

Thomas County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
March 17, 2026

The Thomas County Board of Commissioners convened in open and public session at 8:30 a.m., in the Commissioners meeting room of the Thomas County Courthouse, Thedford, Ne. Members present were Pam Moody, Charles Daly, and Lewis Herbaugh. Also present were board secretary/County Clerk Lorissa Hartman, County Treasurer Andrea Thomas, County Sheriff Joseph Smith, road personnel Doug Heavican and Keith Hartman, Thomas County Librarian Marcy Andersen, Paul Brune-NPPD also including various members from Forbes Construction and WSP-contractors for Transmission Line, Rusty Kemp and Kirk Olsen-NPPD Board of Directors, and Audrey Worthing-Representative of Adrian Smith's office.

Chair Moody stated open meeting guidelines are posted as required by law and copies are available, if requested.

Notice of the meeting was given by publication in the Thomas County Herald on March 5, 2026.

Motion made by Herbaugh and second by Daly to adopt the March 17, 2026 regular meeting agenda. Roll call vote: Ayes – Daly, Moody, Herbaugh. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Motion made by Herbaugh and second by Daly to approve the March 3, 2026 regular meeting minutes as published in the Thomas County Herald on March 12, 2026. Roll call vote: Ayes – Herbaugh, Moody, Daly. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Road discussion:

Doug reported that work on Atkins hill should be done this week.

Road work on Paxton Ranch Road, Peaceful Plains and S Seneca report given.

Heavy Use road agreement reviewed once again. Board will discuss this agreement with NPPD later in the meeting.

Plans for armor coat project discussed. Material stock pile locations discussed. April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting the armor coat bids will be opened.

Correspondence presented. No action taken.

**GENERAL FUND-**

|                                 |             |         |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---------|
| APPLIED CONNECTIVE TECHNOLOGIES | SECURITY    | 9880.20 |
| CUSTER COUNTY SHERIFF           | INMATE COST | 1050.00 |

|                              |            |          |
|------------------------------|------------|----------|
| DAS STATE ACCOUNTING-CENTRAL | SERVICES   | 150.00   |
| EAKES OFFICE SOLUTIONS       | SUPPLIES   | 107.28   |
| EWOLDTS GROCERY INC          | SUPPLIES   | 46.28    |
| MENARD'S                     | SUPPLIES   | 20.45    |
| PAMELA MOODY                 | LODGING    | 494.87   |
| NEBRASKA STATE PATROL        | SERVICES   | 66.50    |
| UNITED STATES POSTMASTER     | POSTAGE    | 156.00   |
| REGION 26                    | ASSESSMENT | 16411.98 |
| THOMAS CO CLERK PETTY CASH   | POSTAGE    | 11.95    |
| U S BANK                     | SUPPLIES   | 65.11    |
| VERIZON WIRELESS             | PHONE      | 80.02    |

**PRETRIAL FUND-**

|                 |       |       |
|-----------------|-------|-------|
| VIAERO WIRELESS | PHONE | 82.47 |
|-----------------|-------|-------|

**VISITORS FUND-**

|                                |             |        |
|--------------------------------|-------------|--------|
| POLAR BEAR TANK RACE           | SPONSORSHIP | 250.00 |
| SANDHILLS JOURNEY SCENIC BYWAY | MEMBERSHIP  | 590.00 |

**EXTENSION FUND-**

|                        |          |       |
|------------------------|----------|-------|
| EAKES OFFICE SOLUTIONS | SUPPLIES | 80.95 |
|------------------------|----------|-------|

**LIBRARY FUND-**

|                                 |          |        |
|---------------------------------|----------|--------|
| APPLIED CONNECTIVE TECHNOLOGIES | SERVICES | 207.50 |
|---------------------------------|----------|--------|

**BOOKMOBILE FUND-**

|                                 |          |        |
|---------------------------------|----------|--------|
| APPLIED CONNECTIVE TECHNOLOGIES | SERVICES | 88.00  |
| BRODART CO.                     | BOOKS    | 241.50 |
| FOLLETT SCHOOL SOLUTIONS, INC.  | BOOKS    | 199.00 |

Motion made by Moody and second by Herbaugh to pay claims as presented. Roll call vote: Ayes – Daly, Moody, Herbaugh. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Office reports:

Clerk reminded board members about the West Central District meeting next week in Ogallala. Notice of Election presented to the board. State of Nebraska to certify candidates to all counties by March 20<sup>th</sup>. Notice will be in the Thomas County Herald on March 26<sup>th</sup>. On April 6<sup>th</sup> individuals that have completed a ballot application will have their ballots mailed out to them. And then on April 13<sup>th</sup> ballots in person voting will begin in the office.

Assessor reported that the Abstract of Real Property has been completed and submitted to Property Assessment Division on March 12<sup>th</sup>.

Treasurer presented the February financial report to the board. She also reported receiving the special street fund money this month.

Sheriff/Emergency Manager gave an inmate report along with an activity/fire report. He has been working with the Rocky Mountain Complex Incident Management Team 3 for the Road 203 fire. A flyer announcing that Governor Pillen has placed a burn ban throughout the State of Nebraska was provided to the board.

Motion made by Herbaugh and second by Daly to approve office/fee reports as presented. Roll call vote: Ayes – Moody, Daly, Herbaugh. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Marcy Andersen visited with the board about erecting a lending library box somewhere on the courthouse property, funds from Tim Neal memorial will be used to build and erect. The board agreed to have Marcy proceed with this project.

Marcy also visited with the board about installing a hand rail outside the south steps into the library. She will review requirements and find options for the board.

The library will also be trying for a grant to replace computers in the library.

Motion made by Daly and second by Herbaugh to approve Resolution #2026-7, directing the County Treasurer to disburse the additional forest reserve funds just received for 23/24 fiscal year. Roll call vote: Ayes – Herbaugh, Daly, Moody. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Motion made by Daly and second by Herbaugh to approve the lease agreement with ADL Holdings, LLC for the placement of propane tank on Thomas County property. Roll call vote: Ayes – Daly, Moody, Herbaugh. Nays – none. Motion carried.

At 9:46 a.m. the County Board Chair determined that there was not sufficient room in the County Board meeting room to continue with the NPPD transmission line discussion so the Commissioner meeting was moved into the Courtroom at the Thomas County Courthouse.

Paul Brune with NPPD continued with introductions of crew members and NPPD board of directors in attendance of today's meeting. He then proceeded with a little history of the project. He stated that congestion on the high voltage grid, load shifts on the transmission system and the cost of generators and diesel fuel, still remains the top reasons and need for the new transmission line.

NPPD received the Incidental Take Permit in February 2026 and mailed letters to landowners and public officials at that time. Now the project is back on with mobilization of personnel and material to Nebraska, resume easement acquisition, and preparing fly yards.

Access activities are scheduled to start in June 2026, drilling pier foundations scheduled to start July-August and Helical pier installations starting in August 2026.

Commissioners discussed the need for a new Heavy Road Use agreement since the last agreement that was signed back in 2020. NPPD will submit a revised agreement to the Thomas County Clerk.

Commissioners also had questions about an actual map showing the roads that NPPD will be using throughout the County. They expressed concern about upcoming armor coat projects and a yearly car race on Purdum Road. NPPD will be supplying the county with (5) five maps showing the roads that will be used during this project.

Questions about fire suppression were answered by Forbes Brothers Timberline employees and were reassured of their practices for preventing fire and their procedures while working.

Question about estimated crews for the entire project were given, for 2026 an anticipated 70-90 employees, for 2027 till completion and estimated 200 employees. These employee numbers are for the entire project and not to be expected only in Thomas County.

Audrey Worthing representative from Adrian Smith's Scottsbluff office gave an update about the District offices located across Nebraska. The offices are located in Grand Island, Nebraska City and Scottsbluff. She gave a legislative update was given about the SAVE Act, Iran Conflict and Fires in Nebraska. If an individual is in need of specific casework assistance with a federal agency problem, Audrey recommended they reach out for assistance. Contact information will be available at the Thomas County Clerk's office.

No public comment.

Chair Moody adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the Thomas County Board of Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 8:30 a.m., in the Commissioners meeting room of the Thomas County Courthouse, Thedford NE. An agenda will be kept continually current and available for public inspection in the office of the Thomas County Clerk during regular business hours. Additions to the agenda may be made up to 24 hours before the meeting.

Thomas County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

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Pamela S. Moody, Chair

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Lorissa Hartman, Clerk