

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BENSON COUNTY NORTH DAKOTA March 17, 2026

The Benson County commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 8 a.m. in the commissioner room of the Benson County Courthouse, Minnewaukan, ND. Commissioners present: Dick Horner, Ron Stadum and Tammy Kuk. David Davidson was present via Teams. Doris M. Griffin was absent. The meeting was called to order by Chair Davidson. Other people present: Kelly Glover, Benson County Farmers Press; James P. Wang, Benson County state's attorney; Laura Wanzek, Benson County sheriff; Scott Todahl, DEM and highway superintendent; and Joy Orvedal, highway department clerk.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A motion was made by Horner, seconded by Kuk, to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of March 3, 2026. 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. He stated he will start placement of road load limit signs in the near future. Todahl informed the board the supplemental grant was received for the Esmond Fire Department. He discussed the Boss snowplow used by Benson County Transportation. Horner questioned if the plow could be used by the highway department. Todahl stated he thought it could be of use to him. A motion was made by Horner, seconded by Kuk, to transfer the plow to the highway department and advertise the truck used by Benson County Transportation for bids. All members voted yes. The motion carried. Todahl reported the RFP interview was completed last week for the Brown Road project.

Sheriff Wanzek met with the board to give her sheriff's report. She presented a proposed contract with the city of Maddock. She discussed how nuisance dog issues will be dealt with in the city of Maddock. She suggested a need for a possible increase in the contract price with the cities in the upcoming years. A motion was made by Horner, seconded by Kuk, to approve and sign the contract with the city of Maddock. All members voted yes. The motion carried. Wanzek stated she emailed the calls for service report for February 2026 to the board. Total calls received were 214.

A motion was made by Horner, seconded by Stadum, to approve and sign the county deed to Adam and Alexis Windjue for the transfer of Lots 6 and 7, Sheltered Bay Subdivision, located in Government Lots 2 and 3 of 30-153-63. All members voted yes. The motion carried. The board reviewed the county financial reports for February 2026. A motion was made by Kuk, seconded by Horner, to use "vote centers" in Benson County for the 2026 election cycle. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

The board reviewed and discussed the monthly county bills needing to be paid prior to end of month. A motion was made by Horner, seconded by Kuk, to pay the bills. All members voted yes. The motion carried unanimously. Jessica Tagestad and Jesse Brandvold, Weld Engineering, met with the board regarding the plans for the chip-seal project for the roads known as the Oberon north and seven miles from Flora (CP-0300(026)). They presented the cost estimate, proposal and survey specifications for the project. A motion was made by Kuk, seconded by Horner, to approve the plans. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Horner, seconded by Stadum, to approve advertising for sale the 26' Craftsman snowblower, 21" push lawn mower, and Heavy Hauler dump trailer cart used by the courthouse custodian. All members voted yes. The motion carried. A motion to adjourn was made at 8:50 a.m.

Bonnie Erickson Benson County Auditor David Davidson Chair

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BENSON COUNTY NORTH DAKOTA April 7, 2026

The Benson County commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 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 Davidson. Other people present: Kelly Glover, Benson County Farmers Press; James P. Wang, Benson County state's attorney; Laura Wanzek, Benson County sheriff; Scott Todahl, DEM and highway superintendent; and Joy Orvedal, highway department clerk.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A motion was made by Horner, seconded by Kuk, to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of March 17, 2026. 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. He stated he received one of the new blades. He updated the board on the progress of the SIRM grant through Homeland Security.

Sheriff Wanzek met with the board to give her sheriff's report. She presented the calls for service report for last month and updated the board on the work being done by her office. She reported that Guardian Fleet came to do some repairs on the cars used by her department.

A motion was made by Horner, seconded by Griffin, to select Wold Engineering to perform construction engineering services for the Brown Road project (SC-0341(001)) per the recommendation of the interview committee. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

The board reviewed the joint election agreement with the city of Oberon. A motion was made by Kuk, seconded by Horner, to approve the agreement. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

The board reviewed a Model D Flood Plain Ordinance prepared by Randy Thompson, flood plain administrator for Benson County. A motion was made by Horner, seconded by Griffin, to approve the ordinance. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

The board reviewed a letter from Bonnie Erickson, Benson County auditor/treasurer, dated March 25, 2026 along with a resolution appointing election inspectors for the 2026 election cycle. A motion was made by Kuk, seconded by Griffin, to adopt the resolution and appoint the named inspectors. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

The county financial reports for March 2026 were presented to the board.

The board reviewed the zoning variance application filed by Beau Buehler. A motion was made by Griffin, seconded by Horner, to approve the variance as requested per the recommendation of the Benson County Zoning Board. All members voted yes. The motion carried. Wang updated the board on the zoning application filed by Rosanne Zink. Griffin stated the zoning board concluded to get reports from the Lake Region District Health Department that relate to the application.

Nobody was present for the public comment period.

The board reviewed a funding agreement for clerk of district court services. A motion was made by Kuk, seconded by Stadum, to enter in the agreement. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Griffin, seconded by Stadum, to appoint Krista Estenson to the Benson County Job Development Authority Board for a period of three years commencing April 18, 2026. All members voted yes. The motion carried. Kuk stated Krista Estenson may be interested in also serving on the Benson County Zoning Board.

The board reviewed and discussed the monthly county bills. A motion was made by Griffin, seconded by Horner, to pay all county-approved bills. All members voted yes. The motion carried unanimously. The following bills were paid:

CenDak Cooperative	
--Maddock	\$6,582.25
Farmers Union Oil Co.	1,480.05
Farmers Union Oil	
--York	1,120.98
H. E. Everson	131.98
Little Falls Machines, Inc.	741.19
Marc	235.93
ND Dept. of Transportation	889.57
Nodak Electric Co-op	537.79
North Star Auto	778.50
Northern Plains Elec.	71.00
Otter Tail Power Co.	582.91
Postmaster	390.00
Power Plan (RDO Equip.)	43.64
Runnings Supply, Inc.	115.78
BC Highway Dept.	140.00
Bravera Bank-Visa	151.69
CenDak Cooperative	
--Maddock	1,618.15
Crown Trophy	32.50
Dukes Car Wash & Detail Center, Inc.	249.95
Farmers Union Oil	
--York	30.00
Interstate Billing	
Service	124.07
ND Telephone Co.	826.16
Northern Plains Elec.	74.00
Otter Tail Power Co.	3,032.20
Prairie Public	299.00
WEX Bank	2,031.37
Otter Tail Power Co.	38.18
AT&T Mobility	206.44
Aflac	1,187.94
Blue Cross Blue Shield of ND	3,152.70
Colonial Insurance	241.63
First Unum Life Insurance Co.	315.65
National Life Group	
One	450.00
Gerrells and	

The Golden Rule	37.99
Postmaster	73.00
Kory Jorgenson	141.76
Terry Follman	1,000.00
Tim Finley	306.88
DL Hardware	40.12
Farmers Union Oil	
--York	1,166.68
Gessner Iron Works, LLC	1,277.17
H. E. Everson	150.59
Interstate Billing	
Service	65.30
Little Falls Machines, Inc.	741.00
Mac's Hardware	156.69
Otter Tail Power Co.	1,116.51
Power Plan (RDO Equip.)	52.96
Runnings Supply, Inc.	965.90
Uline	375.24
Computer Projects of Illinois, Inc.	500.00
Dukes Car Wash & Detail Center, Inc.	249.95
Marc	294.93
NDSU Agriculture	175.00
NDSU Agriculture	205.00
Otter Tail Power Co.	2,781.04
Prairie Public	264.50
Verizon	397.75
David Ambers	89.50
City of Esmond	25.00
Spirit Lake Tribe	
Refuse Control	20.00
Trepay-Walmart	58.62
Stones Mobile Radio, Inc.	12,621.16
LR Law Enforcement Center	3,872.09
LR Residential Re-entry Center	320.00
Thomson Reuters	
--West	231.09
ArcaSearch, LLC	296.75
Advanced Business Methods	192.64
Farmers Union Service Assn.	20.00
Information Technology Dept.	548.90
Information Technology Dept.	1,400.45
Matthew Bender & Co., Inc.	173.88
BC Farmers Press	148.50
BC Farmers Press	28.00
BC Farmers Press	533.54
James Wang	854.67
Kaylee Clifton	431.50
Michele Anderson	36.00
Jayla Smith	150.00
ND Public Employees Retirement	22,594.34
Tasc	2,889.15
Nationwide Retirement Solution	732.00
Pitney Bowes	
Auto. Withdrawal	2,000.00
Olaf Nord	98.26
Rachel Maddock	188.47
BC Farmers Press	108.00
Pederson's Septic Service	220.00
Dakota Implement	177.06
NAPA Auto Parts	25.97
Minnewaukan City	76.50
Butler Machine	307,298.83
Spirit Lake Tribe	
Refuse Control	20.00
Trepay-Walmart	23.94
City of Esmond	25.00
City of Maddock	325.64
City of Leeds	28.00
Wangs	909.39
LR Law Enforcement Center	9,504.00
Advanced Business Methods	186.24
City of Maddock	828.83
Floodwater Properties	500.00
LR Residential Re-entry Center	275.00
Maddock Business & Technology Center	150.00
LR E-911 Authority	15,357.44
Minnewaukan City	211.00
Minnewaukan City	132.75
LR District Health	43,772.25
Matthew Bender & Co., Inc.	79.93
BC Farmers Press	420.00
Spirit Lake Tribe	2,500.00
NDACO Resource Group	2,865.71
Doris Griffin	14.50
Bonnie Erickson	420.00
Jonathan Rice	825.00
Tammy Kuk	49.30
Samantha Sears	693.47
Pitney Bowes	
Auto. Withdrawal	2,000.00
Dist. to Entities	188,405.83
March 2026 NET PAYROLL	
Co. Road	\$50,159.30
General/DEM/Co. Agt.	\$80,906.31
A motion to adjourn was made at 8:37 a.m.	

Bonnie Erickson Benson County Auditor David Davidson Chair

Local government, real impact Democracy where it's most personal

BY STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF ND, ND250 COMMISSION Throughout 2026, the ND250 Commission, administered by the State Historical Society of North Dakota, is leading the state's commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. Through meaningful, inclusive and inspiring projects and events, the commission celebrates North Dakota's rich history, diverse people and bright future while honoring the state's heritage, individual values and spirit of community.

When Americans think about civic engagement, the focus often turns to national elections, Congress or the presidency. But for most people, government is not something distant. It is experienced close to home, in the decisions that shape daily life in communities across North Dakota.

There is a direct structural relationship between the federal system established by the US Constitution and the organization of state and local governments in North Dakota. Under principles like federalism and separation of powers, states develop their own constitutions and establish local governing bodies, such as counties, cities and townships, which mirror aspects of the federal framework while exercising authority granted at the state level.

County commissions, city councils, school boards, park districts and water boards represent civic participation at its most immediate level. These are the places where decisions are made about streets and infrastructure, classrooms and curriculum, public safety and essential services like water systems. The outcomes of these discussions are not abstract. They are real and visible in neighborhoods, schools and communities every day.

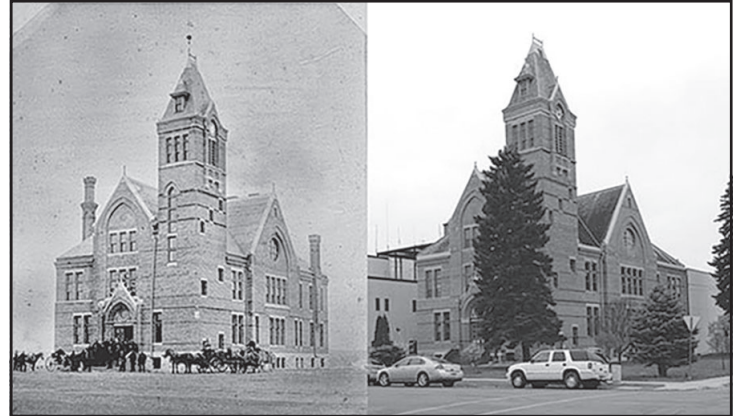
This tradition of local governance is deeply rooted in North Dakota's history. As communities formed across the prairie in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, residents worked together to establish towns, build schools and organize the systems needed to support growing populations. These efforts reflected a shared belief that communities are strongest when people take part in shaping them.

That same spirit continues today. Across the state, thousands of North Dakotans serve in local roles, often balancing public service with full-time jobs, farms and family responsibilities. They are not career politicians but neighbors who step forward to help guide their communities.

Organizations like the ND League of Cities have supported this work for more than a century. Founded in 1912, the League provides resources, training and advocacy to help cities navigate complex challenges, from infrastructure planning



A North Dakota civic meeting, illustrating the long tradition of local governance and community decision-making via ND League of Cities. (Credit: State Historical Society of North Dakota, 143717)



Stutsman County Courthouse, built in 1883, then and now. (Credit: State Historical Society of North Dakota Archives, 1005-0002)

to community development. Its work reflects a long-standing commitment to ensuring that local leaders have the tools they need to serve effectively.

Local government also plays an important role in civic participation. For many people, attending a city council meeting or voting in a school board election is their first direct experience with government in action. These opportunities allow citizens to share their perspectives, ask questions and see how decisions are made.

In this way, local governance connects directly to the principles introduced in 1776 -- that government derives its authority from the people. While those ideas were first expressed at a national level, they are carried forward every day in communities where residents engage, participate and take responsibility for the future of their towns.

The 1883 Stutsman County Courthouse, still open to the public today in Jamestown as a state historic site, was the birthplace of North Dakota's statehood. Important meetings were held to discuss the division of Dakota Territory.

North Dakota has long demonstrated a strong tradition of civic involvement. From early settlement through today, citizens have stepped forward to organize, lead and contribute to their communities. Whether

through public office, volunteer boards or community organizations, these efforts reflect a shared understanding that communities depend on participation.

As the United States marks its 250th anniversary, local institutions serve as a reminder that the American story is not only shaped in national moments but in everyday decisions made across the country. In North Dakota, that story continues in meeting rooms, school auditoriums and community gatherings where people come together to solve problems and plan for the future.

The work of self-government is ongoing. It is built through conversations, collaboration, and a willingness to take part. It is seen in the efforts of individuals who step forward to serve and in the communities that support them.

As part of ND250, North Dakotans are encouraged to reflect on the role they play in this process. Participating in local government, whether by voting, attending meetings or serving in a leadership role, is one of the most direct ways to be part of "Our American Story."

To learn more about North Dakota's role in the 250th anniversary and events happening across the state, visit ND250.com.

Lake Region Livestock Inc.
Devils Lake, ND
701-662-2223 | 800-858-7049
Chris Plummer - owner & manager

- **Tue., May 5:** Regular Sale & Feeder Cattle Special
- **Tue., May 12:** Regular Sale & Feeder Cattle Special
1000 Feeder Cattle
Several packages of nice quality black open heifers
- **Sun., May 17:**
1 p.m. - Heuchert's Willow Creek Angus Bull & Female Sale
• 70 bulls
• 50 2nd calf pairs/bred
• 50 older pairs/bred cows
• 75 open replacement heifer
- **Tue., May 19:** Regular Sale & Feeder Cattle Special
- **Tue., May 26:** No Sale

► **REMEMBER. SHOTS DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**
★ Call ahead if interested in marketing any bred cattle to ensure proper advertising. ★
For market information, a farm appraisal, to consign livestock or for trucking arrangements call Chris Plummer @ 701-256-0878
Check out www.lakeregionlivestockinc.com or for current & past sale results.

CITY OF LEEDS
City Clean-Up Week
Will be held
Monday May 11 to Thursday May 14, 2026
Place items for disposal on the curb for pick-up.

- No perishable items
- Please place routine household garbage in green Waste Management totes
- No Branches or Yard Waste-these items can be delivered to the dump by the homeowner
- No Cardboard
- No Tires
- No Electronics
- Contact Leeds City Office (701)466-2930 with any questions

The CLEAN-UP CREW

Elegant Arrangements of lasting beauty handcrafted for Mom's special day.

Flower Her With Love on Mother's Day
SUNDAY, MAY 10

Outdoor Blooming Plants :: Wind Spinners
Yard Ornaments :: Indoor Blooming Plants
Fresh Arrangements :: Green Plants
Corsages :: Balloons :: Gift Items :: Gift Certificates

Order early for best selections.

KRANTZ'S Floral & Design
Stop in or call & place your order today.
701-662-2417
Holiday Mall, Devils Lake, ND www.devilslakeflorist.com