McLean County Commission Proceedings October minutes

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

The first regular October meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairperson Curt Olson. Present were Commissioners Olson, Steve Cottingham, and Steve Lee. Also present were Auditor Beth A. Knutson; Deputy Auditor Lynda Snyder; Road Superintendent Jim Grey; Assistant Director of Tax Equalization Elizabeth Patterson; Matt Broderick; and Dan Johannes.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 15, 2026. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Broderick expressed his concerns as the only homeowner in the Nokota Subdivision with lack of documentation regarding zoning changes. Discussion followed.

Patterson stated that the county has been assessing the property as commercial since 1998 and the City of Washburn has extra territorial jurisdiction so all zoning changes and permits within one mile of the city go through them. Discussion followed.

Johannes stated he had concerns with the condition of some county roads near his property. Discussion followed.

Grey presented an update on department operations reporting graveling continues in the Max area. He also stated that mowing is nearly completed. Discussion followed.

Grey stated that funds in the amount of $43,525 will be received in the next couple weeks for the items sold by Steffes Auctioneers. Discussion followed.

Grey stated that tires were ordered for the motor graders and a sale on the tires resulted in saving almost $200 per tire. Discussion followed.

Patterson presented four applications from the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting held on September 21, 2026.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to concur with the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the variance application submitted by Jim and Tamie J. Dunn and Cory and Cari Olson, Minot, North Dakota, requesting a variance of the setback requirements of the McLean County Zoning Ordinance involving land located in Lot 11R, Slaters Resort Replat, Otis Township. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to concur with the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the variance application submitted by Lance and Madalyn Rambousek, Bismarck, North Dakota, requesting a variance of the setback requirements of the McLean County Zoning Ordinance involving land located in Lot 15, Brush Lake Community Resort, Wise Township. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to concur with the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the application submitted by Kirk and Mary Stevens, Coleharbor, North Dakota, requesting approval of a subdivision plat involving land located in part of Government Lot 1, Section 7, Malcolm Township, to be known as Lot 1, Scenic Waters Third Subdivision. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to concur with the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the application submitted by StorMor LLC, Bismarck, North Dakota, requesting a variance of the setback requirements of the McLean County Zoning Ordinance involving land located in Outlot D in SE¼SW¼, Section 31, Township 147 North, Range 82 West. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson requested clarification from the Tax Assessor's Office on the process if the county were to request a zoning change to property that is considered extra territorial. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to direct the Auditor and Land Use Administrator's Office, along with the Planning and Zoning Commission, to clarify zoning for the Nokota Subdivision. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Falkirk Mining Representative Adam Ourada joined the meeting and requested a public hearing be set for the variance according to the petition below.

Before the Board of
McLean County Commissioners
In the matter of the application
Of the Falkirk Mining Company
For an order permitting surface
Coal mining operations within 100
Feet of the outside right-of-way
Line of certain public roads
Petition

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 38-14.1-07, of the North Dakota Century Code and Chapter 69-05.2-04 of the North Dakota Administrative Code, The Falkirk Mining Company ("Petitioner") states as follows:

1. Petitioner is a surface coal mining operator with the right to conduct surface coal mining and reclamation operations on or in the vicinity of the lands hereinafter described.

2. Petitioner requests that the Board of McLean County Commissioners permit and approve the conducting of surface coal mining operations by the Petitioner within 100 feet of the outside right-of-way line of the following public roads:

a. Both sides of the relocated County Road 17 located in the S2 and NW4 of Section 32, Township 145 North, Range 83 West

3. Petitioner asserts that the interests of the public and the interests of affected landowners will be protected from the proposed surface coal mining operations.

Wherefore, Petitioner requests that the Board of McLean County Commissioners set this matter for hearing and that thereafter Petitioner be granted the relief requested.

Dated this 6th day of October, 2026.

The Falkirk Mining Company

Troy Leingang, its President

Ourada stated this is Phase Four of the relocation and will be in effect for two to three years. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to approve the petition as presented and schedule a public hearing on November 10, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson presented a letter received from the Washburn School Superintendent requesting use of available office space in the courthouse until the end of the school year. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to execute a Memorandum of Agreement between McLean County and the Washburn Public School to allow use of available office space at $100.00 per month during regular courthouse hours and any other specifications determined necessary. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson presented the City of Max Police Contract for signature. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to approve minimum sale prices of property taken for delinquent 2023 taxes as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to set the hearing for the minimum sales prices of delinquent properties for 9:15 a.m. on October 20, 2026. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the DCHSZ Transfer of Funds Resolution and the Sweep Account Transfer of Funds Resolutions as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

DCHSZ Transfer of Funds Resolutions and McLean County Sweep Account Transfer of Funds Resolutions are on file in the McLean County Auditor's Office.

Knutson presented the Pledge of Securities received from TruCommunity Bank for the period ending September 2026. The total public deposits were $20,344,167.61 and the total pledged securities were $20,756,211.00 with an overage of $412,043.39.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to accept the Pledge of Securities from TruCommunity Bank. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to accept the change in the state lodging rate increasing to $113.00 as instituted by the State of North Dakota retroactive to October 1, 2026. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Recorder's Department for the month of September in the amount of $10,373.18.

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Sheriff's Department for the month of September in the amount of $2,379.30.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to appoint Lieutenant Cody Meadows to the Vision West Committee. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to approve the following vouchers for payment:

A detailed list of checks is available for public inspection anytime during regular business hours in the McLean County Auditor's Office.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m. The commission minutes and agenda can be found on the county website at https://www.mcleancountynd.gov.

Curt Olson, Chairperson

Lynda Snyder, Deputy Auditor

(Nov. 19, 2026)