

RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER 16, 2025

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met at 8:00 A.M. on December 16, 2025 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Terry Goerger, Nathan Berseth, Rollie Ehlert, Perry Miller, and Tim Campbell (via phone). Others included Administrative Personnel Fossum and South, State's Attorney Kummer, Jesse Sedler, Donnie Witt, Kayla Carlson, Kenzy Kahler, Tom Steinolfson, and Daily News Reporter Manisha Reddy.

Commissioner Goerger called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Ehlert to approve the agenda. Vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no requests submitted for public comment.

TOM STEINOLFSON – RED RIVER COMMUNICATIONS – UPDATE ON STATE BROADBAND GRANT & REGULATORY CHANGES

Tom Steinolfson of Red River Communications addressed the Commission to provide an update on the state broadband grant and inform them about some regulatory changes. Steinolfson said Red River Communications petitioned the North Dakota Public Service Commission and received ILEC (Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier) status for Wahpeton. Lumen still has the ability to serve the community of Wahpeton, but they have no regulatory obligation to do so, Red River Communications has accepted that responsibility.

TOM STEINOLFSON – CITY OF COLFAX – QUESTIONS REGARDING PAVING SCHEDULE

Colfax Councilman, Tom Steinolfson addressed the Commission to let them know that the City of Colfax is in the early processes of paving streets. Steinolfson asked if the county could stay in communication with the City of Colfax regarding future projects so the city and county could work together on timetables.

Commissioner Campbell left the meeting at 8:15 A.M.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to appoint Arv Burvee and Brandon Ward to another term on the Water Resource Board. Vote was unanimous.

Fossum distributed the 2026 Commission Portfolio Assignments to the Board of Commissioners (Copy attached).

Fossum informed the Commission that she created detailed descriptions of the precinct splits with the voting precincts following school districts to avoid any confusion if there should be an annexation in the future. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehler to approve precinct splits as presented. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to approve 7 vote centers for the 2026 election cycle: Wahpeton, Hankinson, Colfax, Wyndmere, Lidgerwood, Abercrombie, and Fairmount. Vote was unanimous.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway personnel in attendance were Jesse Sedler and Donnie Witt. Sedler gave a brief update regarding the following Highway activities:

- trucks are hauling sand today, they won't be out blading
- roads are looking pretty good, ice that is present is thin, so blading won't do much
- deck is being poured on Helendale bridge today, the State will need to inspect the bridge before the road opens back up
- message boards have been taken down at 4-way stop near Christine

Commissioner Miller reported that he received a thank you message addressed to the Commission & Highway Department regarding the installation of the 4-way stop west of Christine.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE continued

ND County Commissioner Summit was briefly discussed. Commissioner Goerger and Commissioner Berseth were in attendance last week.

KAYLA CARLSON – HEALTH DEPARTMENT FTE

Kayla Carlson addressed the Commission to request approval to hire an additional .8 FTE for a Correctional RN. Carlson stated the position would cost approximately \$83,000, but some of that would be offset by shifting staff time to unspent grant funds. Carlson estimated that \$13,500 would be left after grant funds were used. Carlson stated she would be willing to drop down to a .9 FTE offset that amount.

The Commission asked the matter to be tabled until the next meeting so Sheriff Ruhl could be present for questions. It was the consensus of the Board that it was not a good idea for a department head to be at a .9 FTE.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE continued

A joint meeting was discussed for Cities and Townships regarding ordinance enforcement; to be held in the spring, JPA possible host.

Expenses for the jail were discussed. Wilkin has completed their PREA audit.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

January

- 6 Commission Meeting
- 6 Housing Authority
- 20 Commission Meeting

February

- 3 Commission Meeting
- 17 Commission Meeting

Reports filed: Tax & Property Department – Revenue Voucher for November 2025.

Motion to adjourn by Berseth.

Meeting adjourned at 9:21 A.M.

ATTEST: _____
Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

_____CHAIRPERSON
Terry Goerger
Board of Richland County Commissioners

2026 Portfolios

Updated 12/11/2025

Terry Goerger - Chairman

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Administration - 642-7702
Emergency Mgnt - 642-7799
Public Health Board - 642-7735
Soils Board-642-7822
Weed Board

Nathan Berseth - Vice Chair

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Highway Dept - 642-7810
Communications - 642-7777
JDA Board
LARDC Board
Soils Board-642-7822
Human Service Zone - 642-7751

Rollie Ehler

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701-640-4329
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Highway Department - 642-7810
Maintenance Dept - 642-7830
Veteran's Service - 642-7807
JDA Board
Park Board
Health Department - 642-7735

Perry Miller

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Communications - 642-7777
Maintenance Dept - 642-7830
Housing Authority Board
Sheriff/Jail /task force- 642-7711
Weed Board
State's Attorney - 642-7766

Tim Campbell

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County Agent - 642-7793
Sheriff/Jail/task force - 642-7711
Emergency Mgnt - 642-7799
Park Board
Human Service Zone Board - 642-7751