Richland County Board of Commissioners

October 6, 2026

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met at 8:00 A.M. Tuesday, October 6, 2026 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Terry Goerger, Nathan Berseth, Rollie Ehlert, Tim Campbell, and Perry Miller. Others included Administration Personnel Fossum and South, State's Attorney Kummer, Sheriff Ruhl, Jesse Sedler, Donnie Witt, Kayla Carlson, Sarah Erickson, Brett Lambrecht, Heidi Arnhalt, John Manstrom, Aidan McCarty, 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 Ehlert and seconded by Miller to approve the minutes of meetings September 1 and September 15 and Special Session September 29. 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).

Minimum Sale Price Hearing

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Campbell to approve the minimum sale prices presented for foreclosure properties. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

Public Comment

There were no requests submitted for public comment.

Miscellaneous/Correspondence

Correspondence from the Court Facilities Advisory Committee – grant applications must be postmarked by December 31, 2026 to be considered.

Correspondence from the Department of Environmental Quality regarding Stoltenow Compost Site adding food waste – comment period closes November 5th.

Correspondence from Richland-Sargent Joint Water Resource District regarding Richland-Sargent Drain No. 1 Project.

Aiden McCarty – Forest Service Update

Aidan McCarty, Sheyenne District Ranger, addressed the Commission to give an update regarding the prescribed fires planned for fall of 2026 and spring and fall of 2027. McCarty distributed a map of the burn plan and said he continues to work with Emergency Management and Dispatch regarding the prescribed burns.

Final Budget Hearing

Fossum reported that she got new numbers from the Health Department and they came very close to keeping 2027 general fund transfers under $300,000 but were over by approximately $3000. Fossum said the Health Department's revised budget does include the 3 FTE's they had requested.

Fossum prepared two final budgets for the Board of Commissioners, one with a mill increase and one without. Fossum reported that without a mill increase, the General Fund is projected to be at a $481,000 deficit by the end of 2028. A 2.87 mill increase would capture most of the 3% growth cap and would leave a projected balance of approximately $131,000 in the General Fund at the end of 2028.

A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Miller to combine the Public Health Coordinator and Public Health Director positions requiring the administrator to be a nurse. Voting NO was Campbell, the remainder voted yes and the motion carried (4-1).

Fossum commented that combining the Public Health Coordinator and Public Health Director positions was not her first choice when the committee met.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to pay the current Public Health Director through the end of 2026. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Campbell to approve the 2027 budget with a 2.87 mill increase. Vote was unanimous (5-0). Commissioner Berseth commented that the mill increase was necessary due to the 8% decrease in ag land values by the state in 2026.

Highway Department

Sedler reported that CR 1 opened back up the evening of October 1st and was fully opened on October 2nd. No permits will be allowed on that stretch of road until further notice and max gross weight of 80,000 lbs.

Sedler informed the Commission that he would like to increase the fee for county mowing. Sedler said the current rate is $135 per half mile, but was set back in 2008 and does not cover the cost of the work. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to approve increasing the county mowing fee to $400 per half mile. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

Meeting recessed at 9:42 A.M. and reconvened at 9:46 A.M.

Sheriff Ruhl – USMS Proposal & Staffing Request

Sheriff Ruhl distributed a proposal for the U.S. Marshals to the Board of Commissioners. Ruhl reported he will be asking for $100 per night for all jail bed contracts.

Sheriff Ruhl requested approval to advertise for a female deputy in the Jail as one of the sergeants resigned. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to authorize Corrections to advertise for a female deputy. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

Potential County Sales Tax

The possibility of a county sales tax was briefly discussed.

Commissioner Campbell exited the meeting at 10:10 A.M.

Committee Reports

- Human Service Zone Board

Nothing to report.

- Buildings & Grounds

LEC roof had a leak during the last rain, issue with an antenna has been fixed.

- Public Health

Board met last week.

- Jobs Development Authority/Joint Powers Authority

JDA approved a PACE loan last week. JPA sold four homes.

- Weed Board

Contractor is done spraying for the year. Sold more chemical this year through LAP program than in years past.

- Soils Committee

Nothing to report.

- Park Board

Will need to find new maintenance personnel for 2027.

- Administration

437 absentee ballots have been mailed out so far, with about 25% being returned.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to approve the payment of the bills. Vote was unanimous (4-0).

Upcoming Meetings

October
20 Commission Meeting

November
17 Commission Meeting

Reports Filed

Tax & Property Department – Revenue Voucher for September 2026.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 A.M.

Certification

Attest:

_____ _____CHAIRPERSON

Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

Terry Goerger
Board of Richland County Commissioners

Payroll Expenses	Amount	
General	$	332,257.97
County Highway	$	111,615.96
911 Communications	$	42,702.80
County Agent	$	3,872.27
Veterans Service	$	11,424.40
Weed Officer	$	500.00
Public Health Fund	$	73,945.02
Income Maintenance	$	76,509.02
Foster Care	$	21,766.91
Child Protective Svc	$	41,045.03
Parent Aid	$	5,011.83
Family Soc Worker	$	5,658.21
Social Services	$	22,294.18
In-Home Care	$	19,941.87
Admin Support	$	14,526.38
CHINS	$	65,602.95
Total	**$**	**848,674.80**

Other Expenses	Amount	
County General Accounts	$	222,780.06
County Highway	$	2,605,614.95
Bridge Replacement	$	4,710.39
Road & Bridge Equipment Fund	$	-
Prairie Dog Disbursments	$	-
15 Mill Road	$	-
Social Services Fund	$	-
Emergency Assistance Donation	$	-
Emergency Fund	$	28,001.07
911 Communications	$	158.90
NDRIN	$	-
Capitol Improvement	$	1,175.79
Water Rescue	$	317.02
Special Response Team	$	-
Civil Asset Forfeiture Fund	$	-
K9 Dog Donations	$	1,932.66
County Agent	$	13,234.00
Veterans Service	$	-
Veteran Assistance Donation	$	28,617.39
Weed Control Levy	$	45,710.44
Public Health	$	-
Haz Chem Fund	$	26,304.12
Income Maintenance	$	6,356.34
Foster Care	$	15,491.99
Child Protective Svc	$	1,289.57
Parent Aid	$	2,510.11
Family Soc Worker	$	6,444.48

Social Services	$	12,069.40
In-Home Care	$	14,522.31
Admin Support	$	20,949.13
HSZ Board	$	-
Safety Permanency Fd	$	-
Unallow Fed Costs	$	-
General Assistance	$	-
Program Cost Revenue	$	323.64
State Medical Levy	$	509.41
Three Rivers Crisis Center	$	-
FEMA Disaster Reimbursement	$	323.57
Garrison Div	$	455.00
Domestic Violence	$	-
Twsp Share Gas & Oil	$	-
TeleComm Tax Fund	$	21,487.83
State Aid Distribution	$	-
Jail Concession	$	-
Sobreity Test Fund	$	1,469.14
EWTF	$	11,737.05
County General Accounts	$	1,047,787.85
Diversion Settlement	$	-
ND Income Tax W/H	$	1,029.47
Sr Citizen Fund	$	254.22
Historical Society	$	-
Co Agent Special	$	267.64
Soil Cons District	$	3,426.35
Water Mngt Levy	$	485.55
Joint Water Resource	$	-
Estimated Real Estate Tax	$	-
Current Tax Holding Fund		
Total	$	4,147,746.84
Grand Total - Payroll and Expenses	**$**	**4,996,421.64**

Richland County Board of Commissioners

October 6, 2026

Certification of September financial report

Attest:

_____	_____CHAIRPERSON
Sandy Fossum Auditor/Administrator	Terry Goerger Board of Richland County Commissioners