

January 13, 2026

The Keya Paha County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> 2026 as advertised. Chairman Frederick called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with commissioners Nilson and Tiefenthaler and Clerk Wentworth present. Frederick led the pledge of allegiance and referenced the open meetings act posted for the public.

After review, Frederick moved, Nilson seconded to approve the minutes of the previous two meetings as presented. Voting: Nilson—yes, Frederick—yes and Tiefenthaler—yes, all voted in favor. Motion carried.

Frederick moved to accept the monthly reports for the Clerk, District Court Clerk and Treasurer, and also the quarterly report for the Sheriff, Tiefenthaler seconded. Voting: Frederick—yes, Tiefenthaler—yes and Nilson—yes. All voted in favor, motion carried.

D. Brannon and L. Worth met with the commissioners to discuss a section line road in their area in the county that has been blocked by a landowner. After discussion, Frederick moved to authorize E. Scott, Keya Paha Co Attorney to write a letter requesting the removal of all items that are blocking the road, Tiefenthaler seconded. Voting: Tiefenthaler—yes, Nilson—yes and Frederick—yes, all voted in favor. Motion carried.

The 10:30 agenda item was tabled.

Nilson moved to appoint Tiefenthaler as chairman, Frederick seconded. Tiefenthaler moved to appoint Nilson as vice chairman, Frederick seconded. Nilson moved, Frederick seconded to set Springview Herald as the official publication newspaper. Tiefenthaler moved, Nilson seconded to set [www.keyapahacountyne.gov](http://www.keyapahacountyne.gov) as the official county website. Frederick moved, Nilson seconded to set West Plains Bank as the official county depository. Nilson moved, Tiefenthaler seconded to make Springview Fire and Rescue the official county ambulance service for billing purposes. The position of Highway Superintendent was tabled until later. Tiefenthaler moved, Nilson seconded to assign Frederick as the representative on the Region IV Mental Health Board. Frederick moved to assign Nilson as the representative on the Region IV Northstar board, Tiefenthaler seconded. Tiefenthaler moved to reappoint Kurtis Mizner as the county weed superintendent, Nilson seconded. Frederick moved, Nilson seconded to reappoint R. Kienke as the county zoning administrator. Nilson moved to reappoint Frederick as the representative on the RC&D board, Tiefenthaler seconded. Frederick moved, Tiefenthaler seconded to reappoint Nilson to be the representative on the NCDHD board. Tiefenthaler moved to reappoint Frederick as the board member to serve on the safety committee, Nilson seconded the motion. Tiefenthaler moved that all other safety committee members remain the same: J. Cook, B. Crawford, K. Linse and H. Snyder, Nilson seconded. Frederick moved to appoint H Snyder as the NIRMA contact person, Tiefenthaler seconded. Nilson moved to reappoint S. Hallock and M. Frauen to serve another 3-year term on the planning commission, Tiefenthaler seconded. Nilson moved, Frederick seconded to appoint M. Sheehan, B. Ferguson, R. Heerten, T. Beck, M. Frick and D. Cronk to serve as the planning commissions board of adjustments. Nilson moved to reappoint Tiefenthaler as the representative on the Niobrara Council, Frederick seconded. Frederick moved to set NPAIT and the investment company for A. Painter, Tiefenthaler seconded. Frederick moved to reappoint R. Ferguson to the library board, Nilson seconded. Frederick moved approve all the appointments, motions and seconds with unanimous consent without objection, Nilson seconded, there were no objections. All appointments listed above were approved with unanimous consent. The Highway Superintendent appointment was tabled.

Nilson moved to set commissioners meeting to be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, except for the first meeting in May, which will be held on Wednesday May 13<sup>th</sup> to avoid election day, Tiefenthaler seconded. Nilson made a motion for the courthouse to observe all state and federal holidays for 2026, Tiefenthaler seconded.

D. Kienke was present and stated that the village had a housing study completed. Kienke will give copies to the board.

After discussion. Tiefenthaler moved to authorize County Attorney Scott draft a letter to Niobrara Valley Consultants requesting all county documentation that is in their possession to maintain the county records within the county, Nilson seconded. Voting: Tiefenthaler—yes, Nilson—yes and Frederick—yes. All voted in favor, motion carried.

The commissioners had a phone interview with a possible candidate for the open highway superintendent position.

K. Mizner presented his annual reports to the board, before sending them to the state.

The commissioners took a break for lunch.

Jim Ripley, Three River Telco discussed a project and laying cable with the board and took an Occupy the Right Of Way application and will submit it at the appropriate time.

J. Cook met with the board and discussed projects. The Highway Superintendent position was discussed. Cook will contact the candidate that was interviewed earlier in the day. Cook mentioned the black pickup is repaired and running.

| CLAIMS<br>GENERAL FUND          |                                       |              |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Salaries & Ins. Reimb           |                                       | \$ 15,574.22 |
| Appeara                         | services                              | \$ 220.47    |
| Applied Connective Technologies | services                              | \$ 1,515.70  |
| BC&BS                           | premiums                              | \$ 21,719.37 |
| CVA                             | utilities                             | \$ 246.66    |
| Contryman Associates            | audit cost                            | \$ 18,800.00 |
| Brandon Crawford                | janitorial contract                   | \$ 825.00    |
| Kristy Crawford                 | janitorial contract                   | \$ 825.00    |
| John Frederick                  | mileage                               | \$ 257.60    |
| Hespe Auto                      | repairs                               | \$ 594.16    |
| KBR Power                       | utilities                             | \$ 998.42    |
| Keya Paha Co Payroll W-H Acct   | co-share retirement                   | \$ 1,008.70  |
| Keya Paha Co Payroll W-H Acct   | co-share fica                         | \$ 1,145.12  |
| Keya Paha Co School             | rental fee primary election<br>zoning | \$ 100.00    |
| Rosa Kienke                     | contract/internet/mileage             | \$ 639.03    |
| MASA                            | premiums                              | \$ 275.00    |
| Microfilm Imaging Systems, Inc  | fees                                  | \$ 88.00     |
| Mid-States Crime Center         | membership                            | \$ 100.00    |
| NE Clerks of Dist Court Assoc.  | dues                                  | \$ 50.00     |
| NE Assc. Of Co Officials        | dues                                  | \$ 75.00     |
| Nebraska Assoc of Co Assessors  | dues                                  | \$ 100.00    |
| Nebraska Sheriff's Assoc        | dues                                  | \$ 235.00    |
| Office Products Center          | supplies                              | \$ 138.22    |
| Olson's Pest Technicians        | services                              | \$ 75.00     |
| Eric Scott                      | clerical/phone reimb                  | \$ 850.00    |
| Springview Herald               | publishing                            | \$ 161.21    |
| Three River Telco               | services                              | \$ 513.75    |
| Turbine Mart                    | fuel                                  | \$ 617.44    |
| US Bank                         | supplies/mtg exp./co gov<br>day       | \$ 282.31    |
| Viaero Wireless                 | sheriff dept                          | \$ 171.86    |
| Village of Springview           | utilities                             | \$ 131.29    |
| Timothy Wyrick                  | deputy em contract                    | \$ 833.33    |

|                               |                                |    |            |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|----|------------|
| Younes Hospitality            | mtg expense com. and<br>treas. | \$ | 749.70     |
| <b>ROAD FUND</b>              |                                |    |            |
| Salaries & Ins. Reimb         |                                | \$ | 17,459.04  |
| AKRS Equipment                | repairs                        | \$ | 2,098.51   |
| Appeara                       | services                       | \$ | 166.24     |
| BC&BS                         | premiums                       | \$ | 12,722.85  |
| CVA                           | fuel                           | \$ | 1,183.23   |
| Frontier Diesel               | supplies                       | \$ | 32.74      |
| Hespe Auto                    | tires/supplies                 | \$ | 3,555.04   |
| J&J Sanitation                | services                       | \$ | 148.76     |
| KBR Power                     | utilities                      | \$ | 235.80     |
| Keya Paha Co Payroll W-H Acct | co-share retirement            | \$ | 1,077.23   |
| Keya Paha Co Payroll W-H Acct | co-share fica                  | \$ | 1,319.96   |
| Outback Machine & Welding     | repairs                        | \$ | 674.55     |
| Platte Valley Comm            | radio for pick up              | \$ | 1,064.54   |
| Runnings Supply Inc           | supplies                       | \$ | 12.08      |
| Three River Telco             | services                       | \$ | 115.98     |
| Truck Center Co.              | repairs                        | \$ | 244.41     |
| US Bank                       | fuel/supplies                  | \$ | 286.89     |
| Viaero Wireless               | road dept                      | \$ | 43.84      |
| Village of Springview         | utilities                      | \$ | 33.20      |
| <b>EMERGENCY ROAD FUND</b>    |                                |    |            |
| WPB                           | loan payment                   | \$ | 113,905.75 |
| <b>WEED FUND</b>              |                                |    |            |
| Salaries & Ins. Reimb         |                                | \$ | 866.66     |
| BC&BS                         | premiums                       | \$ | 1,529.37   |
| Keya Paha Co Payroll W-H Acct | co-share retirement            | \$ | 58.50      |
| Keya Paha Co Payroll W-H Acct | co-share fica                  | \$ | 63.61      |
| Nebraska Weed Control Assoc.  | registration                   | \$ | 150.00     |
| Three River Telco             | services                       | \$ | 57.81      |

Nilson moved to approve the above claims, Tiefenthaler seconded. Voting: Tiefenthaler—yes, Nilson—yes and Frederick—yes, all voted in favor. Motion carried.

The Commissioners discussed at length officials' salaries for the upcoming term beginning in 2027. A wage increase to just bring the officials into the range suggested by NACO for counties of similar size was decided on. Frederick moved to approve Resolution 26-01 which states to raise the Treasurer, Sheriff and Clerk/Assessor annual wage by \$4,500.00 for the term beginning 2027, and the annual salary for 2028, 2029 and 2030 is based on the prior year's salary plus an increase of the current CPI with a cap of 5%, Tiefenthaler seconded. Voting: Nilson—yes, Frederick—yes and Tiefenthaler—yes. All voted in favor, motion carried. Tiefenthaler moved to set the commissioners' salary for the term beginning 2027 to be set at the prior year salary plus an increase based on the current CPI with a cap of 5%, Nilson seconded. Voting: Frederick—yes, Tiefenthaler—yes, Nilson—yes and Frederick—yes. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Tiefenthaler moved to raise the wages for the road department and deputies by 4% effective immediately, Frederick seconded. Voting: Tiefenthaler—yes, Nilson—yes and Frederick—yes. All voted in favor, motion carried.

*The chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at the courthouse meeting room. A current agenda is on file in the clerks office and available online at: <https://keyapahacountyne.gov/>.*

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*Suzy Wentworth, Clerk*

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*Anthony Tiefenthaler, Chairman*

*\*\*\*\*These minutes are not yet approved and may be corrected\*\*\*\**