

Hayes County Board of Commissioners

A meeting of the Hayes County Board of Commissioners was scheduled for September 9, 2025, at 1:30 P.M. in the Hayes County Courthouse, 505 Troth Street, Hayes Center, Nebraska. Advanced notice of the meeting, time and place was given to each Commissioner, was published in the *Southwest Nebraska Times Republican* on September 4, 2025, and posted in accordance with law. Chairman Christner called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. The Open Meetings Act was available for review and Chair indicated location of such copy in the room where the meeting was being held. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Those present were board members Wayne Christner, Kevin Fornoff and Barry Richards; Susan Messersmith, County Clerk; Tammy Schwenk, County Treasurer; D. Eugene Garner, County Attorney; and Marian Richards, Sign Tech. Visitors present were Dan Miller and Zac Richards.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to approve the agenda. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Christner recessed the regular meeting at 1:35 P.M. and opened the 2025/2026 Budget Hearing as published in the *Southwest Nebraska Times Republican* on September 4th, 2025. The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony in support, opposition, criticism, suggestions, or observation of taxpayers relating to the proposed budget.

Dan Miller, CPA, was present and made a presentation outlining provisions of the proposed budget, including a comparison with the previous year's budget. Three copies of said budget were made available. Chairman Christner asked for comments. No public comment was received.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to close the Budget Hearing at 2:00 P.M. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Richards to open the Special Hearing to Set Final Tax Request as published in the *Southwest Nebraska Times Republican* on September 4th, 2025. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried. The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony in support, opposition, criticism, suggestions, or observation of taxpayers relating to the proposed budget. Christner asked for comments. No public comment was received.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to close the Final Tax Request Hearing at 2:04 P.M. and return to the Regular Meeting. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Christner to adopt Resolution #2025-11.

RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION AND APPROPRIATIONS

WHEREAS, a proposed County Budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, prepared by the Budget Making Authority, was transmitted to the County Board on the 9th day of September, 2025.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of COMMISSIONERS of HAYES County, Nebraska as follows:

SECTION 1. That the budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, as categorically evidenced by the Budget Document be, and the same hereby is, adopted as the Budget for HAYES County for said fiscal year.

SECTION 2. That the offices, departments, activities and institutions herein named are hereby authorized to expend the amounts herein appropriated to them during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

SECTION 3. That the income necessary to finance the appropriations made and expenditures authorized shall be provided out of the unencumbered cash balance in each fund, revenues other than taxation to be collected during the fiscal year in each fund, and tax levy requirements for each fund.

Dated and passed this 9TH day of September, 2025.

Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to adopt Resolution # 2025-10.

RESOLUTION SETTING THE PROPERTY TAX REQUEST

WHEREAS, Nebraska Revised Statute 77-1632 and 77-1633 provide that the Governing Body of HAYES County passes by a majority vote a resolution or ordinance setting the tax request; and
WHEREAS, a special public hearing was held as required by law to hear and consider comments concerning the property tax request;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Governing Body of the County of HAYES resolves that:

SECTION 1. The 2025-2026 property tax request for the General Fund be set at \$1,089,957.00.

SECTION 2. The total assessed value of property differs from last year's total assessed value by 12.5 percent.

SECTION 3. The tax rate which would levy the same amount of property taxes as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of property, would be \$0.155319 per \$100 of assessed value.

SECTION 4. The County of HAYES proposes to adopt a property tax request that will cause its tax rate to be \$0.158888 per \$100 of assessed value.

SECTION 5. Based on the proposed property tax request and changes in other revenue, the total operating budget of the County of HAYES will increase last year's budget by 2.94%.

SECTION 6. A copy of this resolution be certified and forwarded to the County Clerk on or before October 15, 2025.

Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Zac Richards visited with the Commissioners regarding availability of gravel.

Marian Richards, Sign Tech, discussed tracking missing signage.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to approve the Treasurers Report. Discussion held. Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to approve claims, excluding claims 2509044 and 2509045, for \$66,720.64. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to approve claims 2509044 and 2508045 for \$19,486.94. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, abstain; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, second by Fornoff to appoint J.D. Grimes to Hayes County Board of Adjustments. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Board acknowledged receipt of the following inventories: District 1, 2, and 3 Road Departments, Sign Tech, Commissioner and Superintendent Rooms, County Court, Extension Educator, County Clerk, County Treasurer, Zoning Administrator, Weed Superintendent, County Attorney, County Sheriff, Courthouse Custodian, Veterans Service Officer, and Emergency Manager.

Richards moved, second by Christner to authorize and direct the Clerk to sign First Concord plan documents. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Christner to declare one Dell Precision 3430 computer and monitor as surplus property. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Richards to approve the consent agenda consisting of the financial reports of the Clerk, Clerk of the District Court, Imprest Account, and the minutes of August 12 and 29, 2025 meetings. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, seconded by Fornoff to adjourn the meeting. There being no further discussion. Roll call: Christner, yes; Richards, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Christner adjourned the meeting at 3:56 P.M.

The next meeting will be September 30, 2025, at 8:30 A.M.