

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BENSON COUNTY
NORTH DAKOTA
September 1, 2026**

The Benson County commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2026 at 8 a.m. in the commissioner room of the Benson County Courthouse, Minnewaukan, ND. Commissioners present: Dick Horner, Ron Stadum and Tammy Kuk. David Davidson was present via Teams and Doris M. Griffin was present telephonically. 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 Horner, seconded by Kuk, to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of Aug. 18, 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 reported his department is still graveling roads. Todahl stated approval was received for Esmond city to put in a siren. The board discussed the camera quote received from NDTC for the Wood Lake property. Wanzek reported she received seven reports from Wood Lake in the past year. Additional discussion was held on this issue and the board thought perhaps the placement of signs may help. A motion was made by Horner, seconded by Kuk, to approve the camera quote and placement of signs at the county-owned property at Wood Lake. All members voted yes. The motion carried. The board concluded to post the beach area as open to the public only between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. each day.

Sheriff Wanzek gave her sheriff's report. She presented her calls for service report and informed the board of the new equipment received by her office. Wanzek stated it is her hope to be more involved with the schools doing walk-throughs, etc. Wanzek discussed deputies living outside

of Benson County. She stated she is still short-staffed. Wanzek asked permission from the board for one deputy to take the county vehicle to his residence in Ramsey County with restrictions and limitations in place. Kuk reported she received a report of a Benson County vehicle parked at a church in Devils Lake and that sheriff department cars were seen parked by Ramsey County cars visiting.

Nobody was present for the public comment period.

The board reviewed the 2027 preliminary county budget. The public hearing is scheduled to be held on Sept. 15, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.

The board reviewed a request for Certificate of Significant Community Support from Cankdeska Cikana Community College. A motion was made by Kuk, seconded by Horner, to have the chair sign the Certificate of Significant Community Support. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

Discussion was held on the Lake Region District Health Unit director position. Kuk reported Denton Heisler will be terminating his position as the administrator of the Lake Region District Health in January 2027. Kuk reported the Lake Region District Health Unit generally only meets quarterly. Horner expressed his concern with the high turnover with the

administrator position and suggested having the board meet more often to help assist with some of the issues in the unit. Kuk stated a HR person was hired some time ago to help assist with personnel issues.

Kuk reported on LEC board issues. She stated Nelson and Eddy counties will be terminating partnership with the LEC effective Jan. 1, 2027 for 911 services and will now be using State Radio. Horner stated his concern with not having knowledge of these two counties terminating, which results in a bigger cost to Benson County. Kuk reported on the services Nelson and Eddy counties will no longer have with State Radio. Davidson suggested putting this issue on the next agenda to get input from Sheriff Wanzek.

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

following bills were paid:

CenDak Cooperative	
--Maddock.....	\$7,886.80
Farmers Union Oil Co. ..	1,453.73
Farmers Union Oil	
--York	3,274.70
Fireside Office	
Solutions	27.59
Mac's Hardware	85.73
Nodak Electric Co-op	71.88
Northern Plains Elec.	64.00
Otter Tail Power Co.	142.82
Runnings Supply, Inc.	155.57
BC Highway Dept.	260.00
Bravera Bank--Visa	894.95
CenDak Cooperative	
--Maddock	9.49
Devils Lake Hardware ...	64.92
Duke's Car Wash & Detail Center, Inc.	249.95
Farmers Union Oil	
--York	87.88
JB Vending, LLC	49.61
NDSU Ext. Office	19,553.69
ND Telephone Co.	840.10
Northern Plains Elec.	58.33
O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.	36.98
Otter Tail Power Co.	801.13
Plunkett's Pest Control ..	95.68
Ramsey Co. Auditor	27,713.78
WEX Bank	4,542.84
Aflac	1,187.94
Blue Cross Blue Shield of ND	3,323.50
Colonial Insurance	241.63
First Unum Life Insurance Co.	328.34
National Life Group	
One	450.00
ND Child Support Division	358.00
CenDak Cooperative	23,660.35
KHND Radio	45.00
Otter Tail Power Co.	42.99
Postmaster	172.00
Tracy's Market	145.64
Kory Jorgenson	145.26
Robert Mlynar	3,208.07
Tim Finley	399.24
John Deere Financial	230.57
Otter Tail Power Co.	150.55
BC Fair Association	203.71
Cole Papers	78.30
Electro Watchman, Inc. .	958.80
Guardian Fleet Safety ...	16,235.83
Plunkett's Pest Control ..	235.99
Prairie Public	264.50
Redwood Toxicology Laboratory	34.96
Newton Bonding	50.00
Verizon	677.80
Esmond Golden Age Club	3,500.00
Leeds 55 Club	5,000.00

Maddock 55 Club	4,000.00
Minnewaukan 55 Club ..	4,000.00
ND Public Employees Retirement	34,000.58
Dakota Implement	256.20
Wallwork Truck Center ..	861.14
City of Esmond	25.00
Scott Todahl	150.00
Information Technology Dept.	1,981.35
Klemetsrud Plumbing & Heating	139.14
Matthew Bender & Co., Inc.	174.61
BC Farmers Press	1,022.44
Thompson's Glass & Paint	48.00
LR Law Enforcement Center	12,474.02
LR Residential Re-entry Center	155.00
James Wang	854.67
Scott Knoke	850.25
Laura Winson	75.00

Jayla Smith	150.00
Pitney Bowes--Auto. Withdrawal	2,000.00
Tasc	2,943.44
Nationwide Retirement Solution	682.00
ND Public Employees Retirement	25,393.04
BC Farmers Press	168.00
Rugby Broadcasters, Inc.	50.50
Rachel Maddock	1,410.82
Olaf Nord	300.41
Minnewaukan City	119.14
The Glass Shop	71.25
Dakota Implement	392.16
City of Leeds	28.00
Minnewaukan City	467.63
NDACo Resource Group	2,865.71
ND Assn. of Counties	317.00
Spirit Lake Tribe	2,500.00
Thomson Reuters --West	231.09
Maddock Business	

& Technology Ctr.	150.00
Floodwater Properties ..	500.00
Bonnie Erickson	158.08
Randy Thompson	940.08
Kaylee Clifton	139.84
Jonathan Rice	863.50
City of Maddock	1,031.53
Scott Knoke	370.12
ND Public Employees Retirement	34,000.58
Distribution to Entities ...	43,481.51
August 2026 NET PAYROLL	
Co. Road	\$57,320.92
General/DEM/Co. Agt. ..	86,027.46
Benson County Transportation report was presented to the board for the month of August 2026.	
A motion to adjourn was made at 8:57 a.m.	
Bonnie Erickson Benson County Auditor	
David Davidson Chair	