

# **Richland County Board of Commissioners**

**Special Session - September 29, 2026**

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## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Attendance**

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met in Special Session at 8:00 A.M. September 29, 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, Assistant State's Attorney Rydell, Sheriff Ruhl, Kayla Carlson, Jesse Sedler, John Manstrom, and Daily News Reporter Manisha Reddy.

### **Call to Order/Approval of Agenda**

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. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

### **Distribution Agreement – RWJPA and Richland/Wilkin Food Pantry**

Commissioner Berseth informed the Commission that the Richland Wilkin Joint Powers Authority approved a loan for the Richland-Wilkin Food Pantry and need the county to act as a pass-through for the funds. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to approve a distribution agreement between Richland Wilkin Joint Powers Authority and Richland/Wilkin Food Pantry. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

### **Demolition Reimbursement – City of Hankinson**

Fossum informed the Commission that she received an invoice from the City of Hankinson for demolition costs on a parcel that the Commission approved 50% match on, up to \$10,000. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to approve a \$7150 demolition reimbursement for the City of Hankinson. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

### **Staffing Requests/Budget**

#### *Health Department*

Kayla Carlson addressed the Board of Commissioners to request to advertise for two RN positions and one Public Health Coordinator position. Carlson said all three positions are 85% grant funded and would get the department back up to 10.3 FTE's.

Discussion ensued regarding projected General Fund transfers and projected grant fund balances for Public Health and Home Health in 2027.

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A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to direct Health Director to get transfers from the General Fund for 2027 at a maximum of \$300,000. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

## ***Sheriff's Department***

Sheriff Ruhl addressed the Commission to propose a combined position for Jail billing and Public Health billing; utilizing the current Financial Manager for the Health Department. Ruhl said the Jail can continue to administer the 24/7 SCRAM program, eliminating the need for a deputy to fill Darlene's position.

Jail revenue and billables were discussed. Sheriff Ruhl sends jail bed availability to U.S. Marshalls every two days.

Carlson had concerns that the Financial Manager for the Health Department may not have enough time to take on Jail billing. Sheriff Ruhl and Carlson will meet Wednesday morning to discuss.

County Extension Office duties were briefly discussed. Commissioner Campbell and Fossum to meet with Extension to discuss.

Sheriff Ruhl requested approval to advertise for a recent male deputy vacancy in the Jail. A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Berseth to authorize Corrections to advertise and fill the male deputy position. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

Sheriff Ruhl informed the Commission that one of the Sheriff's Department vehicles has 240,000 miles on it and he has concerns about it making it through the next year. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Campbell to authorize the Sheriff's Department to get quotes for one new vehicle. Vote was unanimous (5-0).

## **Budget**

Fossum will get revised Public Health budget from Carlson and prepare two final budget options for the Board of Commissioners; one that increases the mills and one that does not. The Board of Commissioners asked Fossum to increase Jail revenue by \$250,000 and leave 1 FTE in the budget for Community Service to account for the undecided Jail billing position. The Commission advised leaving the projected increase for insurance premiums at 20% and COLA at 3%.

The Board of Commissioners thanked Fossum for her work on the budget and the additional work she took on with billables for Corrections.

## **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 A.M.

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**Certification**

Attest:

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Sandy Fossum  
Auditor/Administrator

\_\_\_\_\_CHAIRPERSON  
Terry Goerger  
Board of Richland County Commissioners