

**RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 3, 2026**

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met at 8:00 A.M. February 3, 2026 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Terry Goerger, Nathan Berseth, Rollie Ehlert, Perry Miller, and Tim Campbell. Others included Administrative Personnel Fossum and South, State's Attorney Kummer, Jesse Sedler, Donnie Witt, Sarah Erickson, Brett Lambrecht, Tracey Olson, Zach Hatting, Mary Sahl, and Daily News Reporter Manisha Reddy.

Commissioner Goerger called the meeting to order and announced that Brett Lambrecht requested to be added to the agenda for Township Flex Funding and FEMA Buyout. A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Miller to approve the agenda as amended. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Miller to approve the minutes of meetings January 8 and January 20. Vote was unanimous.

TREASURERS REPORT

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to approve the Treasurer's Report. Vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Richland County resident Mary Sahl spoke regarding the intersection of CR 8 and 81.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway personnel in attendance were Jesse Sedler and Donnie Witt.

A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Berseth to advertise for culvert bids. Vote was unanimous.

Sedler gave a brief update regarding the following Highway activities:

- culvert bids to be advertised 2/7 and 2/14 with bid opening March 3rd
- contractor bids will be advertised on website, bids due 5:00pm March 2nd
- working on township road mileage, will be going out next week
- Flex Fund Grant – awarded 4.75 million for CR1 project
- Brandenburg Township and Wyndmere Township also received grant funds
- landowner meeting to be scheduled third or fourth week of February

-Highway portfolio meetings will follow the second Commission meeting of each month and will be noticed with the Commission meeting

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Berseth to approve Highway to enter a lease agreement for a tractor with NDACo. Vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Goerger announced that Jesse Sedler had been named Engineer of the Year at the NDACE Conference last week.

BRETT LAMBRECHT – FEMA BUYOUT AND TOWNSHIP FLEX FUND GRANTS

Lambrecht addressed the Commission with the following updates:

FEMA Buyout- Home on Wild Rice River - New home will be built on adjacent lot, possible buyer for existing – will need to advertise for bids, 15% local match to be paid by owners, total project cost is approx. \$324,000. Lambrecht will check to see if existing lot can be deeded back to owners after project is complete.

Township Flex Fund Grants – Two of four townships that applied for flex fund grants received them: Brandenburg and Wyndmere. Last year, a project was completed in Colfax Township and Eagle Township, the townships will split the balance left on the project.

TRACEY OLSON – GUARDIAN ENERGY EXPANSION AND TRAFFIC STUDY

Tracey Olson of Guardian Energy addressed the Commission to inform them about an upcoming expansion project in Hankinson. Olson said the first phase of the project has been approved, he met with Sedler a few weeks ago to discuss. The second phase of the project is planned for Q4 of 2027. Both phases of the expansion will have a significant impact on truck traffic in the area; Sedler recommended a traffic study be done. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to approve a traffic study for Guardian Energy expansion project. Vote was unanimous.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A) HSZ Board – Nothing to report.
- B) Buildings & Grounds – Commissioner Miller to meet with Anderson and BDT following today's Commission meeting.
- C) Public Health – Will meet on February 26th.
- D) JDA/JPA – JDA is working on approval for a PACE loan in Mantador. JPA - Eight-plex in Hankinson is complete; Queen Ann in Wahpeton is getting new windows today;

Infinity Center was approved in Wilkin County.

E) Weed Board – Nothing to report, will likely meet later this month.

F) Soils Committee – Hartsgaard has reached out regarding meeting. Tax Director Brown is working on price/acre; meeting to be held soon.

G) Park Board – Commissioner Campbell sent the Garrison Diversion Grant matching letter to Park Board members. Fossum informed the Commission that an updated letter was received; will match up to \$100,000 vs \$50,000, deadline is still March 2, 2026. Fossum will forward to Park Board members.

H) Administration – Fossum reported that Commissioner Berseth was elected Chairperson and Commissioner Miller was elected Vice-Chair at the 5-County meeting last week.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence from the Court Facilities Improvement Advisory Committee – Grant application for parking lot repairs was denied.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to approve a gaming permit for the Galchutt American Legion. Vote was unanimous.

Correspondence from Central Power Electric Cooperative, Inc regarding two projects: Rebuild of Hankinson Substation and Capacity Increase at Hankinson Ethanol Substation – comment period will close February 6th.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to approve the payment of the bills. Vote was unanimous.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

February

17 Commission Meeting

March

3 Commission Meeting

4-6 Election Conference

17 Commission Meeting

April

7 Commission Meeting

21 Commission Meeting

Reports filed: Sheriff's Department – Revenue & Expenses for November & December 2025
and Tax & Property Department – Revenue Voucher for December 2025.

Motion to adjourn by Goerger.
Meeting adjourned at 9:29 A.M.

ATTEST: _____
Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

_____ CHAIRPERSON
Terry Goerger
Board of Richland County Commissioners

The following claims were approved for January, 2026

PAYROLL (inclusive)

General	\$	333,050.40
County Highway	\$	115,520.29
911 Communications	\$	61,358.92
County Agent	\$	5,912.05
Veterans Service	\$	11,424.40
Weed Officer	\$	500.00
Public Health Fund	\$	71,573.86
Income Maintenance	\$	70,131.02
Foster Care	\$	21,211.95
Child Protective Svc	\$	39,363.27
Parent Aid	\$	4,965.60
Family Soc Worker	\$	5,568.41
Social Services	\$	87,856.50
In-Home Care	\$	28,749.87
Admin Support	\$	19,299.47
JDA	\$	270.00
PAYROLL TOTAL	\$	876,756.01

EXPENSES: ** Refer to resolution records

County General Accounts	\$	442,931.37
County Highway	\$	614,423.52
Bridge Replacement	\$	-
Road & Bridge Equipment Fund	\$	139,868.33
Prairie Dog Disbursements	\$	-
15 Mill Road	\$	-
Social Services Fund	\$	-
Emergency Assistance Donation	\$	-
Emergency Fund	\$	-
911 Communications	\$	37,546.60
NDRIN	\$	158.90
Capitol Improvement	\$	1,653.25
Water Rescue	\$	238.33
Special Response Team	\$	257.00
Civil Asset Forfeiture Fund	\$	-
K9 Dog Donations	\$	-
County Agent	\$	17,755.75
Veterans Service	\$	5,413.93
Veteran Assistance Donation	\$	-
Weed Control Levy	\$	606.89
Public Health	\$	27,505.04
Haz Chem Fund	\$	-
Income Maintenance	\$	23,134.50
Foster Care	\$	13,888.45
Child Protective Svc	\$	13,445.50

Parent Aid	\$	1,039.84
Family Soc Worker	\$	4,109.80
Social Services	\$	27,041.18
In-Home Care	\$	12,096.68
Admin Support	\$	24,415.84
HSZ Board	\$	-
Safety Permanency Fd	\$	-
Unallow Fed Costs	\$	-
General Assistance	\$	-
Program Cost Revenue	\$	-
State Medical Levy	\$	14,431.88
Three Rivers Crisis Center	\$	-
FEMA Disaster Reimbursement	\$	-
Garrison Div	\$	14,432.75
Domestic Violence	\$	70.00
Twsp Share Gas & Oil	\$	-
TeleComm Tax Fund	\$	-
State Aid Distribution	\$	14,588.67
Jail Concession	\$	-
Sobriety Test Fund	\$	2,435.00
EWTF	\$	5,007.04
County General Accounts	\$	7,387.51
Diversion Settlement	\$	501,498.05
ND Income Tax W/H	\$	-
Sr Citizen Fund	\$	14,911.02
Historical Society	\$	3,726.15
Co Agent Special	\$	-
Soil Cons District	\$	12,017.12
Water Mngt Levy	\$	44,820.52
Joint Water Resource	\$	21,648.92
Estimated Real Estate Tax	\$	-
Current Tax Holding Fund	\$	-
EXPENSE TOTAL	\$	2,064,505.33
 TOTAL PAYROLL & EXPENSES	\$	 2,941,261.34

ATTEST: _____

Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

CHAIRPERSON

Terry Goerger
Board of Richland County Commissioners