

RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY 5, 2026

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met at 8:00 A.M. May 5, 2026 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Terry Goerger, Nathan Berseth (via phone), Rollie Ehlert, Perry Miller, and Tim Campbell. Others included Administrative Personnel Fossum and South, State's Attorney Kummer, Jesse Sedler, Jill Breuer, John Anderson, Tracy Hansen, Sarah Erickson, Brett Lambrecht, Aidan McCarty, John Manstrom, and Cindy Zick.

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

A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Campbell to approve the minutes of meetings April 7 and April 21 and Special Session April 10. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

TREASURERS REPORT

A motion was made by Campbell 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.

BRETT LAMBRECHT – BURN BAN CHANGE & UPDATE

Emergency Manager Brett Lambrecht and Aidan McCarty of the U.S. Forest Service addressed the Commission regarding the current burn ban declaration in place for Richland County. Lambrecht said that he would like the word High removed from the declaration so that it does not prevent the U.S. Forest service from doing their prescribed burns this spring. McCarty and Lambrecht continue to work together, along with the Sargent and Ransom County Emergency Managers and Dispatch to ensure that burn bans and controlled burns are communicated properly and there is help on standby should a burn get out of control.

Commissioner Berseth left the meeting at 8:15 A.M.

A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Miller to approve the updated burn ban presented by Lambrecht; removing the word high from the declaration. Vote was unanimous (4-0) (copy attached).

JILL BREUER – 911 STATS

Breuer distributed first quarter Calls for Service/911 stats to the Board of Commissioners as well as an overtime report. Breuer reported that total calls for service are up slightly from this time last year while overtime hours are down. Breuer said that the department has one open position and one in training. Breuer gave a brief report to the Commission regarding her presentation at the 5-county meeting last week.

Commissioner Campbell left the meeting at 8:25 A.M.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Sedler gave the following updates regarding Highway activities:

- County Road 1 reconstruction is underway, starting to strip some of the ditches back
- CR 1 from CR 16 to State Highway 13 is currently open to local traffic only
- PSA for official closure, likely to go out Friday
- Sedler anticipates the project to be complete sometime in August
- 2021 semi-truck was purchased for the department
- One more summer hire needed, all other positions have been filled

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A) HSZ Board – Fossum reported there were a few personnel updates at the last board meeting.
- B) Buildings & Grounds – Commissioner Miller reported the landscaping is complete, rock has been placed, plants will be added. He also reported that Anderson is getting estimates to have concrete placed on bottom 12 inches of the north side of the courthouse to protect the building. Anderson reported that he is going to pursue a grant for one point of entry for the CH and LEC. Department Heads to attend next Commission meeting to discuss old U.S. Bank building and departmental needs.
- C) Public Health – Commissioner Ehlert reported that the ND Public Health Conference is this week in Bismarck, a few staff are attending. Angie continues to work with community on renter's rebate program. Staff are supporting local proms and will finish vision and hearing screenings at elementary schools next week. The department continues to apply and reapply for grant opportunities.
- D) JDA/JPA – Nothing to report.
- E) Weed Board – Commissioner Goerger reported that chemicals for the Landowner Assistance Program should be arriving this week with pick up scheduled May 13th

from 10:00am - 2:00pm. Contractor will start spraying when the appropriate time comes, likely closer to June.

F) Soils Committee – Nothing to report.

G) Park Board – Commissioner Ehlert reported the next meeting is scheduled for July; he and Sedler will meet before to discuss gravel.

H) Administration – Fossum reported that she received a Notice of Application for Appropriation of Water from the ND Department of Water Resources regarding Sheyenne Golf Club LLC; the notice will also be published in Wahpeton Daily News. Fossum informed the Commission that Campaign Finance Disclosure forms are due May 8th. Fossum informed the Commission that a citizen reached out to request that Commission meetings be made available to the public; either by Teams or video recording. Changes to the preliminary budget process were discussed. Fossum asked for guidance from the Board of Commissioners for salary increases and communication with Department Heads regarding 2027 budget preparation. Fossum to present the preliminary budget at July 21st Budget Meeting and schedule any Department Heads that the Board of Commissioners has questions for on the Commission agenda August 4th. Fossum reported that the Auditor’s Office has fulfilled 121 absentee ballot requests since ballots became available on April 30th.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

Commissioner Ehlert asked to revisit the request to have commission meetings video recorded or available to the public via Teams. Ehlert thought this was a good idea and suggested that the commission meeting agendas be sent out with the option to join the meeting via Teams. Commissioner Miller and Commissioner Goerger agreed and asked Fossum to meet with IT to see if any additional equipment would be needed.

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

May

19 Commission Meeting

June

2 Commission Meeting

2 County Equalization

17 Commission Meeting

Motion to adjourn by Ehlert.
Meeting adjourned at 9:21 A.M.

ATTEST: _____
Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

_____CHAIRPERSON
Terry Goerger
Board of Richland County Commissioners

Richland County Burn Ban Declaration on High Fire Index Days

WHEREAS, Richland County is currently experiencing dry conditions across the county due to minimal rainfall.

WHEREAS, Richland County has been sustaining surface winds, frequent wind gusts, in excess of 25 mph with abrupt change in speed and direction and our unusually hot and dry conditions this spring put us into a "extreme or very high fire alert",

WHEREAS, these conditions accelerate the threat of fire danger for the public, residents, and property in Richland County,

WHEREAS, the Entire State is showing signs of drought conditions,

WHEREAS, the Richland County Board of Commission are concerned with the safety of the public, the emergency responders, and the property that lies within the county due to these conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Richland County Commissioners declare Fire Emergency and Burn Ban to include a ban on garbage burning, campfires and burning of farm or crop land when the North Dakota Rangeland **Fire Index is in the Very High, Critical or near Critical Fire Weather or Extreme category and/or Red Flag Warning has been issued for Richland County, North Dakota**. The daily Rangeland Fire Index can be found at the following website: <https://ndresponse.gov/burn-ban-restrictions-fire-danger-maps>.

What's Included: (not allowed)

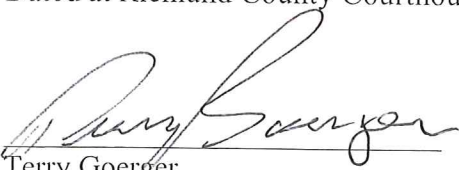
Open Burning: Includes burning of leaves, grass clippings, garbage/pits, construction debris, fallen trees, crop residue, or hay land, sloughs, and campfires/bonfires.

What's Excluded: (allowable)

Controlled Devices: Only when device (gas, charcoal, or wood-fired grills, patio fireplaces and chimineas, gas camp stoves, wood smokers) is on a hard non-organic surface and 15' away from vegetation and fire extinguisher or water is available on site.

THE PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF THE BURN BAN IS A CLASS B MISDEMEANOR (NDCC 37-17.1-10.1: MAXIMUM SENTENCE OF 30 DAYS IN JAIL AND \$1,500 FINE).

Dated at Richland County Courthouse in Wahpeton, ND this 20th day of April, 2026.



Terry Goerger
Richland County Commissioner Chair

The following claims were approved for April, 2026

PAYROLL (inclusive)

General	\$	332,341.23
County Highway	\$	123,200.74
911 Communications	\$	58,398.66
County Agent	\$	3,872.27
Veterans Service	\$	11,424.40
Weed Officer	\$	500.00
Public Health Fund	\$	71,601.72
Income Maintenance	\$	69,447.84
Foster Care	\$	21,239.95
Child Protective Svc	\$	32,996.82
Parent Aid	\$	4,878.60
Family Soc Worker	\$	5,493.41
Social Services	\$	21,719.52
In-Home Care	\$	23,397.39
Admin Support	\$	17,960.56
CHINS	\$	61,459.85
PAYROLL TOTAL	\$	859,932.96

EXPENSES: ** Refer to resolution records

County General Accounts	\$	552,996.55
County Highway	\$	201,935.85
Bridge Replacement	\$	28,892.63
Road & Bridge Equipment Fund	\$	37,500.00
Prairie Dog Disbursements	\$	-
15 Mill Road	\$	-
Social Services Fund	\$	-
Emergency Assistance Donation	\$	21.37
Emergency Fund	\$	-
911 Communications	\$	75,747.09
NDRIN	\$	581.85
Capitol Improvement	\$	-
Water Rescue	\$	-
Special Response Team	\$	(18.21)
Civil Asset Forfeiture Fund	\$	-
K9 Dog Donations	\$	-
County Agent	\$	21,318.43
Veterans Service	\$	5,030.33
Veteran Assistance Donation	\$	39.00
Weed Control Levy	\$	387.54
Public Health	\$	35,624.52
Haz Chem Fund	\$	22.80
Income Maintenance	\$	23,144.19
Foster Care	\$	6,949.44
Child Protective Svc	\$	13,942.13

Parent Aid	\$	1,310.39
Family Soc Worker	\$	2,498.56
Social Services	\$	6,801.42
In-Home Care	\$	13,986.33
Admin Support	\$	12,254.25
HSZ Board	\$	20,776.90
Safety Permanency Fd	\$	-
Unallow Fed Costs	\$	-
General Assistance	\$	-
Program Cost Revenue	\$	-
State Medical Levy	\$	3,212.49
Three Rivers Crisis Center	\$	-
FEMA Disaster Reimbursement	\$	-
Garrison Div	\$	3,213.11
Domestic Violence	\$	175.00
Twsp Share Gas & Oil	\$	-
TeleComm Tax Fund	\$	185,292.44
State Aid Distribution	\$	14,967.37
Jail Concession	\$	-
Sobriety Test Fund	\$	6,560.00
EWTF	\$	8,347.89
County General Accounts	\$	-
Diversion Settlement	\$	1,740,072.79
ND Income Tax W/H	\$	-
Sr Citizen Fund	\$	3,117.64
Historical Society	\$	777.23
Co Agent Special	\$	-
Soil Cons District	\$	2,468.91
Water Mngt Levy	\$	11,912.90
Joint Water Resource	\$	4,525.86
Estimated Real Estate Tax	\$	-
Current Tax Holding Fund	\$	-
EXPENSE TOTAL	\$	3,046,386.99
TOTAL PAYROLL & EXPENSES	\$	3,906,319.95

ATTEST: _____
Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

_____CHAIRPERSON
Terry Goerger
Board of Richland County Commissioners