

RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 21, 2026

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met at 8:00 A.M. On April 21, 2026 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Terry Goerger, Nathan Berseth, Rollie Ehlert, Tim Campbell, and Perry Miller. Others included Administrative Personnel Fossum and South, State's Attorney Kummer, Jesse Sedler, Sheriff Ruhl, Brett Lambrecht, Rod Romereim, and Daily News Reporter Manisha Reddy.

Commissioner Goerger called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Campbell to approve the reimbursement of legal fees to State's Attorney Kummer. On a roll call vote, vote was unanimous (5-0).

Commissioner Goerger announced an addition to the agenda, Brett Lambrecht. A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Berseth to approve the agenda as amended. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no requests submitted for public comment.

SHERIFF RUHL – QUARTERLY REPORT

Sheriff Ruhl distributed a first quarter Call for Service Report to the Board of Commissioners. Ruhl reported that traffic stops are down slightly compared to this time last year. Sheriff Ruhl reported that domestic disturbance calls are up; there were 18 in the first quarter of 2025 vs. 40 in the first quarter of 2026.

BRETT LAMBRECHT – BURN BAN

Lambrecht distributed a burn ban declaration to the Board of Commissioners. Lambrecht said the ban is flexible and will be in effect on high fire index days. A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Miller to approve the burn ban presented by Lambrecht. Vote was unanimous (5-0) (copy attached). Lambrecht will reach out to KBMW to see if they will announce the high fire index days. If residents are unsure if the ban is in effect, they should contact Dispatch to confirm.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Sedler gave the following updates regarding Highway activity:

- R.J. Zavoral & Sons were awarded the CR 1 project at the Special Meeting 4/10/26
- a preconstruction meeting for the CR 1 project is scheduled April 24 at 9:00 A.M.
- crews are staking out temporary right of ways
- some tile lines have been plugging up, crew has been steaming to open up
- grader has been out daily, tightening up shoulders
- planning to use base stabilizer on portions of CR 2, CR 10, and CR 16, total of 8 miles
- Riverview is starting to move material in, Sedler will work with Sheriff Ruhl on routes and traffic control
- OTP is starting to move material for the solar project, they have been in communication with Abercrombie Township and the Highway Department

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Ehlert to approve a gaming permit for the Hankinson Sandhills Saddle Club. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Campbell to appoint the list of election inspectors provided by County Auditor Fossum for the 2026 election cycle and to give her the authority to fill any vacancies that may occur. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

Correspondence from ND Water Resource Districts Association – Joint Summer Meeting with ND Water Users Association is scheduled July 15-16 at the Rough Rider Center in Watford City.

NEW BUSINESS

The U.S. Bank building purchased by the JPA was discussed.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to approve John working in the U.S. Bank building to prep offices and work on LED lighting grant application. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

A condemned house in Center Township was discussed.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

April

29 5-County Meeting in Wyndmere

May

5 Commission Meeting

19 Commission Meeting

June

- 2 Commission Meeting
- 16 Commission Meeting

Reports filed: Sheriff's Department – Revenue and Expenses for March 2026.

Motion to adjourn by Berseth.
Meeting adjourned at 9:27A.M.

ATTEST: _____
Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

_____CHAIRPERSON
Terry Goerger
Board of Richland County Commissioners

Richland County Burn Ban Declaration on High Fire Index Days

WHEREAS, Richland County is currently experiencing dry conditions across the county due to minimal rainfall.

WHEREAS, Richland County has been sustaining surface winds, frequent wind gusts, in excess of 25 mph with abrupt change in speed and direction and our unusually hot and dry conditions this spring put us into a "extreme or very high fire alert",

WHEREAS, these conditions accelerate the threat of fire danger for the public, residents, and property in Richland County,

WHEREAS, the Entire State is showing signs of drought conditions,

WHEREAS, the Richland County Board of Commission are concerned with the safety of the public, the emergency responders, and the property that lies within the county due to these conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Richland County Commissioners declare Fire Emergency and Burn Ban to include a ban on garbage burning, campfires and burning of farm or crop land when the North Dakota Rangeland Fire Index is in the High, Very High, Critical or near Critical Fire Weather or Extreme category and/or Red Flag Warning has been issued for Richland County, North Dakota. The daily Rangeland Fire Index can be found at the following website: <https://ndresponse.gov/burn-ban-restrictions-fire-danger-maps>.

What's Included: (not allowed)

Open Burning: Includes burning of leaves, grass clippings, garbage/pits, construction debris, fallen trees, crop residue, or hay land, sloughs, and campfires/bonfires.

What's Excluded: (allowable)

Controlled Devises: Only when device (gas, charcoal, or wood-fired grills, patio fireplaces and chimineas, gas camp stoves, wood smokers) is on a hard non-organic surface and 15' away from vegetation and fire extinguisher or water is available on site.

THE PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF THE BURN BAN IS A CLASS B MISDEMEANOR (NDCC 37-17.1-10.1: MAXIMUM SENTENCE OF 30 DAYS IN JAIL AND \$1,500 FINE).

Dated at Richland County Courthouse in Wahpeton, ND this 20th day of April, 2026.



Terry Goerger
Richland County Commissioner Chair