

January 27, 2026

The Keya Paha County Commissioners met Tuesday, January 27, 2026 as advertised. Chairman Tiefenthaler called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with Commissioners Frederick and Nilson, Co. Attorney Scott and Clerk Wentworth present. Tiefenthaler led the pledge of allegiance and noted the open meetings act post for the public.

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

After reviewing, Nilson moved to authorize the chairman to sign the Memorandum of Understanding for the Veterans Affairs and Keya Paha County, Frederick seconded. Voting: Tiefenthaler—yes, Frederick—yes and Nilson—yes. All voted in favor, motion carried.

The hearing for the Conditional Use Permit for The Towers, LLC, dba Vertical Bridge was on the agenda for 10:30, Tiefenthaler moved, Nilson seconded to open the hearing. Tiefenthaler stated the comments need to be kept to 3 minutes. Those present for the hearing were: D. Kienke, Zoning Administrator, B. Arrowsmith, Chairman of the Planning Board, P. McNally with Vertical Bridge, J. & C. Orton, K. Connell, R Liewer, K. McGee, Springview Herald and M. Frauen, Planning Board member. P. McNally, representing Vertical Bridge presented the information pertaining to the proposed cell tower on the application, stating a 300 ft. tower is proposed in the E/2 of Section 26, Township 33 North, Range 18 West, Keya Paha County on property owned by Brad Arrowsmith. The proposed 300 ft. tower will be located near an existing 190 ft. tower. McNally stated that his company researched the area, narrowed down to 9 locations and contacted landowners and decided on the Arrowsmith property. McNally stated the lighting on the tower would be one red light at 150 ft and a flashing red light at the top at night, during the day there would be one flashing white light at the top. J. Orton stated that the proposed tower location will be less than a mile away from 3 residences and in full view of his home, Orton also stated that they contacted members of the planning commissioner nearly a year before any hearing and he was told that they would be contacted when there was a hearing to attend so they could express concerns. Then, when they were notified and attended the hearing of the planning board they were told there couldn't be changes to the application. Liewer stated that the power lines need to be underground, like the existing tower. K. Connell also mentioned planning for the tower began nearly a year before landowners were notified. D. Kienke wanted the minutes of the Planning Board meeting that took place on Monday to be read as follows:

"The Keya Paha County Planning Board met on January 26, 2026 to hold a public hearing for a conditional use permit for Vertical Tower and Bridge for a communication tower. Those present were member: Arrowsmith, Frauen, Hallock, Heyden and Ritterbush and zoning admin. Kienke, Pete McNally, Teresa Bammerlin, Chana and Jason Orton, Carl Connell, Ron Liewer and Les Hall. Ten notices were sent out. Four attended.

The hearing was called to order by chairman Arrowsmith at 2:07 pm. Pete McNally representing Vertical Tower and Bridge gave a presentation on the application. Discussion followed. Jason Orton shared a proposed picture of what the site would look like from his house. Ron Liewer spoke against the tower due to scenic views. The question of relocating county equipment was raised with no answer given. Ritterbush moved the hearing to be closed, seconded by Frauen. The roll call vote was unanimous. The hearing closed at 2:47 pm. Motion by Hallock, seconded by Ritterbush to recommend approval of the application on these findings, 1 Larger area coverage. 2 Other than personal preference no other harm to area 3 the application meets al county zoning regulations 4 the application meeting the county comprehensive plan. Roll call vote Hallock, Heyden, Ritterbush, Frauen, yes. Arrowsmith, abstain, Krueger and Brettschneider not present."

After further discussion, Tiefenthaler moved to close the hearing, Nilson seconded. Voting: Frederick—yes, Nilson—yes and Tiefenthaler—yes, all voted in favor, motion carried.

Based on the application following the requirements of the zoning regulations Tiefenthaler moved to approve the conditional use permit for Vertical Bridge with the condition that it be removed if it is ever not in use, and the location be returned back to pasture, Nilson seconded. Voting: Frederick—no, Nilson—yes and Tiefenthaler—yes, motion carried.

T. Wyrick met with commissioners and gave a quick update on the 2019 disaster, the county received \$579,822.34 on January 23<sup>rd</sup> from FEMA/NEMA. There is now only one outstanding project to be paid for. The CWDG-Stop the Burn Grant was also discussed. Frederick moved and Tiefenthaler seconded to authorize J. Coyle, Emergency Manager and T. Wyrick, Deputy Emergency Manager to file the Stop the Burn grant when it opens for applications. Voting: Nilson—yes, Tiefenthaler—yes and Frederick—yes. All voted in favor, motion carried.

At 11:30 am Tiefenthaler moved to open the road closure hearing in Township 32 North, Range 21 West, Sections 2 and 11 in Keya Paha County, Nilson seconded. Voting: Tiefenthaler—yes, Frederick—yes and Nilson—yes, all voted in favor. Motion carried. Those present for the hearing: Mr. And Mrs. J. Bishop and K. Bruns. A short discussion was held on the road closure and an easement between the landowners that have adjacent properties to the road. Nilson moved to close

the hearing, Tiefenthaler seconded. Voting: Frederick—yes, Nilson—yes and Tiefenthaler—yes. All voted in favor, motion carried. Frederick moved to approve the request to close the road in Township 32 North, Range 21 West, Nilson seconded. Voting: Nilson—yes, Tiefenthaler—yes and Frederick—yes, all voted in favor. Motion carried.  
The commissioners and Scott took a break for lunch.

# CLAIMS GENERAL FUND

Salaries & Ins. Reimb.		\$	15,612.36
Brown Co Treasurer	vet serv contract	\$	2,298.24
Colonial Life	premium	\$	210.00
DAS State Accounting	data processing	\$	305.75
Heartland Fire Protection	annual service extinguishers	\$	164.12
Keya Paha Co Payroll W-H Acct	co-share retirement	\$	1,033.85
Keya Paha Co Payroll W-H Acct	co-share fica	\$	1,148.04
NACO	dues	\$	1,164.67
Office Products Center	serv, contract	\$	35.00
Region IV, Inc.	qrtly	\$	1,055.50
Tyler Technologies	vet service system	\$	475.94
WPB	safety deposit box rental	\$	80.00

# ROAD FUND

Salaries & Ins. Reimb.		\$	13,501.92
Bomgaars Supply	supplies	\$	119.16
Heartland Fire Protection	annual service extinguishers	\$	575.12
Homeland Grocery	misc.	\$	34.33
Keya Paha Co Payroll W-H Acct	co-share retirement	\$	810.13
Keya Paha Co Payroll W-H Acct	co-share fica	\$	1,017.26
Power Plan	repairs	\$	1,814.27
Premier Parts & Paint	repairs	\$	36.76
Sioux City Truck Sales, Inc.	repairs	\$	195.21

# WEED FUND

Salaries & Ins. Reimb.		\$	866.66
Keya Paha Co Payroll W-H Acct	co-share retirement	\$	58.50
Keya Paha Co Payroll W-H Acct	co-share fica	\$	63.61

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

J. Cook, road foreman met with the commissioners to update them on road department activity. The Commissioners and Cook went to view a section line that has been in previous discussions.

At 3:15 pm the chairman declared the meeting adjourned until the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on February 10<sup>th</sup> 2026 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>.

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