

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BENSON COUNTY NORTH DAKOTA September 16, 2025**

The Benson County commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 at 8 a.m. in the commissioner room of the Benson County Courthouse, Minnewaukan, ND. Commissioners present: Dick Horner, Doris M. Griffin, Ron Stadum and Tammy Kuk. David Davidson was present via Teams. The meeting was called to order by Chair Stadum. Other people present: Kelly Glover, Benson County Farmers Press; James P. Wang, Benson County state's attorney; Scott Todahl, DEM and highway superintendent; Ryan Panasuk, NDHP; Trish McQuoid; Randy Weed and Marla Jones.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A motion was made by Griffin, seconded by Kuk, to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of Sept. 2, 2025. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

Scott Todahl, DEM and highway superintendent, met with the board to give a report for the highway department. Todahl stated he recently attended the EM conference in Bismarck. He stated he will try to schedule in training for the fire departments in the near future.

Joy Orvedal, highway department clerk, came to the meeting.

Todahl stated he is working on the Emergency Management Grant offered by the state of ND. He indicated beavers are causing road problems.

Davidson commented that the Brown Road has been patched.

McQuoid discussed the lease agreement for the Public Health Nurse Office.

Randy Weed asked who should receive any complaints for a sheriff's office wrongdoing. Horner stated they could be filed with Wang or himself. Wang gave input on this issue and indicated the process he follows when complaints are received by his office.

Marla Jones asked Trooper Panasuk his opinion as to whether or not the NDHP would be acceptable to receiving complaints. Panasuk stated his agency can be contacted but it could only take a statement to be turned over to the state's attorney.

Jessica Tagesad, Wold Engineering, came to the meeting.

Jones stated the new sheriff needs the ability to work with the public to gain back the trust of the people.

Tagesad gave an update on the current projects happening in Benson County. Discussion was held on the construction speed limit posted on the Grahams Island Road.

Tagesad discussed the letters needed for the proposed chip-seal projects through the Flexible Transportation Grant Program. Discussion was held on using Prairie Dog funds for the match dollars. A motion was made by Griffin, seconded by Horner, to allocate \$150,000 from Prairie Dog funds to use as match for the projects. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

McQuoid questioned what action the board intends to take with the lease for the Public Health Nurse Office. A motion was made by Horner, seconded by Kuk, to extend the lease until Dec. 1, 2026. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

The board reviewed the profit and loss report for BC Transportation for the month of August 2025.

Scott Knoke, Extension agent, met with the board and gave an update on the work being done by his office. He stated the plans that are being implemented for control of water hemp and other noxious weeds.

Attorney Tanya Martinez spoke regarding the \$8,000 severance package from the county and repayment of any overage the county claims was paid to Travis Carlson. Erickson explained to Martinez that the amount paid was for vacation and sick payout and was not a severance package.

Acting Sheriff Dick Horner gave a sheriff's report. He reported that Deputy Storing has resigned effective Sept. 25, 2025. Horner informed the board that some vehicle repairs are being done. Jones questioned if the new sheriff would insure employees are doing a vehicle inspection on a regular basis. Stadum agreed the inspections are needed.

Discussion was held on the transfer of K-9 Ares to Nelson County. The board reviewed an email from Nelson County indicating it changed its offer due to the recent vet diagnosis. Wang gave input on this issue and indicated McKenzie County may now also be interested in K-9 Ares. Wang advised the board that Ares should not be given to Nelson County for free as he has a lot of useful life left. Kuk stated Carlson is willing to pay for Ares and Martinez affirmed that was the case. Martinez stated Carlson will offer \$2,000 for the dog. Chief Deputy Madche was present via Teams to give comment on how Ares is doing. Kuk stated Ares should be returned to Carlson, which is his family. Weed stated the dog has now been tainted from being with Carlson. Madche stated kenneling for Ares is becoming a problem as the kennel he has been in is not large enough. Horner recommended a decision on this be tabled until next meeting to see if McKenzie County is willing to put in an offer. Wang stated Ares still has useful working life so should not be used as a family pet. The board concluded to pay for a larger kennel to use at an estimated cost of \$200 to accommodate Ares until a decision is made.

The board discussed what action should be taken on the LLD contracts signed by Chantel Brorby and Vincent Storing. The auditor informed the board on what amounts are owing back to Benson County. Wang gave input on this matter and indicated a letter has been sent to Brorby requesting the repayment. Wang stated Storing may still be hired in Benson County as a temporary deputy, so that should go toward his three-year commitment to Benson County. Horner recommended to give Storing the opportunity to work off some of the amount owing.

Discussion was held on the two finalists for the sheriff's position. Wang stated it was his belief the panel was down to two candidates and gave additional input. Horner gave input on the candidates from the interviews held. A motion was made by Griffin to appoint Laura Wanzek as sheriff for Benson County until the next general election in 2026. Horner seconded Griffin's motion. Roll call vote: Davidson--yes; Horner--yes; Griffin--yes; Stadum--yes and Kuk--yes. The motion carried.

Davidson left the meeting at 9:41 a.m.

The board reviewed the proposed distribution to senior citizen clubs per the 2025 budget requests. A motion

was made by Griffin, seconded by Horner, to approve the distribution. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

A letter dated Sept. 5, 2025 from the US Department of Interior was presented to the board regarding the revision of the BLM Resource Management Plan. Wang stated he would provide more input on this issue at the next meeting on Oct. 7, 2025.

The board reviewed the 2026 preliminary budget information provided by Bonnie Erickson, county auditor/treasurer.

The board reviewed an email from the NDDOT dated Sept. 11, 2025 regarding Local Transportation Planning funding solicitation.

The board reviewed and discussed the monthly bills needing to be paid prior to end of month. A motion was made by Kuk, seconded by Griffin, to pay the bills. All members voted yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Jones stated Randy Weed has been working and talking with PTSD therapists and stated she expects no harassment for his symptoms in the future.

A motion to adjourn was made at 9:57 a.m.

Bonnie Erickson  
Benson County Auditor

Ron Stadum  
Chair

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BENSON COUNTY NORTH DAKOTA September 25, 2025**

The Benson County commissioners met in special session on Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 at 8 p.m. in the commissioner room of the Benson County Courthouse, Minnewaukan, ND. Commissioners present: Ron Stadum and Dick Horner. Tammy Kuk and David Davidson were present via Teams. Griffin was absent. The meeting was called to order by Chair Stadum. The purpose of the special meeting was to review applications received for the Benson County clerk of court position and take any action necessary. Further, the meeting was held to discuss issues pertaining to the deputy clerk of court and take any action needed to resolve those issues. Other people present were: Kelly Glover, Benson County Farmers Press; and James P. Wang, state's attorney.

The board reviewed the applications received.

Griffin joined the meeting telephonically.

Additional discussion was held on the applications received. A motion was made by Kuk to continue with interviewing Alyssa Azure, Erionna Vilandre and Jayla Smith. Kuk's motion was seconded by Horner. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Davidson, seconded by Kuk, to have the following people on the clerk of court interview panel: James P. Wang, state's attorney; Rebecca Nelson, deputy state court administrator--Unit 1; a citizen from the county; a clerk of court from another county; Bonnie Erickson, Benson County auditor/treasurer; Doris Griffin and Ron Stadum. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

The board concluded to hold the interviews on Sept. 29, 2025 and have Sept. 30, 2025 as an alternate date.

State's Attorney Wang gave input on the employee serving as the deputy clerk of court and the Benson County public health clerk. Wang stated the employee is an employee of Benson County and due to the issue of not currently having a clerk of court, the board needs to consider whether or not to retain her employment with Benson County. Wang gave information to the board on the tabulation kept by the state court indicating the required standards are not being met by the deputy clerk of court. Discussion was held on the excess vacation and sick leave taken by the employee and the reprimand letter issued by the district health unit on July 31, 2025. A motion was made by Griffin to no longer employ this person effective Sept. 26, 2025.

Denton Heisler, Lake Region District Health Unit, came to the meeting. He indicated the district health unit would be acceptable to the termination.

Griffin's motion was seconded by Davidson. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

The board concluded to start the advertising process for the position as soon as possible.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:45 a.m.

Bonnie Erickson  
Benson County Auditor

Ron Stadum  
Chair

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Bonnie Erickson  
Benson County Auditor

Ron Stadum  
Chair

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**Suite 1**  
**Harvey, ND**  
**701-324-2322**  
**701-341-1591**

**\$124,900**

**503 4th St, Maddock**  
**1Bed/1Bath, main floor**  
**1200 sq.ft.**  
**Open attic as bonus room**  
**2 nonconforming bedrooms**  
**¾ bath in basement**  
**32' x 26' Garage**

**City of Leeds, North Dakota – Request for Bids**

**2026/2027 City Pool Renovation Project**

The City of Leeds, ND is currently accepting sealed bids for the renovation of Leeds City Pool. **All bids must be clearly labeled “2026/2027 Pool Renovation” and addressed to: Attention: City Auditor – Gina Harkness PO Box 331, Leeds, ND 58346**

Bids may be mailed to the above address or hand delivered. All submissions must be received in a sealed envelope. Questions regarding the bid may be directed to (701) 466-2930.

**Bidding Timeline:**

- **Opens: October 10, 2025**
- **Closes: October 31, 2025, at 12:00 PM (Noon)**
- **Late submissions will not be opened or considered.**

**Bid Requirements:**

- All work must comply with current VGB (Virginia Graeme Baker) and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) guidelines.
- Bidders must provide two references for commercial pool projects involving similar plumbing work completed within the past two years.
- The renovated pool must be designed to remain full during winter months without draining.

**Scope of Work**

**Pool Plumbing and Structure:**

- Remove and replace 13 skimmers (maximum two skimmers per 2½” line). Skimmers must enter the interior pool wall; concrete throats are to be eliminated. All skimmers and returns must be membrane ready.
- Skimmer placement: 2 on each end, 5 on one long side, 4 on the opposite long side.
- Relocate existing return fittings, patch old holes. Install 18 new returns via bore drilling, spaced no more than 20 feet apart, starting 5 feet from each end. No more than 3 fittings per 2” pipeline.
- Install safety grip coping stones (2’ x 10 5/8”) around the entire pool perimeter. Stones must be grouted and sealed.
- Install 60ml hot-air welded PVC membrane across the pool interior.
- Replace main drains with 24” stainless steel sumps bonded to the grid.

Pressure test piping to equipment room prior to connection. Bid assumes existing 6” piping passes pressure test; if not, a change order must be submitted and approved. The City reserves the right to manage concrete removal/replacement locally if new 6” lines are needed.

**Pool Separation:**

- Small pool must be fully isolated from the main pool to prevent cross contamination and ensure proper turnover rates.

**Required Equipment:**

- (1) 10HP 3-phase Pentair EQ pump
- (4) 140K BTU 3-phase heat pumps
- (3) 620XF cartridge filters, each with an extra set of cartridges
- Complete white goods and valve system for manifold control and winterization
- 6” Schedule 40 suction and return lines (rated for temperature and pressure) in equipment room
- Note: Schedule 40 drainpipes is prohibited for pool plumbing
- ADA-compliant lift (socket fit, removable for storage)
- Pressure testing required for all lines
- Existing chemical control and injection pumps will be reused; Hawkins is responsible for chemical tanks

**Additional Work (By City or City Subcontractors):**

- Electrical and HVAC installations
- All necessary permits
- Remove 4 feet of concrete around pool perimeter and excavate for plumbing access
- Provide pea rock and backfill excavated area
- Repour concrete deck with step for coping stone
- Install or modify deck drain system as needed

**Pool Specifications:**

- Dimensions: 35’ x 88’
- Depth: 3’6” (shallow end) to 12’ (deep end)

**Project Timeline:**

- **Start Date: Third week of August 2026**
- **Completion Deadline: June 1, 2027**

**HELP WANTED**

**Kitchen Staff, Custodian & Bus Driver Positions**

Applicants should contact **Supt. Kent Dennis, 701-473-5306, kent.dennis@k12.nd.us**

Positions are open until filled

Minnewaukan Public School  
4675 Highway 281  
Minnewaukan, ND 58351

**NOTICE**

**>>>> Farmers and Landowners <<<<**

**Noxious Weed Cost Sharing**

The Wells County Weed Control Board will again do **Cost Sharing**.

**Cost Sharing is done on non cropland, such as hayland, pastureland, CRP land, etc.**

Producers are asked to provide:

1. A **map** showing spots of each noxious weed sprayed along with legal land description and acres or each weed sprayed.
2. Photocopies of chemical invoices listing amount of herbicide cost and your social security number, which is now required for any dollar amount received.
3. Deadline to mail in your cost sharing is **October 25, 2025**.
4. **Mail** your cost sharing to **Wells County Weed Control Board, PO Box 2, Fessenden, ND 58438-0002**. All cost sharing submitted must have a postmark.

Examples of chemicals that will be cost shared this year will be **Tordon, 2,4D, Plateau, Overdrive, Milestone, Forefront, Chaparel, Escort XP, Cimmaron, Banvel, Latigo and Surfactants**.

In accordance with Chapter 4.1-47-02. Control of noxious weeds - Responsibility. Each person shall do all things necessary and proper to control the spread of noxious weeds.

Penalties are provided for in Chapter 4.1-47-30 and Chapter 4.1-47-31.

Pursuant to Chapter 4.1-47 in the North Dakota Century Code book, the following weeds have been declared noxious:

**Absinth Wormwood**

**Dalmation Toadflax**

**Leafy Spurge**

**Purple Loosestrife**

**Saltcedar**

**Yellow Toadflax**

**Palmer Amaranth**

**Canada Thistle**

**Diffuse Knapweed**

**Musk Thistle**

**Russian Knapweed**

**Spotted Knapweed**

**Houndstongue**

The Wells County Weed Board also declares the following weeds noxious:

**Common Milkweed**

**Perennial Sowthistle**

**WELLS COUNTY WEED CONTROL BOARD**