

RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JUNE 16, 2026

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met at 8:00 A.M. On June 16, 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, Sheriff Ruhl, Brett Lambrecht, Mary Vetter, and Daily News Reporter Manisha Reddy.

Commissioner Goerger called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to approve the agenda. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no requests submitted for public comment.

FIRST READING OF ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE

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

BRETT LAMBRECHT – FEMA

Emergency Manager Lambrecht distributed a letter received from FEMA to the Board of Commissioners. Lambrecht said FEMA continues to send updates regarding an extension on compliance due to the Federal Government being shut down earlier this year. Lambrecht confirmed with Tyler Spomer that the Model D Ordinance Floodplain Management that was passed earlier this year has put the county in compliance. The letter from FEMA lists properties that have gotten out of the floodplain. Lambrecht will confirm that they didn't get put back in with the new mapping. Lambrecht will also send a letter to the townships in Richland County to make them aware that they need to reach out to the county for new builds to inquire about floodplain and flood mapping.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

LP Bid Opening – Sedler announced that Liquid Propane bids were due at 5:00 P.M. yesterday; two bids were received. Sedler opened the bids during the meeting and reported them as follows:

	<u>Hankinson</u>	<u>Colfax/Wahpeton/Barney</u>
Farmers Union Oil	\$0.95 summer	\$1.49
	\$1.32 winter	
Lakes Gas Walcott	\$1.62	\$1.65

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Campbell to accept all propane bids. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to approve the county road mileage certification for townships. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

Sedler gave the following updates regarding Highway activity:

CR 1 project – all ditches have been cut, 2 miles of subbase have been completed, working on balancing dirt, work in Mooreton will likely start after July 4th.

Graveling – CR 1 and CR 6, 3 trucks out, rented an additional belly dump.

Contractor for OTP is looking at the 20th for the next round of chloride.

Riverview Dairy is done hauling material for their cement/concrete work.

Helendale Bridge project will be complete today.

Sedler informed the Commission that Brandenburg Township needs Richland County to act as a pass-through for their Flex Fund Grant funds. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to approve Richland County acting as a pass-through for Brandenburg Townships Flex Fund Grant. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

Sedler informed the Commission that the bridge in Brandenburg Township was awarded in the county's Flex Fund Grant application; preliminary engineering and construction are covered by the grant. A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Berseth to approve moving forward with work on bridge #39-121-35.0. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

Sedler informed the Commission that Richland County was awarded two removals of bridges on the Flex Fund Grant; both bridges have been closed for several years. A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Ehlert to approve moving forward with removal work on bridge # 39-108-19.0 and bridge # 39-109-30.0. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

NDDOT meeting for Guardian Energy expansion was discussed. Sedler needs to meet with landowners regarding phase one.

Crossing Safety Program was briefly discussed – Federal grant that funds infrastructure upgrades, closures, and separations at railroad crossings to eliminate hazards.

Issues with truck drivers for Otter Tail Power's solar project were discussed; many of the trucks don't have commercial plates; Commissioners have been receiving calls and complaints. Dennis Beck called Commissioner Berseth during the discussion and was put on speaker phone for a moment. Beck said he would address the license plate issue with the truck foreman today.

UPDATE ON LEASE AGREEMENT BANK/JPA

A proposed lease agreement was distributed to the Board of Commissioners prior to the meeting. Discussion ensued regarding term length, rent, and possible future purchase by the county. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Campbell to approve a lease agreement between Richland Wilkin JPA and Richland County for \$1, not to exceed six months, contingent upon changes recommended by State's Attorney Kummer. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

Additional uses for the bank building were discussed. Having a public meeting room that is ADA accessible was high priority for the Board of Commissioners. Mary Vetter asked if she could invite the Fargo Vet Center to use the building, or if she should wait. The Board of Commissioners okayed the use.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

Canvassing Board, recounts, and the Primary Election were discussed. Commissioner Miller to serve on Canvassing Board as Commission Goerger is on the ballot. State's Attorney Kummer will be out of the office when the Recount Board meets, so the Commission will need to appoint a replacement. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to appoint Assistant State's Attorney Jessica Rydell to the Recount Board. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

The resignation of the county's 911 Coordinator was discussed.

State Radio was discussed.

Wilkin County's PREA audit was discussed. Wilkin County and Ransom County currently have a jail bed contract in place.

State's Attorney Kummer gave a brief update regarding the individuals in Richland County that were issued citations for violating the burn ban declaration in May.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

July

- 7 Commission Meeting
- 21 Commission Meeting
- 21 Budget Hearings

August

- 4 Commission Meeting
- 18 Commission Meeting

Reports filed: Sheriff's Department – Revenue & Expenses for April & May 2026 and Tax & Property Department – Revenue Voucher for May of 2026.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 A.M.

ATTEST: _____

Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

_____CHAIRPERSON

Terry Goerger
Board of Richland County Commissioners