

Hayes County Board of Commissioners
June 30, 2026

A meeting of the Hayes County Board of Commissioners was scheduled for June 30, 2026, at 8:30 A.M. in the Hayes County Courthouse, 505 Troth Street, Hayes Center, Nebraska. Advance notice of the meeting, including the time and place was given to each Commissioner, published in the *McCook Gazette* on June 23, 2026, and posted in accordance with law.

Chairman Christner called the meeting to order at 8:32 A.M. The Open Meetings Act was available for review and Chair indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting was being held. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to public attendance.

Those present were board members Wayne Christner, Kevin Fornoff and Barry Richards; Susan Messersmith, County Clerk; D. Eugene Garner, County Attorney; Rebecca Grimes, Deputy Clerk, and Luke Bonkiewicz with Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO).

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

Chairman Christner requested comments from the audience. There were none.

Fornoff moved, seconded by Richards to approve payroll for \$99,250.47, excluding Road & Bridge employees #35, #93 and #13. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, seconded by Richards to approve road and bridge employee #93 payroll for \$3,495.37. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, abstain; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, seconded by Richards to approve road and bridge employee #13 payroll for \$665.44. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, abstain; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, seconded by Christner to approve road and bridge employee #35 payroll for \$4,703.53. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, abstain. Motion carried.

NACO Legislative Research Analyst Luke Bonkiewicz joined the meeting and provided an update to the Commissioners. Mr. Bonkiewicz discussed the timeline established under recently enacted legislation LB 663 and reviewed a newly developed toolkit intended to assist counties with the new timeline for Planning and Zoning permit application processes. Additional topics discussed included concerns regarding state overreach and its potential impact on county authority and budgets.

Fornoff moved, seconded by Richards to approve claims in the amount of \$174,184.49, with the exception of claim 2606126. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, seconded by Christner to approve claim 2606126 for \$26,043.57. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, Abstain; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, seconded by Richards to direct Chairman to sign the Budget Preparation Engagement Letter appointing Daniel D. Miller, CPA, to provide budget preparation services for the fiscal year July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 at a cost of \$3,400.00. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, seconded by Richards to approve sending a letter to the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) requesting a comprehensive study of the signage on the west side of Hayes Center. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, seconded by Christner to adopt Resolution 2026-10, a 12-month moratorium on applications for wind energy systems, solar energy systems, battery energy storage systems, cryptocurrency-mining operations, data center, AI facilities, carbon dioxide capture, transport and sequestration facilities, high voltage electric transmission infrastructure and other utility scale or specialized technology facilities. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, No; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, seconded by Richards to send a letter to Great Plains Communication, and contractors Anderson Underground and Mase Enterprises, setting forth concerns and request for remedial action regarding road conditions after fiber optic installation. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, seconded by Fornoff to approve the revisions to the Application to Occupy Hayes County Road Right-of-Way (RROW), incorporating language outlining the county’s billing procedure and the applicants reimbursement process for damages and repair costs. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding available options to address allowable unpaid medical claims that were not covered by the county’s prior insurance provider.

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

Chairman Christner adjourned the meeting at 12:55 P.M.

The next meeting will be on July 14, 2026, at 1:00 P.M.

Hayes County Clerk

Board Chairman