

Thomas County Board of Commissioners
September 1, 2026
Regular Meeting Minutes

The Thomas County Board of Commissioners convened in open and public session at 8:30 a.m., on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, 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, road personnel Doug Heavican and Keith Hartman, Rahn Bek, Tedd Teahon, County Sheriff Joseph Smith, Shaylee Scranton, Eric Schacht-Nebraska Land Trust, Bob Broweleit, County Weed Superintendent Rich Cook and County Attorney Kurt Arganbright.

Chair Moody stated open meeting guidelines are posted on the north wall of the commissioners meeting room.

Notice of meeting was given by publication in the Thomas County Herald on August 20, 2026, and posted on the county website: www.thomascountyne.gov.

Motion made by Herbaugh and second by Daly to adopt the September 1, 2026, regular meeting agenda. Roll call vote: Ayes – Daly, Herbaugh, Moody. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Motion made by Herbaugh and second by Daly to approve the August 18, 2026, regular meeting minutes as published in the Thomas County Herald on August 27, 2026. Roll call vote: Ayes – Herbaugh, Moody, Daly. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Road discussion:

NIRMA MSHA training will be on September 24, 2026, in Valentine at the Mid Plains Community College at 8 a.m.

Armor coat project on Purdum Rd discussed. Road personnel Keith Hartman received a phone call during the meeting from John Copland. Sta-Bilt had informed John that more aggregate was needed for the armor coat project on W North Loup Rd due to the current condition of the road. Everyone agreed that this was ok to get the road done correctly.

Soft spots and fixing washouts on various roads were discussed.

Tedd Teahon with the Halsey National Forest talked about projects going on through the forest. Whitetail Road construction, sprinklers at the campground, new outhouses, fencing, grazing, and lookout tower reconstruction.

He also reported that they are trying to obtain a grant to help fix roads within the forest.

Tedd Teahon also represented the Loup-to-Loup race committee and asked the board for the Purdum Road closure on August 12, 2027, for the race. The board also had a question about any funding available from Loup-to-Loup or SORC for the upkeep of the road. Tedd will check on this at their next meeting.

Motion made by Moody and second by Daly to close the Purdum Road on August 12, 2027, after the mail runs, for the Loup-to-Loup Race. Roll call vote: Ayes – Daly, Herbaugh, Moody. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Correspondence presented. No action taken.

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

GENERAL FUND-

AMERITAS	RETIREMENT	1674.14
APPLIED CONNECTIVE TECHNOLOGIES	SERVICES	637.50
ARGANBRIGHT LAW OFFICE	ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	3855.00
BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD	INSURANCE	9625.97
CONSOLIDATED COMPANIES INC	PHONE	434.83
CREATIVE PRINTERS, INC.	PUBLISHING	847.27
EAKES OFFICE SOLUTIONS	SUPPLIES	124.71
EWOLDTS GROCERY INC	SUPPLIES	57.44
GBE CPA	AUDIT EXPENSE	4000.00
GIS WORKSHOP LLC	PLANNING LAYER SERVICE	3763.08
MARVIN PLANNING CONSULTANTS, INC	SERVICES	3220.00
MIPS INC	SERVICES	1877.86
RICHARD COOK	MILEAGE/LODGING	257.23
SANDHILL OIL COMPANY INC	FUEL	610.12
SECURITY FIRST BANK	FEDERAL TAXES	2745.14
THOMAS CO CLERK PETTY CASH	POSTAGE	12.90
THOMAS CO TREASURER	EXTENSION	6617.34
THOMAS COUNTY ATTORNEY	CELL PHONE/EXPENSES	1400.00
U S BANK	FUEL	74.74
VISION CARE DIRECT	INSURANCE	4.66
SALARIES		28,694.11

ROAD FUND-

AMERITAS	RETIREMENT	548.24
BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD	INSURANCE	1525.21
DICKINSON LAND SURVEYORS, INC	SERVICES	750.00
NEAL OIL AUTO CENTER, INC	FUEL	4511.62

NIRMA	MSHA TRAINING	54.00
SANDHILL OIL COMPANY INC	FUEL	644.46
SECURITY FIRST BANK	FEDERAL TAXES	969.49
SHAFFER COMMUNICATIONS INC	GPS	630.00
SALARIES		9803.05
PRE-TRIAL FUND-		
VIAERO WIRELESS	PHONE	82.40
EXTENSION FUND-		
AMERITAS	RETIREMENT	179.25
CONSOLIDATED COMPANIES INC	PHONE	220.57
EAKES OFFICE SOLUTIONS	SUPPLIES	237.19
HOMETOWN LEASING	COPIER LEASE	181.52
SECURITY FIRST BANK	FEDERAL TAXES	437.36
SALARIES		4666.35
PRESERVATION & MODERNIZATION FUND-		
MIPS INC	SERVICES	119.40
LIBRARY FUND-		
AMERITAS	RETIREMENT	145.04
CONSOLIDATED COMPANIES INC	PHONE	110.19
EWOLDTS GROCERY INC	SUPPLIES	42.23
SECURITY FIRST BANK	FEDERAL TAXES	161.51
SALARIES		1828.88
BOOKMOBILE FUND-		
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICE, INC	BOOKS	181.19
AMERITAS	RETIREMENT	12.66
SANDHILL OIL COMPANY INC	FUEL	137.41
SECURITY FIRST BANK	FEDERAL TAXES	28.69
SALARIES		170.34
EMPLOYEE WITHHOLDINGS-		
AFLAC	INSURANCE	376.30
AFLAC INC	INSURANCE	94.02
AMERITAS	RETIREMENT	1738.66
BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD	INSURANCE	84.65
COLONIAL LIFE & ACCIDENT INS CO	INSURANCE	257.56
NEBRASKA DEPT OF REVENUE	STATE TAXES	1894.03
SECURITY FIRST BANK	FEDERAL TAXES	7880.43
VISION SERVICE PLAN (IC)	INSURANCE	48.24

Office reports:

The Clerk reminded the board of upcoming meetings and education. West Central District meeting is scheduled for September 24th in Ogallala. Legislative workshop is on October 16th in Burwell. Comprehensive Plan and Regulations Zoom webinar is October 7th at 2 p.m., 2 credit hours will be granted for this workshop and will fulfill the LB663 requirements.

Thedford Public Schools will need to have a pink postcard hearing which is scheduled for September 23rd at 6:30 p.m. at Thedford High School.

Discussion was also held about the County Surveyor position.

Sheriff gave an activity report.

Emergency Manager reported on the disaster declaration for the August 20th storm in Halsey.

Planning/Zoning Chair Rahn Bek reported that he had attended the open house at the Gudmundsen Ranch and had the opportunity to talk with Governor Pillen about the data center task force that was formed. He requested that he be kept informed about any of their upcoming meetings.

Commissioner Moody reported talking with Blaine County about applying for the federal grant together for the Purdum Road. Blaine County will discuss and get back to Commissioner Moody about their decision.

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

Motion made by Daly and second by Moody to approve the SDL application from Sandhills Corral to be held December 11, 2026, at the Thomas County Fairgrounds for a fundraiser. Roll call vote: Ayes – Daly, Moody, Herbaugh. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Clerk Hartman reported on the budget work status.

Chair Moody recessed the regular meeting at 10:30 a.m. to enter the Board of Equalization meeting.

Chair Moody reconvened the regular meeting at 10:36 a.m.

Eric Schacht-Nebraska Land Trust and Bob Broweleit presented information about the application for conservation easement on property owned by Bob. The Thomas County Planning commission held their meeting on August 12, 2026, and recommended approval of the application.

Questions on the easement centered around the issue of fighting fire on the land if this is allowed. Yes, fire suppression is allowed on the land under the conservation easement.

The next item discussed was any future road expansion and how this would be documented for the future. S. Seneca and Hwy 2 both border the land that will be under the conservation easement. Once the easement is filed with the register of deeds office it will be indexed against the land and any future work if a title search is performed it will be discovered that this easement exists.

Another question was about the future possibility of the land being removed from the tax rolls. The answer to this question was that this was not a foreseeable possibility.

Motion made by Herbaugh and second by Moody that finding of fact conforms with the current Thomas County Comprehensive Plan for the area included in the conservation easement application. Roll call vote: Ayes – Moody, Daly, Herbaugh. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Rich Cook, Thomas County Weed Superintendent met with the board to discuss the Sandhills Area Weed Management plan to survey and spray phragmites along the Middle Loup River in Thomas County.

Motion made by Moody and second by Daly to advertise that Thomas County will only be surveying portions along the Middle Loup River for phragmites and not spraying at the same time. Roll call vote: Ayes – Herbaugh, Daly, Moody. Nays – none. Motion carried.

No public comment.

Chair Moody adjourned the meeting at 11:43 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the Thomas County Board of Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, September 15, 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:

Pamela S. Moody, Chair

Lorissa Hartman, Thomas County Clerk

