

Richland County Board of Commissioners

September 15, 2026

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met at 8:00 A.M. September 15, 2026 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Terry Goerger, Nathan Berseth, Rollie Ehlert, and Tim Campbell. Commissioner Perry Miller was absent. Others included Administration Personnel Fossum and South, State's Attorney Kummer, Sheriff Ruhl, Tracy Hansen, Kayla Carlson, Jesse Sedler, Donnie Witt, Judge Cruft, John Manstrom, and Daily News Reporter Manisha Reddy.

Call to Order

Commissioner Goerger called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to approve the agenda as amended; adding Sheriff Ruhl. Vote was unanimous (3-0).

Public Comment

There were no requests submitted for public comment.

Tracy Hansen – Staffing Request

Tracy Hansen addressed the Commission to request a part-time position for Dispatch. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to approve a part-time position for Dispatch. Vote was unanimous (3-0). Commissioner Ehlert asked what the wage would be for the part-time employee. Fossum said that in the past, part-time positions for Extension and the Health Department were set at \$25 per hour with no benefits. The Board of Commissioners were fine with the wage discussed.

Hansen requested approval to advertise for 2 full-time Dispatchers. Both positions were budgeted for in 2026 and 2027, and the department will be fully staffed if they are filled. There are two potential new hires going through testing right now.

Commissioner Campbell entered the meeting at 8:04 A.M.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Campbell to approve advertising for two full-time positions for Dispatch. Vote was unanimous (4-0).

Kayla Carlson - Staffing Request

Carlson addressed the Board of Commissioners to request approval for two C42 positions and one Public Health Coordinator position. It was the consensus of the Board of Commissioners that Carlson should meet with the Task Force that was formed to discuss

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Home Health prior to a decision being made. Carlson will meet with Fossum, Commissioner Berseth, and Commissioner Ehlert on Thursday, September 24th at 2:00pm in the Commission Room.

Sheriff Ruhl – Staffing Request

Sheriff Ruhl addressed the Commission to request approval to advertise for an open deputy position in the Sheriff's Department. Ruhl said he has an employee retiring from the Community Service position; their last day is October 6th. Ruhl said the Community Service portion of the position will likely be contracted through Cass County. Ruhl said the new deputy would oversee the 24/7 sobriety program, work part time in the jail, and patrol part-time. Sheriff Ruhl will meet with his portfolio to narrow down the details of the position and come back to request approval.

Highway Department

Sedler informed the Commission that he had brought in documents that need to be signed for Flex Funding reimbursement and for the Helendale Bridge.

Sedler gave the following updates regarding highway activity:

CR 1 project:

- should be opening back up on Friday, September 25th
- Mooreton stretch is already open
- finishing up seeding and still have black dirt to move
- No overweights will be allowed this year

Sedler informed the Commission that the department now has two motor graders down; one is still being repaired from an accident, and the other had a rear axle go out.

Unfinished/New Business

Projected budget transfers for 2027 were discussed as well as 2028 budget projections.

The benefit budget was briefly discussed.

Judge Cruff – Request Support for Another Judgeship

Judge Cruff addressed the Commission relocating a Judgeship to Richland County. Cruff said one of the Judges in Valley City is retiring and he is proposing that that position be moved to Richland County to better serve Ransom and Sargent Counties. Judge Cruff said they would need 2 functioning courtrooms; noting the LEC courtroom would need to be used. Cruff said he will need approval from the other judges but wanted to make sure he had the support of the Richland County Commissioners before it goes to a vote. Judge Cruff will come back to request a letter of support if his proposal is approved.

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Miscellaneous/Correspondence

Fossum informed the Commission that one letter of interest was received for the Medical Director of Dispatch/Health Officer/Board of Health vacancy. A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Ehlert to appoint Dr. Hannah Schradick as the Medical Director for Dispatch, the Richland County Health Officer, and to the Board of Health. Vote was unanimous (4-0).

Fossum presented the list of election inspectors that she plans to use in the 2026 General Election, stating they must be Commission appointed. Fossum requested the authority to fill any vacancies that may occur. A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Berseth to appoint the election inspectors presented by Fossum and allow her the authority to fill any vacancies. Vote was unanimous (4-0).

A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by to approve a raffle permit for the Fairmount American Legion. Vote was unanimous (4-0).

Unfinished/New Business

Home Health services were discussed.

The Board of Commissioners discussed having an additional meeting before the Final Budget Hearing on October 6th. Commission Meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 29th, 2026 at 8:00am.

Upcoming Meetings

September

29 Commission Meeting

October

6 Commission Meeting
6 Minimum Sale Price Hearing
6 Final Budget Hearing
12 NDACo Annual Conference
20 Commission Meeting

November

17 Commission Meeting

Reports Filed

Tax & Property Department – Revenue Voucher for August 2026.
Sheriff's Department – Revenue & Expenses for August 2026.

Adjournment

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Meeting adjourned at 9:35 A.M.

Certification

Attest:

Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

_____CHAIRPERSON
Terry Goerger
Board of Richland County Commissioners