



## STAKING ENGINEER

Dakota Valley Electric Cooperative Milnor, ND

Dakota Valley Electric Cooperative has a full-time position for a Staking Engineer based in Milnor, North Dakota.

The Staking Engineer will support planning and design of work plans, along with identifying projects to improve system performance. This position blends engineering, field work and technology to turn system plans, service requests and member needs into a well-designed, reliable electric distribution utility system. Additional duties would include maintaining distribution facility maps and drawings utilizing ESRI based GIS software.

Successful applicants must communicate well and be comfortable working with the public, electricians, and contractors. A technical degree, such as Electrical Technology, is required and B.S degree from an accredited college is desired. Experience in the electric utility field may be substituted for some educational requirements.

Dakota Valley offers a competitive wage and benefits package including health insurance, 401k plan, pension and paid sick leave, holidays and vacation.

A complete job description and application can be located at [www.dakotavalley.com/employment-opportunities](http://www.dakotavalley.com/employment-opportunities). Qualified applicants should submit a resume and an application by March 2, 2026, to [brandong@dakotavalley.com](mailto:brandong@dakotavalley.com) or mailed to:

**Dakota Valley Electric Cooperative**  
**Attn: Engineering/IT Manager**  
**7296 Highway 281**  
**Edgeley, ND 58433**

*Dakota Valley Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer*

## DICKEY COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

- Ellendale and Oakes Offices
- Call 349-3249 to Schedule
- Open by Appointment only
- Call 701-710-5575 for ride Scheduling

*-SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED-*

## OAKES GOOD SAMARITAN NURSING DEPARTMENT

**NURSING STAFF: full time RN night time/day nurse with \$20K sign on bonus and full time LPN nights for \$15K bonus.**

**Call 701-742-3274 for more information**

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Dickey County Planning and Zoning Board will be holding the following public hearings:

- February 24, 2026, 6:00 PM Growing Small Towns in Oakes
- March 3, 2026, 6:00 PM Dickey County Fair Grounds Archery Building in Ellendale

The purpose of the hearings is to discuss and consider the adoption of the Dickey County Planning and Zoning Ordinances. This hearing provides an opportunity for community members to voice their opinions and concerns about some, or all, of the proposed ordinances. We look forward to hearing the public's input.

The proposed zoning ordinances will be available for review at the Auditor's office from 8:00-12:00 and 12:30-4:30 after February 3, 2026. A link to the document will also be available in the quick links section of [www.dickeynd.com](http://www.dickeynd.com), after said time.

This meeting will be conducted in accordance with NDCC 44-04 (Open Meetings Law)

(February 26, 2026)

## Dakota Gardener: A Cautionary Tale

By Carrie Knutson, Horticulture agent NDSU Extension – Grand Forks County

Seed starting time is just around the corner. I would like to share a cautionary tale about seedlings while there is still time to order or purchase your seed-starting supplies. This way, you won't have to live in fear of your precious tomato seedlings dying, as I did last year.

Two years ago, I found a tomato variety I really liked by accident. Last year, I was lucky enough to find the seed. It was expensive seed, and I was really watching over my seedlings. To my dismay, after the seedlings were transplanted, the leaves began to curl, and the lower leaves started to die. There was always new growth, but the older leaves just kept dying.

At that point, there wasn't much I could do. I transplanted the tomato seedlings into new containers with new potting soil. They seemed to hold their own but only improved when it was time to harden them off outside and plant them in the garden. I planted the tomato plants deeply and had the best

tomato crop ever.

What was happening to my tomato plants? I am still not sure what happened. All my other seeds germinated, transplanted and grew well. With that in mind, let's go through a list of things to consider to make sure your seedlings survive indoors and can be planted in your garden.

First, clean and disinfect last year's seedling containers and tools. After washing them in hot, soapy water, soak them in a 10% bleach solution for 30 minutes. Damping off is a common seedling disease that can kill the seedlings of many different plants and vegetables. The disease-causing organisms can survive in containers used the previous year. Cleaning and disinfecting containers and tools will help prevent the disease.

Second, seed heat mats can help improve plant growth by keeping the soil temperatures warmer. In addition, grow lights are a great investment for seed starting. The grow lights should be on for 12-16 hours every day.

Third, keep your seedlings and transplants healthy by using potting soil or a seed-starting mix. The mix will allow excess water to drain, keeping the mix moist but not overly wet. Always use new potting or seed-starting mixes to help with any disease issues.

Fourth, water seedlings with room-temperature water. Keep the soil moist, but not overly wet. Seedling containers should have drainage holes. An easy way to avoid overwatering is to water the seedlings from the bottom by pouring water into the catch tray. Wait about an hour and drain the excess water from the catch tray.

Finally, fertilizer should be applied only after the first several true leaves have formed. Then use a quarter-strength mix to avoid burning the seedlings. Additionally, a small fan can be used to create air movement and strengthen stems.

I'm still not sure what caused the issue last year. I thought I did everything right. Perhaps the tomato variety is a bit picky when grown indoors. I might give a seed heat mat a try. I will let you know how it goes. Happy gardening!

## Public Notices

[www.ndpublicnotices.com](http://www.ndpublicnotices.com)

**City of Ludden Council Meeting**  
**February 12th, 2026 7:00PM**  
 Mayor M.German called the meeting to order.  
 Pledge of Allegiance  
 E. German read minutes from January 8th, 2026  
 \*M.Young made the correction to January 8th, 2026 minutes\* list itemized checks in the minutes.  
 E.German read the financials. M. Young made a motion to accept financials. D. Anderson 2nd motion. Carried.  
 Check #1410 \$250.00 WSI  
 Auditor read 2022, 2023 Annual Financial Report  
 D. Anderson made a motion to approve the Financial report as read.

M. Young 2nd motion. Carried.  
 Old Business:  
 Clean up the pump house capping old water lines.  
 New Business:  
 There being no further business D. Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting M. Young 2nd motion. Carried  
 Next Meeting March 12th 2026 7:00PM at The Ludden Community Center.  
 Respectfully Submitted, Erica German- City Auditor  
 (Submitted to the Times Leader 02/26/2026)

### Agenda for the Dickey County Commission Meeting

**March 3, 2026 9:00 am**  
 Zoom link is available upon request if received by 4:00 PM March 2, 2026.  
 8:00 Park Board Meeting  
 9:00 Commission Meeting called to order  
 Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call  
 Additions or Revisions to the Agenda  
 Approve Minutes  
 Approve Vouchers  
 9:30 Public Comment Period  
 10:00 Personnel Time  
 10:15 Sales Ratio Review  
 10:30 Zoning Ordinance Update  
 10:45 Discussion on details for sale of county land at Pheasant Lake  
 11:00 Highway Department  
**OTHER BUSINESS TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD**  
**ADJOURNMENT**  
 ANYONE WISHING TO HAVE ITEMS ON THE DICKEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' AGENDA, PLEASE CONTACT THE AUDITOR'S OFFICE AT 349-8303 BEFORE 9:00 AM MONDAY, ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE MEETING DATE.  
 To request an auxiliary aid or service, please contact the Dickey County Title VI Coordinator at 349-8303 at least 5 business days before the scheduled meeting.  
 To request a speaker card for the Public Comment Period, please contact the Dickey County Auditor's Office at 349-8303 or by e-mail at [dcauditor@nd.gov](mailto:dcauditor@nd.gov) before the meeting is called to order. The information included in the request should be your name, your address, and the agenda item from the current meeting agenda or the previous meeting agenda that the person seeks to address.

## ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS Whitestone Hill Memorial / Monument

SECTION 00 11 13

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Project Title: Whitestone Hill Memorial / Monument  
 Project Location: Whitestone Hill State Historical Site  
 7310 86th St. SE  
 Kulm, North Dakota 58456  
 Owner: State Historical Society of North Dakota  
 North Dakota Heritage Center  
 612 East Boulevard Avenue  
 Bismark, North Dakota 58505-0830  
 Architect: Quintus 3D, LLC  
 N6877 County Road N  
 Beldenville WI, 54003  
 Phone: 715-699-0477  
 Email: [quintus3d@gmail.com](mailto:quintus3d@gmail.com)

PreBid Site Visit: A prebid conference will be Monday March 9th, 2026 at 11:00 pm Central Standard Time at the site depending on weather conditions. See Photo attachments of the site in section 00 31 00. Virtual attendance will not be possible but a report will be issued to the plan holders.

Bid Deadline: Thursday March 19, 2026 at 2:00 pm CST.

Bids received after the designated time will not be accepted. Bids will be opened and publicly read aloud. It is the bidder's responsibility to see that mailed or delivered bids are at the "Bid Delivery Location" by the date and time stated above.

Bid Delivery State Historical Society of North Dakota  
 Location: North Dakota Heritage Center  
 612 East Boulevard Avenue  
 Bismark, North Dakota 58505-0830

Bid Opening Sealed Bids will be opened immediately after the Bid Deadline Location & Time: publicly at 2:00 pm. CST

Location will be:  
 North Dakota Heritage Center  
 612 East Boulevard Avenue  
 Bismark, North Dakota 58505-0830  
 Classroom C  
 Project Description:

This construction project consists of mainly earthwork, poured in place concrete, granite stone slabs with etched Native art work, corten steel panels, aluminum panels, stainless steel imbed art work, welding and tree plantings. The corten steel and aluminum panels are curved with laser cut Native art work. The work is divided into one base bid and 4 additional add alternates.

Type of Bid:  
 Stipulated Sum for General Construction.

Obtaining & / or Viewing Documents:  
 Electronic PDF email from the architect:

Contact [quintus3d@gmail.com](mailto:quintus3d@gmail.com) – allow 24 hours for response.

Phone contact 715-699-0477  
 Printed hard copies are to be arranged by prospective bidder.

Bidders can register as a plan holder by providing names, address, phone number, and email contact information to [quintus3d@gmail.com](mailto:quintus3d@gmail.com).

Or

North Dakota: Bismark / Mandan Builders Exchange

Bismark Builders Exchange  
 Dickinson Builders Exchange  
 Minot Builders Exchange  
 Grand Forks Builders Exchange  
 Fargo-Moorhead Builders Exchange  
 South Dakota: Construction Industry Center

Plains Builders Exchange  
 Minnesota: Minnesota Builders Exchange  
 Montana: Builders Exchange of Billings

Other: Construct Connect  
 Dodge Data & Analytics  
 QuestCDN

North Dakota Law:

- That each bid must be accompanied by a separate envelope containing the contractor's license and bid security. The bid security must be in a sum equal to five percent of the full amount of the bid and must be in the form of a bidder's bond. A bidder's bond must be executed

by the bidder as principal and by a surety, conditioned that if the principal's bid is accepted and the contract awarded to the principal, the principal, within ten days after notice of the award, shall execute a contract in accordance with the terms of the bid and the bid bond and any condition of the governing body. A countersignature of a bid bond is not required under this section. If a successful bidder does not execute a contract within the ten days allowed, the bidder's bond must be forfeited to the governing body and the project awarded to the next lowest responsible bidder.

That a bidder, except a bidder on a municipal, rural, and industrial water supply project using funds provided under Public Law No. 99-294 [100 Stat. 426; 43 U.S.C. 390a], must be licensed for the full amount of the bid as required by section 43-07-12. For projects using funds provided under Public Law No. 99-294 [100 Stat. 426; 43 U.S.C. 390a], the advertisement must state that, unless a bidder obtains a contractor's license for the full amount of its bid within twenty days after it is determined the bidder is the lowest responsible bidder, the bid must be rejected and the contract awarded to the next lowest responsible bidder.

That no bid may be read or considered if the bid does not fully comply with the requirements of this section and that any deficient bid submitted must be resealed and returned to the bidder immediately.

That the governing body reserves the right to reject any and all bids and rebid the project until a satisfactory bid is received.

The Owner:  
 The owner reserves the right to hold all bids for a period of ten days after the date fixed for the opening of bids, and to reject any and all bids and waive any formalities or irregularities.

END OF SECTION

(published February 26, 2026)

## Dickey County Commissioner Meeting, February 3, 2026

### Commissioner Meeting

February 3, 2026

Chair Kacey Holm called the meeting to order at 9:42 am. Commissioners John Hokana, Brandon Carlson, and Marke Roberts were also present. OtterTail Power Company representative Kris Koch, and Auditor Sheppard were also present. States Attorney Kim Radermacher and Applied Digital Emma Perrotti were also present via electronic means. The media was not present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Additions to the Agenda  
 5-County meeting  
 Compressor on the boiler  
 Asphalt Zipper  
 Abatement Hearing  
 CD maturing in February  
 LoadPass

Carlson made a motion to approve the January 20th meeting minutes as amended. Roberts seconded. Motion carried.

Sheppard presented two vouchers to be added for payment, one to Jensen Brothers Construction in the amount of \$31,302.95 and to an independent contractor in the amount of \$154.64. Roberts made a motion to approve the vouchers with the additions. Hokana seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Carlson made a motion to approve weekly payment to the independent contractor for hours worked the previous week, with the ending date of February 16. Hokana seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Tax Director Don Flaherty joined the meeting at 9:50 and Treasurer Wonada Lematta joined the meeting at 9:55.

Roberts made a motion to open the abatement hearing. Carlson seconded. Motion carried.

Flaherty presented an adjustment to the primary residence credit allowed by

the state of North Dakota on one parcel. The original credit was applied against the wrong parcel number, resulting in the allowed credit. The second parcel is a late filing on a homestead credit which is eligible at 50%. The homestead credit will also adjust the primary residence credit received by this resident.

Roberts made a motion to approve the adjustment and the abatement as presented. Carlson seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Carlson made a motion to close the hearing. Roberts seconded. Motion carried.

Lematta presented CD rates from the banks who responded to her request for quotes. Discussion followed concerning the length of the new CD with the current interest market. Carlson made a motion to approve the purchase of a one year \$500,000 CD with CDARS at a rate of 3.82% APY. Roberts seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Sheppard presented the responses to the letters sent to current board members whose term is expiring and the ad in the paper looking for new board members. Roberts made a motion to reappoint the following individuals: John Quandt to Water Resource Board, Robert Schmidt to Park Board, Tim Bollinger to Weed Board, and Matt Herman and Wes Knutson to Planning Commission. Hokana seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Sheppard presented three liquor license transfer applications, two for the Angry Beaver and one for The Legion Sportsbar for activities at the Guelph Community Building. The township has approved the application and the Sheriff's office has been informed of the applications. Carlson made a motion to approve the liquor license transfers. Roberts seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Sheppard presented a proposal for Rapid Response for system maintenance for the furnaces and air conditioning units in the county building that houses the South Country Human Services Zone offices. The cost is considered maintenance on the building so indirect cost funds received from the state of North Dakota would be used to cover the expense. Carlson made a motion to approve the proposal. Hokana seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Sheppard presented an offer received for the sale of the Asphalt Zipper and trailer to Nilssen Brothers Ventures in the amount of \$100,000. Discussion followed on any possible use of the machine to fix bad spots or should the machine be sold. Roberts made a motion to sell the Asphalt Zipper to Nilssen Brothers Ventures. Carlson seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Environmental Services employee Scott Peterson and Risk Manager Cresta Miller joined the meeting at 10:15.

Peterson discussed with the Commission on the compressor on the boiler, which has been cutting out. Replacement of the compressor is not specifically in the budget, but there are funds for equipment repair which will cover most of the cost. Carlson made a motion to authorize Peterson to work with Chad's Electric to replace the compressor. Roberts seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Peterson informed the Commission that the technician from Otis Elevator had been here to do their maintenance check on the elevator. The technician informed Peterson to expect inspectors later this year to inspect the elevator. The emergency light was not working, which was fixed by the technician. There is an issue with the phone in the elevator, which the Commission said to work with Chad to fix that issue while they are

here working on the compressor.

Miller presented the "naming the plow" entries received. With the purchase of new snow trucks, a decision was made to have the two names this year put on the older trucks that will continue to be used. A contest next year could be used to install on the new trucks.

Holm discussed with the Commission the need to appoint a Land Use Administrator related to the new zoning ordinances. Holm stated that the public meetings are set for February 18th at the Fairgrounds Archery Building in Ellendale and February 24th at Growing Small Towns in Oakes. As Administrative Assistant Amy Mittleider has been active with the process from the beginning. Carlson made a motion to nominate Mittleider for the position. Roberts seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Highway Superintendent Jeff Hagen, DES/911 Coordinator Charlie Russell, and resident Darrell Schrum joined the meeting at 10:33.

The meeting went into recess at 10:35 and returned at 10:40.

Carlson gave an update from the 5-County Commission meeting held on January 29th in Fort Ransom. Carlson informed the Commission of the discussion on jails in the 5 county area and the possible grant funding that could be used to possibly place a jail in the 5 county area. The 5 county group agreed to set up a meeting with a representative and the sheriff from the counties which needs to be done by February 20th. Each auditor will inform the Ransom County Auditor who has volunteered from their county. Carlson has volunteered, as he had also been involved in the jail assessment that Dickey County had completed earlier.

Schrum discussed with the Commission the discrepancy between depart-

ments concerning first responder time away from their position with the county. Schrum stated that two fire fighters took vacation time because they were late for work due to fighting a fire early one morning in January. Commission stated that they were not aware of this occurring and stated that all departments should be handled equally. Roberts made a motion to have employees present at Commissioner meetings when this occurs for the approval to not use vacation time and this change would be retroactive to January 1st, 2026. Hokana seconded. Sheppard stated also that this needs to be included in the employee manual. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried. The two fire fighters should present at the next Commissioner meeting.

Sheriff Chris Estes and KJL Engineer Bryan Tykwinski joined the meeting at 11:00.

Tykwinski reporting on the awards for the state flex funding that were announced. Our application for Highway 2 micro mill project with LaMoire County was approved, using Prairie Dog Grant funding. This funding will not be available until the Prairie Dog funding buckets are filled, which may not occur until 2027 at the earliest. Our share of the cost would be \$664,000.

Tykwinski presented the plat map of the county park areas at Pheasant Lake for the review of the Commission. The areas have been placed into 7 separate blocks on the west side of the lake.

Tykwinski presented the KJL Engineering contract for the 87th Avenue and the 95th Street reconstruction north of Highway 11 and west of Highway 281. Carlson made a motion to sign the contract. Hokana seconded. Roll call was Carlson yes; Holm yes; Roberts no; Hokana yes. Motion carried.

Hagen presented a utility permit from Dakota Valley Electric Coop to cross

County Road #10. Carlson made a motion to approve the permit. Roberts seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Hagen informed the Commission that he had been contacted about purchasing a new snow truck in 2026. The price is approximately \$163,834 and the new snow equipment is currently approximately \$114,432. The new snow equipment for the truck purchased in 2025 should arrive in the next few months according to the equipment supplier. If a new snow truck is ordered in 2026, the snow equipment will need to be budgeted in 2026. The purchase of a new snow truck in 2026 will put them over budget for that budget line. The Commission stated to order the snow truck in 2026. Due to the lack of snow during the winter, snow removal costs and overtime costs should be lower and will cover the difference in the budget due to the increased cost of the new truck.

Carlson requested information from Hagen on the harvest permits farmers usually purchase and if those are handled on LoadPass. Hagen will check but is confident that the change to include the harvest permits last year.

Estes informed the Commission that he plans on sending out a conditional offer to a licensed officer. Estes also informed the Commission that the trade-in value for the Tahoe that will be replaced is \$16,000. The vehicle will have to be decommissioned before trade-in.

Sheppard requested clarification on liquor license applications for the year and the fee to charge. A decision was made to keep the same rate as 2025, \$200 for a liquor license, \$100 for a beer license.

Hokana made a motion to adjourn at 11:35.

(February 26, 2026)

