OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BENSON COUNTY NORTH DAKOTA
November 5, 2026

The Benson County commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, Nov. 5, 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. Doris M. Griffin was absent. David Davidson was present via Teams. 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; and Joy Orvedal, highway department clerk.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A motion was made by Horner, seconded by Stadum, to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of Oct. 20, 2026. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

Joy Orvedal, highway department clerk, met with the board to give a report for the highway department. Discussion was held on property owners not mowing the road ditches. Stadum thought perhaps one idea would be to have the county mow the ditches and then bill it back to the townships. Horner suggested the townships contract with someone to do the mowing. Stadum stated the sign storage building at the highway department should be tinned.

Sheriff Wanzek met with the board to give her sheriff's report. She discussed her October 2026 calls for service report. Wanzek stated she hired two new deputies for her department. One will need to go through training. She stated the next LETA training will not be until February of 2027. She indicated the employee that will be attending training will be hired as a temporary clerk for the sheriff's department while attending the Lake Region State College Police Academy Training Program. The board discussed adopting a county-wide policy for new employees that need training. A motion was made by Kuk to have Benson County cover the costs of training courses for employees, including mileage and lodging if needed. Training course costs and associated expenses exceeding $5,000 must be brought before the board for approval and a three-year contract will then be required from the employee. Stadum stated he thought the prospective employees should be responsible for a portion of the costs. Kuk explained that anything above standard training would need to come before the board. Kuk's motion was seconded by Horner. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Horner, seconded by Stadum, to have Benson County pay for the new employee hired by Sheriff Wanzek to attend the Lake Region State College Police Academy Training Program provided a contract with Benson County is entered into. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

Wanzek discussed the issue of a temporary employee working for Benson County coming to work while still possibly having alcohol in his system. She indicated the issue has been turned over to Sheriff Brian Lang, Ramsey County sheriff, for further investigation. Wanzek stated the employee was given a copy of the Benson County Employee Handbook showing a zero tolerance for this type of offense. She also stated the date of the incident was the employee's last day of work with Benson County.

Wanzek stated the new vehicle received for her department had equipment installed and will be sent for decaling. A motion was made by Horner, seconded by Kuk, to put the 2020 silver pickup and 2021 Chevy Tahoe up for sale through an auction company when the new vehicle is ready for use. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

Discussion was held on the recent death at the LEC.

Nobody was present for the public comment period.

The board reviewed the minutes and other information from the Lake Region District Health Unit meeting held Nov. 3, 2026.

The board discussed giving employees additional time off on Dec. 24, 2026 for the Christmas holiday. A motion was made by Kuk to grant employees a paid day off on Dec. 24, 2026 in observance of the Christmas holiday along with allowing employees to leave at noon on Dec. 31, 2026 in observance of the New Year's holiday. The motion was seconded by Horner. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

The board decided to postpone revisiting the issue of the CAFO in Pierce County until the first meeting in December 2026. Davidson indicated he will get information needed by the board from the Spirit Lake Tribe prior to that date.

A motion was made by Stadum, seconded by Kuk, to transfer $200,000 from the Highway Tax Fund to the Road and Bridge Fund. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

The BCT executive summary for October 2026 was presented to the board. Horner stated another vehicle was obtained by BCT at no cost to the county.

Horner updated the board on the heating system at the BC Events Center.

The board reviewed the Final Certification of Local Match for Project #HEC-0003(024). A motion was made by Horner, seconded by Kuk, to have the chair sign. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

The board reviewed a quit claim deed for the repurchase of property by Ila Rae McKay. A motion was made by Kuk, seconded by Horner, to approve the transfer and have the chair sign. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

The county financial report for October 2026 was presented to the board.

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	$636.00
Otter Tail Power Co.	41.44
US Treasury	1,014.55
Asphalt Surface Technologies Corp.	12,666.76
CenDak Cooperative --Maddock	6,835.07
Farmers Union Oil --York	2,209.51
Legacy Cooperative	2,759.93
Nodak Electric Co-op	71.88
Nodak Electric Co-op	51.00
Northern Plains Elec.	55.00
Otter Tail Power Co.	138.65
Alken Glass Unlimited, LLC	70.00
BC Highway Dept.	260.00
Bravera Bank--Visa	1,394.34

Cass Co. Sheriff Dept.	55.40
Cole Papers	90.16
Dukes Car Wash & Detail Center, Inc.	249.95
Election Systems & Software	5,428.88
Galls	19.14
Minnkota	62.40
ND Telephone Co.	813.95
Northern Plains Elec.	44.21
Office of The Adjutant General	240.00
Otter Tail Power Co.	643.48
Ramsey Co. Auditor	10,000.00
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 Division	358.00
Xtreme Sign & Graphix	89.50

Gerrells and The Golden Rule	124.95
Jones Brothers	99.74
Verizon	397.87
Asphalt Surface Technologies Corp.	465,726.14
Dandy Lion's Lawn & Turf Spraying Serv.	100.00
Darla Helland	500.00
Forks Freightliner	91.94
H. E. Everson	152.58
Mac's Hardware	185.28
ND Dept. of Transportation	403.52
Otter Tail Power Co.	157.55
US Postmaster	410.00
BC Abstract Co.	690.34
BC Housing Authority	84.99
Devils Lake Hardware	131.86
Election Systems & Software	75.89
Engraphix	44.65
Fireside Office Solutions	272.52
Hacker's Tree Farm Nursery Greenhouse	1,038.70
Minnkota	62.40
NDEAFCS	125.00
NDSU Agriculture	200.00
NDSU Ext. Office	14,736.85
Prairie Public	264.50
Office of State Tax Commissioner	5.00
ND Job Service	25.00
Jonathan Rice	775.50
ND State Tax Commissioner	1,100.00
James Wang	854.67
Jayla Smith	150.00
BC Farmers Press	210.00
Lake Ibsen Twp.	351,488.08
Pederson's Septic Service	250.00
City of Esmond	25.00
Spirit Lake Tribe Refuse Control	20.00
One Call Concepts, Inc.	6.00
Trevipay--Walmart	28.93
Scott Todahl	208.68
Advanced Business Methods	103.26
Information Technology Dept.	1,702.65
LR District Health	43,772.25
NDACo Resource Group	2,865.71
Pitney Bowes Global Financial Services	461.28
LR Residential Re-entry Center	145.00
Dakota Mailing & Shipping Equip., Inc.	109.18
BC Farmers Press	1,370.33
Stones Mobile Radio, Inc.	1,081.50
Universal Services	642.45
LR Law Enforcement Center	17,590.08
Tasc	2,943.44
Nationwide Retirement Solution	682.00
ND Public Employees Retirement	24,659.40
Scott Knoke	633.96
Jonathan Rice	825.00
Butler Machine	2,009.95
Dakota Implement	488.77
NAPA Auto Parts	24.58
ND Assn. of Counties	270.00
City of Esmond	25.00
City of Maddock	143.83
City of Leeds	28.00
Trevipay--Walmart	29.10
Minnewaukan City	469.62
GF Co. Sheriff's Office	70.00
ND Assn. of Counties	172.33
Spirit Lake Tribe	2,500.00
BC Transportation	6,250.00
City of Maddock	806.01
Maddock Business & Technology Center	150.00
Floodwater Properties	500.00
Bonnie Erickson	25.50
Laura Winson	75.00
Samantha Sears	82.54
Shelley Aabrekke	320.00
Distrib. to Entities	243,061.93

October 2026 NET PAYROLL

Co. Road	$60,486.07
General/DEM/Co. Agt.	85,480.35

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:58 a.m.

Bonnie Erickson
Benson County Auditor

David Davidson
Chair