

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
Leavers 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	33,022.94
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,

Ideas to break up long road trips

Few getaways can feel as liberating as taking to the open road. Road trips have long held a spot in travel lovers' hearts, and many a book and film have helped to romanticize the idea of getting behind the wheel and heading off for parts unknown.

As scenic as the open road can be, it's easy to get a little antsy when taking long trips in a car. Having some built-in breaks to get out of the car and even enjoy a little entertainment along the way can help to make road trips more enjoyable.

• Take in a ballgame. When traveling in summertime, a mid-trip stop to a minor league ballpark can provide a relaxing respite from the road. A summer afternoon or evening taking in America's pastime provides an affordable and family-friendly activity. Some in-game strolls around the ballpark offer a chance for travelers to stretch their legs before returning to their seats to enjoy some refreshments and the action on the field. Many minor league stadiums are located in cities with affordable lodging options, making this an ideal overnight pitstop option in the midst of a long trip.

• Visit a historical site. There's not only adventure on the open road, but lots of history as well. History buffs can find a wealth of historical sites to visit regardless of which direction they're heading. Many historical sites offer informative and kid-friendly tours, making a mid-trip visit to a historical site a great way to break up a long road trip.

• Take to the water. Whether you devote a day to visiting a beach or water park along the way to your ultimate destination, some water-based fun can be just what weary travelers need to recharge their batteries. A beach day or a day at a water

park might be especially fun for travelers who hit the road before the sun came up. Simply drive until lunchtime and then take to the water for some well-earned fun and relaxation.

• Get out in nature. The natural beauty travelers encounter along a scenic road trip need not be viewed exclusively through a car window or windshield. A break devoted to spending time in nature can revive travelers' spirits and get them some much-needed time in the fresh air. When planning a trip, travelers can identify hiking trails or other natural attractions they can experience firsthand. A roadside campground can be an ideal place to make some great memories, while an adventure in nature like kayaking, canoeing or a simple hike can make for a great way for travelers to fully immerse themselves in the regions they're driving through.

• Perennials: Homeowners looking to accent their outdoor entertaining areas with flowers can choose perennials over annuals. Perennials live for three or more years, and some species can even live for a decade or more. While they might require some seasonal pruning, perennials will not need to be replanted each year like annuals.

• Tolerant plants: Plants that can tolerate the local climate generally fall under the native category. But it's especially important that homeowners who don't want to expend much effort on landscape maintenance look for plants that can tolerate drought. A recent study from researchers at UCLA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, and CIRES predict drought conditions will last longer, cover wider areas, and become more severe as the climate continues to warm. Drought-resistant plants may still require some watering if such predictions hold true. However, such plants will not require as much maintenance as those that are less equipped to handle drought. Homeowners who choose plants with drought-tolerance in mind won't have to spend as much time watering and also can protect their financial investment.

• Native plants: Native plants are low maintenance because they are naturally adapted to the local climate. That means homeowners won't have to expend extra effort and energy watering plants or amending the soil. Non-native species may provide some bold colors, but that comes at the cost of additional maintenance. There's also an environmental cost when planting non-native species, as the United States Environmental Protection Agency warns that non-native species typically displace natives, which can adversely affect the local ecosystem.

• 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.

• 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 pavillion 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

• 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

• 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

• 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

• 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

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.

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	

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	

Weather report
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
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	

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

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

• 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

• 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

• 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

• 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

• 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

• 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

• 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

• 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

• 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

• 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

• 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

• 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

• 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

• 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

• 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

• 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

• 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

• 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

• 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

• 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

• 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

• 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

• 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

• 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

• 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