

July 28, 2026

The Keya Paha County Commissioners met Tuesday, July 28th, 2026, as advertised. Chairman Tiefenthaler called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with Commissioners Nilson and Frederick, County Attorney Scott and Clerk Wentworth present. Tiefenthaler led the Pledge of Allegiance and noted the open meetings act posted for the public.

After review, Tiefenthaler moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting, Nilson seconded. Voting: Nilson—yes, Tiefenthaler—yes and Frederick—yes. All voted in favor, motion carried.

The inventory agenda item was tabled until later in the meeting.

J. Ruther, representing the Keya Paha County Ag Society, met with the Commissioners to present a Special Designated Liquor License Application for a beer garden for the Keya Paha County fair which will be August 14th, 15th and 16th. After review, Nilson moved to approve the special designated liquor license application for the Keya Paha County Ag Society, Tiefenthaler seconded. Voting: Tiefenthaler—yes, Frederick—yes and Nilson—yes. All voted in favor, motion carried. The Commissioners and Scott took a break for lunch.

J. Cook met with the commissioners to update them on the road department activity.

CLAIMS

GENERAL FUND

Salaries & Ins. Reimb		\$ 15,485.29
Bomgaars	yard repairs	\$ 215.56
Cardinal Assessment Group	pick up work	\$ 2,300.00
CVA	propane contract	\$ 3,221.20
Brandon Crawford	power rake rental/sprinkler rep	\$ 960.00
Keya Paha Co Payroll W-H Acct	co-share retirement	\$ 11,025.27
Keya Paha Co Payroll W-H Acct	co-share FICA	\$ 1,137.67
Microfilm Imaging Systems	fees	\$ 71.00
MIPS Inc	annual data processing	\$ 18,089.76
North Central NE RC&D	dues	\$ 200.00
Office Products Center	supplies	\$ 35.00
Olson's Pest Technicians	contract	\$ 75.00
Region 4 Behavioral Health	opioid settlement	\$ 273.09
Valentine Midland News	ads	\$ 70.33

ROAD FUND

Salaries & Ins. Reimb		\$ 13,070.30
Backstreet Repair	repairs	\$ 883.14
Brand Fluid Power Inc	repairs	\$ 6,200.62
Hespe Auto	repairs	\$ 73.00
Keya Paha Co Payroll W-H Acct	co-share retirement	\$ 814.74
Keya Paha Co Payroll W-H Acct	co-share FICA	\$ 970.23
Richard Kirsch	CDL license reimb	\$ 15.00

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
Van Diest Supply	chemical	\$ 11,468.00

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

Tiefenthaler made a motion to accept the inventories for the following offices: Sheriff Department, Road Department, County Attorney, Treasurer, County Court, Clerk-Register of Deeds-District Court and the other collective departments, Nilson seconded. Voting: Nilson—yes, Tiefenthaler—yes and Frederick—yes. All voted in favor, motion carried.

At 2:00 p.m. Nilson moved to open the public hearing, Tiefenthaler seconded. Voting: Tiefenthaler—yes, Frederick—yes and Nilson—yes. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Those present when the hearing was opened: D. Kienke, Keya Paha County Zoning Admin., B. Beatty, General Manager for KBR Public Power, S. Hallock, member of the KBR Board of Directors and Keya Paha Planning Commission, T. Eichenberger, P. Andersen, member of the KBR Board of Directors, A. Johnson, Springview Herald, B. Arrowsmith, Keya Paha Planning Commission, and L. Worth, KBR Board of Directors arrived during the hearing.

The Commissioners requested D. Kienke, Zoning Admin. to share her opening statement. Kienke requested the commissioners adopt a resolution she presented which states the following: “the Board of Commissioners of Keya Paha County, Nebraska resolve to place a moratorium on all Conditional Use Permits until such time that the new Comprehensive Plan and the new Zoning Regulations have been adopted.” Kienke estimated that the time frame for both the regulations and comprehensive plan to be completed and ready to be adopted would be approximately one year.

Beatty discuss future plans that could include a Bitcoin station at a substation Keya Paha County. Beatty explained the difference between a Bitcoin station and the data centers that are being widely discussed now. Data Centers require more transmission than is available in this area and a large workforce which is unattainable here. A bitcoin station would be a storage container type structure within the confines of the substation and would shut down during peak usage. Beatty stated that KBR Power would be in control of, and be able to shut it down, and that the local people, businesses and irrigators are their first priority. KBR Power has not submitted any application and is the planning stages.

Arrowsmith stated that without a new comprehensive plan and zoning regulations there isn’t enough knowledge to approve or deny applications. Kienke stated she is just requesting time to handle the situation correctly.

County Attorney E. Scott presented the question of what authority the county board has to stop all special use permits.

Tiefenthaler moved to close the hearing, Frederick seconded. Voting: Frederick—yes, Nilson—yes, and Tiefenthaler—yes. All voted in favor, motion carried. The agenda item was tabled until the next regularly scheduled meeting on August 11, 2026.

Alicia Bammerlin met with the commissioners to discuss surveying she has had done on her property by Steve Rasmussen and request the county to pay for a portion of the survey that was spent to determine corners that were set in original surveying. Steve Rasmussen was also present, stating he had spent multiple days surveying to find original corners to link them to. The Commissioners will consider a portion of the bill when it is presented.

At 4:15 p.m. Chairman Tiefenthaler declared the meeting adjourned until the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on August 11th, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the courthouse meeting room. A current agenda is on file in the clerks office and available online at: <https://keyapahacountyne.gov>;

Suzy Wentworth, Clerk

Anthony Tiefenthaler, Chairman

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