

PUBLIC NOTICES
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Bowbells School Board Proceedings

May 11, 2026
Approved Minutes

Present were J.R. Aufforth, Adam Jensen, Steven Pfeifer, Tyler Ross, Jill Wettstein, Superintendent Thingvold, Cyle Golde and Business Manager Daugherty (Central Regional Education Association). The meeting was called to order at 8:01 by President Aufforth. Motion by Jensen, seconded by Pfeifer to approve the Consent Agenda with the addition to add pre-school. (Agenda, April 13, 2026, minutes, and April 2026 Bills). Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND BILLS: ACT Education Corp. 109.50; Fireside Office 2685.74; AFLAC 2740.64; Jack & Jill 11.39; Ameritas Life 369.48; Liminex Inc. 2504.30; BCBS 9,558.50; MDU 10,844.05; Brittney Colbenson 580.00; Menards 103.84; Burke County Sheriff's Office 2765.70; ND Dept. of Environmental 105.00; City of Bowbells 1059.59; Nett's Electric 463.75; Colonial Life 219.53; Northwest Comm. Coop. 327.55; Connect Teletherapy 325.00; Preble Medical Services 60.00; CREA 2695.00; Ryan GMC 1267.47; Culligan Water 263.00; Stein's Inc. 657.83; Dacotah Bank 449.62; TMS 107.20; Farmers Union Oil 2848.50; WEX 211.05. TOTAL: \$43,333.23.

FOOD FUND: Dacotah Bank 41.49; NDDPI 161.67; E & E Beef Company 695.00; SYSCO 2504.88; Magic Wrighter Efundes 34.95. TOTAL: \$3437.99.

ACTIVITY FUND: All American Trophies 504.00; Northern Bottling 152.02; Amy Nelson 1259.62; Powers Lake PS 230.00; Beth Aufforth 56.18; Radisson Hotel Bismarck 340.50; Brandy Anderson 278.62; Robert Tuttle

1275.00; Carson Thingvold 100.00; Sara Goodman 45.86; Coca-Cola 49.00; Scholastic Book Fairs 902.91; Dacotah Bank 426.66; Shannon Holter 100.00; FBLA, Inc. 1044.00; Travel World Crosby 7085.00; Judy Harding 100.00; Twisted J's 355.00; Kole Herman 100.00. TOTAL: \$14,404.37

Public Comment: None
Student Outcomes: Superintendent Thingvold provided a presentation on STAR Data, NDA Plus Data and ELA Data. Across all metrics, students showed improvement in proficiency in math and reading.

Administrative/Committee Reports: Business Manager report was presented by Business Manager Daugherty.

Building committee: Audio enhancement work to begin this summer. Celeste received a quote to update the smart boards. Ceiling fan replacement in the kitchen, new door for the back entrance of the kitchen.

Serving counter for cold food quoted is \$6,800. Daycare inspection recommended putting a fence around the backyard. Just waiting on daycare provider background check to finalize hire.

Transportation: Summer maintenance planned for vehicles as needed.

Old Business: None
New Business:

Motion to approve the open enrollment of a student from Kenmare was made by Wettstein and seconded by Ross. Motion carried.

Motion to approve an elementary teacher contract for Delaine Hanson was made by Pfeifer and seconded by Jensen. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the resignation of Mr. Arnold with a 2% early termination penalty per the negotiated agreement was made by Jensen and seconded by Wettstein. Motion carried. The board thanks Mr. Arnold for his years of service to the Bowbells Public School.

Motion to hire election workers for the 2026 school board election was made by Jensen and seconded by Pfeifer. Motion carried.

Motion to designate Bowbells Public School as a voting precinct and polling place for the 2026 school board election was made by Wettstein and seconded by Jensen. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the addition of a pre-k program was made by Pfeifer and seconded by Ross. Motion carried.

Adjourn: 9:03 AM
NEXT MEETING:

DATE: Monday 6/22/2026
TIME: 8:00 AM
Attest: JR Aufforth, Board President
Tarek Daugherty (CREA)
Business Manager
July 1, 2026

Vacancy

Burke County Planning and Zoning Commission
The Burke County Planning and Zoning Commission is a seven-member board formed for the purpose of promoting health, safety, morals, public convenience, general prosperity, and public welfare of the County. Meetings are held at 8:00 a.m. on the Third Tuesday of each month with occasional hearings and work sessions scheduled during weekdays and evenings.

A vacancy exists on the Commission and expressions of interest are invited. Please send your resume to Stephanie Black, Burke County Planning and Zoning, PO Box 310 Bowbells, ND. 58721 or by email to sablack@nd.gov by Thursday July 16th.

If you have any questions regarding the position, please call (701) 377-6242 Monday - Thursday during normal business hours.
June 24, July 1, 8 & 15, 2026

City of Flaxton Residents

The 2025 Consumer Confidence Report entitled "Annual Drinking Water Quality Report" is available at the City Auditor's Office. This report is available for review during normal office hours and will be mailed by request only.

Residents of the City of Lignite

The 2025 Consumer Confidence Report entitled, "Annual Drinking Water Quality Report" is available at the City Auditor's office. This report will be mailed by request only.
Kimberly Jones
Lignite City Auditor

game & fish

Deer Lottery Held, Licenses Remain

North Dakota's deer gun lottery has been held. More than 72,000 individuals applied for a deer gun lottery license, in addition to over 12,000 gratis applicants. The 2026 deer gun proclamation allowed for 39,100 deer gun season licenses.

More than 1,200 licenses remain. Only resident applicants who were unsuccessful in the lottery can apply online for remaining licenses beginning July 1, with a deadline of July 15.

Licenses will be mailed to successful applicants in early August.

Remaining Deer Gun Licenses:

Unit	Type	Available
3A1	Any antlerless	234
3A2	Any antlerless	129
3F1	Any antlerless	101
3F1	Antlerless white-tail	151
3F2	Any antlerless	478
3F2	Antlerless white-tail	151

Grouse Surveys

Each spring, North Dakota Game and Fish Department staff count the number of male sharp-tailed grouse, greater prairie chickens and greater sage grouse dancing on leks, while also tallying the number of male ruffed grouse drumming in suitable aspen habitats.

These surveys serve as relative indices of spring breeding populations.

"The sharp-tailed grouse counts were mixed across the state this spring, which resulted in an unchanged statewide count compared to 2025," said Jesse Kolar, department upland game management supervisor.

This result was better than expected following poor reproduction and decreases in adult sharptail densities in last summer's roadside surveys and the 24% decrease in hunter harvest last fall.

"Thus, we expected to see very poor numbers for lek counts this spring, but we suspect that our mild winter led to minimal mortality and helped minimize losses after the cool and wet summer of 2025," Kolar said.

By district, observers saw 4.9 males per square mile in the southwest, down 8% from 2025; 5 males per square mile in the prairie potholes, up 2%; and 2.9 males per square mile in the drift prairie, up 10% from last year. The only remaining survey block in the Red River Valley is Grand Forks County, which is not a primary region for sharptails but was up 9% from last year.

Ruffed grouse survey results indicated an uptick in drums heard in the Turtle Mountains (+40%) and a decrease in the Pembina Hills (-15%) compared to 2025.

"In contiguous forest habitats, ruffed grouse numbers usually rise and fall in cycles, but because habitat in North Dakota is isolated and fragmented, we have not seen these peaks, but the population has been increasing slightly since 2019," Kolar said.
Small greater prairie chicken

populations remain in Grand Forks County and the Sheyenne National Grasslands but overall, North Dakota no longer holds enough suitable, intact tallgrass prairie to support a huntable population.

Only one male and one female sage grouse were observed in 2026. Both sage grouse and greater prairie chicken hunting seasons will remain closed.

Overall, the long-term outlook for our native prairie grouse remains a concern due to grassland conversion, fragmentation and woody encroachment on prairies.

Fireworks Prohibited on WMAs, Camping Restrictions Lifted for Holiday

With Independence Day approaching, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department reminds outdoor recreationists fireworks on state wildlife management areas are prohibited.

The primary objective of a wildlife management area is to enhance wildlife production, provide hunting and fishing opportunities, and offer other outdoor recreation compatible with these objectives. Activities that do not disrupt the intentions are encouraged, and fireworks are not compatible.

In addition, the department will lift the Tuesday-Wednesday no-camping restriction for the Fourth of July holiday week, which will allow overnight camping June 30 and July 1 on those WMAs that otherwise have this two-day restriction.

Official Canvass of June 9, 2026 Primary Election Results

BURKE COUNTY, STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
The undersigned hereby certify that the within constitutes a full, true, and complete abstract of the number of ballots cast, the name of each individual receiving votes; the office for which the votes were received by precinct, county, legislative district, judicial district, or portion thereof; and the total votes cast for each individual for the offices enumerated herein. We do hereby certify the following measures were approved or disapproved as shown by the number of votes set forth herein.

Attest our hands this 22nd day of June, 2026
BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF CANVASSERS
Amie Vandegrift, County Auditor; Jarett Van Berkom, Chairman County Commissioners; Lynette Nelson, County Recorder; Jayne Tetrault, Arabella Roering

Attest my hand and seal this 22nd day of June, 2026
Amie Vandegrift, County Auditor
KEY

PRECINCTS
#1—FLAXTON CONSOLIDATED AREA
#2—BOWBELLS CONSOLIDATED AREA
#3—POWERS LAKE CONSOLIDATED AREA
#4—COLUMBUS CONSOLIDATED AREA
#5—LIGNITE CONSOLIDATED AREA
#6—PORTAL CONSOLIDATED AREA

CANDIDATES	TOTAL	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS							
Alex Balazs-R	117	5	27	37	25	16	7
Julie Fedorchak-R	248	8	60	71	37	46	26
Write-In - scattered-R	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trygve Hammer-D	47	2	16	13	7	7	2
write-in - scattered-D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SECRETARY OF STATE							
Michael Howe-R	339	13	79	102	56	57	32
write-in - scattered-R	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ryan Braunberge-D	47	2	16	13	7	7	2
write-in - scattered-D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ATTORNEY GENERAL							
Drew Wrigley-R	347	13	82	103	59	59	31
write-in - scattered	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Tim Lamb-D	46	2	15	13	7	7	2
write-in - scattered-D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER							
Doug Goehring-R	352	13	83	104	61	59	32
write-in - scattered-R	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vern Thompson-D	46	2	15	13	7	7	2
write-in - scattered-D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER							
Sheri Haugen-Hoffart-R	202	9	53	48	39	29	24
Deven Styczynski-R	130	4	23	51	19	27	6
write-in - scattered-R	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
John M Pederson-D	47	2	16	13	7	7	2
write-in - scattered-D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER Unexpired 2-Year Term							
Jill Kringstad-R	170	4	38	43	39	28	18
Chris Olson-R	168	9	38	57	20	30	14
write-in - scattered-R	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scot Kelsch-D	47	2	16	13	7	7	2
write-in - scattered-D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TAX COMMISSIONER							
Brian Kroshus-R	349	13	83	104	57	60	32
write-in - scattered-R	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mark Nelson-D	46	2	16	12	7	7	2
write-in - scattered-D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NONPARTISAN							
SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION -Unexpired 2-Year Term							
Levi Bachmeier	255	8	54	88	42	40	23
Tracy Layne Foss	86	5	28	15	11	15	12
Charles Tuttle	45	1	8	13	13	9	1
write-in - scattered	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT							
Ariston E Johnson	114	6	22	31	22	19	14
Jerod Tuffe	231	8	57	70	36	37	23
write-in - scattered	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT - Unexpired 8-Year Term							
Douglas A Bahr	364	15	86	106	60	60	37
write-in - scattered	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2							
Jory Ehlke	35				18	14	3
Galen Kalmbach	71				25	28	18
Kurt Koppelsloen	47				17	21	9
Charles Ringwall	27				13	8	6
write-in - scattered	2				0	2	0
COUNTY AUDITOR							
Amie Vandegrift	416	17	107	116	68	71	37
write-in - scattered	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY							
Amber Fiesel	394	14	96	117	64	66	37
write-in - scattered	2	0	1	0	1	0	0
COUNTY RECORDER/CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT							
Lynette Nelson	389	12	89	120	69	62	37
write-in - scattered	7	1	5	0	0	1	0

CANDIDATES	TOTAL	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6
COUNTY TREASURER							
Marchell Ganskop	414	17	107	115	70	69	36
write-in - scattered	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
COUNTY SHERIFF							
Nick Throntveit	412	16	103	122	69	67	35
write-in - scattered	6	0	0	3	0	3	0
COUNTY OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER							
Burke County Tribune	433	16	110	126	72	72	37
Mayor Unexpired 2-Year Term Bowbells							
Shannon Holter	50		50				
write-in - scattered	2		2				
Mayor Lignite							
Nathan Schneider	32					32	
Desiree Zeiba	16					16	
write-in - scattered	1					1	
Mayor Portal							
Lisa Smith	16						16
write-in - scattered	2						2
Mayor Powers Lake							
Kari Enget	51			51			
write-in - scattered	3			3			
Mayor Columbus							
Christopher Kihle	20				20		
write-in - scattered	6				6		
Council Member Flaxton							
write-in - Jeff Kalmbach	2	2					
write-in - Kelly Lind	3	3					
Jeremy Ragle	6	6					
write-in - scattered	2	2					
Council Member Lignite							
Amanda Arnold	37						37
Shelley Bartow	32						32
write-in - scattered	6						6
Council Member Powers Lake							
Arlo Griesbach	34			34			
Jeff Parslow	51			51			
write-in - scattered	15			15			
Council Member Columbus							
Amber Nygard	17				17		
Paul Sandy	26				26		
write-in - scattered	6				6		
Council Member Portal							
Justin David Adamietz	15						15
Kenneth Evenson	17						17
Kelsey Harms	18						18
write-in - scattered	4						4
Council Member Bowbells							
Michael Bolton	56			56			
write-in - scattered	0			0			
Council Member Unexpired 2-Year Term Bowbells							
write-in - Casey Beeter	11				11		
write-in - scattered	14				14		
Council Member Unexpired 2-Year Term Columbus							
Kathryn Nygard	26					26	
write-in - scattered	0					0	
Park Board Member Unexpired 2-Year Term Bowbells Park							
write-in - Justin Hinds	3				3		
write-in - scattered	15				15		
Park Board Member Unexpired 2-Year Term Columbus Park							
David Ronning	27						27
write-in - scattered	0						0
Park Board Member Powers Lake Park							
Thomas Beavers	49						