, Cole, Sornson, Freshman, and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Chairman Sornson acknowledged receipt of the monthly report from the Clerk of the District Court certifying fee collections in the amount of \$33,103.78 for the month of August 2025. Said report will be filed in the County Clerk's Office.

The proposed land lease agreement between Otoe County and Melvin and Lawrence Kreifels was discussed. The current agreement is transferable, and the County could assume the lease as it is. The discussion included proposed changes and if additional offers, such as additional lease extension, funds, etc., need to be included for the proposed changes. Commissioners Sornson will set up a meeting with himself, Commissioner Cole, County Attorney Jenniffer Panko-Rahe, Melvin Kreifels, and Lawrence Kreifels to discuss the agreement prior to making any changes. A lease payment is currently due, and Commissioner Cole will speak to Mr. Haug, currently leasing the property, to inform him that the county would reimburse him for the 2025 lease payment expenses made prior to the agreement transfer. This would be to ensure the Kreifels receive the lease payment as agreed upon in the current lease. No action was taken.

Freshman made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to approve changing the Thursday, January 1, 2026, payroll date to Friday, January 2, 2026. The regular payroll date of January 1 falls on the New Year's Day holiday. Typically, the county has paid the payroll the day prior to the holiday. This holiday creates a different situation that by paying a day early, employees would have a 2026 payroll paying in 2025. Paying the day prior would cause the 2025 tax year to have 27 payrolls instead of 26, and the 2026 tax year to have 25 payrolls instead of 26. The elected officials' salaries are set by a resolution that states the wage they will receive per calendar year. Paying the day prior would also cause the amount paid to elected officials to be over the amount provided by the resolution and would have an extra payroll on all employees 2026 tax year. By moving the payroll date to Friday, January 2, 2026, all payrolls for the 2026 tax year will be paid in the correct tax year. The county is permitted to change the payroll date so long as employees are provided with a minimum of 30 days' notice. Notice will be provided to employees by an announcement in Kronos (payroll program) and an email. A notice will also be presented to each department requiring employees to sign, acknowledging that they have read the notice of the payroll change. Voting aye were Cole, Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Cole made a motion, seconded by Parsons, to approve a warrant/claim as an obligation to pay the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center after NEMA/FEMA funds are received for the SE Pet Region. FEMA changed the regulations on the documentation to be submitted for reimbursements, and a warrant/claim is now required to show the county's "promise to pay". The warrant/claim was not included in the regular claims approved for payment earlier in the meeting. This approves the obligation to pay the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center with the funds received from NEMA/FEMA if approved, and allows Gregg Goebel, EMA Director, to

proceed with submitting the required documentation. If funding is received, the claim will be presented to the board through the regular claim process during a future meeting. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, and Cole. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Sornson opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding the road vacation of a portion of Giles Road (old bridge approach), approximately 1,733 feet west of N 10th Road located on the approximate half-mile line of Section 2, Township 8 North, Range 9 East, Otoe County, Nebraska. Jenniffer Panko-Rahe, Otoe County Attorney, stated that the vacation was proposed as part of an agreement between landowners and that the negotiations had fallen apart and the agreement would not work. There is pending litigation between the landowners. She recommended that the board not vacate the proposed portion of Giles Road and let the landowners continue their lawsuit(s). Joshua Helenhouse stated that he is willing to make a deal that is fair but does not feel that the expense should be that of the Otoe County taxpayers as it is a private matter. Joe Bachmann, attorney representing the Humms, stated that he and his clients are opposed to the vacation at this time. If an agreement were to be made, his clients would need vehicle access. With no others requesting to speak, Chairman Sornson closed the public hearing. There was no action taken. The determination of the vacation is scheduled for September 23, 2025, during the regular Board of Commissioners' meeting.

Cole made a motion, seconded by Parsons, to adopt Resolution #9-9-25-17 to certify the completion of the Statewide Upgrading Existing STOP Sign Location of Rural Roads project to the Nebraska Department of Transportation. Voting aye were Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, Cole, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Brian Briley, Road Lead Supervisor, presented the road report. Commissioner Parsons stated that he had provided a proposed price for the Lorton Shop, but the price has not been agreed upon with the current landowners. It was discovered that the land on which the county shop was built is not owned by the county. Discussion and/or action of setting an amount to offer and a deadline to accept the offer will be scheduled for the September 23, 2026, meeting.

There was no public comment.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, and since all items on the agenda have been disposed of Chairman Sornson declared this meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on September 23, 2025.

I, Jennifer Bassinger, County Clerk of Otoe County, do hereby certify that the above minutes were taken by me, and are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and I therefore set my hand and affix the county seal on this 9th day of September 2025.

Jennifer Bassinger
Otoe County Clerk