

RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met at 8:00 A.M. on September 2, 2025 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Tim Campbell, Nathan Berseth, Rollie Ehlert, Perry Miller and Terry Goerger who joined via phone. Others included Administrative Personnel Fossum and South, State's Attorney Kummer, Jesse Sedler, Sarah Erickson, Brett Lambrecht, Sheriff Ruhl, Steve Gjerdevig, Jill Breuer, Shawn Paczkowski, Mary Sahl, Steve Dale, Brady Janzen, Jason Grubbs (via teams), Rick Metzger (Via Teams), and a small group of visitors.

Commissioner Campbell called the meeting to order. A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Miller to approve the agenda. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Miller to approve the minutes of meetings August 5, August 19, and Special Session August 21. Vote was unanimous.

TREASURERS REPORT

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to approve the Treasurer's Report. Vote was unanimous.

JILL BREUER – NDSCS CONTRACT & STATS

Jill Breuer distributed a proposed 1-year communications contract with NDSCS to the Board of Commissioners. Breuer stated that the contract is similar to last year's, not much has changed. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to approve a 1-year communications contract with NDSCS. Vote was unanimous.

Breuer informed the Commission that she will need a new back up for SE CRIB due to changes with duties at the Police Department. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to appoint Brett Lambrecht as backup for SE CRIB. Vote was unanimous.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to approve a gaming permit for the Wahpeton FFA Alumni Association. Vote was unanimous.

Fossum informed the Commission that a letter of interest had been received from Valerie Nelson regarding the vacancy on the RSR Human Service Zone Board. A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Berseth to appoint Valerie Nelson to the RSR Human Service

Zone Board. Vote was unanimous.

MARY SAHL – BOND FOR RIVERVIEW DAIRY

Mary Sahl, a rural Abercrombie resident, addressed the Board of Commissioners regarding a bond that was approved for Riverview Dairy at their July 1, 2025 Commission meeting. Sahl had several questions about the bond as well as the permitting process for Riverview Dairy that she presented to the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Berseth explained that the bond is a conduit bond, there is no liability, cost, or exposure to the county; the recipient bares all cost. Berseth further explained that Richland County has no permitting authority on the project; the Township and the State Water Commission hold that authority.

Commissioner Goerger recommended that Sahl meet with the State Water Commissioner. Sahl stated she already had a meeting set up for 2:30pm that afternoon.

SHERIFF RUHL – FOOD CONTRACT

Sheriff Ruhl informed the Commission that the 1-year food service agreement for the jail is increasing 5%, which equates to approximately eight cents per plate.

In other business, Ruhl informed the Commission that he applied for the Back the Blue Grant; \$1384 was awarded per licensed officer.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Sedler reported that the Helendale Bridge project has been on hold due to a survey; should be starting back up soon.

Commissioner Berseth asked if a traffic study would be needed to get a 4-way stop at the corner of CR 81 & CR 2. Sedler thought a traffic study would be needed, he will look into it.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A) HSZ Board – New board appointment made earlier in the meeting.
- B) Buildings & Grounds – Commissioner Miller reported that the drain tile project has been delayed, should be starting mid-September.
- C) Public Health – Nothing to report.
- D) JDA/JPA – Nothing to report.

E) Weed Board – Commissioner Goerger reported that the township roads should be finished in mid-September. Furnace will be placed in a few weeks at the shop.

F) Soils Committee – Nothing to report.

G) Park Board – Will meet September 15th.

H) Administration – Fossum informed the Commission that she was contacted by the North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund last week regarding a lawsuit that Richland County has been named in. The lawsuit was filed against the City of Wahpeton; Richland County was listed as a defendant. To date, no paperwork has been received regarding the matter.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Shawn Paczkowski, Mayor of Abercrombie, addressed the Commission regarding demolition costs for a house the city owns and is going to tear down. Paczkowski reported that the bid came in at \$20,000 and asked the Commissioners if the county would participate in 50% of the cost. A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Berseth to approve participating in 50% of demolition costs for the house in Abercrombie; if reconstructed home is on the lot in 3 years, county will reimburse remaining \$10,000. Voting NO were Miller and Campbell, the remainder voted YES and the motion carried.

A two-tiered cost of living adjustment for 2026 was discussed. Fossum will prepare for next Commission meeting.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE continued

A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Miller to approve the payment of the bills. Vote was unanimous.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

September

16 Commission Meeting – Final Budget Hearing

October

7 Commission Meeting

21 Commission Meeting

26-28 NDACo Annual Conference

November

4 Commission Meeting

18 Commission Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 9:17 A.M.

Reports filed: Sheriff's Department – Revenue & Expenses for July 2025.

ATTEST: _____
Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

_____CHAIRPERSON
Tim Campbell
Board of Richland County Commissioners

The following claims were approved for August, 2025

PAYROLL (inclusive)

General	\$	314,359.43
County Highway	\$	125,103.63
911 Communications	\$	57,968.90
County Agent	\$	5,780.32
Veterans Service	\$	11,043.06
Weed Officer	\$	500.00
Public Health Fund	\$	69,667.33
Income Maintenance	\$	67,406.45
Foster Care	\$	21,108.95
Child Protective Svc	\$	39,812.27
Parent Aid	\$	4,937.60
Family Soc Worker	\$	5,493.41
Social Services	\$	83,938.22
In-Home Care	\$	21,701.32
Admin Support	\$	18,083.08
PAYROLL TOTAL	\$	846,903.97

EXPENSES: ** Refer to resolution records

County General Accounts	\$	298,564.61
County Highway	\$	3,562,969.72
Bridge Replacement	\$	36,828.88
Road & Bridge Equipment Fund	\$	178,182.64
Prairie Dog Disbursements	\$	-
15 Mill Road	\$	-
Social Services Fund	\$	-
Emergency Assistance Donation	\$	-
Emergency Fund	\$	-
911 Communications	\$	25,475.30
NDRIN	\$	158.90
Capitol Improvement	\$	739.60
Water Rescue	\$	-
Special Response Team	\$	76.91
Civil Asset Forfeiture Fund	\$	-
K9 Dog Donations	\$	-
American Rescue Plan Funds	\$	-
County Agent	\$	14,079.15
Veterans Service	\$	5,163.48
Veteran Assistance Donation	\$	-
Weed Control Levy	\$	61,032.21
Public Health	\$	24,690.34
Haz Chem Fund	\$	-
Income Maintenance	\$	23,566.11
Foster Care	\$	9,706.99
Child Protective Svc	\$	14,446.40

Parent Aid	\$	1,024.21
Family Soc Worker	\$	2,581.54
Social Services	\$	29,712.59
In-Home Care	\$	9,060.70
Admin Support	\$	28,440.62
HSZ Board	\$	-
Safety Permanency Fd	\$	-
Foster Care	\$	-
Unallow Fed Costs	\$	-
General Assistance	\$	-
Program Cost Revenue	\$	-
State Medical Levy	\$	92.46
Three Rivers Crisis Center	\$	408.69
FEMA Disaster Reimbursement	\$	-
Garrison Div	\$	92.49
Domestic Violence	\$	210.00
Twsp Share Gas & Oil	\$	60,512.81
TeleComm Tax Fund	\$	-
State Aid Distribution	\$	18,537.20
Jail Concession	\$	-
Sobriety Test Fund	\$	5,555.00
SEMCA	\$	23,684.37
County General Accounts	\$	197.40
Diversion Settlement	\$	146,438.29
ND Income Tax W/H	\$	-
Sr Citizen Fund	\$	701.41
Historical Society	\$	172.62
Co Agent Special	\$	21.86
Soil Cons District	\$	75.77
Water Mngt Levy	\$	2,390.66
Joint Water Resource	\$	138.74
Estimated Real Estate Tax	\$	-
Current Tax Holding Fund	\$	-
EXPENSE TOTAL	\$	4,585,730.67
 TOTAL PAYROLL & EXPENSES	 \$	 5,432,634.64

ATTEST: _____

Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

CHAIRPERSON

Tim Campbell
Board of Richland County Commissioners