

RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 20, 2026

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met at 8:00 A.M. on January 20, 2026 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Terry Goerger, Nathan Berseth, Rollie Ehlert, Perry Miller (via phone), and Tim Campbell. Others included Administrative Personnel Fossum and South, State's Attorney Kummer, Sheriff Ruhl, Jesse Sedler, Kayla Carlson, Brett Lambrecht, Sarah Erickson, Jill Breuer, and Daily News Reporter Manisha Reddy.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no requests submitted for public comment.

SARAH ERICKSON – COUNTY DEPOSITORIES

A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Campbell to approve county depositories with the addition of First Community Credit Union and Bank It Forward. Vote was unanimous.

KAYLA CARLSON – HEALTH DEPARTMENT FTE

Kayla Carlson addressed the Commission with a revised proposal for a Correctional RN in the Health Department. Carlson asked The Board of Commissioners to consider a .6 FTE for a correctional RN to allow the Public Health Coordinator to focus on the duties she was hired for. Carlson estimated the request to be budget neutral, as unspent grant funds can be used for staff time. A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Campbell .6 FTE for a Correctional RN in the Health Department. Voting NO were Berseth and Miller, the remainder voted YES and the motion carried.

FIRST READING OF MODEL “D” ORDINANCE

Emergency Manager Lambrecht reported that there were minor changes made to the Model “D” Ordinance Floodplain Management that need to be approved. A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Berseth to approve changes made to Model “D” Ordinance Floodplain Management and approve the first reading. Vote was unanimous.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Sedler gave a brief update regarding the following Highway activities:

- still waiting to hear back on Flex Funding Grant application
- Helendale bridge - waiting for guardrail
- crews plowed Saturday and Monday

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

Fossum informed the Commission that two letters of interest had been received for the vacancy on the Board of Health. A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Miller to appoint Jay Townsend to the Richland County Board of Health. Vote was unanimous.

Correspondence from The Garrison Diversion – Recreation Grant applications are due March 2, 2026.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Campbell to approve gaming permits for Korbin's Krew and Make-A-Wish ND. Vote was unanimous.

5 County Meeting is scheduled January 29th in Fort Ransom; Richland to host next meeting.

OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY – HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINE

Nic Olson and Erin Vrchota of Otter Tail Power Company addressed the Commission to inform them about a High Voltage Transmission Line that will be coming through Richland County. The transmission line will run from the Bison Substation north of Mapleton, ND to the Hankinson Substation. It will continue to the Big Stone Substation in SD. OTP has met with landowners in South Dakota and will be holding an open house in Hankinson on February 12th from 4-6pm. Routes for the transmission line are still being determined. Open houses will be held for landowners in the northern part of Richland County at a later date. Construction is not expected to start until 2030. Questions about the project can be directed to Otter Tail Power Company.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

February

- 3 Commission Meeting
- 17 Commission Meeting

March

- 3 Commission Meeting
- 4-6 Election Conference
- 17 Commission Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 A.M.

ATTEST: _____

Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

CHAIRPERSON

Terry Goerger
Board of Richland County Commissioners