

RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 17, 2025

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met at 8:00 A.M. on June 17, 2025 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Tim Campbell, Terry Goerger, Nathan Berseth, Rollie Ehlert, and Perry Miller. Others included Administrative Personnel Fossum and South, State's Attorney Kummer, Kayla Carlson, Jesse Sedler, Donnie Witt, Tracy Hansen, and Jill Breuer (via phone).

Commissioner Campbell called the meeting to order and asked if there were any additions to the agenda. State's Attorney Kummer requested to be moved up and Commissioner Berseth requested to add Riverview Dairy. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to approve the agenda as amended. Vote was unanimous.

KAYLA CARLSON – FOLLOW UP ON RESOLUTION REQUEST FOR HEALTH DISTRICT

Kayla Carlson addressed the Commission regarding the Health Departments request to transition to a Health District. Carlson reported that since the last Commission Meeting, the department has been made aware of significant federal changes that will directly impact their funding and operations. Carlson distributed a list of the proposed federal funding cuts to the Board of Commissioners. Carlson asked the Board of Commissioners to table the vote on the health department districting until there is a clearer picture of future federal public health funding.

Discussion followed and included:

- how to give guidance on budget when grant funding is unknown
- difficulty of budget as a whole for 2026 with 3% cap
- all departments need to look at reducing costs

The Board of Commissioners asked Carlson to prepare the Health Department's 2026 budget using the grants she knows the department will be getting as income and 5 mills for expenses. Fossum will get Carlson an estimate of what 5 mills will be worth in 2026.

Carlson distributed Credible Mind business cards to the Board of Commissioners. Credible Mind is a SE regional collaborative that promotes mental health and wellness and offers free assessments.

STATE'S ATTORNEY KUMMER – RESOLUTION TO ADDRESS HB 2180

State's Attorney Kummer informed the Commission that she is working on a Resolution to address the public comment portion of HB 2180 and asked the Board of Commissioners

for their input. Kummer will draft the Resolution with the Commissioners recommendations and bring to the next meeting.

JILL BREUER – RADIO EXCHANGE

Jill Breuer informed the Commission that radios that were purchased with a grant in 2022 to record on the SIRN radio system, were the wrong radios. The vendor has agreed to return 6 of the radios, but there is a \$12,433.68 difference for the correct ones. Breuer has applied for a grant but will need to purchase the radios before knowing if the grant has been awarded. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to approve exchange of radios by Dispatch at cost of \$12,433.68; if grant is awarded, county to be reimbursed. Vote was unanimous.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

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

- approximately 60,000 tons of gravel have been crushed, should be finished in a few days
- drain tile project started last week, will likely take another month to complete
- overlays on CR 1, 16, 81, and 22 will start mid-July

Sedler informed the Commission that the state reached out to him, they have 4 million left over in state aid and are willing to borrow out 4 years in advance, if the county has projects that are ready to be started. There would be a 20% local match for a total of \$560,000. Fossum will add to the budget to see what it looks like.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

Fossum informed the Commission that she received four letters of interest for the Weed Board. Commissioner Goerger reported that the four members had been elected at the Township Officer meeting with staggering terms. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Goerger to appoint Jeff Olson, Larry Wold, Dan Thompson, and Tam Gripentrog to the Weed Board. Vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Berseth reported that he and Commissioner Miller met with Governor Armstong, Sheriff Ruhl, and Steve Gjerdevig regarding the recent jail inspection.

Fossum asked the Board of Commissioners for guidance with the 2026 budget and what they would like to keep in reserves for the General Fund. Discussion followed. It was the consensus of the Board that it would be best to revisit at the July 1st meeting after more is

known about new growth.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Commissioner Berseth reported that he received an email regarding bonding for Riverview Dairy that he forwarded to State's Attorney Kummer and Fossum. Riverview Dairy is seeking a tax-exempt industrial development bond or conduit bond. The county would act as a conduit; there would be no liability, cost, or affect to the county's credit rating. No meeting has been set up yet.

Sedler reported that Riverview Dairy was awarded the Ag Grant through the state, but no traffic studies were done prior to approval.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

July

- 1 Commission Meeting
- 22 Commission Meeting
- 22 Budget Meetings

August

- 5 Commission Meeting
- 19 Commission Meeting

September

- 2 Commission Meeting
- 16 Commission Meeting

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 A.M.

ATTEST: _____
Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

_____CHAIRPERSON
Tim Campbell
Board of Richland County Commissioners