

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., February 4, 2026, following an opening prayer. Notice of meeting was published January 21, 2026, 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, February 3, 2026. Roll call: Brett Ditsch, present; Mike Sautter, present; Steve Burke, present. Martie Burke, County Clerk, recorded the proceedings of the meeting. County Attorney Marissa Curtiss and Deputy County Attorney Terry Curtiss were 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.

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: Agenda – February 4, 2026; Minutes – January 20, 2026; Payroll/Claims/Invoices - **GENERAL:** AFLAC 2218.57; BOX BUTTE COUNTY TREASURER 86018.00; EQUITABLE FINANCIAL LIFE INSURANCE 224.46; FNBO 46741.25; LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE 203.64; MASA 190.50; VISION SERVICE PLAN (IC) 564.06; RETIREMENT PLANS DIVISION/AMERITAS 26522.07; STATE OF NEBRASKA DEPT OF REVENUE 5998.31 **ROAD:** AFLAC 310.47; BOX BUTTE COUNTY TREASURER 2174.00; FNBO 8511.42; 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 2810.50; STATE OF NEBRASKA DEPT OF REVENUE 1807.51 **NET PAYROLL:** 180482.38; Elected Officials and Office Reports – Clerk and Clerk of the District Court; Correspondence.

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

Public comment on the agenda items (9:05 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.). Darrel Schledewitz, 6930 Cherry Rd, Hemingford, NE 69348 – discussed CR70 from the Village of Hemingford to the Box Butte Dam.

Sautter moved to approve the Architectural Glassarts proposal in the amount of \$19,200.00, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to sign the NEMA 2023 SLCGP grant update, seconded by Sautter. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to open BOARD OF EQUALIZATION at 9:15 a.m., seconded by Sautter. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Sautter moved to accept the Applications for Exemption Form 451 for Alley Cat Campus and University of Northwestern – St. Paul (2), seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Sautter moved to approve the Homestead Exemption refund claim to Robert Huss in the amount of \$681.38, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Sautter moved to accept the Application for Exemption Form 457 for Human Services, Inc. presented by Treasurer Valery Bell, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Burke moved to close BOARD OF EQUALIZATION at 9:28 a.m., seconded by Sautter. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Road Superintendent Barb Keegan provided a road and equipment report. Keegan presented the bidding requirements for the 2026 Armor Coat Chip Hauling. Sautter moved to open the bid received from Stockmans as it was delivered on time, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Burke moved to accept the Armor Coat Chip Hauling Bid from Phillips F & T Inc at \$18.88/ton in the amount of \$28,320.00, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to allow Keegan to go out for bid for Armor Coat Application, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Bids must be received in the Clerk's office by March 2, 2026 by 3:15 p.m. with action to be taken during the March 4, 2026 meeting.

Val Jansante, Congressman Adrian Smith's staff member, gave a brief update on federal and state matters, including the allowance to sell E15 year-round.

Burke moved to set the road vacation hearing of CR62 Resolution 2026-01 for March 18, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., seconded by Sautter. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to set the road vacation hearing of Wayne Rd Resolution 2026-02 for March 18, 2026 immediately following the road vacation hearing for CR62, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Sautter moved to allow the Chairman to sign the Skillbridge Provider MOU with the US Department of War, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Sautter moved to set the Road Utility Permit fee at \$350.00/permit and the road closure fee at \$150.00/day, seconded by Burke. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to declare the 2007 Case JX95 Tractor (#1304) surplus to be sold at a later date, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Sheriff Ryan Dannar brought the vehicle upfitting grant reimbursement previously approved on October 1, 2025 before the Board. Sautter moved to authorize up to \$7,439.96 of the total MDT purchase price to be paid out of the Inheritance fund, to be repaid upon receipt of the NDOT grant, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Sheriff Dannar provided an update on the status of jail repairs. Burke moved to approve the Pipe Works Plumbing Estimate 166770 in the amount of \$2600.00/shower, for two units, for a total of \$5,200.00, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. Burke moved to approve the Turbo Temp Estimate 1123 in the amount of \$742.50, seconded by Sautter. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Building and Grounds employee, Lori White, provided an update on the elevator punch list. Burke moved to approve the TKE Time and Material work order, seconded by Sautter. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Sautter moved to sign the tax credit engagement letter for legal services with BairdHolm Agreement 2026-03, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

Burke moved to extend and readvertise the four (4) Planning Commission member openings with letters of interest due to the Box Butte County Clerk by no later than 12:00 p.m. on February 27, 2026, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried.

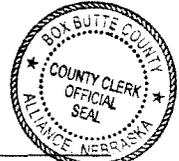
Chairman Burke recessed at 11:39 a.m. Chairman Burke resumed the meeting at 11:44 a.m., with roll call: Brett Ditsch, present; Mike Sautter, present; Steve Burke, present.

Burke moved to enter into executive session at 11:44 a.m., for a performance evaluation, seconded by Sautter. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. County Attorney Curtiss, Commissioners Sautter, Ditsch, Burke, and Barb Keegan present. At 12:05 p.m., Burke moved to close executive session for a performance evaluation, seconded by Ditsch. Ditsch, yes; Sautter, yes; Burke, yes. Motion carried. No action taken.

With all agenda items addressed, Chairman Burke adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

*Steve Burke*  
Chairperson

Attest: *Mike R. Bito*  
County Clerk



2-18-26