

RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 4, 2026

Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met at 8:00 A.M. Tuesday, August 4, 2026 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Terry Goerger, Nathan Berseth, Rollie Ehlert, Perry Miller, and Tim Campbell. Others included Administration Personnel Fossum and South, State's Attorney Kummer, Brett Lambrecht, Jesse Sedler, Donnie Witt, Sarah Erickson, Tracy Hansen, Sheriff Ruhl, Josh Beto, Steve Gjerdevig, Tyler Mauch, Blaine O'Hara, Brian Duray, Matt Anderson, Dean Christopherson, John Manstrom, Damon DeVillers, Will Budke, Bianca Berseth, and Daily News Reporter Manisha Reddy.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Goerger called the meeting to order. A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Campbell to approve the agenda. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Berseth to approve the minutes of meetings July 7 and July 21 and Budget Meetings July 21. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

TREASURERS REPORT

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to approve the Treasurer's Report. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no requests submitted for public comment.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence from Cargill regarding their 30th anniversary celebration on September 10th; RSVP by August 30, 2026.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to appoint Marlin Helmer to the Richland County Jobs Development Authority as the City of Lidgerwood representative. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

BRETT LAMBRECHT – HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT AWARD

Emergency Manager Brett Lambrecht announced that the supplemental Homeland Security Grant that he applied for was approved. The \$34,135 Federal award will be used to

RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 4, 2026

add steel panels $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way up on the south jail doors and will replace the main LEC door with bullet resistant glass doors and frame. Lambrecht will obtain 3 bids for the project. Lambrecht also applied for the 2026 Homeland Security Grant but is still waiting to hear back. Lambrecht gave a brief update regarding the Pagel home/ FEMA buyout on the Wild Rice River. Lambrecht said the existing home will need an asbestos check before it can be moved or demolished. The new build, which will be located on an adjacent property, will start next spring.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Sedler gave the following updates regarding Highway activity:

CR 1 project

- Box culvert is being set today
- 2 miles of gravel base to put back down
- Black top anticipated August 12
- County motor grader was hit by a semi last week while blading CR 7; no injuries to either driver. Rental motor grader will arrive Monday, August 10.
- Cores can be done now for CR 2 and CR 10, Sedler got a response back.

Commissioner Berseth reported that he met with Otter Tail Power regarding weed and road issues from the solar project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **HSZ BOARD**

Eligibility workers will be released from mandatory overtime this week; should save approximately 3% in the departments 2027 budget.

- **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

Couple of small bids going out for the bank building.

- **PUBLIC HEALTH**

Continuing nicotine replacement, car seat checks, and back- to-school immunizations. One resignation was announced in the department.

- **JDA/JPA**

The board will meet more frequently now, approved a PACE buydown loan. JPA – Queen Ann in Wahpeton is still progressing, has been painted.

RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 4, 2026

- **WEED BOARD**

Contractor is currently working on Township roads.

- **SOILS COMMITTEE**

Nothing to report.

- **PARK BOARD**

Verbiage for additional signage was determined at last meeting.

- **ADMINISTRATION**

Fossum informed the Commission that the group in Fairmount, who the Commission approved demolition assistance for, has submitted additional invoices totaling \$4622. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to approve additional reimbursement to the group in Fairmount, contingent upon the total reimbursement amount not exceeding the original cap. Vote was unanimous (5-0). Fossum informed the Commission that she plans to send out the same mailers for the General Election as she did in the Primary.

Fossum informed the Commission that the 5-County Meeting is scheduled at 4:30pm on Tuesday, August 25th in Rutland. Fossum will need to RSVP for those who plan to attend.

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Miller to approve the payment of the bills. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

Fossum prepared two revised budgets for the Board of Commissioners per their request at the last meeting. Fossum presented both budgets stating that the first included a 3% salary increase, 3.12 mill increase, and allowed for the 3% levy cap to be maximized while the second included a 3% salary increase, no mill levy increase and would not allow for the 3% levy cap to be utilized without raising the mills, but it can be carried over to the next year.

A discussion ensued regarding the 2027 preliminary budget. Jail expenses, DOCR invoices, and jail reimbursements from other counties were discussed.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to approve an immediate hiring freeze for the county; any new or open positions that aren't already being advertised, will need to be approved by the Board of Commissioners. Voting NO was Campbell, the remainder voted yes, and the motion carried (4-1).

Decreasing or eliminating the benefit budget for future employees was discussed.

RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 4, 2026

The Board of Commissioners asked Fossum to remove any new positions or additional FTE requests from the preliminary budget.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to approve the preliminary budget with a 3% salary increase, 3.12 mill increase, and no additional FTE's including the .4 FTE's requested by the Health Department. Voting NO was Campbell, the remainder voted yes and the motion carried (4-1).

The Final Budget Hearing was scheduled Tuesday, October 6, 2026 at 8:30am.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

AUGUST

- 17 Election Training – Grand Forks
- 18 Commission Meeting
- 25 5 County Meeting – Rutland

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Commission Meeting
- 15 Commission Meeting

OCTOBER

- 6 Commission Meeting
- 20 Commission Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:43 A.M.

CERTIFICATION

ATTEST:

Sandy Fossum

Auditor/Administrator

_____CHAIRPERSON

Terry Goerger

Board of Richland County Commissioners

Expense Report - July 2026

Payroll Expenses	Amount
General	\$ 337,875.44
County Highway	\$ 128,359.55
911 Communications	\$ 70,944.27
County Agent	\$ 3,872.27
Veterans Service	\$ 11,424.40
Weed Officer	\$ 500.00
Public Health Fund	\$ 73,243.51
Income Maintenance	\$ 77,165.74
Foster Care	\$ 21,766.91
Child Protective Svc	\$ 37,847.30
Parent Aid	\$ 5,039.83
Family Soc Worker	\$ 5,672.21
Social Services	\$ 22,294.18
In-Home Care	\$ 24,739.77
Admin Support	\$ 15,447.93
CHINS	\$ 61,859.23
Total	\$ 898,052.54
Other Expenses	Amount
County General Accounts	\$ 274,938.36
County Highway	\$ 428,954.70
Bridge Replacement	\$ 355,506.71
Road & Bridge Equipment Fund	\$ 44,024.00
Prairie Dog Disbursements	\$ 2,608,867.07
15 Mill Road	\$ -
Social Services Fund	
Emergency Assistance Donation	\$ 305.02
Emergency Fund	\$ -
911 Communications	\$ 38,234.67
NDRIN	\$ 2,136.29
Capitol Improvement	\$ 18,907.24
Water Rescue	\$ 41.00
Special Response Team	\$ -
Civil Asset Forfeiture Fund	\$ -
K9 Dog Donations	\$ -
County Agent	\$ 5,709.85
Veterans Service	\$ 6,867.21
Veteran Assistance Donation	\$ -
Weed Control Levy	\$ 37,750.97
Public Health	\$ 25,022.52
Haz Chem Fund	\$ -
Income Maintenance	\$ 24,910.60
Foster Care	\$ 6,779.01
Child Protective Svc	\$ 15,160.52
Parent Aid	\$ 1,996.32
Family Soc Worker	\$ 2,617.38

Expense Report - July 2026

Social Services	\$	7,862.00
In-Home Care	\$	12,552.46
Admin Support	\$	19,560.46
HSZ Board	\$	20,836.28
Safety Permanency Fd	\$	-
Unallow Fed Costs	\$	-
General Assistance	\$	-
Program Cost Revenue	\$	-
State Medical Levy	\$	653.17
Three Rivers Crisis Center	\$	-
FEMA Disaster Reimbursement	\$	-
Garrison Div	\$	3,765.21
Domestic Violence	\$	385.00
Twsp Share Gas & Oil	\$	-
TeleComm Tax Fund	\$	-
State Aid Distribution	\$	14,626.57
Jail Concession	\$	-
Sobriety Test Fund	\$	-
EWTF	\$	1,234.12
County General Accounts	\$	122,000.00
Diversion Settlement	\$	426,859.36
ND Income Tax W/H	\$	-
Sr Citizen Fund	\$	4,245.54
Historical Society	\$	1,058.65
Co Agent Special	\$	-
Soil Cons District	\$	3,142.82
Water Mngt Levy	\$	12,942.91
Joint Water Resource	\$	5,647.02
Estimated Real Estate Tax	\$	-
Current Tax Holding Fund	\$	-
Total	\$	4,556,101.01
Grand Total - Payroll and Expenses	\$	5,454,153.55

RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 4, 2026

CERTIFICATION OF JULY FINANCIAL REPORT

ATTEST:

Sandy Fossum

Auditor/Administrator

_____CHAIRPERSON

Terry Goerger

Board of Richland County Commissioners