

RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JANUARY 8, 2026

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met at 8:00 A.M. January 8, 2026 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Terry Goerger (via phone), Nathan Berseth (via phone), Rollie Ehlert, Perry Miller (via phone), and Tim Campbell. Others included Administrative Personnel Fossum and South, Assistant State's Attorney Rydell, Sheriff Ruhl, Jesse Sedler, Donnie Witt, Sarah Erickson, Brett Lambrecht, Jill Breuer, Tracy Hansen, Jay Julson, Jim Woods, Lara Barnhart, and Daily News Reporter Manisha Reddy.

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

A motion was made by Goerger and seconded by Miller to approve the minutes of meetings December 2 and December 16. Vote was unanimous.

TREASURERS REPORT

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no requests submitted for public comment. Commissioner Miller reported that he had a lot of positive feedback from the public regarding the tax statements being consolidated now.

SHERIFF RUHL – YEAR-END REPORT

Sheriff Ruhl distributed year-end reports to the Board of Commissioners from 2023, 2024, and 2025. Ruhl reported a 53% increase in calls for service over the last three years. Sheriff Ruhl informed the Commission that he has a meeting set up regarding road closures and no travel advisories; Sedler will also attend. Ruhl shared a letter of thanks addressed to the Sheriff's Department and Board of Commissioners from a motorist who was stranded in the November 25th storm. Sheriff Ruhl reported jail contracts will need to be increased at budget time.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

Emergency Manager Brett Lambrecht announced that reps from Vertin-Munson Funeral Home were in attendance with a donation for Richland County Emergency Management to purchase hazmat suits. Lara Barnhart and Jim Woods of Vertin-Munson presented the

check to Lambrecht and thanked the county for their continued partnership.

BRETT LAMBRECHT – FEMA

Lambrecht reported that he had State's Attorney Kummer review the Model D Flood Plain Ordinance needed to remain in compliance with FEMA. Lambrecht said the only question that arose was, who should be the appeal authority in case of an issue. A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Miller to approve the Model D Floodplain Ordinance with the Board of Commissioners being the appeal authority. Vote was unanimous.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A) HSZ Board – Nothing to report.
- B) Buildings & Grounds – Highway Department has been assisting with some duties. Gas/electric have gone down significantly since HVAC remodel.
- C) Public Health – Nothing to report.
- D) JDA/JPA – Approving a PACE loan for a business in Mantador.
- E) Weed Board – Commissioner Goerger attended conference in Bismarck earlier this week.
- F) Soils Committee – Tax Director Brown just got price per acre from the state, she will be reaching out to committee members to set up a meeting.
- G) Park Board – Board will meet in March.
- H) Administration – A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Berseth to appoint Becky Devries to another term on the RSR Human Service Zone Board. Vote was unanimous.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

Fossum informed the Commission that the Mayor of Fairmount sent a letter indicating the City would like to purchase three foreclosure properties located in Fairmount for \$1.00 per parcel. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to approve the purchase of three parcels in Fairmount by the City of Fairmount for \$3.00. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Campbell to approve year-end budget transfers and adjustments. Vote was unanimous.

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

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

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

- Helendale Bridge – deck is poured, bridge rail and ramp will be placed until spring
- Roads are in good shape, haven't had to plow since December 22
- Reached out regarding Flex Fund Grant yesterday – should have a decision by the end of this week or early next week

UPCOMING MEETINGS

January

20 Commission Meeting

February

3 Commission Meeting

17 Commission Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 A.M.

ATTEST: _____
Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

_____CHAIRPERSON
Terry Goerger
Board of Richland County Commissioners

The following claims were approved for December, 2025

PAYROLL (inclusive)

General	\$	345,166.62
County Highway	\$	124,501.85
911 Communications	\$	67,583.24
County Agent	\$	5,780.29
Veterans Service	\$	11,043.14
Weed Officer	\$	850.00
Public Health Fund	\$	69,545.05
Income Maintenance	\$	67,257.71
Foster Care	\$	21,212.03
Child Protective Svc	\$	39,501.27
Parent Aid	\$	4,974.63
Family Soc Worker	\$	5,493.44
Social Services	\$	90,191.02
In-Home Care	\$	27,928.55
Admin Support	\$	21,767.11
PAYROLL TOTAL	\$	902,795.95

EXPENSES: ** Refer to resolution records

County General Accounts	\$	2,899,172.66
County Highway	\$	437,694.87
Bridge Replacement	\$	1,056,108.25
Road & Bridge Equipment Fund	\$	-
Prairie Dog Disbursements	\$	-
15 Mill Road	\$	2,722,023.39
Social Services Fund	\$	41.80
Emergency Assistance Donation	\$	34.69
Emergency Fund	\$	-
911 Communications	\$	41,172.62
NDRIN	\$	158.90
Capitol Improvement	\$	216,632.54
Water Rescue	\$	-
Special Response Team	\$	425.93
Civil Asset Forfeiture Fund	\$	-
K9 Dog Donations	\$	-
County Agent	\$	4,004.38
Veterans Service	\$	5,151.61
Veteran Assistance Donation	\$	-
Weed Control Levy	\$	69,361.68
Public Health	\$	30,383.34
Haz Chem Fund	\$	374.78
Income Maintenance	\$	24,200.79
Foster Care	\$	6,767.10
Child Protective Svc	\$	16,015.40
Parent Aid	\$	1,845.90

Family Soc Worker	\$	5,491.68
Social Services	\$	233,493.71
In-Home Care	\$	17,571.66
Admin Support	\$	45,171.25
HSZ Board	\$	-
Safety Permanency Fd	\$	-
Unallow Fed Costs	\$	-
General Assistance	\$	-
Program Cost Revenue	\$	4,301,433.12
State Medical Levy	\$	468.74
Three Rivers Crisis Center	\$	1,833.16
FEMA Disaster Reimbursement	\$	735,789.38
Garrison Div	\$	468.80
Domestic Violence	\$	1,115.39
Twsp Share Gas & Oil	\$	-
TeleComm Tax Fund	\$	-
State Aid Distribution	\$	20,247.37
Jail Concession	\$	-
Sobriety Test Fund	\$	2,085.00
EWTF	\$	3,117.13
County General Accounts	\$	188,062.69
Diversion Settlement	\$	974,850.51
ND Income Tax W/H	\$	-
Sr Citizen Fund	\$	1,133.88
Historical Society	\$	280.40
Co Agent Special	\$	165.43
Soil Cons District	\$	313.27
Water Mngt Levy	\$	3,622.54
Joint Water Resource	\$	703.16
Estimated Real Estate Tax	\$	20,125.92
Current Tax Holding Fund	\$	-
EXPENSE TOTAL	\$	14,089,114.82
 TOTAL PAYROLL & EXPENSES	 \$	 14,991,910.77

ATTEST: _____
 Sandy Fossum
 Auditor/Administrator

_____CHAIRPERSON
 Terry Goerger
 Board of Richland County Commissioners