

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BENSON COUNTY
NORTH DAKOTA
October 6, 2026**

The Benson County commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2026 at 8 a.m. in the commissioner room of the Benson County Courthouse, Minnewaukan, ND. Commissioners present: Tammy Kuk, Doris M. Griffin and Ron Stadum were present telephonically. David Davidson and Dick Horner were present via Teams. The meeting was called to order by Chair Davidson. Other people present: Trish McQuoid, Floodwater Properties; 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.

Shelley Aabrekke, public health nurse, came to the meeting.

A motion was made by Horner, seconded by Kuk, to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of Sept. 15, 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 cameras will be installed at the Wood Lake park area next week. Todahl informed the board the county will own the cameras and they can be moved in the future if needed. A motion was made by Kuk, seconded by Horner, to approve the purchase contract with NDTC for the cameras. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

Todahl informed the board his department is done graveling for the year. He stated a large number of road miles were graveled this summer. He questioned if he should add a \$10 per hour surcharge due to the high costs of fuel. The board concluded this would be acceptable.

Todahl discussed a project near Oberon involving trucks traveling on county and township roads. He stated all trucks were being weighed; however, there was a large number of trucks traveling on the roadway. Horner gave input on this issue and suggested to insure haul road inspections and project release

forms are properly completed. Kuk suggested lowering the speed limit for loaded trucks.

Denton Heisler, LRDHU, came to the meeting.

Shelley Aabrekke and Denton Heisler, LRDHU, met with the board regarding the public health nurse office space. The board reviewed an email from Commissioner Griffin regarding her thoughts on the social services building. Aabrekke stated the director of nursing came to the social services building and she could smell an odor in the building. Aabrekke stated she would prefer to keep her office where she is at. Heisler stated there would need to be renovations made to the social services building. Griffin suggested the carpet be removed and the floor replaced with a hard surface. Aabrekke again reiterated she is happy with where her office is located. She also stated the parking area is not sufficient at the social services building and would need to be cleared of snow and ice. Horner suggested another year's lease be entered into with Floodwater Properties to give time for the building renovations, etc. A motion was made by Horner to enter into a lease agreement with Floodwater Properties at the monthly rate of \$750 and proceed with getting estimates for the needed renovations at the social service building. The motion was seconded by Kuk. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

Nobody was present for the public comment period.

Sheriff Wanzek met with the board to give her sheriff's report. She reviewed her September 2026 calls for service report with the board. Wanzek gave an update on the new vehicle purchased and reported that the temporary deputies from Ramsey County will no longer be working for Benson County effective Oct. 30, 2026. She thanked Ramsey County and Ramsey County Sheriff Bryan Lang for allowing the temporaries to work in Benson County. Wanzek informed the board there may be a couple of deputies willing to work on a temporary basis from Towner County.

At 8:30 a.m. the telephone conference was held regarding the Lake Region District Health Unit budget for 2027. The meeting was called to order. Roll call member attendance was taken. Election of a chairman was held. Nominations were

opened for election of a chairman. A motion was made and seconded to nominate Blaine Volk as chair. No other nominations were received and nominations ceased. All members voted yes to have Volk serve as chair. The motion carried. The prior minutes were approved. Discussion was held on the 2027 budget. Heisler stated the major change from the prior year budget is the 2% COLA for staff. A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2027 budget. Roll call vote. The motion carried. The LRDHU meeting adjourned.

The board reviewed the updated LEC budget and heard a summary from Commissioner Kuk on the special meeting held Oct. 2, 2026. Kuk stated the JPA with the LEC does not cover 911 so the city of Devils Lake did not include it in their budget. She reported that the additional amount to Ramsey and Benson counties to cover the 911 would be \$144,808. Kuk stated the board agreed to have the budget be the same as previously submitted, however, which will result in the 911 program running in the red

for the 2027 year.

The board reviewed the departmental budgets for 2027. A motion was made by Horner, seconded by Kuk, to approve the budgets. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Kuk, seconded by Stadum, to grant employees a 4% COLA increase for the year 2027 plus the annual step increases. All members voted yes. The motion carried. Horner suggested the amount the county pays toward health insurance may need to be raised when the increase for 2027 is known.

A motion was made by Kuk, seconded by Griffin, to adopt the final 2027 county budget. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

Davidson commented that a couple of people are interested in purchasing the house Benson County owns at Wood Lake.

Davidson left the meeting at 9:08 a.m. Griffin presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Jesse Brandvold, Wold Engineering, met with the board regarding the upcoming sealcoat projects and estimated costs. He presented a progressive estimate for the board to review. A motion was made by Horner, seconded by

Stadum, to approve the estimate. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

Morris Holen Jr., Wold Engineering, came to the meeting. He mentioned the time and location of the meeting in Bismarck with the NDDOT.

The 2027 federal aid program sheet from the NDDOT was presented to the board for review. Holen discussed other possible future projects with the board.

Wang questioned Holen regarding the issue of inspection of haul roads in Benson County. He asked if a project inspection sheet could be provided. Brandvold stated a pre-inspection is done and documented prior to any projects.

The board reviewed a letter dated Sept. 16, 2026 regarding the request for comments on project FXBA-0003(52).

The board reviewed a listing of property to be sold at the annual tax sale. A motion was made by Horner, seconded by Stadum, to appraise the property at the amounts recommended by the Benson County auditor. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

A letter from the NDDOT regarding highway crossing safety dated Oct. 1, 2026 was presented to the board. Todahl stated there are no projects in Benson County that would qualify.

The board reviewed and discussed the monthly county bills. A motion was made by Kuk, 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	\$8,018.56
CenDak Cooperative	
--Maddock	300.00
Devils Lake Hardware ...	26.99
Farmers Union Oil	
--York	1,818.66
Legacy Cooperative	4,639.92
Les Schwab Tire Ctr.	110.96
Linde Gas & Equip.	399.95
Mac's Hardware	133.92
Maertens Welding	2,000.87
ND DOT	1,136.59
Nodak Electric Co-op	64.87
Northern Plains Elec.	60.00
Otter Tail Power Co.	129.88
Power Plan	
(RDO Equip.)	4,887.74
Runnings Supply, Inc. ...	110.98

BC Highway Dept.	260.00
Bravera Bank--Visa	731.59
Devils Lake Hardware ...	211.98
Dukes Car Wash & Detail Center, Inc.	249.95
Farmers Union Oil	
--York	1,589.66
Fireside Office Solutions	1,364.03
Galls	56.32
Knutson's Body Shop	629.35
ND Telephone Co.	818.60
Northern Plains Elec.	58.43
O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.	21.73
Otter Tail Power Co.	680.97
WEX Bank	4,568.22
Puklich Chevrolet, Inc. ..	57,495.00
Puklich Chevrolet, Inc. ..	2,194.99
Stutsman Co. Auditor	150.00
CenDak Cooperative	
--Maddock	500.00
Assured Partners of Minnesota, LLC	50.00
US Postmaster	13.00
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 Div. ...	358.00
CenDak Cooperative	3,800.24
Otter Tail Power Co.	39.96
Xtreme Sign & Graphix .	875.00
Devils Lake Hardware ...	149.99
Mac's Hardware	26.17
Otter Tail Power Co.	157.89
Runnings Supply, Inc. ...	937.96
BC Fair Assn.	326.38
Cole Papers	165.67
Devils Lake Hardware ...	131.91
Election Systems & Software	1,719.31
Galls	1,270.00
Plunkett's Pest Control ..	244.67
Prairie Public	264.50
Taylor Print & Visual Impressions	2,828.62
Verizon	397.83
WEX Bank	5,236.56
Farmers Union Oil	
--York	453.28
ND Public Employees Retirement	34,000.58
Butler Machine	1,500.00
BC Farmers Press	168.00
Prairie Truck & Tractor Repair	8.50

Wallwork Truck Center .. 1,606.70

City of Esmond	25.00
City of Maddock	148.78
Spirit Lake Tribe Refuse Control	20.00
Trevipay--Walmart	191.34
Information Technology Dept.	1,992.00
JS Vending, Inc.	142.93
Matthew Bender & Co., Inc.	207.31
BC Farmers Press	476.88
Quill Corporation	200.48
LR Law Enforcement Center	13,831.07
LR Residential Re-entry Center	155.00
Laura Wanzek	13.20
Laura Winson	75.00
James Wang	854.67
Jayla Smith	150.00
NDACo Resource Group	2,865.71
Thomson Reuters --West	231.09
Tasc	42.79
Pitney Bowes-- Auto. Withdrawal	2,000.00
Tasc	2,943.44
Nationwide Retirement Solution	682.00
ND Public Employees Retirement	24,654.65
City of Leeds	53.28
Rachel Maddock	220.72
Minnewaukan City	112.33
Johnson Ag Resources, LLC	195.70
Dakota Implement	92.55
NAPA Auto Parts	155.21
BC Farmers Press	168.00
Wold Engineering	28,227.65
City of Maddock	147.46
City of Leeds	28.00
Advanced Business Methods	128.18
Minnewaukan City	464.67
Farmers Union Service Assn.	1,003.00
Klemetsrud Plumbing & Heating	260.00
Maddock Business & Technology Ctr.	150.00
Floodwater Properties ..	500.00
Proforms	344.04
Rieger Service	100.00
Spirit Lake Tribe	2,500.00
Tyler Technologies, Inc. .	157.50
City of Maddock	992.59
National Assn. of Counties	450.00
Jayla Smith	237.12
Samantha Sears	563.76
ND Public Employees Retirement	34,000.58

Distribution to Entities ... 71,583.58
September 2026 NET PAYROLL
Co. Road \$53,950.11
General/Dem/Co. Agt. .. 86,579.63
A motion to adjourn was made at
9:24 a.m.

Bonnie Erickson
Benson County Auditor
David Davidson
Chair