

PUBLIC NOTICES

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Notice of Meeting

The Burke County Water Board will meet Wednesday, June 25, at 10:00 a.m. in the Powers Lake City Hall. Agenda: North Star Dam.

June 18 & 25, 2025

City of Bowbells  
Council Proceedings  
SPECIAL MEETING  
June 16, 2025  
Unofficial Minutes

A Special Meeting was held June 16th, 2025, in the City Auditor's Office at 7:00 AM.

Members present: Mayor Shannon Holter; Council Members: Michael Bolton, Laurie Lemmon & Archie Deckert; City Auditor, Lanette Jager & Dennis Benge, Maintenance.

Absent: Casey Beeter  
Guests: Dylan Benge

Special Meeting was called to order at 7:15 AM by Mayor Holter.

The topic of the meeting was the maintenance supervisor position.

The auditor checked on ND Pers for Health Insurance. With ND Pers you have to have a group of 51 employees. Dylan Benge checked on a single policy from BC/BS for \$500.00 a month. The city will pay the premium. Dylan Benge has kept all his certifications for water distribution, wastewater treatment & wastewater collection. Dylan has extensive knowledge of all city operations.

**Motion was made by Bolton, second by Lemmon** to hire Dylan Benge as the full-time maintenance supervisor position including health insurance premium paid, vacation, sick time and SEP Retirement. Dennis will step down to a part-time position at \$30.00 an hour with insurance paid by the city and SEP Retirement. The starting date will be July 1, 2025.

Roll call vote: Deckert, Lemmon and Bolton. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0. Motion was carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 AM  
ATTEST: Mayor, Shannon Holter  
Lanette Jager, City Auditor

June 25, 2025

Official Proceedings  
of the Board  
of Burke County  
Commissioners

June 4, 2025

1. OPENING & ROLL CALL

The Board met in regular session on Tuesday, June 4, 2025 at the Burke County Courthouse, Bowbells ND beginning with a Planning & Zoning Special meeting at 7:00 a.m. Planning & Zoning Chairman Rick Owings & County Commissioner Shannon Holter presiding. Also present were Sandy Raines, Jason Wettstein, Ted Hawbaker, Planning & Zoning Administrator Jill Edwards, Auditor Amie Vandegraft & States Attorney Amber Fiesel. Joining remotely were Mikenna McCarvel, Sam & Megan Fritel. Clint Scherb & Mike Knuth joined by telephone and then in person. Burke County Chairman Jarret Van Berkom & Lyann Olson joined for the County Commissioners portion of the meeting.

Chairman Van Berkom called the County Commission meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

2. BUSINESS

A. MINUTES

Motion by Comm. Holter, second by Comm. Owings to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2025 regular meeting. Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion carried.

B. BILLS

Motion by Comm. Holter, second by Comm. Owings to approve the bills list and that the County Auditor be instructed to pay the bills out of the proper funds and to accept the following reports for May: County Recorder \$31,882.75, District Court \$2,888.00 & County Sheriff \$103,783.99. Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion carried.

GENERAL

County Employees ..... \$8,809.67  
TOTAL ..... \$8,809.67

HWY TAX DIST.

County Employees ..... \$46,579.55  
TOTAL ..... \$46,579.55

WEED CONTROL

County Employees ..... \$1,827.96  
TOTAL ..... \$1,827.96

HOMELAND SECURITY

County Employees ..... \$5,605.51  
TOTAL ..... \$5,605.51  
GRAND TOTAL ..... \$62,822.69

ROAD & BRIDGE

3D Specialties, Inc. .... \$3,744.00  
American Truck & Trailer LLC1,599.54  
Brosz Engineering, Inc. .... 1,622.50  
Burke County Treasurer ..... 6.35  
Burke County Treasurer ..... 560.07  
Circle Sanitation Service ..... 79.00  
City of Bowbells ..... 276.10  
City of Lignite ..... 139.00  
City of Powers Lake ..... 68.75  
Dakota Agronomy Partners  
- Bowbells ..... 58.00  
Fastenal Company ..... 134.38  
John Deere Financial ..... 662.83

Linde Gas & Equipment Inc. ....202.65  
Lucy Trucks ..... 19,611.77  
Menards- Minot .....337.58  
Minot Automotive Center Inc. ....42.12  
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. ....1,035.57  
Napa Auto Parts ..... 115.94  
Stanley Auto & Truck ..... 173.59  
Titan Machinery ..... 16.15  
True North Steel ..... 875.00  
Verizon Wireless .....127.56  
Westlie Crossroads  
Truck Center ..... 30.63  
White Buffalo  
Construction LLC ..... 5,800.00  
TOTAL ..... \$37,319.08

GENERAL

Gabrielle Zepp ..... \$600.00  
Tracy Stover ..... 107.20  
Advanced Business Methods .....258.76  
Batteries Plus Bulbs ..... 71.60  
Burke County Treasurer ..... 344.10  
Burke County Treasurer .....2,000.00  
Burke County Treasurer ..... 92.48  
Burke County Tribune ..... 730.42  
City of Bowbells ..... 460.75  
Dacotah Insurance ..... 111.00  
Dacotah Paper Company .....510.00  
Farmers Union Hardware ..... 75.97  
Farmers Union Oil Company ..... 59.92  
Gaffaney's of Minot ..... 1,274.28  
Mertes Implement ..... 415.38  
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. ....2,422.11  
Morelli's Distributing, Inc. .... 108.30  
Ralphs Plumbing & Heating Inc.418.75  
Tango Tango ..... 75.00  
Verizon Wireless .....611.63  
Vestis ..... 461.91  
TOTAL ..... \$ 11,209.56

COUNTY AGENT

Daniel Folske ..... \$50.00  
TOTAL ..... \$50.00

VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER

Verizon Wireless ..... \$42.54  
TOTAL ..... \$42.54

WEED CONTROL

Burke County Tribune ..... \$84.00  
City of Bowbells .....180.00  
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. ....56.37  
Overhead Door  
Company of Minot ..... 1,059.00  
TOTAL ..... \$1,379.37

911 SYSTEMS

Pengun Management Inc. .. \$2,160.00  
TOTAL ..... \$2,160.00  
GRAND TOTAL ..... \$52,160.55  
3.APPOINTMENT SCHEDULED  
8:22 a.m. Ken Trautait, Road Foreman, met with the board.

A motion by Comm. Holter, second by Comm. Owings to authorize the Chairman to sign the Gravel Purchase & Storage Agreement with Maverick Mariner located SW1/4 SEC 15, T160 North, R91 West, Burke County, ND. Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion carried. A motion by Comm. Holter, second by Comm. Owings to authorize the Chairman to sign the Bore permit from MDU to bore CR 2 & 108th ST NW South 1 mile from Northgate. Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion carried. Discussion was held on the NDDOT Critical Finding & Closure of Bridge 07-134-03.0 located on 106th ST NW. Other topics of discussion were dust created by Farden Trucks north of Smishek, respray of dust control from the heavy rain a couple weeks ago, the RR crossing on CR 17, Ken's Fema trailer getting a new roof and no news on the mower from RDO.

9:10 a.m. Lynette Nelson, County Recorder, met with the board.

A motion by Comm. Holter, second by Comm. Owings to remove the temporary status of Joy Lucy's position in the Recorder's Office making it a part time position. Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion carried.

9:19 a.m. Tracy Stover, Courthouse Maintenance, met with the board.

The board approved the painting proposal for the States Attorney's office and asked Tracy to collect additional quotes for adding power outlets in the Commissioners room. Hight Construction should be coming later in the week to start the prep work to the roof access, exterior ground air units may need to be moved. Tracy reported the air conditioners in the courtroom were installed and gave a quick update on the progress of the landscaping to the front lawn.

9:38 a.m. Jason Mayfield, Wold Engineering, met with the board.

Jason discussed the proposed funding layout provided by NDDOT. NDDOT will combine the 2 SRF projects but 50% of the funds will need to be Federal. Jason would like to apply for Flex funds on the Bridge North of Columbus. He will have cost estimates at the July 1st meeting.

At 10:00 a.m. the County Equalization Hearing was held.

Comments from Walter Harms were heard regarding value & land added to his primary residence. Comments were heard from Mark Larson regarding an increase in value on a commercial lot he owns due to a shop that had never been valued. Brandy presented information on Commercial, Ag and Residential values, farm residence exemptions and numbers of applications for other credits. She noted that Bowbells, Dimond, Foothills, Kandiyohi, Lakeview, Leaf Mountain, Minnesota, Soo and Vanville Townships did not have a quorum for their township equalization meeting, so their values have been added to the three categories and will be approved by the Board when they approve the total values along with values for First Commissioners District and Carter. Motion by Comm. Holter, second by Comm. Owings to approve the Commercial values as presented by the County Tax Director. Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion carried. Motion by Comm. Holter, second by Comm. Owings to approve the Residential values as presented by the County Tax Director. Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion carried. Motion by Comm. Owings, second by Comm. Holter to approve the Ag values as presented by the County Tax Director. Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion carried. Discussion was held on the possibility of contracting with a new GIS company. The Hearing adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

The Board of Commissioners resumed their regular meeting

10:01 a.m. Eric Urness, Brosz Engineering, met with the board. The repairs to CR 17 RR Crossing were completed. Patching in Powers Lake & CR 5 will start in a couple days. And the closure of Bridge 07-134-03.0 (Guerdett) was discussed.

4. DISCUSSION

The Treasurer's Oil & Gas report was distributed. All the phone charges will come out of the non-departmental budget. The Basin Electric Power Cooperatives proposed Tande & Wheelock to Saskatchewan 230-kV Transmission Lines Project was discussed. Motion by Commissioner Holter, second by Commissioner Owings that the Burke County Auditor and County Treasurer be instructed to transfer \$2,000,000.00 in Gas and Oil monies from the General Fund to the Road and Bridge fund. Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion carried. Motion by Commissioner Holter, second

by Commissioner Owings that the Burke County Auditor and County Treasurer be instructed to transfer \$250,000.00 in Gas and Oil Monies from the General fund to the Highway Tax Distribution fund. Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion carried. Motion by Comm. Owings, second by Comm. Holter to approve & authorize the Chairman to sign a local permit for Bingo at the Burke County Fair June 20, 2025. Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion carried. Discussion was held on the States Attorney's budget for 2026. Motion by Commissioner Holter, second by Commissioner Owings to approve & authorize the Chairman to sign a CUP permit to Fritel Construction Co. for a gravel permit located W/2 SW/4 (28) E/2 se/4 (29) OF SEC 28 T159 R90 & E/2 NE/4 (32) W/2 NW/4 (33) OF SEC 28 T159 R90. Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion carried.

5. ADJOURN

The Board adjourned at 12:08 p.m. to meet again in regular session June 17, 2025 at 8:00 a.m.

Minutes read and approved this 17th day of June 2025.

Shannon Holter, Vice Chairman,  
Burke County Board of  
Commissioners

Amie Vandegraft  
Burke County Auditor

June 25, 2025

Notice of Hearing

Jacob Craig Maxson (ID #06747)  
MAXSON LAW OFFICE, P.C.

320 – 16th Street NW

Minot, ND 58703

Telephone No.: (701) 839-6704

jmax@minot.com

Attorney for: Petitioner

Probate No. 07-2025-PR-00042

IN THE DISTRICT COURT

OF BURKE COUNTY,

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

In the Matter of the Estate of

Victor C. Hass, Deceased.

NOTICE OF HEARING

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That Melanie J. Kuhn has filed herein a Petition for Formal Probate of Will and Appointment of Personal Representative of the estate of Victor C. Hass, deceased.

2. Hearing has been set upon said Petition on the 8th day of July, 2025, at 9:30 A.M. at the Courtroom of the above-named Court in the City of Bowbells, County of Burke, State of North Dakota, and any person interested may appear and be heard.

3. In order for any objection to be considered, objections to the Petition for Formal Probate of Will and Appointment of Personal Representative must be in writing and must be filed with the Court and the attorney for the Petitioner no later than seven (7) days prior to the date set for hearing. Any such written objection must contain a concise and thorough account of the facts upon which the objection is based.

Dated this 4th day of June, 2025.

MAXSON LAW OFFICE, P.C.

By: Jacob C. Maxson (ID #06747)

320 – 16th Street NW

Minot, ND 58703

ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

Telephone No. 701-839-6704

jmax@minot.com

June 11, 18 & 25, 2025

Notice of Hearing

Whitney M. Irish (#07240)

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PO Box 1077

Moorhead, MN 56561-1077

Telephone: 218.236.6462

Attorneys for Petitioner

Court File No. 07-2025-PR-00043

IN THE DISTRICT COURT

OF BURKE COUNTY,

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

In the Matter of the Estate of

Orlin E. Herseeth, Deceased.

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL APPOINTMENT

OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

¶[1] NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Russell Herseeth has filed herein a Petition for Formal Appointment of Personal Representative.

¶[2] The hearing will be held on the 12th day of August, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., at the Courtroom of said Court at the County Courthouse in the City of Bowbells, County of Burke, State of North Dakota. Any persons having an interest may file an objection stating why said Petition should not be granted. Such objections, if any, must be in writing, filed with the Court and copies served by mail on all interested persons. Dated this 9th day of June, 2025.

VOGEL LAW FIRM

/s/ Whitney M. Irish

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June 11, 18 & 25, 2025

Notice of Hearing

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Telephone: 218.236.6462

Attorneys for Petitioner

Court File No. 07-2025-PR-00044

IN THE DISTRICT COURT

OF BURKE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

In the Matter of the Estate of

Leif Ørnnulf Floberg, Deceased.

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

¶[1] NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Bjørn Floberg has filed herein a Petition for Formal Appointment of Personal Representative.

¶[2] The hearing will be held on the 12th day of August, 2025, at 10:15 a.m., at the Courtroom of said Court at the County Courthouse in the City of Bowbells, County of Burke, State of North Dakota. Any persons having an interest may file an objection stating why said Petition should not be granted. Such objections, if any, must be in writing, filed with the Court and copies served by mail on all interested persons. Dated this 13th day of June, 2025.

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June 18 & 25, July 2, 2025

Cemeteries Document Slow Decline of Rural North Dakota

By Michael Standaert  
ND News Cooperative

Murray Sagsveen estimates there are nearly 1,000 registered cemeteries in western North Dakota.

Most of those in rural farming communities are small, maybe 10 to 20 burial plots, sometimes just a handful.

“Every cemetery has a story, and it’s often about the settlers there,” Sagsveen said.

Each story is also about the people who remain in the area with relatives buried near once vibrant communities.

Sagsveen is a volunteer attorney for the Western North Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. A chance call several years ago from an oil company rep trying to determine who to pay royalties to on land where rural cemeteries were located set him on the path to a nearly full-time hobby.

“A guy called up and said, ‘We’re pumping oil out from under two Lutheran cemeteries up in Divide County and we don’t know who to pay,’” he said.

The congregation that owned the land had disbanded and the church corporation dissolved. Determining the owner of record took quite a bit of digging, Sagsveen said.

“I’m currently handling several such issues,” he said.

Sorting that out helped get at least a little money to those churches and people taking care of the cemeteries.

A chance passion

Sagsveen is a self-described “cemetery nerd.” At 78, documenting and determining ownership of cemetery land keeps him active. His brother often joins him on the road in the summer to help with the project.

“The more I got into it, the more I thought there’s a story I’ve got to explore,” he said. “As a semi-retired lawyer, it’s fascinating.”

Driving the backroads, most of these cemeteries would be missed if not for the wrought-iron gates cutting the prairie wind on lonely hillocks surrounded by furrowed fields. Today’s GPS coordinates also help.

About half were established by Lutheran church congregations. There are also Methodist, Baptist, Catholic and Jewish cemeteries. The oldest Muslim cemetery in the United States is another one, located in Mountrail County, adjacent to a mosque constructed in 1929 by Lebanese and Syrian immigrants.

On bright summer days, Sagsveen often sets out with his DJI drone and plenty of backup batteries to visit cemeteries across the western half of the state.

He’ll take photos, survey and see if they’re well-kept or abandoned. If abandoned, he’ll try to determine ownership or who can take care of the site, whether it’s the county or a

former congregation member.

Most are well-kept, he said, even if no church or congregation exists. Sometimes, family members remain nearby, or they’ve scattered across the country.

Some are more forlorn and forgotten, overgrown with grasses, home to badger dens and pheasants rummaging in the brush.

Zion Baptist cemetery in McLean County is one. The church was active between 1904 and 1931 but is now long gone. The sexton has died, and it is only occasionally mowed.

A lens into rural decline

For Sagsveen, these explorations have uncovered what he sees as a microcosm for the larger issues shaping rural North Dakota.

While farms grow larger, small towns struggle to retain congregations, grocery stores, schools and other services.

Farm residents move into town or relocate to larger communities, particularly if they’re older and in need of medical care. Older, isolated cemeteries are left behind.

Though headlines say the population is growing in North Dakota, that’s mainly the major metro areas, Sagsveen said.

Shifting demographics continue to hollow out smaller communities across the state.

All used to have a house

of worship nearby. Many of

those are long torn down with lumber and foundation stone hauled away for scrap.

Some were moved in their entirety to nearby towns, like the one that stood next to the Bethel United Methodist Cemetery. It was relocated to nearby Mercer and is now a Lutheran church.

Lori Walcker and her husband, Jeff, care for Bethel United Methodist Cemetery. Her parents and brother are buried there.

It requires an hour or two of mowing and checking the fences each week or two in the summer, depending how much rain falls and how fast the grasses grow. They donate their time and gas costs tending to the site.

That’s the case with most of the smaller rural cemeteries. Nearby farmers with family buried there end up caring for them.

Occasional donation campaigns can help pay for fences. This is how Lori’s uncle helped pay for a new chain-link fence about 15 years back, she said.

“We’ve done a lot of improvements throughout the years,” she said. “Of course it was, you know, just a cemetery like all the others that had a wire fence around it many years ago.”

Only a handful of relatives of those buried in Bethel visit these days. Most who knew the deceased are now gone themselves, Lori said.

Several relatives of farmer

Lamoyne Vossler are buried at Bethel. He pulls up on a seeder next to another nearby cemetery, Zion Lutheran.

“This is where I’m going to end up,” Vossler said, pointing to the well-maintained Zion cemetery, “in this hill here.”

As for the shrinking of the community, Vossler said if not for the coal mines and power plants nearby, the community would be even smaller.

He mentions the loss of the high school in Mercer in 1972, where he graduated from, and the dwindling number of current students at the high school in Turtle Lake as a sign of the times.

While ever larger farms mean more workers need to be hired, the reliance on seasonal H-2A visa workers, who only stay half the year and don’t put down roots, doesn’t help grow the community, he said.

“If it wasn’t for the people at the (power) plants over there, it would be pretty desolate around here,” Vossler said.

Beverly Peterson, a rancher who also owns Frontier Floral flower shop in Washburn, got to know Sagsveen after two cemeteries near her, Basto and Birka, were close to being encroached upon by a coal mining operation.

Determining ownership and ensuring the plots were registered helped preserve them.

“I think they’re worth saving, I really do,” Peterson said.