

Hayes County Board of Commissioners
July 29, 2026

A meeting of the Hayes County Board of Commissioners was scheduled for July 29, 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 July 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 shown hereafter 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; Brett Widger, Weed Supervisor; Lance Harter, County Highway Superintendent, and visitor John Rundel.

Christner moved, seconded by Fornoff to approve the agenda as amended to include payment of an excise tax claim. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

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

John Rundel met with the Commissioners to discuss Southwest Weed Management grant programs available to assist landowners and local entities with the control and management of invasive and other undesirable vegetation.

Christner moved, seconded by Richards to contribute \$500.00 to Southwest Weed Management for operational expenses. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Lance Harter, Highway Superintendent, joined the meeting by telephone to discuss budget planning for the county's current bridge needs. Mr. Harter reviewed bridges requiring repair or replacement and provided estimated project costs for each. He also discussed the timeline for use of the County Bridge Match Program funds.

Fornoff moved, seconded by Richards to approve payroll for \$86,845.74, excluding road & bridge employees #35, #93 and #13. Discussion held. Roll call: Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, seconded by Richards to approve road and bridge employee #93 payroll for \$2,299.67. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, abstain. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, seconded by Richards to approve road and bridge employee #13 payroll for \$892.32. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, abstain; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, seconded by Christner to approve road and bridge employee #35 payroll for \$6,612.43. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, abstain; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Christner moved, seconded by Fornoff to approve the use of Northwest Fire Extinguisher for inspection and servicing fire extinguishers in the Hayes County Courthouse and county shop buildings. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Richards moved, seconded by Fornoff to authorize Chairman to sign the Annual Certification Form detailing the project location and description of work associated with the expenditures of the Highway Bridge Program (HBP) and Surface Transportation Program (STP) Funds and the available balance of remaining funds. Discussion held. Roll call: Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, seconded by Richards to direct Chairman to sign Resolution 2026-11, Signing of the County Annual Certification of Program Compliance for 2026. Discussion held. Roll call: Fornoff, yes; Richards, yes; Christner, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, seconded by Richards to pay claim 2607061 for \$122.88 to the Department of the Treasury for excise tax related to health insurance fees. Discussion held. Roll call: Richards, yes; Christner, yes; Fornoff, yes. Motion carried.

Fornoff moved, second by Christner 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 2:01 P.M.

The next meeting will be on August 11, 2026, at 1:00 P.M.

Hayes County Clerk

Board Chairman