

DICKEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING AUGUST 4, 2026

Commissioner Meeting August 4, 2026

Chair Kacey Holm called the meeting to order at 8:05 am. Commissioners Jerry Walsh, John Hokana, Marke Roberts and Brandon Carlson were also present. Auditor Sheppard was also present. The media was not present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Additions to the Agenda

Growing Small Towns debate with States Attorney candidates Kim Radermacher and Jeff Diemert

2026 appointment of Doctor Tara Mertz-Hack to the American Academy of Rural Physicians Health Advisory Committee and named ND Family Physician of the year for 2026.

ND Association of Counties Conference Dickey County delegate

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Carlson made a motion to approve the July 21st Minutes with corrections. Roberts seconded. Motion carried.

Roberts made a motion to approve the vouchers with the additional vouchers. Walsh seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Hokana thanked Growing Small Towns for hosting the debate between the two States Attorney candidates.

Hokana informed the Commission that Doctor Tara Mertz-Hack was appointed to the 2026 American Academy of Rural Physicians Health Advisory Committee.

County Agent Breana Kiser, Family and Community Wellness Agent Kasi Holm, and NDSU Central District Director Dena Kemmet joined the meeting 8:30 and presented their quarterly narrative.

Custom Touch Operations Manager Gary Dathe attended the meeting at 8:39.

Kemmet discussed the resignation of Family and Community Wellness Agent Holm, effective August 8/12. NDSU will not likely open the position at this time, as there is a hiring freeze at NDSU. Discussion followed concerning the mills needed to meet the extension

expenses as there is a shortfall for the 2027 budget. North Dakota Century Code has the number of mills capped at 2 mills for extension with the possibility of an additional 2 mills with voter approval

Dathe updated the Commission on

the worker housing located south of Pheasant Lake. Dathe informed the Commission about the four sites located in Dickey County. The Pheasant Lake location has a recreation room and restaurant on the site. The restaurant is open to the public, but no alcohol is served there. One of the current concerns is electric cars and the lack of charging stations. Dathe stated they are currently using three vans to bus individuals to the work site. Dathe stated that Water is currently being hauled from Ellendale. A contractor is pumping the septic tanks and hauling it to another location.

States Attorney Kim Radermacher joined the meeting at 9:00.

The 2027 Land Use Administrator budget was discussed and the salary of the Land Use Administrator. Walsh made a motion to start Amy on Step 1 of appointed supervisor level on the pay scale, as of February 1st, when she was appointed to the role as a full-time position. Hokana seconded. Roll call was Hokana yes; Walsh yes; Carlson yes; Holm yes; Roberts no. Motion carried.

At the request from the Dickey County Senior Citizen Board, Carlson made a motion to place a measure on the General ballot to increase the mills collected for the Senior Citizen services from one mill to two mills. Roberts seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Sheppard presented a letter received from LaMoure Community Ambulance requesting an increase in the mills collected for rural ambulance service in Dickey County. Sheppard had informed all ambulance services that serve residents in the county. Several

were in attendance through electronic means or in person. Commission asked for feedback from the two main services, Ellendale and Oakes, for their thoughts on increasing the mills, which is currently at 3.50 mills. Oakes Paramedic Curt Halmrast and Ellendale Paramedic Don Flaherty both stated they were okay to leave it at 3.50 mills. No action was taken.

Holm made a motion to appoint Walsh as the Dickey County representative at the ND Association of Counties conference in October. Roberts seconded. Motion carried.

A short break was taken.

Deputy Treasurer Chris Robey joined the meeting to discuss the CD rates for the money from the land sale at Pheasant Lake. Holm made a motion to purchase a CD with CDARS for one year at 4.08% in the amount of \$82,500. Roberts seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

The Road budget for 2027 was discussed. The decision was made to remove the purchase of a new blade and reduce the trailer purchase from \$150,000 to \$100,000.

Highway Superintendent Jeff Hagen, KLLJ Engineer Bryan Tykwinski and resident Pam Cook joined the meeting at 11:07.

Tykwinski presented the joint agreement for the micro-surfacing project with LaMoure County, which has been reviewed by Radermacher. Roberts made a motion to approve the contract with Lamoure County. Carlson seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Hagen presented a utility permit received from Jeff Roehli to bore a water line under the road. Carlson made a motion to approve the permit. Hokana seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

DES/911 pm. Charlie Russell joined the meeting at 11:18 am.

The following budgets were reviewed: Social Services, Planning

Board, state funded projects prairie dog, construction in progress; civil asset forfeiture, special assessment, emergency fund, capital projects, Job Development Authority, Basement project bond.

The deficient mills for County Agent were discussed. Kiser joined the meeting to discuss. Kiser stated she had made a few adjustments for the 2027 budget. Walsh made a motion to transfer money from General to cover the expected short fall. Carlson seconded. Roll call was Hokana yes; Walsh yes; Roberts no; Holm no. Carlson yes. Motion carried.

Sheppard will make the adjustments and present the final preliminary numbers at the next meeting. The budget hearing was set for Sept 15th at 1:30.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm.

(September 3, 2026)