

Greeley County Commissioner Minutes
June 23, 2026

The Greeley County Board of Commissioners met in open and public session at 9:30 a.m. on the 23rd day of June 2026 in the Boardroom, Greeley County Courthouse. Notice of the meeting was given by publication in the Cedar Valley News.

Answering present at Roll Call were Jordan Foltz, Joe Leslie, and Dennis Wadsworth. Also, present was County Attorney Joe McNally and County Clerk Mindy Grossart. Chairman Foltz stated a current copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted on the east wall of the County Boardroom and copies were available for the public if requested. Everyone present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion was made by Leslie to waive the reading and approve the county board minutes from June 9, 2026, meeting, second by Wadsworth. Roll Call Vote: All yes, motion carried.

Motion made by Leslie to approve payroll and claims, second by Wadsworth. Roll Call Vote: All yes, motion carried. GENERAL FUND: Salaries, \$37,627.34, EFTPS Matching SS, \$ 2878.53, Ameritas Life Ins. Corp, Matching County Retirement, \$2,540.85. Blue Cross Blue Shield, \$21,530.11, ROAD FUND: Salaries, \$17,447.22, EFTPS Matching SS., \$1,334.71, Ameritas Life Ins. Corp, Matching County Retirement, \$1,157.23.

Trevor Nekoliczak, Planning & Zoning Administrator presented Donovan Acres Administrative Subdivision. Owner's Name: Board of Education Lands and Funds, Developers Name: Thomas & Kathy Donovan, Present and Desired Use of Subject Property: Residential Acreage, Legal Description: 8.467 Acres located in the SW ¼ of the SW ¼ S-36 T-20 R-11. Motion made by Wadsworth to approve Donovan Acres Administrative Subdivision, seconded by Leslie. Roll Call Vote: All yes, motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Veteran Service Office budget and determined there were not enough available funds to cover expenditures this fiscal year. Leslie moved to transfer budget expenditure authority from General Miscellaneous to the Veteran Service Office Budget \$100, second by Wadsworth. Roll Call Vote: All yes, motion carried. Robert McCurdy, Veteran Service Office, joined the meeting and presented a laptop quote for the Board to review. He requested cost share between Boone and Greeley County. No action was taken.

Leslie moved to enter the Board of Equalization at 9:45 a.m., seconded by Wadsworth. Roll Call Vote: All yes, motion carried. Gerri Behnk, Assessor presented Tan over/under valued real estate for parcel 390015303, legal description a tract in the N ½ of the N ½ of S-28 T-20 R-9 12.37 acres, reason for change: corrected second story finish from 2,000 sf to 1,360 sf, previous value 399,820, proposed value 372,210, amount of change (27,610). Wadsworth moved to approve the over/under for parcel 390015303, seconded by Leslie. Roll Call Vote: All yes, motion carried. Motion by Wadsworth to adjourn Board of Equalization at 9:50 a.m., seconded by Leslie. Roll Call Vote: All yes, motion carried.

Sheriff Deaver provided an update on his pickup that will be traded in to Husker Auto Group for a 2027 patrol unit. He explained they are waiting on some radar equipment for the other patrol unit.

Public comment: Amanda Jeffres, Executive Direction and Stephanie Gideon HR Manager from Loup Basin Public Health Department provided an annual update. Amanda highlighted service expansion, increased staffing and new funding driven programs to improve health across the region: WIC Program Transition- Starting July 1, Loup Basin will take over WIC services, adding clinics in several towns and Burwell, with expanded staffing to support the program. Rural Health Funding: New federal funding is enabling hiring of community health workers to deliver services like CPR training, blood pressure monitoring, and school cardiac preparedness (Project ADAM), Public Health Initiatives: Efforts include hypertension education, cancer prevention

(sunscreen distribution), and expanded oral health services, especially for underserved Medicaid adults, Mental Health Support: Launch of “Credible Mind,” a free platform offering resources, assessments, and crisis support, with a focus on youth outreach through schools, Family & Nutrition Programs: Expansion of home visiting (Healthy Families), nutrition education tied to WIC, and plans to hire bilingual staff, Pool Inspections: The department is working with cities on transitioning pool inspection responsibilities, likely using third-party inspectors.

Additional Public Comment: Cilinda Meyer-Scheideler expressed concerns on rising taxes and a struggling farm economy that are putting heavy strains on families, she supports the wind project as a needed source of county revenue, Marvin Hughes expressed concerns about needing an audio system for meetings, Peggy Petersen supports continuing the wind project and explained it would generate tax revenue, reduce the burden on ag landowners and expand the county’s tax base, Russ Bloom restated support for wind farm, shared some road concerns and thanked the Board for all they do, Bill Hamer stated he supports the road improvements but also noted the rising taxes and feels that the wind project has faced obstacles compared to others and urged the approval of wind farm to generate revenue, Bob Bernt expressed concerns that NPPD becomes involved the county could lose name plate tax revenue and emphasized the original permit conditions should not be altered and urged the Board to uphold the original terms of permit, Don Dugan stated everyone has been doing research on these type of wind farms and they are outdated, inefficient and require significant resources to build and do not to justify the investment, recommended looking into new more efficient systems that would be better suited for Greeley County, Bill Spelic stated that other areas already have many wind turbines and adding 41 in Greeley County would have a visible impact, he recommended looking into more efficient energy options and urges the county to slow down and study alternatives, Mike Connelly stated the wind turbine projects are driven by subsidies which are paid for by us taxpayers, mainly benefiting companies and don’t provide lasting value or help Greeley County, Jaythan Scheideler expressed support for the project and feels it would bring tax revenue and denying the project would discourage future investments in Greeley County and could harm future economic opportunities, Mike Wood stated he doesn’t understand why we are discussing the pros and cons of the project, it already received a permit and now they are about two and a half years into that project and significant work has been completed including securing power from NPPD and a new power line, he questioned the timeline if the permit was said to expire in 2025 and now it is mid-2026. Chairman Foltz called for any other public comment: none being heard.

Motion made by Leslie to enter executive session at 10:07 a.m. for the purpose of discussing possible litigation, second by Wadsworth. Roll Call Vote: All yes, motion carried. The Board and County Attorney Joe McNally and Andrew Willis – Cline Williams were present. Motion made by Leslie to exit executive session at 10:33 a.m., second by Wadsworth. Roll Call Vote: All yes, motion carried. No action taken.

Chairman Foltz offered David Levy, Baird Holm LLP the opportunity to speak on agenda item 4. Discuss and take necessary action on status of the Greeley Wind II, LLC Special Use Permit. David spoke on behalf of Greeley Wind II Next Era Energy Resources. He expressed disappointment at this juncture and stated they have been through a lot and spent a lot of money on this project. He feels they have satisfied all of the conditions of approval that can be satisfied at this juncture, including executing the power purchase agreement with Nebraska Public Power District within 3 years. David stated they disagree with the letter they received that was dated June 9th from the county. David asked that the county allow them to continue under the permit they have. In closing he stated they want the opportunity to work with the county, build this project, pay taxes, and pay the landowners in your county.

Motion made by Wadsworth to take no action but to deliver a prepared statement, seconded by Leslie. Roll Call Vote: All yes, motion carried. Chairman Foltz read aloud a status update on the Greeley Wind II, LLC Nebraska Special Use Permit: The Greeley Wind II, LLC Special Use Permit was approved pursuant to Resolution 2023-10 on August 8th, 2023.

Section 6.2 of the Greeley County Zoning Regulations states: “All approved Special Use Permits shall be valid for a period of time not to exceed two (2) years from the effective date to allow for completion of the project. Once completed, the Special Use Permit shall be perpetual unless upon review by the County Board, the special use permit is placed under reconsideration.” The Zoning Regulations do not include any authority for an extension of a special use permit to allow for an extended time to complete construction of the project.

The two year period for completion of the project expired on August 8, 2025. Construction was not completed (or even commenced) by that date. Under the express terms of the Zoning Regulations, the Special Use Permit expired automatically on August 8th, 2025. The County Board has no authority to take any action to extend a timeframe for construction of the project.

The Special Use Permit contained one condition with express timeline beyond 2 years: condition 25 required the Applicant to secure an agreement to sell the Project's output within 36 months of the date on which the County Board approves the Application. However, this condition is independent of the construction timeline required under the County Zoning Regulations.

The Board has no authority to act contrary to the Greeley County Zoning Regulations or to take any action to extend the timeframe for construction of a wind energy project authorized by Special Use Permit.

On June 9th, 2026, Special Zoning Council to Greeley County, Andrew Willis, sent a courtesy letter to the permittee notifying the permittee that the special use permit has expired as a matter of law pursuant to 6.2 of the Greeley Zoning Regulations.

This update is being made to provide clarification on the Board's position and confirm the substance of the June 9 letter. Unfortunately, there is simply no action that the board can take at this time with respect to the expired Special Use Permit.

This has been appealed to the Board of Adjustment, and the Board of Adjustment will hold its hearing and make an independent decision soon.

Motion by Leslie to adjourn at 10:41 a.m., second by Wadsworth. Roll Call Vote: All yes, motion carried. The next regular meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2026.

Dated the 29th day of June 2026.

Jordan Foltz, Chairman

ATTEST:

Mindy A. Grossart
Greeley County Clerk