

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION PROCEEDINGS – Tuesday, February 17, 2026
(edited – official proceedings on file Clerk’s office)

A meeting of the Board of Equalization of Stanton County, Nebraska was held in an open and public session on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 8:00 AM in the County Commissioner’s room in Stanton, Nebraska.

Present upon the roll call were Douglas Huttman, Dennis Kment and Douglas Oertwich, Board of Equalization. Wanda Heermann, County Clerk and Amber Happold, County Assessor, were also present.

Advance notice of the meeting was given by publication in the Stanton Register on February 4, 2026, a copy of the proof of publication being attached to these minutes, and by posting on the county website.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance to the Board members, a copy of their acknowledgement of the receipt of notice and the agenda being attached to these minutes.

All proceedings hereinafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM by Chairman Kment, who announced that the open meetings act is posted on the wall in the commissioner’s room and a copy may be obtained from the county clerk’s office upon request.

Motion made by Huttman, seconded by Oertwich to approve the agenda. Voting: Ayes: Huttman, Oertwich and Kment. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Motion made by Huttman, seconded by Kment to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2026, meeting. Voting: Ayes: Huttman, Kment and Oertwich. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Amber Happold, county assessor, presented and explained the correction sheet for the month.

Motion made by Oertwich, seconded by Huttman to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the correction sheet numbered 272 and place it on file. Voting: Ayes: Oertwich, Huttman and Kment. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

There were no listings of clerical errors needing approval.

Motion made by Oertwich, seconded by Huttman to adjourn and set the next meeting for March 16, 2026, at 8:00 AM. Voting: Ayes: Oertwich, Huttman and Kment. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

/s/ Dennis Kment, Chairman, Board of Equalization, Stanton County, Nebraska
Attest: /s/ Wanda Heermann, County Clerk

COMMISSIONER’S PROCEEDINGS – Tuesday, February 17, 2026
(edited – official proceedings on file Clerk’s office)

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Stanton County, Nebraska was held in an open and public session on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 8:15 AM in the County Commissioner’s room in Stanton, Nebraska.

Present upon the roll call were Douglas Huttman, Dennis Kment and Douglas Oertwich, Board of Commissioners. Wanda Heermann, County Clerk, was also present.

Advance notice of the meeting was given by publication in the Stanton Register on February 4, 2026, a copy of the proof of publication being attached to these minutes, and by posting on the county website.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance to the Board members, a copy of their acknowledgement of the receipt of notice and the agenda being attached to these minutes.

All proceedings hereinafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America the meeting was called to order at 8:15 AM by Chairman Kment, who announced that the open meetings act is posted on the wall in the Commissioner’s room and a copy may be obtained from the County Clerk’s office upon request.

Motion made by Huttman, seconded by Oertwich to approve the agenda. Voting: Ayes: Huttman, Oertwich and Kment. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Motion made by Kment, seconded by Huttman to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2026, meeting. Voting: Ayes: Kment, Huttman and Oertwich. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

The following correspondence was reviewed and placed on file: FEMA DR4420 – reimbursement flood damage Site 18&20; FEMA DR2662 reimbursement warning sirens; Mainelli Wagner Assoc – NDOT Posting Notification; Lower Elkhorn NRD – Urban Conservation Assistance Program; Nebraska DMV – new Driver Licensing Service Center in Norfolk; Ashley Jindra – school bus stop ahead sign request; NNSWC – landfill site observation Feb 11, 2026; Ebony Cooksey – Broadband and NE Bead update.

Motion made by Huttman, seconded by Oertwich to approve Resolution No.2026.02-4 to add and release pledged security at the State State Bank, Stanton Nebraska. Voting: Ayes: Huttman, Oertwich and Kment. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

The county board reviewed and discussed the proposals received for lawn care services from: Jack Scherer Lawn Service, Stanton in the estimated amount of \$873.00 (courthouse), \$601.08 (veterans’ park) and \$174.28 (extension building) for a total of \$1,651.36. These proposals include early spring application, pre-emergent, bug & fertilizer, mid to late summer fertilizer and winter application; and Lawnco Lawn Tree Care, Norfolk in the estimated amount of \$1,311.87 (courthouse only). This proposal includes lawn applications for spring, late spring, summer, fall/late fall, spring or fall aeration and perimeter pest control.

Motion made by Kment, seconded by Oertwich to accept the proposal of Jack Scherer Lawn Service for lawn maintenance in the estimated amount of \$1,651.36 for the courthouse, veterans’ part and extension building lawns. This proposal includes early spring application, pre-emergent, bug & fertilizer, mid to late summer fertilizer and winter application. Voting: Ayes: Kment, Oertwich and Huttman. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

The Stanton Community School FFA appeared before the county board and made a presentation on Blue Green Algae. Seven (7) students appeared with their instructor, Morgan Schwartz. The presentation highlighted Lake Maskenthine – fishing, camping, and hiking trails. Information provided on nutrients, runoff, stagnant water, and toxins. The county board thanked the students for their presentation.

Sandy Zoubek and Amber Happold appeared before the county board to discuss basement storage and the need for additional shelving. The county board retreated to the basement and reviewed the area. The county board asked Sandy to obtain pricing for additional shelving. No action taken by the county board.

Kyle Voecks, Nan Hetzler, Tim Sweeney and Dan Molacek, representatives of the City of Stanton, and Shane Novotny joined the meeting. Also, joining the meeting was Mike Unger, county sheriff, and W. Bert Lammler, county attorney. A discussion was held on the Interlocal Agreement Contract for Law Enforcement Services with the City of Stanton which will expire December 31, 2026. The county board wanted to start a conversation about possible renewal of the contract with revisions. The consensus of the City of Stanton representatives was to continue with a contract. No action taken.

Mike Unger, county sheriff, joined the meeting and requested the county board to enter into a closed session to discuss department personnel issues.

Motion made by Huttman, seconded by Kment to enter into a closed session at 9:10 AM for the protection or prevention of needless injury to the reputation of individuals. The county attorney and county clerk remained at the request of the county board and all others in attendance left the meeting. Voting: Ayes: Huttman, Kment and Oertwich. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

The county board came out of closed session at 9:45 AM.

Motion made by Oertwich, seconded by Huttman to resume the open meeting. Voting: Ayes: Oertwich, Huttman and Kment. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Kyle Klug, Planning and Zoning Administrator, joined the meeting.

The chairman opened the hearing at 9:45AM on the Residential Use Permit (RUP) application of Austin and Kaidi Engel to construct a residence on property located on Lot 1, Preister's Lot Boundary Change in the NE NW & NW NE 5-22-1. No one appeared for the hearing. Kyle explained the residential use permit application and the conditions of the planning commission.

Motion made by Oertwich, seconded by Huttman to close the hearing. Voting: Ayes: Oertwich, Huttman and Kment. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Motion made by Oertwich, seconded by Kment to approve the Residential Use Permit (RUP) application of Austin and Kaidi Engel to construct a residence on property located on Lot 1, Preister's Lot Boundary Change in the NE NW & NW NE 5-22-1, as per Planning Commission recommendations. Voting: Ayes: Oertwich, Kment and Huttman. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Kyle advised the county board of the resignation of Judy Funk from the Planning Commission Board effective January 31, 2026. Kyle presented the county board applications received from Aaron Volkman and Ron Hilliges to replace Judy Funk and complete her term. A discussion was held on the applicants.

Motion made by Huttman, seconded by Oertwich to appoint Aaron Volkman to replace Judy Funk and complete her term on the Planning Commission Board (re-appointment 2029). Voting: Ayes: Huttman, Oertwich and Kment. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Kyle, safety committee member, informed the county board of the safety meeting topics. Discussed were upcoming shop inspections, establishment of job descriptions (job performance standards), scheduling CPR refresher training, and AED reimbursement for recent purchases.

Mark Mainelli, Highway Superintendent, and Ramsy Robertson, representative of Mainelli Wagner Assoc, joined the meeting.

Rob Johnson appeared before the county board to discuss access to his property after the closed bridges were removed. A discussion was held on access and easement options (east and north of property) with neighboring property. The county board advised Mr. Johnson to contact abutting landowners for access or easement options. No action taken by the county board.

Bid Letting was held at 10:30AM on the Stanton North, C008401720 Abutment Repairs located on 566 Ave/ 843-844 Rd in between sections 14-15, township 24, range 2. Appearing for the bid letting were representatives of ME Collins Construction, JMN Construction and North Construction. Bids were opened and publicly read as follows: Theisen Construction Norfolk NE, \$82,955.00, Start: Apr 13, 2026 End: May 3, 2026; High Plains Structural Group Lincoln NE, \$124,415.00, Start: May 4, 2026 End: May 25, 2026; JMN Construction Valley NE, \$113,322.75, Start: Sep 1, 2026 End: 15 days; ME Collins Contracting Co Inc Wahoo NE, \$201,001.60, Start: Sep 1, 2026 End: Sep 30, 2026; North Construction O'Neill NE, \$59,543.75, Start: Aug 1, 2026 End: Aug 20, 2026. The bids were reviewed with Mark Mainelli, highway superintendent. Discussion was held on prices, timeframe and detour routes.

Motion made by Huttman, seconded by Oertwich to accept the bid of North Construction of O'Neill NE for the Stanton North, C008401720 Abutment Repairs project in the total amount of \$59,543.75 and appoint and authorize the chairman to sign all the necessary documents when received. Voting: Ayes: Huttman, Oertwich and Kment. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Jon Balzer, Colfax County Highway Superintendent, joined the meeting to discuss a bridge replacement on the county line between Colfax County and Stanton County. A discussion was held on Stanton County bridge C-84(402) and Colfax County bridge C001900225(571) located east of 570 Ave on 822 Rd (31-21-3, Maple Creek Precinct). No action taken by the board.

Mike Hamernick appeared before the county board to discuss his Permit to Construct Utilities on County Right-of-Way. Mr. Hamernick explained that he needs to run an electrical line across 572 Ave one half mile north of 825 Rd between sections 16&17, township 21, range 3. He requested to allow trenching across the road instead of boring. Spencer's Trenching and Electric of Clarkson is the contractor for this project. A discussion was held on requirements and conditions of the permit.

Motion made by Oertwich, seconded by Kment to approve Utility Permit No. 20260217-1 for Mike Hamernik to install an electrical line across 572 Ave one half mile north of 825 Rd between sections 16&17, township 21, range 3 subject to the requirements and provisions of the permit and with the following conditions: 1) only allows authority on Stanton County ROW; 2) permit contingent on requirements listed in Appendix "A", (a) all fees need to be paid prior to the issuance of the permit, (i) open trench: \$150 per mile or part thereof; 3) open trenching is allowed per the approval of the county board; 4) the electrical line should be 4' (four feet) below the surface and 4' (four feet) below any culvert; 5) all roads need to be returned to their original condition if damaged or the cost for repair to fix the damages will be billed to the applicant; 6) if additional gravel is needed after construction the costs will be charged to the applicant, and 7) contact Darrell Hansen, bridge foreman, prior to beginning to be certain all culverts have been flagged and with any questions, or concerns. Voting: Ayes: Oertwich, Kment and Huttman. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Aaron Vanderstoep, Wayne Jansma and Scott Sand, representatives of Kings Crushing of Parker SD, appeared before the county board to discuss their rock and gravel products. They brought examples of the different gravel and rock produced at the gravel rock quarry in Tabor SD. Discussion was held on the products presented. No action taken by the county board.

Mike Froberg, emergency manager, joined the meeting. Mike outlined a temporary summer internship position to provide hands-on experience in local emergency management operations. The intern will assist with updating the 2026 LEOP, organize and update agency records, assist with summer storm spotting coordination and documentation, provide general clerical and administrative support. The

internship is a temporary part-time position beginning May 19, 2026, to July 31, 2026, payable at \$15.00 per hour. This position is not eligible for employee benefits, health insurance, or retirement contributions. A discussion was held on the internship.

Motion made by Huttmann, seconded by Oertwich to approve the temporary summer internship position from May 19, 2026, to July 31, 2026, payable at \$15.00 per hour [copy of agreement on file in County Clerk’s office]. Voting: Ayes: Huttmann, Oertwich and Kment. Naves: None. Motion Carried.

Mike informed the county board of issues needing repair on the emergency management F250 truck. It was noted that the truck is still under warranty and will be taken to the dealership for repairs.

Discussion was held on the replacement of the sheriff vehicle destroyed due to fire. Estimated replacements costs of the vehicle and equipment will be submitted to the insurance company. The status of the insurance claim is open pending the investigation by the State Fire Department Marshall. No action taken by the county board.

Ryan Wehrle, custodian/maintenance, appeared before the county board and advised them that his last date of employment will be March 6, 2026. Ryan felt he wanted a change. The county board thanked Ryan for his years of service to the county and wished him well. The county board requested the county clerk to advertise for a part-time custodian and/or maintenance position.

Motion made by Oertwich, seconded by Huttmann to approve for the month of January the Documentary Stamp Tax, co shr in the amount of \$527.96; County Clerk fees in the amount of \$1,619.75; P&M Fund fees in the amount of \$278.00; Misc Copy fees in the amount of \$25.00; Clerk of the District Court fees in the amount of \$119.65; Passport fees in the amount of \$280.00; County Treasurer’s receipt of money received numbered 25264 – 25328, inclusive in the amount of \$4,439,002.02; Stanton Co VSO 2nd Qu 2025-2026; and place them on file. Voting: Ayes: Oertwich, Huttmann and Kment. Naves: None. Motion Carried.

Motion made by Huttmann, seconded by Oertwich to approve the following Accounts Payable and Payroll claims as presented and order checks drawn on the various funds. Voting: Ayes: Huttmann, Oertwich and Kment. Naves: None. Motion Carried.

GENERAL FUND

Abacus Data Sys, subscription, 1475.12; Ameritas Retirement, ret-co shr, 11224.11; Appeara, services, 161.11; Applied Connective Tech, services etc, 3283.06; Arkfeld Lock Security, services, 471.00; Axon Enterprises, supplies, 6008.83; Kim Bearnese, phone etc, 83.01; Larry Belz, mowing, 300.00; Big Red Printing, supplies, 1660.90; Black Hills Energy, utilities, 834.43; BCBS, ins-co shr, 35725.89; Card Services, supplies, 40.00; Carney Law, atty fees, 2747.00; Electrical Engineering Equip, supplies, 378.29; Cornhusker Auto Center, services, 99.95; DAS State Acct, equip fee, 150.00; Martha Detlefsen, prior service, 12.00; Dudley Laundry Co/Jan X, supplies, 215.18; Egley Fullner Montag etal, atty fees, 386.53; Ewalt Law Office, public defender, 4550.00; Farmer’s Coop, fuel, 554.86; First Concord Benefits, fees, 52.50; First Natl Bank Omaha, fees copies, 34.50; Floor Maintenance, supplies, 215.18; Great Amer Finc Services, rent pymt, 234.36; Douglas Hart, supplies, 41.92; Wanda Heermann, mileage, 237.30; IRS USA Tax Pymt, so sec tax-co shr, 12560.56; Jones Automotive, equip, 597.73; Diane Kander, supplies, 99.00; Joshua Kuncie, rims, 200.00; L4 Hardware/Stanton Hardware, supplies, 106.29; Lammi Locke Beaudette, office allow, 996.00; Luedeke Oil Co, fuel etc, 998.96; Madison Co Jail, boarding, 1600.00; Madison Natl Life Ins Co, ins-co shr, 66.06; Midwest Special Services, services, 288.60; MIPS, services etc, 3056.29; Nebr Assn Co Clk etc, member dues, 50.00; Nebr Assoc Co Officials, reg fees, 210.00; Nebraska Notary Assoc, renewals, 328.77; NE Planning Zoning Assoc, reg fees, 470.00; Lavern Newkirk, prior service, 17.00; Wayne Ohnesorg, meals etc, 32.89; One Office Solution, supplies, 1569.00; Pender Care Centre dba Apothecary Shop, prescriptions, 12.75; Pender Comm Hospital, services, 247.00; Pierce Co Shf, boarding, 300.00; Pilger Library, supplies, 626.56; Pilger Store, fuel, 46.90; Pitzer Digital, services, 1301.51; Point C,hra admin fees, 320.00; Prime Sanitation, services, 79.50; Region IV, 3rd Qu Pymt, 1874.50; Stanton Auto Parts, parts, 261.10; Stanton Co Clk Dist Crt, costs, 114.00; Stanton Co Crt, costs, 421.00; Stanton Co HRA Reimb Acct, contribution-co shr, 4844.00; Stanton Co Imp Acct, ach fees, 22.75; Stanton Co PPD, utilities, 1314.07; Stanton Telecom, services, 1808.58; Stanton Water Sewer, utilities, 104.11; Profire Safety, services, 56.00; Eric Stone, supplies, 82.50; Teeco, supplies, 48.95; The Lil Store, fuel, 3531.36; Tilden Drug, prescriptions, 18.06; Traffic Safety Store/MUVZ, supplies, 863.38; Tri-State Comm, parts etc, 1020.00; Kristin Unger, meals, 990.13; Michael S Unger, lodging, 837.14; Univ Nebr Lincoln-Stanton Co Ext, phone, 45.02; Verizon Wireless, service, 639.95; Washtech Car Wash, supplies, 17.50; Cheryl Wolverton, prior service, 11.00; Sandra Zoubek Co Treas, transfer funds etc, 1505045.96;

ROAD FUND

AKRS Equip, supplies, 33.52; Ameritas Retirement, ret-co shr, 4757.40; Appeara, services, 45.24; ATCO Intl, chemicals, 600.00; Black Hills Energy, utilities, 689.62; BCBS, ins-co shr, 2372.30; Bomgaars, supplies, 621.37; Century Link, services, 93.46; Clarkson Plbg Htg, supplies etc, 170.28 ; Colonial Research, supplies, 349.60; Elkhorn Rural PPD, utilities, 51.46; Farmer’s Coop, fuel, 7364.98; Fastenal Co, supplies etc, 2144.70; Hoskins Mfg Co, supplies, 359.50; IRS USA Tax Pymt, so sec-co shr, 5722.26; Island Supply Welding, supplies, 143.00; K Porter Construction, concrete asphalt mix, 6570.69; Kimball Midwest, supplies, 343.67; L4 Hardware/Stanton Hardware, supplies, 281.99; Lammers Trailer Repair, parts, 121.52; LG Everist, rock, 4007.46; Luedeke Oil Co, fuel, 7514.75; Madison Natl Life Ins, ins-co shr, 19.48; Martin Marietta Materials, rock, 4583.75; Matteo Sand Gravel, gravel, 1674.75; Menards, supplies, 119.64; Terry Mendlik, CDL reimb, 31.00; Midwest Service Sales, grader blades etc, 6387.90; NMC Exchange, services, 13105.67; Douglas Oertwich, equip reimb, 335.49; One Office Solution, supplies, 17.41; Pilger Store, fuel, 2750.73; Powerplan, services, 1620.05; Prime Sanitation, services, 50.00; Ridge Road Repair/Stanton Auto Parts, services etc, 2061.80; Ron’s Farm Repair, services, 781.10; Rueter Zenor Co, parts, 400.09; Stanton Co HRA Reimb Acct, contribution-co shr, 2996.00; Stanton Co PPD, utilities, 827.92; Stanton Telecom, services, 336.26; Stanton Water Sewer, utilities, 49.13; Teeco, supplies, 44.25; Dean Thies, parts, 50.00; Thies Garage, services, 406.34; Tri-State Comm, parts, 2547.28; US Cellular, services, 63.13; Verizon Connect Fleet, services, 872.69; Village Pilger, utilities, 207.31; Weldon Parts, parts, 606.84; Greg Wylie, supplies, 157.49;

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND

Ameritas Retirement, ret-co shr, 393.86; Black Hills Energy, utilities, 193.73; Frohberg Computers, services, 248.64; Mike Frohberg, meals, 89.73; IRS USA Tax Pymt, so sec tax-co shr, 555.33; L4 Hardware/dba Stanton Hardware, supplies, 13.98; Madison Natl Life Ins, ins-co shr, 5.42; Menards, supplies, 369.43; Nebr Assoc Emerg Mgmt, reg fee, 150.00; Pilger Store, fuel, 37.00; Prime Sanitation Service, services, 12.50; Ridge Road Repair/Stanton Auto Parts, services, 1025.06; Stanton Co PPD, utilities, 179.98; Stanton Telecom, services, 59.03; Stanton Water Sewer, utilities, 46.47; The Lil Store, fuel, 700.21; Dale Vitito/Jacks Unif Equip, supplies, 65.70;

INHERITANCE TAX FUND

Stanton Co PPD, tower, 254.84;

EMERGENCY 911 FUND

City Norfolk, dispatching, 18493.31; Stanton Telecom, services, 73.23;
Total aggregate salaries of all county employees \$248,576.96.

Motion made by Oertwich, seconded by Huttmann to adjourn and set the next meeting for March 16, 2026, at 8:15 AM. Voting: Ayes: Oertwich, Huttmann and Kment. Naves: None. Motion Carried.

/s/ Dennis Kment, Chairman, Board of Commissioners, Stanton County, Nebraska
Attest: /s/ Wanda Heermann, County Clerk