

RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met at 8:00 A.M. on September 16, 2025 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Tim Campbell, Terry Goerger, Nathan Berseth, Rollie Ehlert, and Perry Miller (via phone). Others included Administrative Personnel Fossum and South, State's Attorney Kummer, Jesse Sedler, Donnie Witt, Justin Johnson, Ali Zajac, Clint Arndt, Cindy Zick, Jonathan Hinz, Susan Hinz, and Mary Sahl.

Commissioner Campbell called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Goerger to approve the agenda. Vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Sahl had questions regarding the new voting precincts that were approved at a recent Commission meeting. Fossum explained that changes in legislation require school bond issues to be on the county or statewide ballot. The change will not affect where a Richland County resident votes at. Commissioner Berseth added that the intent behind the change in legislation was for better voter turnout regarding school bond issues.

FINAL BUDGET HEARING

Fossum informed the Commission that she made the adjustments they requested to the proposed salary increases for 2026. Fossum used two different COLA percentages per the Commission's request: 2.7% and 3.25%. For the employees that were projected to have less take-home pay in 2026 due to the increase in insurance rates, a 3.25% COLA was not enough to get them there. Fossum suggested giving those employees a step on the scale (approximately 4.7% increase) and all other employees a 2.7% COLA.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Goerger to approve the 2026 budget as presented by Fossum at 95.94 mills. Vote was unanimous.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Sedler reported that he reached out regarding a traffic study for the intersection of CR81 & CR2 near Christine. The cost of the study is approximately \$5000; Interstate Engineering will come back with their recommendation when the study is complete. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to approve a traffic study on CR81 & CR2 near Christine. Vote was unanimous.

Sedler gave the following updates regarding Highway activity:

- overlay projects are complete
- chip seals are complete, painting & striping to start today
- drain tile is complete
- 6 miles of graveling left to complete
- Helendale Bridge has been removed, project should be complete in November

Sedler reported that he purchased a right-of-way from a landowner; the negotiated price was \$3000/acre.

Flex funding grant applications are due Friday; Sedler will be submitting an application for Richland County.

Sedler reported that Minn-Dak has completed their turn lane. Riverview Dairy will be starting their turn lane soon.

Traffic signs are complete for the Haul Road; Sedler and Witt will be placing today.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Goerger to approve a Special Event Permit for Antelope Creek Bar & Grill. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Goerger to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the Secretary of States Office for election equipment. Vote was unanimous.

Correspondence from Rose Dotzenrod – a thank you letter to the Board of Commissioners.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to approve the proposed bankruptcy plan for Perdue for opioid litigation. Vote was unanimous.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Fossum informed the Commission that she received paperwork for the lawsuit against the City of Wahpeton that Richland County was named as a defendant in. She forwarded the paperwork to the North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund and the State's Attorney's Office.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

September

22 Park Board

24 Board of Health

October

7 Commission Meeting – Minimum Sale Price Hearing
21 Commission Meeting
26-28 NDACo Annual Conference

November

4 Commission Meeting
18 Commission Meeting

Motion to adjourn by Goerger.
Meeting adjourned at 8:57 A.M.

ATTEST: _____
Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

_____CHAIRPERSON
Tim Campbell
Board of Richland County Commissioners