

Divide County Commission Minutes

APPROVED DIVIDE COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES October 23, 2025 8 A.M.

The Board of Divide County Commissioners met in regular session with all members present, Chairman Isaac Jacobs is the presiding with Mr. John Bayer and Ms. Avonlea Brown, Journalist and Ms. Maria Ninnia Kroshus Deputy Auditor/Treasurer were also in attendance.

Minutes from October 2, 2025, meeting was read and approved and noted a few corrections.

Correspondence was reviewed and placed on file.

Mr. Dan Aubol from Colonial Life met with the Board to discuss employee benefit options. He highlighted that the company offers competitive supplemental insurance plans with added advantages, including a hearing aid program for employees and their families, as well as comprehensive dental coverage at affordable rates. Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve Colonial Life to offer these voluntary benefit options to county employees. Commissioner Eriksmoen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Scott Sovat met with the Board to discuss the payment of Joe's Digging invoice and requested that the County consider sharing in the total cost of \$3,875. The Board emphasized the importance of clear communication regarding any work performed on County property to prevent similar issues in the future. After

reviewing the circumstances and the work completed, the Board agreed that a contribution toward the repair cost of the County would be appropriate. Commissioner Eriksmoen made a motion to pay \$1,200 as part of the invoice from Joe's Digging Service as a contribution to the recent fairground's excavation. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Ms. Rose DeMint updated the board on the facilities and mentioned that outstanding maintenance and equipment issues have been addressed. Ms. DeMint also informed the board that she will be out of the office from November 2 to 8, 2025 with Marshall Nelson and Melissa Rindel covering her duties in her absence.

Chairman Jacobs mentioned the fairground's donation box, stated that while there is currently no fee for overnight stays, consideration could be given to implementing a suggested \$10 per night contribution. He explained that a donation box exists but was not widely publicized or monitored. Board members discussed that the box is intended to help cover basic costs for campers and is not intended as a revenue source.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to designate the Crosby Clinic and St. Luke's Hospital as the county's medical providers, which was seconded by Commissioner Eriksmoen. All in favor. Motion carries

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the travel request of Ms. Shari Bublitz, DES/EME, to

change her travel plans to Wildrose on November 12, 2025, and the travel request of Ms. Gayle Jastrzebski, Auditor/Treasurer, for October 26–28, 2025, in Bismarck for NDAco. The motion was made by Commissioner Eriksmoen, seconded by Commissioner Johnson. All were in favor.

Ms. Melissa Adams from Fair Board met with the board and presented a proposal regarding improvements and evaluations for the fairground buildings. The Board discussed prioritizing key structures while deferring or excluding areas with existing issues or planned future work. The Board of Commissioners also reviewed utility connections and facility conditions, pointing out that some systems may require adjustments during renovation. Ms. Adams updated the Board on the formation of a smaller construction committee, which will include representatives from relevant entities to guide planning and decision-making. Commissioner Eriksmoen emphasized that all Board members should be involved in key decisions to ensure oversight and consensus. Commissioner Eriksmoen moved to approve the structural evaluation of the Expo building, preliminary design for a new beer garden, demolition of the Expo building, and preliminary design for the derby and horse arena grandstand, with total costs not to exceed \$13,900. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. All present voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Ms. Shari Bublitz EME/DES/ZON provided updates on several

operational and facility matters. She reported that the Code Red emergency notification system is being fully redesigned, allowing for expanded internal communication and township alerts, authorized personnel will require certification to manage emergency notifications. Ms. Bublitz also discussed AED training for employees, emphasizing staff awareness and proper usage. Ms. Bublitz discussed the PowerSchool subscription for website maintenance and GIS services, highlighting prior billing inconsistencies that resulted in an extra \$3,000 being covered in the current budget.

Mr. Bryan Haugenoe met with the Board to discuss the ongoing shortage of blade operators, which has affected road work scheduling. He requested approval to continue 50-hour work weeks through November due to being short of four operators. The Board approved the request. Mr. Haugenoe reported ongoing equipment issues, stated that some repairs may exceed the current budget and that no funds are currently available for equipment repairs. One grader blade is down and will undergo further testing to determine the issue. He added that the team is completing patching work, though some areas particularly around the curve on County Road 21 may not be fully finished with durapatching. Gravel and blade equipment will be kept available for winter maintenance, and stabilization and dust control efforts are ongoing. Additional tasks include retrieving docks and blades at Skjermo, reviewing blade budgets,

and coordinating with interested parties regarding equipment needs. At Mr. Haugenoe's request, the Board approved Ms. Shari Bublitz to serve as the county delegate to the NDAco on October 27, 2025.

The following fees were submitted and deposited into the General fund for September Recorder-23502.70 Clerk-716.00

Chairman and Auditor signed a County Deed to Private Individual: Laverne Haga Life Estate Noonan City Light Addn L2 ex deed parts Blk 1.

The following bills on motion made and approved were placed in line for payment:

Williston Tire Center..... \$1,302.84
Williams, Carol A..... \$359.40
Williams County Sheriff..... \$2,550.00
Waynes Welding
And Repair..... \$240.00
Vestis..... \$321.96
Tyler Technologies..... \$8,628.00
True North Steel..... \$35,086.70
Traci Lund..... \$789.08
Thos Pickett And Co Inc..... \$4,000.00
Sheridan Electric Coop Inc..... \$805.71
Shari Bublitz \$144.00
Rtc Networks \$238.00
Rose Deep Cleaning..... \$7,105.00
Relx Inc DBA Lexis Nexis.. \$78.00
Red Rock Ford..... \$1,051.67
RDO Trust 80-5800 \$14,344.77
Ramada Inn Of Bismarck... \$198.00
Overdrive P \$800.00
Northwest
Communications Coop.... \$1,175.27
New Century Ag \$36,905.80
NDSU Agriculture
Communication..... \$5,960.91
ND Emergency Services ...\$12,175.03

ND Assn Counties \$479.00
NAPA Auto Parts..... \$281.61
Montana Dakota Utilities..... \$6,585.61
Mayo Construction Co.... \$8,306.40
Marco Technologies LLC \$228.86
Lawson Products, Inc..... \$2,290.20
Knife River Corp..... \$2,298.00
Kimball Midwest \$337.86
Journal Publishing Inc..... \$519.57
Jerrys Transfer Service..... \$434.00
Jamie Vandal \$2,976.00
Jacobs Hardware Hank \$96.95
Information
Technology Dept..... \$1,338.70
IDI..... \$75.00
Gayle Jastrzebski \$197.00
First State
Bank And Trust \$2,770.77
Fargo Glass
And Paint Company \$2,276.09
ESRI \$1,750.00
EBSCO \$223.24
Crosby Senior Citizens \$841.88
Circle Sanitation Inc \$284.00
Cenex Fleet Fueling \$281.75
Byron Carter..... \$1,620.05
Burke Divide Electric \$64.33
Bummer Depot..... \$76.90
Brady Martz CPA..... \$1,995.00
Att Mobile..... \$811.59
Amazon Seattle \$52.18
Ryans Porting & Machine\$1,000.00
Total \$174,752.68

There being no further business meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m. to reconvene November 6, 2025.

Maria Kroshus
Deputy County Auditor/Treasurer
Isaac Jacobs, Chairman,
Board Divide County
Commissioner

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with NDCC, Section 40-47-04, this shall serve as public notice of a public hearing at which parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard. This notice will publish once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks. If you would like to review the proposed changes of the zoning ordinances, they are on record at the Crosby City Hall. The basis of the change is to add a new zoning classification as rural residential. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call City Hall at 701.965.6029, or contact the Auditor, Alexa Kruger. This hearing will be held on Monday December 1st, 2025, at 7:00pm at the regularly held City Council Meeting at Crosby City Hall 15 W Central Ave.

Alexa Kruger
City Auditor

PUBLIC NOTICE

It was brought to the City of Crosby's attention at the meeting held Monday, November 3, 2025, that there has been a number of concerns with individuals riding bicycles and/or e-bikes within the City of Crosby. The City of Crosby wanted to inform the citizens that in accordance with NDCC, Section 39-10.1-02, Traffic Laws Applies to Persons Riding Bicycles, is the number one concern for the City of Crosby that everyone is safe and that no one is hurt. If there continues to be violations on these bicycles and e-bikes, the Sheriff's Department does have the authority to issue citations under the North Dakota Century Code.

Alexa Kruger
City Auditor

Dakota Datebook

“Dakota Datebook” is a radio series from Prairie Public in partnership with the State Historical Society of North Dakota and with funding from the North Dakota Humanities Council. See all the Dakota Datebooks at prairiepublic.org, subscribe to the “Dakota Datebook” podcast, or buy the Dakota Datebook book at shopprairiepublic.org.)

George Broadhurst and the Metropolitan Opera House

November 10, 2025 -- The name George Broadhurst is generally associated with the theaters of Chicago, San Francisco or New York. But North Dakota also helped launch the career of the playwright who became internationally renowned for works such as ‘The Mills of the Gods’ and ‘The Man of the Hour,’ starring Douglas Fairbanks.

While managing a Minneapolis theater in 1890, Broadhurst was introduced to George Batchelder, a businessman sitting on the Board of Directors of the Grand Forks Opera House Company. Batchelder convinced Broadhurst to become manager of the newly constructed Metropolitan Opera House in Dakota Territory.

Shortly after his arrival in Grand Forks, Broadhurst learned that the opening attraction was going to be the Emma Abbott Opera Company. They would give three evening and one matinee performance, for which Batchelder had guaranteed them an astonishing \$3,000.

Dubious that that amount could even be raised, George Broadhurst later admitted “When I discovered what he had been doing I simply asked when the next train left for Minneapolis. However he persuaded me to stay and make a subscription canvass of the townspeople. He said they had more money than they knew how to hide...” Batchelder's words proved true.

The new manager first approached Captain Alexander Griggs. Griggs informed Broadhurst that he was the father of Grand Forks. He had witnessed the town's first christening and first funeral, and therefore he would not miss the first show in the first opera house. To Broadhurst's utter surprise, Griggs offered \$300 for two seats.

Broadhurst next approached William Budge. “What did the Captain give?” Budge demanded of Broadhurst. Hearing the \$300 price tag, Budge insisted on matching him. With mounting excitement, Broadhurst returned to Captain Griggs, explaining what Budge had given. Not wanting to be outdone, Griggs announced, “I'll raise him fifty.”

Besides taking advantage of local rivalries, the new manager developed other successful techniques to sell tickets to the opening show. In a later interview for the New York Times he explained, “I got into a fictitious argument with Batchelder as to whether the first opera should be ‘Aida’ or ‘Martha,’ and we had a voting contest in the morning paper.” The contest generated considerable interest and by the grand opening of the Metropolitan Opera House on this day in 1890, sub-

scription funds totals more than \$6,000.

George Broadhurst managed the Grand Forks Metropolitan Opera House and served as the editor of the morning paper for one year before moving to San Francisco and eventually New York.

So what did Captain Griggs think of his \$350 seats? As Broadhurst recalled, “After it was all over he came to George and me and said that it was all very grand, but he thought in the next show we'd better have ‘less yodeling and more dancing!’”

By Christina Sunwall

Veterans Day

November 11, 2025 -- Today is Veterans Day, a day to honor the many soldiers who have fought for us and our country throughout our history.

On this date in 1932, local veterans from both the Spanish-American War and World War I were honored at an “Armistice Day Dinner” in Bismarck. Later in the month, Bismarck's Spanish-American vets also established their own local post.

These men, now long gone, were the older veterans of an older war. When war took them from their families and friends, the best way for these soldiers to keep in touch was to write letters. One North Dakotan soldier, Arthur Bennett, wrote: “Sometimes we perceive some strange combinations of sounds that are apt to fill one with conflicting emotions. ... We are so used to going to sleep with bullets flying about us that I fancy we will have to hire some little boys with their pistols and caps to lull us to sleep when we get home.”

Another soldier said, “We enlisted to go to war. We went to war and we found it.”

The First North Dakota Volunteer Infantry served so admirably that their Lieutenant-Colonel praised them for their fighting, for their work, even for their cheerfulness. He said, “May we ever cherish the memory of the First North Dakota Volunteer Infantry and may we all honor the noble dead who are our sacrifice to the nation's honor.” These words still ring true today.

Originally, this was Armistice Day-set up to commemorate the armistice agreement that ended fighting during World War I, and thus, honoring veterans from that war. The day was enacted as a holiday in 1938, and in 1954, Congress amended the act to honor all veterans of all wars.

Those first major battles that North Dakota took part in after achieving statehood seem very long ago. Yet it's the same story-men and women making sacrifices, showing their love for their home and their friends and family that continues today.

It's Veterans Day, a day which we all celebrate together, to honor all veterans ... as it should be.

By Sarah Walker

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