

RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JULY 22, 2025

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met at 8:00 A.M. on July 22, 2025 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Tim Campbell, Terry Goerger, Nathan Berseth, and Rollie Ehlert. Commissioner Perry Miller was absent. Others included Administrative Personnel Fossum and South, Assistant State's Attorney Rydell, Sheriff Ruhl, Jesse Sedler, Donnie Witt, Jill Breuer, Brett Lambrecht, and Shawn Paczkowski.

Commissioner Campbell called the meeting to order and asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Commissioner Berseth requested the addition of SVEDA and Road Use and County Services Agreement. A motion was made by Goerger and seconded by Berseth to approve the agenda as amended. Vote was unanimous.

JOHN ANDERSON – PARKING LOT REPAIRS AND COURTHOUSE FLOOR GRINDING

Anderson reported that he received two bids to repair the 3 parking lots at the Courthouse and LEC. Northern Improvement was the low bid at \$48,825. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to approve \$48,825 bid from Northern Improvement for overlay and paving of 3 parking lots. Vote was unanimous.

Anderson informed the Commission that he received two estimates for wet sanding/floor grinding to repair the Terraza floor in the courthouse. Local Service Master came in at \$23,771; a company out of Cambridge, MN came in at \$25,000. It was the consensus of the Board of Commissioners to wait on courthouse floor repairs and apply for Courthouse Facilities Improvement Grant to see if a portion of the cost could be covered.

SHERIFF RUHL – QUARTERLY REPORT

Sheriff Ruhl distributed a year to date Calls for Service Report to the Board of Commissioners. Ruhl reported that the department is on pace for 12,000 calls this year vs 8,000 calls last year. The department patrolled in Christine last weekend, most of the speeding tickets issued were for locals. In other business, Ruhl reported that the department has a new Deputy starting at the end of August.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

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

- Gravel crushing is complete
- CR 1, 3, 16, 22, & 81 – milling is complete, paving will start Saturday or next week, 81 will be paved first, then 22, 16, 1, & 3
- drain tile on CR 3 – should be complete in 2 days

Sedler informed the commission that he has received some complaints about CR 21 & 22 on the Haul Road. There are already yield signs in place, additional signs will be placed that state that cross-traffic does not stop with flashing lights.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Berseth reported that SVEDA no longer has any employees, and the Board of Directors has discussed dissolving. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to dissolve SVEDA at the county level. Vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Berseth informed the Commission that States Attorney Kummer has reviewed and made changes to the Road Use and County Services Agreement with Riverview. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Goerger to approve a Road Use and County Services Agreement with Riverview Dairy. Vote was unanimous.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT continued

Sedler informed the Commission that he got a quote for \$24,195 to apply GAP to the overpasses on CR 1, 22, 15 & 6. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to approve applying GAP to CR 1, 22, 15, & 6 contingent on contacting DOT engineer to see if they will cost share. Vote was unanimous.

BRETT LAMBRECHT – FEMA FLOODPLAIN ORDINANCE

Lambrecht reported that he received a letter from the state regarding SB 2027 and the changes to ND Century Code regarding Floodplain Management authority for cities, counties, and townships. Lambrecht has been working with townships that have called with questions. The new federal requirement is 2 ft above base flood elevation on new construction with FHA mortgages in Special Flood Hazard Zones only.

Lambrecht reported that the Pagel home on the Wild Rice River has moved from a relocation to a property acquisition with relocation. State's Attorney Kummer is working on new paperwork. The homeowners will still be paying the local 15% match.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

Fossum informed the Commission that they need to appoint a delegate for the North

Dakota Association of Counties. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to appoint Terry Goerger as delegate for NDACo. Voting NO was Goerger, the remainder voted Yes, and the motion carried.

Correspondence from the following:

- Lake Agassiz Regional Council - Site Analysis Study
- Elevatus Architecture – Jail Study

UNIFINISHED BUSINESS

Assistant State's Attorney Rydell informed the Commission that the Resolution to address HB 2180 is complete. State's Attorney Kummer had Commissioner Miller review. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to approve a resolution of policy regarding public comment requirements at regular meetings. Vote was unanimous (Copy attached).

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE continued

Shawn Paczkowski, Mayor of Abercrombie ND, addressed the Commission regarding a dilapidated home the city wants to purchase from an individual and demolish. Mayor Paczkowski asked the Board of Commissioners if they would be willing to help the city with demolition costs if a new home is built on the lot. The Commission will revisit after demolition has occurred.

Fossum informed the Commission that school election questions pertaining to bond indebtedness must be on the county ballot. The possibility of realigning voting precincts to match school districts was discussed. Fossum stated a decision would be needed soon, as there is work that needs to be done in preparation.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

August

- 5 Commission Meeting
- 19 Commission Meeting

September

- 2 Commission Meeting
- 16 Commission Meeting

Reports Filed: Tax & Property Department – Revenue Voucher for June 2025.

Motion to adjourn by Goerger.
Meeting adjourned at 9:24 A.M.

ATTEST: _____
Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

_____CHAIRPERSON
Tim Campbell
Board of Richland County Commissioners

**RICHLAND COUNTY COMMISSION
RESOLUTION OF POLICY
REGARDING PUBLIC COMMENT REQUIREMENTS AT REGULAR MEETINGS**

WHEREAS, Richland County (County) is a North Dakota political subdivision.

WHEREAS, as a North Dakota political subdivision, the County is subject to North Dakota's open meetings requirements under Chapter 44-04 of the North Dakota Century Code.

WHEREAS, during the 2025 Legislative Session, the North Dakota Legislature approved SB 2180, a bill that includes a new public meeting requirement in Chapter 44-04 for cities, counties, townships, school districts, park districts, and water resource districts (the "Public Entities").

WHEREAS, under SB 2180, at every regularly scheduled meeting, the Public Entities must include an opportunity for members of the public to provide comments.

WHEREAS, SB 2180 directs the Public Entities to implement policies that include rules for public comments, including time limits for public speakers, total meeting time limitations for public comment, rules regarding permissible topics, and rules of decorum.

WHEREAS, the County must comply with SB 2180 and approves this RESOLUTION OF POLICY in compliance with the public comment policy requirements under SB 2180.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this RESOLUTION OF POLICY represents the County's official policy regarding public comments at regular board meetings as mandated under SB 2180.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County's policy under this RESOLUTION OF POLICY ensures the public's right to speak at a regular meeting and ensures the public comment process is orderly, efficient, and respectful.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County approves the following policy regarding public comments at the County's meetings, under SB 2180:

1. The County will include a public comment agenda item as the first non-procedural agenda item at all regular meetings of the County.
 - a. "Regular" meetings include the County's regularly scheduled monthly meetings, as approved by the County and filed with the Richland County Auditor, all as required under N.D. Cent. Code § 44-04-20(3).
2. Each person interested in providing public comments at a meeting must submit a speaker card, in person or via email, to the County Auditor/Administrator prior to the meeting being called to order that includes:
 - a. the person's name;
 - b. the person's address; and
 - c. an agenda item from the current meeting agenda or the previous meeting agenda that the person seeks to address.
3. If a speaker card does not include all three items above, the person is disqualified and the person may not speak at the meeting.

4. The County will afford each person three minutes to provide comments. The County will notify each speaker when the three minutes have expired and the speaker will promptly conclude.
5. To ensure orderly and efficient meetings, the County will limit the public comment agenda item to a total of thirty minutes, regardless of how many people have submitted speaker cards.
6. The County will call on each person who has properly submitted a completed speaker card to present public comments, in the order of submission.
7. All comments must:
 - a. address the agenda item identified on the speaker card, from the current meeting agenda or the previous meeting agenda; and
 - b. be pertinent to the County.
8. Comments may not:
 - a. be defamatory, abusive, harassing, or unlawful;
 - b. include information that is exempt or confidential under North Dakota open records or open meetings law; or
 - c. interfere with the orderly conduct of the County's meeting.
9. Speakers may not yield their allotted time to another person.
10. Anyone unable or unwilling to speak in-person may submit written comments to the County Auditor/Administrator prior to the meeting; the written comments must include the person's name and address and must be pertinent to an agenda item from the current meeting agenda or the previous meeting agenda. If a person submits written comments to the County's Auditor/Administrator at least twenty-four hours prior to the County's meeting, the Auditor/Administrator will circulate and distribute the comments to the Commissioners prior to the meeting and the County will address and discuss the comments at the meeting. If a person submits written comments to the County's Auditor/Administrator less than twenty-four hours prior to a meeting, the County will not address or discuss the comments at that meeting and the Auditor/Administrator will circulate and distribute the comments to the County's Commissioners after the meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this RESOLUTION OF POLICY supersedes any of the County's previous policies or practices regarding public comments at the County's meetings.

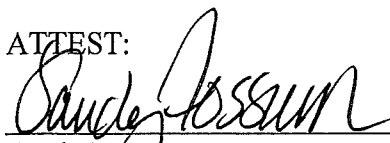
Date Approved: July 22, 2025

RICHLAND COUNTY COMMISSION



Tim Campbell, Chair

ATTEST:



Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator