McLean County Commission Proceedings October minutes

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

The second 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; Computer Operations Director Lori Foss; and Ryan Terning.

Foss presented a quote from NRG Technology Services in the amount of $9,550.00 to purchase one laptop and three new desktop computers including software. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to authorize purchase of equipment and software as presented in the amount of $9,550.00. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson stated that Road Superintendent Jim Grey and Assistant Road Superintendent Travis Verke are currently attending the Annual Local Road Conference and, in their absence, requested approval for the purchase of a 2022 Dodge 5500 from the Aberdeen Chrysler Center in the amount of $42,500.00. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to approve the purchase as presented. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson presented a deed for signature and stated the landowner had paid all necessary delinquent taxes and fees on the property.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to approve signing the deed back to the landowner. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson presented a letter from North Dakota Game and Fish Department Fisheries Development Coordinator Bob Froelich requesting a letter of support from the McLean County Park Board for North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Grant Funds to be used to improve the low water ramps on Lake Sakakawea. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to approve sending a letter of recommendation as requested. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson requested permission to close the courthouse on October 23, 2026 due to a planned power outage. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to approve closure on October 23, 2026. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Falkirk Mining Representative Adam Ourada joined the meeting.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, 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: Lee, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Ourada requested a public hearing be set 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 temporarily closing certain Section Line Roads that interfere with surface coal mining operations

Petition for closing of section line roads

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapters 38-01-07.1 and 38-01-07.2, North Dakota Century 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 following described county road, as shown on the map attached as Exhibit A, be temporarily closed due to the fact that such roads interfere with the Petitioner's conduct of surface coal mining and reclamation operations:

a. The western 1,320 feet of the county road located on the section line between the SW4 of Section 31, Township 146 North, Range 82 West and the NW4 of Section 6, Township 145 North, Range 82 West

3. Petitioner asserts that the closing of the above-described road will not deprive adjacent landowners access to their property.

1. After the completion of surface coal mining and reclamation operations, the Petitioner will restore the closed section line roads to as good a condition as existed prior to the closing of such roads to the extent required by the Board of McLean County Commissioners.

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 20th day of October, 2026

The Falkirk Mining Company

Troy Leingang, its President

Ourada stated the closure will affect three farmers who have all been contacted. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to schedule the public hearing on the presented petition for temporary road closure on November 24, 2026 at 8:50 a.m. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay:

None. Motion carried.

Chairperson Olson recessed the meeting at 8:56 a.m.

Chairperson Olson reconvened the meeting for the hearing on minimum sale prices for delinquent properties at 9:15 a.m.

Knutson stated that all cities were notified of delinquent properties and their assessed value and no one was present to dispute the values. Discussion followed.

There being no further business,

the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:17 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)