

Proceedings Of The Board Of County Commissioners

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MOUNTRAIL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

1. OPENING & ROLL CALL

The Board met in regular session on Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 8:30 A.M. in the Emergency/Community Room, Mountrail County Courthouse, Stanley ND with Commissioners Trudy Ruland, Wayne Olson, John DeGroot, Joan Hollekim and Jason Rice present. State's Attorney, Wade Enget was present.

Chairman Ruland called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. BUSINESS

A. AGENDA

Moved by Comm. DeGroot, seconded by Comm. Olson, to review and approve the agenda as corrected. Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion carried.

B. MINUTES

Moved by Comm. Rice, seconded by Comm. Hollekim, to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2026 meeting as corrected. Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion carried.

C. FEES

Moved by Comm. Hollekim, seconded by Comm. DeGroot, to approve the August fees for the Sheriff and Clerk of Court. Upon roll call, Olson, DeGroot, Ruland, Hollekim and Rice voted yes. Motion carried.

D. PAYROLL

Moved by Comm. DeGroot, seconded by Comm. Rice, to approve the appointed officials time off requests for August. Upon roll call, Hollekim, Ruland, Rice, Olson and DeGroot voted yes. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the appointed officials' annual reviews. Comm. Ruland and Comm. DeGroot will do the annual reviews.

E. APPOINTMENT

Moved by Comm. DeGroot, seconded by Comm. Olson, to approve the appointment of George Littlecreek to the Job Development Authority Board (JDA). Upon roll call, Hollekim, Ruland, Rice, Olson and DeGroot voted yes. Motion carried.

F. TREASURER'S CHECKS

Moved by Comm. Hollekim, seconded by Comm. DeGroot, to approve the stop payments on the outstanding Treasurer's Checks for 2025 as follows:

#13227 - 01/13/2025 - Dan Niemitalo - N Liberty, IA - \$28.52

#13263 - 02/14/2025 - Miller Family - Novato, CA - \$16.04

#13397 - 07/31/2025 - Randy Striha - Butte, ND - \$16.22

#13399 - 08/01/2025 - Chad Hopkins - Stanley, ND - \$66.06

#13401 - 08/01/2025 - Arthur Mandan - New Town, ND - \$5.76

#13411 - 08/06/2025 - Three Affiliated Tribes - New Town, ND - \$99.92

#13429 - 08/21/2025 - Delores Sand - Wahpeton, ND - \$130.71

#13438 - 09/05/2025 - Donald Bruhn - Minot, ND - \$21.05

#13467 - 10/14/2025 - Cody Sanders - Plaza, ND - \$55.59

#13468 - 10/15/2025 - Mountrail Builders - Stanley, ND - \$297.04

#13477 - 11/06/2025 - Service Link - Coraopolis, PA - \$221.80

Upon roll call, DeGroot, Olson, Rice, Hollekim and Ruland voted yes. Motion carried.

G. BILLS

Moved by Comm. Olson, seconded by Comm. DeGroot, to approve the bills totaling \$14,854,046.88 & August 16 through August 29 payroll, checks #20268-20272 and direct deposits #1-189 totaling \$627,294.37. Upon roll call, DeGroot, Ruland, Hollekim, Olson and Rice voted yes. Motion carried. (A complete list of bills is posted on a regular basis on the Mountrail County website @ www.co.mountrail.nd.us under the County Commissioner heading and/or are available for review in the Auditor's Office during normal business hours).

H. BOARD CONCERNS

The Board discussed the data center meeting in Tioga yesterday. Comm. Ruland & Comm. Hollekim felt it would be beneficial for Stephanie A. Pappa, Auditor to reach out to the cities for statistics to help keep the O&G formula from changing.

3. APPOINTMENTS SCHEDULED

8:30 A.M.

The Upper Missouri District Health Unit Budget hearing telephone conference for the 2027 budget was held in conjunction with Divide County, McKenzie County and Williams County Commissioners.

The 2027 Upper Missouri District Health Unit Budget was approved by the respective boards.

9:15 A.M.

Chairman Ruland opened the 9:15 A.M. public hearing for the purpose of receiving comments on an amendment to zoning request filed by John Moen, Landowner for an amendment to change land zoned Commercial to Agricultural property on a tract

of land 5.17 acres, more or less, known as Outlot 1 of Gov't Lot 3 (SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$) and the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 17, Township 158 North, Range 92 West (**Powers Township**).

Melissa Vachal, Planning & Zoning Administrator, presented the information from the August 24, 2026 Planning & Zoning Commission recommending to the Mountrail County Commissioners to approve the zoning request filed by John Moen, for an amendment to rezone land from Commercial to Agricultural on a tract of land 5.17 acres, more or less, known as Outlot 1 of Gov't Lot 3 (SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$) and the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 17, Township 158 North, Range 92 West (**Powers Township**).

Moved by Comm. Olson, seconded by Comm. Rice, to approve the zoning request filed by John Moen, for an amendment to rezone land from Commercial to Agricultural on a tract of land 5.17 acres, more or less, known as Outlot 1 of Gov't Lot 3 (SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$) and the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 17, Township 158 North, Range 92 West (**Powers Township**) as John Moen, landowner has met all criteria as set forth in the Mountrail County Land Development Code and is further contingent upon John Moen complying with all other terms and conditions of the Mountrail County Land Development Code. Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion carried.

9:20 A.M.

Chairman Ruland opened the 9:20 A.M. public hearing for the purpose of receiving comments on an amendment to zoning request filed by Maria Cruz, applicant with concurrence from Salgado Estates LLC, landowners for an amendment to rezone a tract of land from Residential to Commercial described property as a tract

of land 3.34 acres, more or less, known as Lot I of the Replat of Lots 2 thru 27 of Schmidt's Country Estates, now known as Lots A thru I Schmidt's Country Estates, located in Outlot 3 of the S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 9, Township 156 North, Range 91 West (**Idaho Township**).

Melissa Vachal, Planning & Zoning Administrator, presented the information from the August 24, 2026 Planning & Zoning Commission recommending to the Mountrail County Commissioners to deny the zoning request filed by Maria Cruz, applicant with concurrence from Salgado Estates LLC, landowners for an amendment to rezone a tract of land from Residential to Commercial described property as a tract of land 3.34 acres, more or less, known as Lot I of the Replat of Lots 2 thru 27 of Schmidt's Country Estates, now known as Lots A thru I Schmidt's Country Estates, located in Outlot 3 of the S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 9, Township 156 North, Range 91 West (**Idaho Township**) due to it being considered spot-zoning.

Moved by Comm. Rice, seconded by Comm. DeGroot, to deny the zoning request filed by Maria Cruz, applicant with concurrence from Salgado Estates LLC, landowners for an amendment to rezone a tract of land from Residential to Commercial described property as a tract of land 3.34 acres, more or less, known as Lot I of the Replat of Lots 2 thru 27 of Schmidt's Country Estates, now known as Lots A thru I Schmidt's Country Estates, located in Outlot 3 of the S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 9, Township 156 North, Range 91 West (**Idaho Township**) due to it being considered spot-zoning. Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion carried.

9:35 A.M.

Madison Rodgers, Clerk of Court met with the board to discuss the 2027 budget.

9:45 A.M.

Desiree Sorenson, Mountrail McKenzie Human Service Zone Director met with the board to discuss the 2027 budget.

10:05 A.M.

Jim Hennessy, County Agent/Weed Control met with the board to discuss the 2027 budgets.

10:15 A.M.

Lynnette Vachal, Extension Agent met with the board to discuss the 2027 budget.

Moved by Comm. DeGroot, seconded by Comm. Hollekim, to approve the out of state travel for a conference on October 27th to 29th in Kansas City. Upon roll call, Ruland, Rice, Hollekim, DeGroot and Ol-

son voted yes. Motion carried.

10:45 A.M.

Chairman Ruland opened the 2027 Preliminary Budget Hearing for the County. Present were Briselda Hernandez, Angela Swider and Iman Moore.

The Board reviewed the county budgets for 2027.

Briselda Hernandez with Job Development Authority (JDA Board) gave an update on the recommendation of the additional \$5 million funding from the General Fund.

11:15 A.M.

Jana Hennessy, Road & Bridge (R&B) Engineer along with Scott Duerre, Road & Bridge Superintendent and Mary Omar, Road & Bridge Accountant met to discuss

Road & Bridge. Also present were Joseph Baneck, Sauber Engineering and Jaret Wirtz, Streamline Water Services.

1. BILL GATHMAN/NDDOT

Engineer Hennessy introduced the board to Bill Gathman, the new Williston District Engineer with the NDDOT.

2. EXCESS MOVE AGREEMENT/EOG RESOURCES

Engineer Hennessy presented a request from EOG Resources for approval of Excess Move Agreement (Compressor Move). The agreement is for CR13 beginning at intersection of Highway 8 and 81st Ave NW and ending at the intersection of 63rd St NW and Highway 8 with approximately 1.88 miles. James Hill Township approved the moving on 68th St NW and 78th Ave NW approximately 3 miles and Clearwater Township approved the moving on 67th St NW approximately .9 miles.

Moved by Comm. DeGroot, seconded by Comm. Rice, to approve signing of the Excess Move Agreement (compressor move) with EOG on CR13 beginning at intersection of Highway 8 and 81st Ave NW and ending at intersection of 63rd St NW and Highway 8 with approximately 1.88 miles pending receipt of the bond. Upon roll call, Hollekim, Rice, Olson, DeGroot and Ruland voted yes. Motion carried.

3. CR3 PALERMO NORTH/PROJECT NO. 03(71)23

Engineer Hennessy discussed the progress from the September 1st meeting with Jensen Brothers on CR3 Palermo North/Project No. 03(71)23. Engineer Hennessy also presented the response letter from Jensen Brothers to the board. Joe Baneck with Sauber Engineering stated they have

progressed and Jensen Brothers hired a subcontractor to help with the construction.

4. OLD HIGHWAY 2

Engineer Hennessy presented information on an approach on Old Highway 2 that needs to be repaired at intersection of 67th Ave NW. A quote was provided by CSI to do the repairs.

Moved by Comm. Hollekim, seconded by Comm. Olson, to approve the potential change order allowing CSI to repair the approach on CR2 and intersection of 67th Ave NW totaling \$29,591.50. Upon roll call, Ruland, Olson, DeGroot, Rice and Hollekim voted yes. Motion carried.

5. MR. JARET WIRTZ/TEMPORARY ROW USE PERMIT

Engineer Hennessy discussed the R&B denying a temporary Right of Way use permit to lay flat hose through CR10 construction. The reason for the denial is current site conditions, the unfinished construction work, the damage that has already occurred from utilizing a cattle guard that was not approved, and the resulting safety and liability concerns. Mountrail County will not authorize proposed hose route through the construction site or the cattle guard/bridge area. Jaret Wirtz, Streamline Water Services stated he is willing to pay for the cattle guard to fix what was damaged. Jaret Wirtz stated an alternate route has been established which would go under the Shell Bridge with little disturbance with the road construction. The Road & Bridge and Planning & Zoning departments will approve once all necessary paperwork has been filed with both offices.

6. SALT & SAND MIX/QUOTES

Engineer Hennessy presented the quotes for the salt and sand mixture.

Moved by Comm. Hollekim, seconded by Comm. Rice, to approve all bids for the salt and sand mixture as per the recommendation of Engineer Hennessy. Upon roll call, Rice, Ruland, Olson, DeGroot and Hollekim voted yes. Motion carried.

7. NDACO & MEETING WITH NDDOT

Engineer Hennessy discussed the NDDOT meeting at the NDACO conference with Mountrail County on Tuesday, October 13th at 11:30 a.m.

8. WATER BOARD

Engineer Hennessy presented a request from the Water Resource District Board regarding the possibility of taking a maintainer down the roads that lead to the camping area and the dam road. Engineer Hennessy stated that Sorkness Township

doesn't claim either of the roads. Wade Enget, State's Attorney recommended having the two entities (Boy Scouts and Water Resource District Board) sign off on the maintenance agreement.

9. LETTER FROM MR. HAMERS

Engineer Hennessy presented a response letter to Robert Hamers concerning the snow removal equipment, overtime and the approach west of Palermo.

10. 2027 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Engineer Hennessy along with Mary Trahan, Accountant met with the board to discuss the 2027 budget.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Iman Moore & Angela Swider both stated they enjoyed sitting in and listening to the meeting.

5. ADJOURN

The Board adjourned at 12:44 P.M. to meet in regular session on Tuesday, October 6, 2026 at 9:00 A.M. Accepted and approved this 6th day of October, 2026.

Trudy Ruland, Chairman

Mountrail County Commissioner

Stephanie A. Pappa

Mountrail County Auditor