

Chairman Burke called the meeting to order in the Board Room, second floor of the County Courthouse, 515 Box Butte Ave., Ste 202, Alliance, NE at 9:00 a.m., January 7, 2026, following an opening prayer. Notice of meeting was published December 17, 2025, in the Alliance Times Herald. Affidavit of publication has been received in the office of the County Clerk. Agenda was emailed and posted on the county's website: boxbuttecountyne.gov, January 6, 2026. Roll call: Mike Sautter, present; Brett Ditsch, present; Steve Burke, present. Martie Burke, County Clerk, recorded the proceedings of the meeting. County Attorney Marissa Curtiss was present. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Chairman Burke acknowledged that this meeting will follow the open meeting act posted on the North wall of the County Board Room.

Burke moved to accept the agenda, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

## REORGANIZATION 2026

Ditsch nominated Steve Burke as **Chairman**, seconded by Sautter. Sautter, yes; Ditsch, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Ditsch nominated Mike Sautter as **Vice-Chairman**, seconded by Burke. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to appoint Commissioners to the boards as presented with the exception of updating the Vice-Chairman and Welfare Board to Mike Sautter, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke: Chairman, Welfare Board (Chairman), Region 1 Behavioral Health Authority, Region 1 Office of Human Development Board, Area Agency of Aging Board, E911 Advisory Board, and Box Butte County Prairie Dog Advisory Board.

Sautter: Vice-Chairman, Welfare Board (Vice-Chairman), Box Butte General Hospital Board, Panhandle Public Health Board, Box Butte County Planning and Zoning Board, and Senior Citizens Board.

Ditsch: Box Butte Development Corporation Board (BBDC), Northwest Community Action Board, Region 23 Emergency Management Agency, and Box Butte County Extension Board.

Sautter moved to appoint the Commissioners as **Building & Grounds Directors**, seconded by Burke. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Sautter moved to appoint Barbara Keegan as **Road Superintendent**, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Ditsch moved to appoint Brett Lauder as **Weed Superintendent**, seconded by Sautter. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

No public comment on the agenda items (9:08 a.m. – 9:19 a.m.).

Burke moved to appoint Mike Johnson as **Zoning Administrator** with the stipulation that the contract is to be signed by February 9, 2026 or the position will be vacated, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to appoint Scott Bossé as **County Surveyor** as needed, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to appoint Sarah Foland as **Veteran's Service Officer**, seconded by Sautter. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to designate **Banks as Depositories** as presented, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

BMO BANK NA (ALLIANCE BRANCH); WELLS FARGO BANK; NPAIT; FIRST INTERSTATE BANK; FNBO; NEBRASKA BANK (Alliance & Hemingford Branches); SANDHILLS STATE BANK; PLATTE VALLEY BANK.

Sautter moved to designate Alliance Times-Herald as **County Newspaper**, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Ditsch moved to designate KCOW/AM & KAAQ/FM as **County Radio Stations**, seconded by Burke. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to designate [www.boxbuttecountyne.gov](http://www.boxbuttecountyne.gov) as the official **County Website**, seconded by Sautter. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to open BOARD OF EQUALIZATION at 9:35 a.m., seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Burke moved to accept the Application for Exemption Form 457 for Iglesia Bethel presented by Treasurer Valery Bell, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Burke moved to close BOARD OF EQUALIZATION at 9:37 a.m., seconded by Sautter. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to accept the Semi-Annual Report as presented by Treasurer Bell, seconded by Sautter. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. The report will be published in the Alliance Times-Herald.

Sautter moved to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. The Consent Calendar included the following items: Minutes – December 22, 2025; Payroll/Claims/Invoices (Ratifying January 5, 2026) - **GENERAL:** AFLAC 2218.57; BOX BUTTE COUNTY TREASURER 80964.00; EQUITABLE FINANCIAL LIFE INSURANCE 212.85; FNBO 49811.91; LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE 192.38; MASA 190.50; VISION SERVICE PLAN (IC) 540.33; RETIREMENT PLANS DIVISION/AMERITAS 27393.58; STATE OF NEBRASKA DEPT OF REVENUE 6372.74 **ROAD:** AFLAC 341.30; BOX BUTTE COUNTY TREASURER 2174.00; FNBO 8813.21; LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE 4.76; MASA 37.50; VISION SERVICE PLAN (IC) 200.36; NE CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT CENTER 895.00; RETIREMENT PLANS DIVISION/AMERITAS 2899.08; STATE OF NEBRASKA DEPT OF REVENUE 1858.18 **INHERITANCE:** NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1325.40 **NET PAYROLL:** 187022.89; Elected Officials and Office Reports – Clerk, Clerk of the District Court, and VSO; Correspondence.

Commissioners reported on meetings they had recently attended and upcoming meetings.

Road Superintendent Barb Keegan provided a road and equipment report. Burke moved to allow Keegan to go out for bid for aggregate hauling, seconded by Sautter. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Bids must be received in the Clerk’s office by February 2, 2026 by 3:30 p.m. with action to be taken during the February 4, 2026 meeting.

Clerk Burke swore in Baden Shelmadine as Chief Deputy of the Box Butte County Sheriff’s Department.

Burke moved to approve the CIDNET Agreement 2026-01 giving Sheriff Dannar authority to sign, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Box Butte County Weed Superintendent, Brett Lauder, presented the annual Noxious Weed Control Plan for 2025. Burke moved to sign the Activity Report, Budget Report, Weed Control Authority Board Roster, Noxious Weed Control Plan, and the Noxious Weed Infestation Report, seconded by Sautter. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Lauder presented Complaint 2025-01: (S-T-R: 18-25N-49W) on behalf of the Prairie Dog Management Board and the Board’s recommendation for force control. Burke moved to start the forced control process on Prairie Dog Management Complaint 2025-01, seconded by Sautter. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to approve the DHHS Addendum Three to CS Agreement 2026-02, seconded by Sautter. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Burke recessed at 11:13 a.m. Chairman Burke resumed the meeting at 11:20 a.m., with roll call: Brett Ditsch, present; Mike Sautter, present; Steve Burke, present.

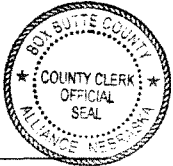
Burke moved to enter into executive session at 11:20 a.m., for a performance evaluation, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. County Attorney Curtiss, Commissioners Sautter, Ditsch, Burke, and Lori White present. At 11:52 a.m., Burke moved to close executive session for a performance evaluation, seconded by Sautter. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. No action taken.

With all agenda items addressed, Chairman Burke adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

  
Chairperson

Attest:

  
County Clerk



1-20-26