

RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JULY 7, 2026

Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met at 8:00 A.M. July 7, 2026 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Terry Goerger, Nathan Berseth, Rollie Ehlert, Perry Miller, and Tim Campbell. Others included Administration Personnel Fossum and South, State's Attorney Kummer, Jesse Sedler, Sarah Erickson, Brett Lambrecht, Kayla Carlson, Cassie Martinez, Jill Breuer, Tracy Hansen, Frank Oakgrove, Ted Preister, Korey Skovholt, Cindy Zick, and Daily News Reporter Manisha Reddy.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Goerger called the meeting to order. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to approve the agenda. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Campbell to approve the minutes of meetings June 2 and June 16 and County Equalization June 2. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

TREASURERS REPORT

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to approve the Treasurer's Report. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cindy Zick addressed the Commission to ask if they had an update on the Colfax Aquifer study that the JPA paid for. Commissioner Berseth reported that they had some data back from the study; TDS (Total Dissolved Solids) are not as high as originally thought. More samples will be taken west of Riverview Dairy.

Bob Heitkamp introduced himself to the Board of Commissioners and announced that he is running for ND Senate in District 25.

SECOND READING OF ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Campbell to approve the second reading and final passage of the Animal Control Ordinance. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

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CASSIE MARTINEZ INTRODUCTION

Health Services Director Kayla Carlson introduced new Correctional RN Cassie Martinez to the Board of Commissioners.

FRANK OAKGROVE INTRODUCTION – RED RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

Frank Oakgrove and Ted Preister were present from the Red River Basin Commission. Oakgrove introduced himself to the Board of Commissioners and distributed an informational pamphlet about the Red River Basin Commission. Oakgrove shared information about the nonprofit organization; which represents every voice in flood mitigation including federal, state, provincial, tribal, First Nations, municipalities, counties, rural municipalities, and soil and water management agencies.

JILL BREUER – CITY OF WAHPETON AND NDSCS CONTRACTS

Breuer distributed information from proposed 5-year contracts with the City of Wahpeton and NDSCS for dispatch services. Breuer said both contracts have a 2.5% escalation each year and that she is still working out some minor details on the NDSCS contract. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to approve 5-year Communication Agreements with the City of Wahpeton and NDSCS after negotiations are complete. Voting No was Campbell, the remainder voted Yes and the motion carried (4-1).

KOREY SKOVHOLT – TOWNSHIP ROAD ABANDONMENT

Korey Skovholt addressed the Commission with a road abandonment request. Skovholt said the SE corner of Section 34 bordering Ibsen and Mooreton Townships has not been used for approximately 10 years. He would like the road to be officially abandoned so he can do a better job with drainage at that corner of the farmstead. Township Officials requested that Skovholt request the approval from the county. State's Attorney Kummer advised that public notice and a public hearing are required to do so. Public hearing to be scheduled July 21, 2026 at 8:15 A.M.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Sedler gave the following updates regarding Highway activity:

LP bids were opened at the last Commission meeting; Farmers Union Oil of the Southern Valley had the low bid. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to award the liquid propane bid to Farmers Union Oil of the Southern Valley. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

CR 1 project – started milling and reclaiming in Mooreton last week. Rural stretch is going well. Drain tile should start tomorrow. Gravel crushing today and tomorrow, weather dependent.

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Guardian Energy expansion – \$1.5 million Flex Fund Grant and \$1.1 million Ag Facilities Grant awarded for Phase 1 of the project.

Summer graveling should wrap up this week.

Bridges - Approximately 60 bridge inspections will occur this month throughout the county. A bridge west of Great Bend had to be closed last week after inspection due to failing abutment. Preliminary Engineering for Brandenburg Bridge was approved for \$191,000. Fixing a bridge west of Mantador today.

Still waiting on road reclamation quote for 4 miles on CR 2 and CR 10.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **HSZ BOARD**

Commissioner Campbell distributed minutes from the last meeting. Items for discussion included Ransom County Board Member vacancy, new hire for CPS in Forman, mandatory OT for Eligibility Workers in ND, and the Director Flieth's performance review.

- **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

Replacing sewer pipes in LEC. Working on flooring at bank building.

- **PUBLIC HEALTH**

The Board of Health met last week and approved the departments 2027 budget. They plan to request a new vehicle and an additional .4 FTEs. The Commissioners had additional questions after the Public Health report; they asked Carlson to rejoin the meeting for clarification.

- **JDA/JPA**

Agreement reached for Doc's Pub between Hankinson CDC, JPA, and JDA. Should take some burden off JDA.

- **WEED BOARD**

Sold more LAP chemicals. Spraying is caught up. Will come back in September for townships.

- **SOILS COMMITTEE**

Nothing to report.

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- **PARK BOARD**

Will meet Monday, July 13th AT 6:00 P.M. Additional signage for Animal Control Ordinance will be discussed as well as maintenance.

- **ADMINISTRATION**

Fossum asked for guidance on salaries for the 2027 budget. Commissioners asked her to prepare both a 4% and 5% COLA. Memorandum of Understanding for Garrison Diversion was discussed. Fossum will forward to Kummer to review.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE CONTINUED

Correspondence from NDDOT regarding Flex Funding for the Guardian Energy expansion in Hankinson. 1.5 million was awarded for phase 1 of the project which will start in 2027.

Commissioner Campbell and Commissioner Miller left the meeting at 10:52 A.M.

Correspondence from Lincoln State Bank regarding JDA Board Members.

State's Attorney Kummer informed the Commission that Brittany Hatting reached out on behalf of the City of Hankinson to have Richland County handle their ordinance enforcement through Richland County District Court. A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Berseth to approve a Court Services Contract with City of Hankinson. Vote was unanimous (3-0).

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to approve the payment of the bills. Vote was unanimous (3-0).

UPCOMING MEETINGS

JULY

9-10 Auditor/Treasurer's Conference
21 Commission Meeting
21 Budget Hearings

AUGUST

5 Commission Meeting
19 Commission Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:03 A.M.

CERTIFICATION

RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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ATTEST:

Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

_____CHAIRPERSON
Terry Goerger
Board of Richland County Commissioners

Expense Report for June 2026

Payroll Expenses	Amount
General	\$ 328,800.75
County Highway	\$ 115,444.39
911 Communications	\$ 62,274.48
County Agent	\$ 3,872.27
Veterans Service	\$ 11,424.40
Weed Officer	\$ 576.00
Public Health Fund	\$ 71,217.04
Income Maintenance	\$ 64,444.56
Foster Care	\$ 21,211.95
Child Protective Svc	\$ 32,896.82
Parent Aid	\$ 4,942.60
Family Soc Worker	\$ 5,507.41
Social Services	\$ 21,697.52
In-Home Care	\$ 21,396.96
Admin Support	\$ 17,910.56
CHINS	\$ 62,687.27
Total	\$ 846,304.98
Other Expenses	Amount
County General Accounts	\$ 299,333.94
County Highway	\$ 280,970.69
Bridge Replacement	\$ -
Road & Bridge Equipment Fund	\$ 61,513.00
Prairie Dog Disbursements	\$ 1,074,715.08
15 Mill Road	\$ -
Social Services Fund	\$ -
Emergency Assistance Donation	\$ -
Emergency Fund	\$ -
911 Communications	\$ 33,212.86
NDRIN	\$ -
Capitol Improvement	\$ 116,279.39
Water Rescue	\$ 14.98
Special Response Team	\$ 928.80
Civil Asset Forfeiture Fund	\$ -
K9 Dog Donations	\$ -
County Agent	\$ 3,119.90
Veterans Service	\$ 5,095.28
Veteran Assistance Donation	\$ -
Weed Control Levy	\$ 77,751.80
Public Health	\$ 34,796.37
Haz Chem Fund	\$ -
Income Maintenance	\$ 21,887.26
Foster Care	\$ 5,982.10
Child Protective Svc	\$ 12,992.81
Parent Aid	\$ 1,382.13
Family Soc Worker	\$ 2,910.70

Expense Report for June 2026

Social Services	\$	7,409.19
In-Home Care	\$	12,469.26
Admin Support	\$	15,331.21
HSZ Board	\$	21,106.34
Safety Permanency Fd	\$	-
Unallow Fed Costs	\$	-
General Assistance	\$	-
Program Cost Revenue	\$	-
State Medical Levy	\$	608.63
Three Rivers Crisis Center	\$	-
FEMA Disaster Reimbursement	\$	-
Garrison Div	\$	608.61
Domestic Violence	\$	140.00
Twsp Share Gas & Oil	\$	-
TeleComm Tax Fund	\$	-
State Aid Distribution	\$	17,353.62
Jail Concession	\$	-
Sobriety Test Fund	\$	7,280.00
EWTF	\$	2,686.37
County General Accounts	\$	-
Diversion Settlement	\$	2,397,865.18
ND Income Tax W/H	\$	-
Sr Citizen Fund	\$	1,178.62
Historical Society	\$	291.85
Co Agent Special	\$	-
Soil Cons District	\$	494.78
Water Mngt Levy	\$	3,774.94
Joint Water Resource	\$	912.80
Estimated Real Estate Tax	\$	-
Current Tax Holding Fund	\$	-
Total	\$	4,522,398.49
Grand Total	\$	5,368,703.47