

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BENSON COUNTY NORTH DAKOTA February 18, 2025

The Benson County commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2025 at 8 a.m. in the commissioner room of the Benson County Courthouse, Minnewaukan, ND. Commissioners present: Doris M. Griffin, Ron Stadum, David Davidson and Tammy Kuk. Dick Horner was present via Teams. The meeting was called to order by Chair Stadum. Other people present: Kelly Glover, Benson County Farmers Press; James P. Wang, Benson County state's attorney; Mya Ertelt, Little Bobcats Daycare; and Joy Orvedal, highway department clerk.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A motion was made by Davidson, seconded by Griffin, to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of Feb. 4, 2025 as amended. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

Orvedal gave a report for the highway department. She reported that a motor grader broke down; however, it has since been repaired. Orvedal stated the furnace in the Harlow shop is needing repair. A motion was made by Davidson, seconded by Griffin, to replace the furnace in the Harlow shop as needed. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

Sheriff Ethan Rode came to the meeting.

Mya Ertelt, Little Bobcats Daycare, met with the board regarding the heating system at the BCEC. She stated recently the daycare needed to close due to the furnace not operating correctly. She requested the county reimburse for lost wages to parents who had to stay home when the daycare could not be open at a cost of \$471.68. Horner gave input on this issue. He stated the system hasn't worked in very cold weather since the county took the building over and that was a known fact when the daycare began renting the building. Horner stated the system is being worked on and there are many issues causing the problem. He also stated the lease agreement with the daycare states Benson County will attempt to maintain heat in the building.

Ertelt indicated a grant was received for heating system repairs. The auditor presented information on the action taken to-date on the heating system. Horner stated perhaps the building will not be able to accommodate the daycare due to the method the building was constructed with.

Discussion was held on the need to replace some of the windows where the daycare is located in the building. Ertelt informed the board of additional renovations that may be requested in the future. Discussion was held on obtaining an estimate for a 10'x12' addition for the needs of the daycare. A motion was made by Kuk to obtain an estimate for the addition and windows. Davidson seconded Kuk's motion. Horner stated last month the utilities for the events center came to approximately \$3,000. Horner stated he will contact some contractors and then set up an advisory board meeting where Ertelt can participate. Kuk amended her motion to include getting an estimate for an indoor entryway and an external entryway. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Griffin to reimburse the lost wages of \$471.68 for the time the daycare needed to be closed. State's Attorney Wang gave input on this issue. Horner requested an invoice for the amount. Griffin amended her motion to include the lost wage reimbursement to be a one-time payment only. Kuk seconded the motion. Horner questioned Wang if the board could sell a portion of the building to the daycare. Wang indicated this could be done. Roll call vote: Davidson--yes; Horner--no; Griffin--yes; Stadum--no; Kuk--yes. The motion carried.

Discussion was held on when the BCEC Advisory Board meets and if a daycare board member could be on the BCEC Advisory Board. Horner indicated having a daycare board member on the BCEC Advisory Board would be a conflict of interest. Discussion was held on having regularly scheduled meetings of the BCEC Advisory Board.

Nicole Steinhaus met with the board to discuss some concerns she has with the sheriff's department. She gave a past history of reports provided to the sheriff's department and the lack of action by that department. Sheriff Rode reported he does not have set hours for his office to be open. Discussion was held on why nothing has been done with the report Steinhaus gave back in November 2024. She stated her disagreement with having a deputy for Benson County who is on the Brady List. Rode explained the action he took after the report was provided to him by Steinhaus. Steinhaus stated she will be filing a formal complaint regarding the sheriff's department. Stadum indicated the report should be given to

the state's attorney when filed. Sheriff Rode met with the board to give a sheriff's report for his office. He stated he received a quote for the repair of the 2022 Durango used by the sheriff's department. Rode questioned the status of his office hiring additional help. He presented the employment contract signed by Deputy Brorby who is attending LETA training. Rode gave a response to the report given by Steinhaus and the action he took.

Discussion was held on the proposed contract for policing casino events presented by the sheriff's department. Davidson indicated he received a call that the contract was shared with the BIA. Kuk indicated she would like to see the deputies work the casino for supplemental income. Horner stated any pay received should be run through the treasurer's office. He also questioned why Rode is asking for more help but wants to add more work by policing the casino.

Diane Yri came to the meeting. Horner expressed his concern with the liability Benson County has with workers compensation due to the incident which Benson County became liable for in the past. Davidson stated the head of security wants a deputy presence from the start to the end of each event held. Horner stated the only compensation Benson County would get for its expenses per the contract is \$50. A motion was made by Kuk, seconded by Davidson, to enter into a contract provided NDIRF provides written confirmation that Benson County is covered for liability purposes. Roll call vote: Davidson--yes; Horner--no; Griffin--yes; Stadum--yes; Kuk--yes. The motion carried.

The board reviewed the sheriff's department mileage report for January 2025. Davidson left the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

Discussion was held on hiring additional temporary deputies and the Garcia ruling. The state's attorney had left the meeting for court so he couldn't provide input. The board concluded to table a decision on this issue until discussion with the state's attorney.

Morris Holen Jr., Jessica Tagestad and Jesse Brandvold, Wold Engineering, met with the board regarding the plans and costs for the Flora curve project. A motion was made by Kuk to allow Wold Engineering to negotiate with the landowners based on the numbers provided for the temporary easement and crop damage for the project. The motion was seconded by Griffin. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

Brandvold presented the detour plans while the Flora curve project is underway. Tagestad stated that because federal aid is being used and wetlands will be affected, mitigation will need to take place. Tagestad discussed the engineering selection process needed for the Flora curve project. A motion was made by Griffin, seconded by Kuk, to have the chair sign the Programmatic CateX/Environmental Document. All members voted yes. The motion carried. Tagestad stated the project should be completed by the middle of October 2025.

Tagestad presented a County Border Agreement for the Grahams Island road used by Benson and Ramsey counties for general maintenance, minor repair and snow removal. Brandvold presented cost estimates for the upcoming road striping projects.

A motion was made by Horner, seconded by Griffin, to transfer \$45,000 from the State Revenue Sharing Fund to the DEM fund for one-half of DEM 2025 budget. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

The board reviewed information on the bleacher replacement project for the BCEC. A motion was made by Griffin, seconded by Kuk, to advertise for the removal of the current bleachers and offer them for sale and to purchase new bleachers. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

Discussion was held on whether to lease or purchase the 1,000-gallon propane tank for the BCEC. A motion was made by Kuk, seconded by Griffin, to purchase the propane tank for the estimated cost of \$5,900. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

The board reviewed the Benson County Transportation profit and loss report for January 2025.

The board also reviewed information from BEK Communications regarding new technology equipment for commissioners room.

The board reviewed and discussed the monthly county bills that need to be paid prior to end of month. A motion was made by Griffin, seconded by Kuk, to pay the bills. All members voted yes. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion to adjourn was made at 10:47 a.m.

Bonnie Erickson
Benson County Auditor
Ron Stadum
Chair

Email farmerspress@gondtc.com or call 701-473-5436 to advertise!

Knox Township NOTICE
The annual meeting and election will be held Tues., March 18 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Knox Legion Hall.
Steve Anderson
Clerk/Treas.

York Township NOTICE
The annual meeting will be held on Monday, March 24 at 4 p.m. at the York Legion Hall.
Breanne Larson
Clerk/Treasurer

Lallie Township NOTICE
The annual meeting will be held on Tues., March 18 at 1 p.m. at the Dean Johnson residence.
Dean Johnson
Clerk/Treas.

Minco Township NOTICE
The annual meeting and election will be held Tuesday, March 25 at 4 p.m. at the Trevor Haas residence.
Allen Pare
Clerk/Treasurer

Hesper Township NOTICE
The annual meeting and election will be held Tues., March 18 at 10 a.m. in the meeting room at Harriman's in Maddock.
Keith Smith, Clerk

Rich Valley Township NOTICE
The annual meeting will be held Tuesday, March 18 at 10 a.m. at the Kallenbach farm shop.
Shelly Kallenbach
Clerk

Rock Township NOTICE
The annual meeting and election will be held Tues., March 18 at 5 p.m. at the John Grann home. One officer position is up for election.
Donna Grann, Clerk/Treas.

Arne Township NOTICE
Arne Township will hold its annual meeting at 7 p.m. March 25, 2025 at the Harold Fossen home.
Harold Fossen
Chairman

Lohnes Township NOTICE
The annual meeting will be held Tuesday, March 18 at 7 p.m. at the Bill Wood residence.
Valerie Wood
Clerk

West Bay Township NOTICE
The annual meeting will be held Monday, March 24 at 4:30 p.m. at the Minnewaukan Senior Center.
Carren Anderson
Clerk

Eldon Township NOTICE
The annual meeting will be held Monday, March 18 at 9 a.m. at the Ray Buckmier farm shop.
Tyler Sears
Clerk

Isabel Township NOTICE
The annual meeting will be held Tuesday, March 18 at 5:30 p.m. at the Jeff Hagen farm shop.
Robert Engkvist
Clerk

Esmond Township NOTICE
The annual meeting and election of officers will be held Tues., March 18 at 1 p.m. at the Esmond Fire Hall.
Raymond Tollerud
Clerk

Twin Lake Township NOTICE
The annual meeting and election will be held Tues., March 18 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Township Hall.
Philip Volk
Clerk

Riggin Township NOTICE
The annual meeting and election will be held Monday, March 24 at 5 p.m. at the Minnewaukan Senior Center. One supervisor will be elected.
Sarah O'Connell,
Clerk/Treas.

Impark Township NOTICE
The annual meeting and election will be held on Thursday, March 20 at 2 p.m. at the Gerald and Christie Jaeger farm. One supervisor will be elected.
Christie Jaeger
Clerk

Donate to Legion scholarship

The Gunnerud-Dietrich American Legion Post 86 and its Auxiliary of Minnewaukan established a scholarship at LRSC in 2012. Interest is awarded annually to LRSC students. Donations can be made in the form of gifts or memorials.

The Legion will send the money to LRSC and send letters of thanks to the donors. Donations can be sent to American Legion Post 86, PO Box 173, Minnewaukan, ND 58351.

Oberon Township NOTICE
The annual meeting will be held Tues., March 19 at 7 p.m. at the Ed Gilderhus farm.
Mitch Poulsen
Clerk/Treas.

Aurora Township NOTICE
The annual meeting and election will be held Tues., March 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of the clerk.
Dale Yri
Clerk

Butte Valley Township NOTICE
The annual meeting and election will be held Tues., March 18 at 4 p.m. at the Butte Valley Township Hall in Harlow.
Dawn Hermanson
Clerk/Treasurer

Broe Township NOTICE
The annual meeting and election will be held Tues., March 18 at 5 p.m. at the Randy Gunderson farm.
Randy Gunderson
Chairman

Leeds Township NOTICE
The annual meeting and election of officers will be held Tues., March 18 from 9 to 10 a.m. at the Leeds Community Center.
Eric Jorgenson
Chairman

Twin Tree Township NOTICE
The annual meeting and election will be held Wednesday, March 19 at 1 p.m. at the Dwain Brown home.
Carleen Terres
Clerk/Treas.

South Viking Township NOTICE
The annual meeting for South Viking Township will be held on 18 March 2025 at the township hall at 7 p.m. Elections will be held for the clerk and one supervisor.
James M. Hvinden
Clerk

North Viking Township NOTICE
The annual meeting will be held Tuesday, March 18 at 6 p.m. at the Maddock Fire Department.
Ryan Knatterud
Clerk

West Antelope Twp. NOTICE
West Antelope Township annual meeting will be held at the Adam Aanderud residence at 9 a.m. on March 18, 2025. There is one supervisor position to be elected currently held by Adam Aanderud.
Dawn Aanderud
Clerk/Treas.

Normania Township NOTICE
The Normania Township annual meeting and election will be held March 18 at 2 p.m. at the Michael and Colleen Rohrer farm. One supervisor and clerk/treasurer will be elected.
Louise Nelson, Clerk

Mission Township NOTICE
Mission Township election will be held Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at the home of Louie P. Kraft, St. Michael, ND, to elect one supervisor for a three-year term. Polls open at 5 p.m. and close at 6 p.m.
Judy Geske
Clerk, Mission Township

Wood Lake Township NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, the 18th day of March, 2025, Wood Lake Township will hold its annual township election meeting. Polls will be open from 4 to 5 p.m. that day and election will be held at the Terry Smith residence. Voters will elect one (1) supervisor and one (1) secretary/treasurer.
Kristi Black
Secretary

CALL FOR BIDS
FOUR SETS OF HARDWOOD & IRON GYMNASIUM BLEACHERS

Bid opening:
March 18, 2025 - 8:30 a.m. CDT
Benson County Courthouse County Commissioners Rm.

The County Auditor of Benson County, Minnewaukan, ND, will receive sealed bids for the removal and purchase of four sets of hardwood & iron gymnasium bleachers currently located at the Benson County Events Center, 809 Railway Ave, Maddock, ND. The sets available are as follows:

- Set 1: 18' wide x 12' high with 7 risers**
- Set 2: 11' wide x 12' high with 7 risers**
- Set 3: 11' wide x 12' high with 7 risers**
- Set 4: 18' wide x 12' high with 7 risers**

Photos and other general information can be obtained from the Benson County Auditor's Office, 311 B Ave. S., PO Box 206, Minnewaukan, ND 58351. Bleachers are available for inspection prior to the bid letting.

Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope to Benson County Auditor's Office, PO Box 206, Minnewaukan, ND 58351, which identifies the bidder and the bid contained therein and must be received by the bid opening deadline.

Benson County reserves the right to evaluate the bids accordingly and make awards according to the discretion of its Board of Commissioners. Benson County also reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any irregularities.

By order of the Board of County Commissioners of Benson County this 18th day of February, 2025.

Bonnie Erickson, County Auditor
Benson County, North Dakota

HELP WANTED
BUILDING MATERIAL SALES PERSONNEL

Sales Applicants should be able to:

- Interact with customers to develop long-term relationships
- Generate sales
- Ability to read blueprints
- Do material estimates
- Go into the field to measure projects
- Lift Heavy Objects (100 lbs.)
- Have a valid drivers license

Applicants would work with other sales personnel within the organization to achieve the final goal of satisfied customers. Benefits include health and disability insurance, retirement, sick and vacation time. Pay is dependent on experience.

LEON'S BUILDING CENTER, INC.

448 Highway 2 West
Devils Lake, ND 58301
701-662-3416

105 4th St. East
Park River, ND 58270
701-284-6266

STOP IN AND APPLY OR

Send resumé to Kerry@leonsbuildingcenter.com

IMMEDIATE OPENING

Bus Drivers

CDL bus drivers start at \$28 per hour and guaranteed minimum of 4 hours per school day.

Janitor

Janitor pay is \$22 per hour, with opportunity for overtime.

Please call the
Oberon Elementary School
701-798-2231
with questions and/or to apply.

Oberon Elementary School | 315 A St. | Oberon, ND