

Hayes County Commissioners
February 13, 2026

A meeting of the Hayes County Board of Commissioners was scheduled for February 10, 2026, at 1:00 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 *McCook Gazette* on February 3, 2026, and posted in accordance with law. A current copy of the Open Meetings Act was available for review and was posted 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.

Chairman Christner called the meeting to order at 1:01 P.M. Those present were board members: Wayne Christner, Barry Richards, and Kevin Fornoff; Susan Messersmith, County Clerk; and D. Eugene Garner, County Attorney. Visitors were Tyler VanPelt, Karina Garcia and Nikki Unscheid.

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

Tyler VanPelt, field engineer for Great Plains Communications, joined the meeting to review plans and answer questions relating to installation of fiber optics telecommunication lines in portions of Hayes County. Phase 1 of the project will service the Hamlet area with approximate start date of April 6, 2026. Phase 2 will service Palisade telephone exchange area with projected start date of May 25, 2026. The completion of Hayes County is planned for 2028. Great Plains Communications will submit an Application to Occupy Hayes County Road Right of Way identifying the location of the fiber optic cable.

Aflac representatives, Karina Garcia and Nikki Unscheid, joined the meeting to discuss the upcoming open enrollment and new available Aflac offerings.

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 January 13 & 30, 2026 meetings. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Richards to approve claim, excluding claim 2602034, for \$54,007.60. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, second by Fornoff to approve claim 2602034 for \$3,400.00. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, abstain; Christner, yes. Motion carried

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

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

Chairman Christner adjourned the meeting at 3:22 P.M.

The next meeting will be on February 27, 2026, at 8:30 AM.

Hayes County Clerk

Board Chairman