

Richland County Board of Commissioners

September 1, 2026

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met at 8:00 A.M. Tuesday, September 1, 2026 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Terry Goerger, Nathan Berseth, Rollie Ehlert, Perry Miller, and Tim Campbell. Others included Administration Personnel Fossum and South, State's Attorney Kummer, Jesse Sedler, Justin Johnson, Kayla Carlson, Sarah Erickson, Jenny Anderson, Gene Wefel, and Daily News Reporter Manisha Reddy.

Call to Order

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).

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to approve the minutes of meetings August 4 and August 18. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

Treasurers Report

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

Public Comment

There were no requests submitted for public comment.

Justin Johnson – Water Resource Update

Justin Johnson addressed the Board of Commissioners to give an update on several legal drains and projects the Water Resource District has worked on over the course of the last year. Johnson gave updates on the following: drain 39, drain 67-8, drain 12, drain 17, drain 4(33), drain 14, drain 72, and drain 5(57). Johnson also gave a brief update regarding proposed legal drain 24 on CR 1 and CR 2 east of Walcott. Johnson said this year has been a busy year for cleaning out drains as the weather has been dry and it is the time to do it.

Kayla Carlson – Staffing Request

Kayla Carlson gave a brief Public Health report to the Board of Commissioners that included the following: the department is preparing for flu season, holding outreach clinics,

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and continuing to do car seat checks. The department has seen an increase in enrollment in Women's Way, is working with 3 establishments that have fake ID scanners in place, and the department is currently seeking approval to fill 3 positions. Carlson said the department is looking to fill two C24 positions and one C51 position. Carlson said the department is currently sitting at 7.3 FTE's, citing that the public health workforce calculator used by the Public Health Accreditation Board recommends 16.1 FTE's in Public Health to adequately serve a population of 17,000.

Recent resignations in the department were discussed. It was the consensus of the board that a task force should be formed to discuss the recent resignations and look at the organizational chart structure for the Health Department. Fossum recommended that all departments be looked at if a task force is formed. Fossum, Commissioner Ehlert, and Commissioner Berseth will meet Wednesday, September 2nd at 10:00am in the Commission Room to discuss.

Ransom County Health Services were briefly discussed.

Opioid settlement funds were discussed. Carlson will need to redo her plan with the state.

Highway Department

Sedler gave the following updates regarding Highway activity:

CR 1 project

- Paving is complete, wrapped up yesterday
- Gravel shoulder work to be completed this week
- Next week: putting headwall on drain tile outlets and installing rumble strips
- Two weeks out: seeding and signage, followed by striping
- Road will stay closed for now, except for local traffic
- Hoping to open up the week of September 21
- Overweight permits will not be issued this year; will wait for ground to freeze

Sedler informed the Commission that he has a meeting next Friday regarding landowner negotiations for the ethanol plant expansion project.

Truck traffic was discussed. Sedler continues to work with the Sheriff's Department on overweight enforcement.

Committee Reports

- [Human Service Zone Board](#)

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- **Buildings & Grounds**

LEC roof has been patched, was less than \$10,000 to make repairs.

- **Public Health**

Report was given by Carlson earlier in the meeting.

- **Jobs Development Authority/Joint Powers Authority**

JDA had a vote for a PACE loan in Hankinson. Fossum informed the Commission that the Auditor from Hankinson emailed her; they have appointed Jeremy Post to the Jobs Development Authority. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to appoint Jeremy Post to the Jobs Development Authority as the representative for City of Hankinson. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

- **Weed Board**

Contractor is still spraying; doing township work, should be complete in the next month.

- **Soils Committee**

Nothing to report.

- **Park Board**

Additional signage will be going up at Mooreton Pond.

- **Administration**

Fossum informed the Commission about an issue with donation of a temporary right of way, regarding unclaimed property. The check will be cut for the landowner and it will be up to the landowner to void and initial the check so it doesn't get turned into unclaimed property. Commissioner Campbell will follow up with landowner.

Miscellaneous/Correspondence

Correspondence from Big Stone South to Hankinson to Bison – a project update and information regarding next round of open houses.

Correspondence from Kristin Hasbargen – a thank you to the Board of Commissioners and Fossum.

Correspondence from Burns McDonnell – an information request for Minnkota Power Cooperatives proposed transmission system improvements including pole replacements

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in Abercrombie Township – respond by September 30th. Fossum made copies of the request and distributed to the Board of Commissioners for review.

Unfinished/New Business

The 5-County meeting was discussed. There was no interest shown in forming a regional dispatch center by the other four counties.

State Radio was discussed.

Jail billing was discussed. Fossum reported that Dean Christopherson met with Sheriff Ruhl and Steve Gjerdevig. Corrections had not been billing the City of Wahpeton for booking fees, the city will be billed moving forward.

Fossum reported that she would be meeting with Kayla Carlson and Steve Gjerdevig on Wednesday to discuss the Health Department Jail billing.

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

Upcoming Meetings

September

15 Commission Meeting

October

6 Commission Meeting

20 Commission Meeting

November

17 Commission Meeting

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 A.M.

Certification

Attest:

Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

CHAIRPERSON
Terry Goerger
Board of Richland County Commissioners

Expense Report - August 2026

Payroll Expenses	Amount
General	\$ 330,395.68
County Highway	\$ 124,070.27
911 Communications	\$ 46,852.60
County Agent	\$ 3,872.27
Veterans Service	\$ 11,424.40
Weed Officer	\$ 660.00
Public Health Fund	\$ 74,382.48
Income Maintenance	\$ 76,368.85
Foster Care	\$ 21,811.91
Child Protective Svc	\$ 41,129.03
Parent Aid	\$ 4,997.83
Family Soc Worker	\$ 5,658.21
Social Services	\$ 22,294.18
In-Home Care	\$ 21,525.02
Admin Support	\$ 14,576.38
CHINS	\$ 61,882.23
Total	\$ 861,901.34
Other Expenses	Amount
County General Accounts	\$ 205,449.41
County Highway	\$ 1,297,185.26
Bridge Replacement	\$ 228.00
Road & Bridge Equipment Fund	\$ 178,182.64
Prairie Dog Disbursements	\$ 1,115,816.58
15 Mill Road	\$ -
Social Services Fund	\$ -
Emergency Assistance Donation	\$ -
Emergency Fund	\$ 23,743.75
911 Communications	\$ -
NDRIN	\$ -
Capitol Improvement	\$ -
Water Rescue	\$ -
Special Response Team	\$ -
Civil Asset Forfeiture Fund	\$ -
K9 Dog Donations	\$ 22,451.52
County Agent	\$ 6,478.91
Veterans Service	\$ -
Veteran Assistance Donation	\$ 22,879.14
Weed Control Levy	\$ 23,045.75
Public Health	\$ 2,244.56
Haz Chem Fund	\$ 24,210.87
Income Maintenance	\$ 6,996.87
Foster Care	\$ 15,369.14
Child Protective Svc	\$ 1,621.99
Parent Aid	\$ 2,889.86
Family Soc Worker	\$ 6,449.20

Expense Report - August 2026

Social Services	\$	13,306.65
In-Home Care	\$	16,511.70
Admin Support	\$	20,418.88
HSZ Board	\$	-
Safety Permanency Fd	\$	-
Unallow Fed Costs	\$	-
General Assistance	\$	-
Program Cost Revenue	\$	144.99
State Medical Levy	\$	-
Three Rivers Crisis Center	\$	-
FEMA Disaster Reimbursement	\$	145.02
Garrison Div	\$	245.00
Domestic Violence	\$	127,306.66
Twsp Share Gas & Oil	\$	-
TeleComm Tax Fund	\$	20,440.04
State Aid Distribution	\$	-
Jail Concession	\$	-
Sobriety Test Fund	\$	1,486.96
EWTF	\$	-
County General Accounts	\$	960,023.70
Diversion Settlement	\$	-
ND Income Tax W/H	\$	816.39
Sr Citizen Fund	\$	201.12
Historical Society	\$	-
Co Agent Special	\$	116.04
Soil Cons District	\$	2,779.04
Water Mngt Levy	\$	217.38
Joint Water Resource	\$	-
Estimated Real Estate Tax	\$	-
Current Tax Holding Fund		
Total	\$	4,119,403.02
Grand Total - Payroll and Expenses	\$	4,981,304.36

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Certification of August financial report

Attest:

Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

_____CHAIRPERSON
Terry Goerger
Board of Richland County Commissioners