

**Barnes County Commission
August 4, 2026
Valley City, ND 58072**

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, August 4, 2026 with Bill Carlblom, Mike Schwehr, Vicky Lovell, Pete Paulson, and Shawn Olason. Chairman Bill Carlblom called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m., roll call was taken, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the agenda was reviewed. Shawn Olason moved to approve the agenda as presented; Mike Schwehr seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with all members voting aye.

Public Comments

No requests received.

Economic Development

Jennifer Feist requested funding of \$4,000.00 to assist Annette Lunde Childcare for a fence. Childcare license has expanded from seven to fourteen children. The funding would come from the Childcare Grant Program sourced from the mill levy fund dedicated to Economic Development. Shawn Olason made a motion to approve the funding request; Mike Schwehr seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting yes.

Emergency Management

Jessica Jenrich presented the following proclamation recognizing August as National Emergency Management Awareness Month. Vicky Lovell made a motion declaring August as National Emergency Management Awareness Month; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting yes.

National Emergency Management Awareness Month

WHEREAS, emergencies and disasters can occur unexpectedly, posing significant threats to life, property, and the environment; and WHEREAS, local emergency managers, emergency managers across all sectors, community leaders, State governments, and the Federal Emergency Management

Agency dedicate countless hours to developing preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation programs to protect the lives and property of all persons living in the United States and U.S. territories; and WHEREAS, emergency managers across the United States and U.S. Territories are charged with establishing and maintain the capabilities necessary to effectively direct, coordinate, and support emergency and disaster response and recovery efforts; and WHEREAS, the mission areas of prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery align with the core capabilities identified in the National Preparedness Goal; and WHEREAS, the emergency managers serve the nation by responding to countless emergencies and disasters each year, demonstrating commitment, compassion, and professionalism in protecting the public; and WHEREAS, the efforts of our nations emergency managers have helped millions of community members across the United States recover, rebuild, and become more resilient in the face of adversity: NOW, THEREFORE, WE, Barnes County Commission, do hereby proclaim the month of August as NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AWARENESS MONTH In the County of Barnes in conjunction with National Preparedness Month in September. With the support of the International Association of Emergency Managers, I urge all Barnes County community members to express their sincere appreciation for emergency managers in every sector who work diligently to prepare, protect, and serve our cities, counties, states, tribes, territories, regions, and organizations against all hazards and risks. IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND APPROVED THE ABOVE PROCLAMATION. DONE AT THE BARNES COUNTY COURTHOUSE THIS FOURTH DAY OF AUGUST IN THE YEAR OF TWO THOUSAND

TWENTY-SIX.

Harold Rotunda

Harold Rotunda discussed the 2027 budget and where the county budget stands currently and things to consider when working on the 2027 budget.

Auditor's Office

Vicky Lovell moved to approve July 21, 2026, minutes as presented; Mike Schwehr seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote with all members voting "aye".

Highway Department

Obstructions in the county and township rights-of-way were discussed. There have been complaints about farming right up next to the road impacting safety, making intersections dangerous and fencing within right-of-way. Jamie will contact the farmers for the farming practice of planting within the right-of-way of the road. Jessica with Planning and Zoning will send letters out for fencing in the right-of-way. Tentative start dates for contracted construction projects were reviewed.

Commission Discussion

Pete gave updates on the VSO activities. There are four applicants for drivers. The airport raised the price of gas to cover the gas increase. Mike attended the City County Health District board meeting. There is one application for the Home Health position. One employee is out on leave. They are considering contracting a nurse if needed. North Dakota Association of Counties has leadership training that Meghan will attend. Vicky mentioned the library will be installing a new fire alarm system. There will be a comedian and Carnegie presentation on October 1st. The South Central Transit Network will no longer be providing Medicaid transportation because of new regulations. There have been more people coming to the food pantry.

(August 28, 2026)