

RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JUNE 2, 2026

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met at 8:00 A.M. June 2, 2026 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Terry Goerger, Nathan Berseth, Rollie Ehlert, Perry Miller, and Tim Campbell (via phone). Others included Administrative Personnel Fossum and South, State's Attorney Kummer, Jesse Sedler, Sheriff Ruhl, Brett Lambrecht, John Anderson, Sarah Erickson, John Manstrom, Cory Callenius, and Daily News Reporter Manisha Reddy.

Commissioner Goerger called the meeting to order. Commissioner Miller announced an addition to the agenda, animal control under New Business. A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Berseth to approve the agenda as amended. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Ehlert to approve the minutes of meetings May 5 & May 19. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

TREASURERS REPORT

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no requests submitted for public comment.

NEW BUSINESS

County resident Cory Callenius addressed the Commission regarding a recent incident that happened at Mooreton Pond. Callenius said he and his wife took a walk there one evening and he was brutally attacked by a pitbull. Callenius said the dog jumped on his chest and tried to attack his neck. Callenius fought off the dog, who ripped his arm apart; requiring 33 stitches and almost hitting a vital artery. Callenius said the owner was issued a citation, but the dog was not impounded or euthanized. Callenius feels the dog should not be out, or alive, as the next attack could be lethal.

State's Attorney Kummer distributed a proposed Animal Control Ordinance to the Board of Commissioners stating that the new ordinance had stricter penalties and gave clear authority to impound any animal that is a threat to the public; followed by euthanization, if determined by the judge to be a threat. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Campbell to approve required publications for the Animal Control Ordinance. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Sedler gave the following updates regarding Highway activities:

- working on culverts for CR1 project
- Red River Communications moved 7.5 miles of fiber
- work in Mooreton won't start for a few more weeks
- started graveling yesterday
- will need to do cores for reclaiming

A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Berseth to approve doing cores by CR 2W and CR 10 for Highway Department. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

Sedler informed the Commission that he is exploring options for the Ethanol Plant expansion project. Sedler and Olson have a meeting with the DOT next week. Peak times could see in up to 125 trucks.

Additional signage for Mooreton Pond was discussed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A) HSZ Board – Meeting held last Tuesday in Milnor. Looking for Ransom County Board Member. Doing interviews for CPS position & have two retiring. HB1556 and youth complex needs were discussed at the board meeting.
- B) Buildings & Grounds – VSO asked yesterday about moving forward with soliciting funds for new office buildout. The Board of Commissioners were fine with Mary Vetter getting started on funding. JPA meets June 9th, will discuss U.S. Bank building.
- C) Public Health – Finished with NDSCS nursing for the summer. Working on school curriculums for upcoming year. Offered babysitting and first aid & CPR classes; with more babysitting classes to come. Went through a state inspection and passed. Offering foot care in rural senior areas. Work from home policy for the department was discussed following the report. A possible Health District is still being discussed; Fossum asked to be included in all Health District related correspondence.
- D) JDA/JPA – JDA nothing to report. JPA contributed \$100,000 to the new senior citizen center in Wyndmere. The City of Wyndmere will demo the existing building. JPA minutes were discussed, can be requested from Amy Clark.
- E) Weed Board – Contractor started spraying Monday, June 1st; will do state roads first and then county. Chemical pick up went well this year, more participation than ever before. Plan to request additional funds from Ag Department in June.

F) Soils Committee – Nothing to report.

G) Park Board – Next meeting is in July. Commissioner Ehlert will contact Donnie Lingen regarding a possible special meeting for additional signage.

H) Administration – Matt Syvertson looked into costs associated with getting the Commission meetings broadcast via Teams. He recommended purchasing two \$250 speakers to accompany the Meeting Owl and recommended Fossum and South both get the Audio Conference License add-on which would be \$4.44 per month per license. Commission will revisit at budget time. Risk Manager Mechelle Olson received a \$57,000 premiums discount reimbursement check from NDACo CEG for the county's involvement in safety programs offered in 2025. Approximately 330 absentee ballots have been sent out to date for the Primary Election. The Auditor/Treasurer's conference is July 9-10 in Bismarck.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence from the North Dakota Water Resource Districts Association - Joint Summer Water Meeting is scheduled July 15-16 in Watford City.

Correspondence from Big Stone South to Hankinson to Bison – Request for input on Transmission Line Project are due June 19, 2026.

Correspondence from FEMA regarding an extension for compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program.

Correspondence from the Leach Library – A thank you card to the Board of Commissioners.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Liquid propane bids are due Monday, June 15th at 5:00pm; will be opened at the Commission Meeting June 16th.

Commissioner Campbell reported that a community member reached out to him to let him know that the Auditor's Office is doing a phenomenal job of answering questions and giving out information regarding absentee ballots and absentee voting.

Commissioner Miller reported that he spoke with the State Tax Department regarding the Animal Agriculture Facility Infrastructure Fund. Application must be filed by owner or contractor, funds to be used for infrastructure near the facility or other county needs. March 31st is the deadline to apply each year.

Commissioner Berseth clarified that the aquifer study the JPA paid for is not looking at blending aquifers, it is looking at blending water above ground at the site to alleviate some of the demand on the Wahpeton Buried Aquifer.

NDAs for data centers were briefly discussed.

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

June

- 9 Primary Election
- 16 Commission Meeting

July

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

Motion to adjourn by Goerger.
Meeting adjourned at 9:25 A.M.

ATTEST: _____
Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

_____CHAIRPERSON
Terry Goerger
Board of Richland County Commissioners

The following claims were approved for May, 2026

PAYROLL (inclusive)

General	\$	328,334.44
County Highway	\$	109,755.90
911 Communications	\$	56,492.19
County Agent	\$	3,872.27
Veterans Service	\$	11,424.40
Weed Officer	\$	725.00
Public Health Fund	\$	71,189.18
Income Maintenance	\$	68,203.66
Foster Care	\$	21,239.95
Child Protective Svc	\$	33,238.82
Parent Aid	\$	4,892.60
Family Soc Worker	\$	5,507.41
Social Services	\$	21,697.52
In-Home Care	\$	28,841.91
Admin Support	\$	17,910.56
CHINS	\$	63,980.16
PAYROLL TOTAL	\$	847,305.97

EXPENSES: ** Refer to resolution records

County General Accounts	\$	320,169.57
County Highway	\$	193,270.98
Bridge Replacement	\$	13,556.30
Road & Bridge Equipment Fund	\$	-
Prairie Dog Disbursements	\$	-
15 Mill Road	\$	-
Social Services Fund	\$	-
Emergency Assistance Donation	\$	-
Emergency Fund	\$	-
911 Communications	\$	28,317.04
NDRIN	\$	158.90
Capitol Improvement	\$	-
Water Rescue	\$	400.00
Special Response Team	\$	608.06
Civil Asset Forfeiture Fund	\$	-
K9 Dog Donations	\$	-
County Agent	\$	3,977.10
Veterans Service	\$	5,653.41
Veteran Assistance Donation	\$	272.12
Weed Control Levy	\$	122,717.06
Public Health	\$	29,474.83
Haz Chem Fund	\$	-
Income Maintenance	\$	22,808.47
Foster Care	\$	6,217.10
Child Protective Svc	\$	14,311.31

Parent Aid	\$	1,038.41
Family Soc Worker	\$	2,402.12
Social Services	\$	6,368.47
In-Home Care	\$	14,184.95
Admin Support	\$	40,958.83
HSZ Board	\$	25,430.32
Safety Permanency Fd	\$	-
Unallow Fed Costs	\$	-
General Assistance	\$	-
Program Cost Revenue	\$	-
State Medical Levy	\$	18,115.68
Three Rivers Crisis Center	\$	-
FEMA Disaster Reimbursement	\$	-
Garrison Div	\$	18,115.13
Domestic Violence	\$	210.00
Twsp Share Gas & Oil	\$	731,662.88
TeleComm Tax Fund	\$	-
State Aid Distribution	\$	15,958.22
Jail Concession	\$	-
Sobriety Test Fund	\$	-
EWTF	\$	1,795.31
County General Accounts	\$	-
Diversion Settlement	\$	35,391.74
ND Income Tax W/H	\$	-
Sr Citizen Fund	\$	18,639.42
Historical Society	\$	4,648.78
Co Agent Special	\$	-
Soil Cons District	\$	15,178.26
Water Mngt Levy	\$	56,086.04
Joint Water Resource	\$	27,173.71
Estimated Real Estate Tax	\$	-
Current Tax Holding Fund		
EXPENSE TOTAL	\$	1,795,270.52
 TOTAL PAYROLL & EXPENSES	\$	 2,642,576.49

ATTEST: _____
 Sandy Fossum
 Auditor/Administrator

 Terry Goerger
 Board of Richland County Commissioners