

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BENSON COUNTY NORTH DAKOTA June 2, 2026**

The Benson County commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 2, 2026 at 8 a.m. in the commissioner room of the Benson County Courthouse, Minnewaukan, ND. Commissioners present: Dick Horner, Doris M. Griffin, Ron Stadum, David Davidson and Tammy Kuk. The meeting was called to order by Chair Davidson. Other people present: Kelly Glover, Benson County Farmers Press; James P. Wang, Benson County state's attorney; Laura Wanzek, Benson County sheriff; Scott Todahl, DEM and highway superintendent; and Joy Orvedal, highway department clerk.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A motion was made by Griffin, seconded by Kuk, to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of May 19, 2026. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

Scott Todahl, DEM and highway superintendent, met with the board to give a report for the highway department. He stated the area fire departments requested the burn ban be removed at this time. A motion was made by Kuk, seconded by Griffin, to remove the burn ban. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

Todahl stated work will start on the Brown Road soon. Todahl also stated county road load restrictions were removed.

Todahl informed the board of the training he will be attending in Devils Lake next week for the DEM department.

Sheriff Wanzek met with the board to give her sheriff's report. She presented her calls for service report. Wanzek stated there were 401 calls for services in the month of May 2026. She stated she needs tires replaced on three of the squad cars.

Wanzek discussed children driving golf carts etc. in the area and stated the carts may be seized if the parents are not monitoring their children. She also stated prior arrangements need to be made for any street or public dances with her office so policing laws can be followed. Wanzek updated the board on the new hires in her office.

Kuk gave an update for the LEC board and discussed where the board is at regarding any possible new LEC facility. Wanzek stated all juveniles are currently being transported to Grand Forks if rooms are available. Davidson mentioned perhaps an increased tax on liquor sales could be used to pay some of the costs of a new LEC.

Griffin gave a report for the Lake Region District Health Unit board. Horner questioned if there are performance and improvement plans in place for the director after his reinstatement. Kuk stated the director is on a six-month reinstatement plan and commented on the reasons for the reinstatement.

The board reviewed information from the auditor/treasurer's office regarding a new online payment company as the prior one increased costs. Discussion was held on this issue with the auditor/treasurer.

The BC Transportation and BC Housing updates from Laura Winson were presented to the board.

The board reviewed a request for a Certification of Significant Community Support for the Leeds Ambulance. A motion was made by Horner, seconded by Kuk, to have the chair sign the letter of support. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

The board reviewed and discussed the monthly county bills. A motion was made by Griffin, seconded by Stadum, to pay all county-approved bills. All members voted yes. The motion carried unanimously. The following bills were paid:

Verizon	\$397.75
CenDak Cooperative--	
Maddock	9,698.06
DL Hardware	53.98
Farmers Union Oil Co.	4,491.78
Farmers Union Oil--	
York	3,386.86
Gessner Iron Works, LLC	225.20
Nodak Electric Co-op	320.03
Northern Plains Elec.	86.00
Otter Tail Power Co.	460.06
Runnings Supply, Inc.	134.07
UGPTI/NDLTAP	50.00
BC Highway Dept.	520.00
Bravera Bank-Visa	1,437.10
CenDak Cooperative--	
Maddock	317.68
Cole Papers	244.19
Dukes Car Wash & Detail Center, Inc.	249.95
Election Systems & Software	125.00
Farmers Union Oil--	
York	85.88
Guardian Fleet Safety	183.70
JB Vending, LLC	50.10
Leevers Foods North	19.12
ND Telephone Co.	831.46
Northern Plains Elec.	60.78
Northern Plains Resource	
C&D Council	300.00
Otter Tail Power Co.	2,115.47
Plunkett's Pest Control	92.00
WEX Bank	3,774.12
Motorola Solutions, Inc.	15,928.05
Kory Jorgenson	141.76
Otter Tail Power Co.	38.23
Tim Finley	278.97
Aflac	1,187.94
Blue Cross Blue Shield of ND	3,168.70
Colonial Insurance	241.63
First Unum Life Insurance Co.	315.65
National Life Group	
One	450.00
ND Child Support Division	358.00
Mac's Hardware	66.51
Otter Tail Power Co.	229.67
BC Fair Association	181.49
Cole Papers	128.12
Election Systems & Software	7,794.94
Fireside Office Solutions	62.31
Gerrells & The Golden Rule	259.90
Holiday Inn--Fargo	220.00
Josie Stone	72.00
Minnkota	62.40
Prairie Public	264.50
David Ambers	89.50
Verizon	397.78
Precision Reporting	230.00
Butler Machine	2,264.39
Trevipay--Walmart	47.35
Reslock Printing	883.95
LR Law Enforcement Center	15,605.74
LR Residential Re-Entry Center	210.00
Great Plains Directory	1,320.00
Information Technology Dept.	1,949.35
Matthew Bender & Co., Inc.	96.81
ND Assn. of Counties	1,283.04
BC Farmers Press	1,616.04
Scott Knoke	511.32
Bonnie Erickson	285.25
James Wang	854.67
Jayla Smith	150.00
Tammy Kuk	49.30

Samantha Sears	981.35
Olaf Nord	98.26
Rachel Maddock	315.40
Workforce Safety & Insurance	250.00
Tasc	2,889.15
Nationwide Retirement Solution	732.00
ND Public Employees Retirement	24,524.09
NDTOA	6,375.00
BCTOA	1,400.00
City of Maddock	140.95
City of Leeds	28.00
Trevipay--Walmart	28.85
Dakota Implement	23.99
Minnewaukan City	112.09
Grand Forks Co.	
Sheriff's Office	70.00
Minnewaukan City	499.52
NDACo Resource Group	18,008.44
Spirit Lake Tribe	2,500.00
Minnewaukan 55 Club	100.00
Quill Corporation	79.98
Floodwater Properties	500.00
Softchoice	2,036.40
BC Transportation	6,250.00
City of Maddock	904.08
NCB Electric, LLC	190.50
Thomson Reuters	
--West	231.09
Everspring Suites--Bismarck, ND	110.00
Maddock Business & Technology Ctr.	150.00
Samantha Sears	109.07
Tammy Kuk	49.30
Scott Knoke	50.31
ND Public Employees Retirement	33,026.94
Distribution to Entities	50,814.31
May 2026 NET PAYROLL	
Co. Road	\$53,629.66
General/DEM/Co. Agt.	87,023.84

Nobody was present for the public comment period.

At 8:30 a.m. Randy Thompson, tax director, met with the board to hold the annual county tax equalization meeting along with the annual tax equalization meetings for the Second and Third Commissioners Districts. Nobody from the public appeared for the meetings. Thompson reported a new structure is being built in Second Commissioners District. He presented a proposal value to the board and corrected the soil type on a property in Second Commissioners District.

Denton Heisler, Lake Region District Health Unit director, came to the meeting.

Thompson indicated the new structure in Second Commissioners District is anticipated to be completed for the 2027 tax year. A motion was made by Griffin, seconded by Horner, to accept the recommendation of the tax director for the changes in Second Commissioners District. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

Thompson presented a list of proposed changes in Third Commissioners District and discussed the reasons for the increases.

Clinton Huffman and Robert Anderson came to the meeting.

A motion was made by Horner, seconded by Griffin, to accept the recommendation of the tax director for the changes in Third Commissioners District. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

Thompson presented the value changes needed to meet state tolerance levels for county values. He stated the ag values need to be reduced by approximately 4%. A motion was made by Stadum, seconded by Griffin, to reduce ag values to 98% from 104%. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

Thompson stated the commercial values are with the tolerance level so no action is needed.

Candace Berg, Lake Region District Health Unit, came to the meeting.

Thompson commented on the changes needed for residential values. He stated the current level is at 84% so an increase is needed. A motion was made by Horner, seconded by Griffin, to increase residential values to 90%. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

Thompson requested a motion be made regarding the ag value to include PILT land (ND Game and Fish, ND State Water Commission and State University). A motion was made by Stadum, seconded by Griffin,

to include the PILT land as requested. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

At 8:45 a.m. the public hearing on the proposed new zoning ordinances for solar and wind power and data centers was held. Davidson asked for comments from the public on the proposed ordinances. Discussion was held on this issue and the public in attendance addressed their concerns. The auditor informed the board the draft ordinances have been available for viewing since the prior meeting. The board concluded to set up a second public hearing for July 7, 2026 on this issue to give time for any additional public input.

The board reviewed the application for zoning filed by Rosanne Zink and heard the recommendation of the Benson County Zoning Board. Attorney Nathan Gibbens was present in person at this time and Attorney Bennett Johnson was present via Teams. Griffin presented information on how the Benson County Zoning Board arrived at its decision. Attorney Gibbens discussed that he understood the reason the zoning board denied the application was due to the Spirit Lake Tribe adopting its own ordinance. Attorney Johnson stated the only authorization given for the homes was for winterization. He stated because permits have not been granted, the homes should be removed from the property. State's Attorney Wang gave input on this issue. He stated the original plan application was for seven lots and that plan was subsequently withdrawn. Wang stated Zink could put two houses on the property if they are each on five acres without zoning approval. Wang informed the board Zink has now submitted a new application to the zoning board for five lots. He stated the new application does not provide specifics for sewer etc. for all five lots. Attorney Gibbens stated they would not go through the expense and work of getting the LRDHU permits for the other lots until they are needed. Wang stated his concern was that he and the board were lied to by Mr. Zink which he takes offense to. He informed the group that Zink dug two wells without permission and did not demolish the septic tank currently on the property that was to be done. Heisler stated he viewed the property and there was still drain tile in place that was to be removed.

Attorney Gibbens stated he believes the new plat meets the zoning requirements of Benson County so it should be approved. Wang informed the board the township, Spirit Lake Tribe and area neighbors are against the Zink project. Kuk read the letter to the zoning board from Rodney Smith. A motion was made by Davidson to go with the recommendation of the Benson County Zoning Board. Horner stated the proposed project as presented is lacking the information needed for approval. The motion was seconded by Kuk. Roll call vote: Davidson--yes; Horner--yes; Griffin--yes; Stadum--yes; and Kuk--yes. The motion carried.

Berg questioned if the commission has considered requiring building permits in Benson County. Additional discussion was held on this issue. Berg stated Eddy County has a good building permit process in place if the board is wanting to explore the issue further.

A motion to adjourn was made at 9:36 a.m.

Bonnie Erickson  
Benson County Auditor  
David Davidson  
Chair

# Key features for an outdoor TV room

An outdoor living area can provide a welcome space for residents and guests to gather on beautiful days and nights. The appeal of outdoor living is undeniable, and homeowners working with a blank canvas in their backyards, or working with an aging area in need of a complete overhaul, can tailor their spaces to meet their own unique wants.

Many homeowners are building outdoor living spaces around a TV room where they can host movie nights and game watches under the stars. Data from the National Association of Realtors® indicates that such spaces are worth homeowners' investment, as a new patio can recoup as much as 95 percent at resale. When planning an outdoor TV room, homeowners can look to these features to make the space as enjoyable as possible.

**• Outdoor TV enclosure:** The cost of an outdoor TV enclosure will depend on the size of the television, but it likely won't break the bank regardless of how large a television is. Many enclosures for televisions up to 65 inches can be had for less than \$500. Enclosures are important because most are weather-resistant and some are shatterproof. In addition, an enclosure protects the television when no one is home or outside, ensuring windy or stormy afternoons when debris or branches might be flying near the television won't damage the device.

**• Sound capability:** An outdoor TV room likely won't be used as frequently as indoor spaces, so a sizable investment in a sound system to accommodate outdoor viewing may not be necessary. But you may want to enhance the sound for outdoor movie nights or game watches. If you're mounting the television on an exterior wall, a pair of speakers can flank the TV on each side. If the television is



going to be placed on an outdoor TV stand, a soundbar built for outdoor use should suffice.

**• Lighting:** It's easy to overlook lighting when planning an outdoor TV room. However, once the sun goes down, it may feel odd and a little uncomfortable if the only light is coming from the television itself. Some ambient lighting that's attached to a pergola or built into a pavilion can help illuminate the space where you'll be watching TV.

**• Comfortable seating:** It's unlikely you would feel comfortable watching a movie or game indoors if you spent the whole time sitting in your dining room chairs. And it's equally important to prioritize comfortable seating in an outdoor TV space rather than just dragging patio dining table chairs or even adirondack chairs over to the TV area when you're about to watch something. Some cushioned outdoor furniture will enhance the

viewing experience for everyone.

**• Fan:** A ceiling fan attached to a pavillion or a wall-mounted fan or two directing air toward the seating area can keep pesky bugs at bay and provide a little cooling relief on warm nights.

-metrocreativeconnection

## Grain market

June 22, 2026  
Prices at CenDak Co-op  
Esmond

Corn	3.27
Soybeans	10.28
Wheat (HRS)	5.24
<b>Hamberg</b>	
Corn	3.37
Soybeans	10.38
Wheat (HRS)	5.34
<b>Harlow</b>	
Soybeans	10.28
Wheat (HRS)	5.24
<b>Leeds</b>	
Barley	3.25
Canola	21.25
Soybeans	10.28
Wheat (HRS)	5.24
<b>Maddock</b>	
Corn	3.27
Soybeans	10.28
Wheat (HRS)	5.24
<b>Niles</b>	
Corn	3.37
Soybeans	10.38
Wheat (HRS)	5.34
<b>Oberon</b>	
Soybeans	10.28
Wheat (HRS)	5.24
<b>Sheyenne</b>	
Corn	3.27
Soybeans	10.28
Wheat (HRS)	5.24

## Weather report

**BAKER**  
Reports from the NDSU ND Agricultural Weather Network station at Baker for the 24-hour period each day.

Date	High	Low	Rain
June 15	69	48	.05
June 16	73	45	.06
June 17	68	52	.01
June 18	70	48	
June 19	69	50	.04
June 20	71	45	
June 21	70	48	

## Weather report

**MADDOCK**  
Reports from the NDSU ND Agricultural Weather Network station at Maddock for the 24-hour period each day.

Date	High	Low	Rain
June 15	73	46	.04
June 16	72	44	.05
June 17	67	50	.05
June 18	70	46	
June 19	70	49	.02
June 20	71	43	
June 21	70	48	

## Donate to Fillmore Cemetery

Fillmore Lutheran Cemetery is seeking donations or memorials to cover upkeep expenses. Send them to Joel Braaten, treasurer, 628 6th St. SE, Rugby, ND 58368.

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7/5/26  
11am - 1pm  
Maddock Park

Live Music with Burgers and Hotdogs

Come to the park and remember to bring your chairs, limited seating available!

Free will donation

The Sheyenne Rodeo Club presents...

# 2026 SHEYENNE NDRA Fourth of July RODEO

CONTRACTED BY WILDMAN RODEO

TOP SADDLE BRONC-RIDER WILL BE AWARDED A HENRY GOLDEN BOY 30-30 BY THE WETZEL FAMILY

ADMISSION \$20 ADULTS - AT GATE \$15 ADULTS - ONLINE 14 & UNDER FREE

SCAN ME

PRCA FEATURING CLOWN **ROB MATTESSON**

SLACK STARTS @8:30AM

SATURDAY JULY 4, 2026  
TIME 4PM  
HENDRICKSON PARK  
SHEYENNE, ND