

OLIVER COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

April 14, 2026
 OLIVER COUNTY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS were called to order at 1:00 PM with all members present.
 The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
 Lee Husfloen moved and Dave Berger seconded the motion to approve the agenda. All in favor, none opposed; motion carried.
 Dave Berger moved and Lee Husfloen seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2026, March 25, 2026 and March 26, 2026 meetings. All in favor, none opposed; motion carried.
 Lee Husfloen moved and Dave Berger seconded the motion to approve the following bills for payment and approve the following bills previously paid. A roll call vote was held, with Dave Berger, aye, Lee Husfloen, aye, Rob Schmidt, aye; motion carried.
 Robert Schmidt-246.50
 Allstate Peterbilt-81.84
 Dacotah Paper-594.24
 Dakota Fire Station-95.00
 Interstate Bearing Systems-1049.11
 NDACO Resources Group-805.72
 Linda Nelson-50.75
 OK Tire Store-13157.22
 Jaden Schmidt-59.45
 Rebecca Bethke-46.24
 Robert Gibb & Sons-641.33
 New Salem Auto Parts-3018.84
 ND Workforce Safety-250.00
 Center Republican-688.41
 Statewide Services-233.00
 Butler Machinery-380.00
 ITD-1217.30
 Rud Oil & Gas-4659.50
 Raymond Eggena-10100.00
 Center Machine-180.60
 Factory Motor Parts-270.50
 I-State Truck Center-959.75
 RDO Equipment-1249.05
 NDACO-126.00
 Office of the Adj. General-120.00
 Thomson Reuters-543.96
 Steins-179.07
 BFirst Industrial-955.93
 AGCO Finance-9497.17
 NDSU Extension-8761.39
 Catalis-2376.08
 Nelson Auto Center-44709.00
 Center-Stanton Music Dept.-100.00
 Mercer Co. HR-4249.69
 Mercer-Oliver EM-12303.72
 Rick Schmidt-862.58
 K&M Repair-1397.43
 SRF Consulting-1752.55
 Custom Truck Equipment-4467.95
 The following bills previously paid were approved:

Aflac-128.52
 AT&T Mobility-491.74
 Butler Machinery-128595.00
 Colonial Life Processing Center-1100.43
 Companion Life Ins.-399.23
 Cale Ferderer-300.00
 Fidelity Security Life Ins.-58.06
 Nationwide Retirement-1838.50
 CentralNordak Publishing-75.00
 Oliver County Treasurer-375.12
 Quadient Finance-244.22
 Roughrider Electric Coop-357.07
 Security First Bank of ND-82192.47
 SW Water Authority-78.16
 TransTrash-420.00
 US Records Midwest-684.84
 Verizon Wireless-126.21
 VISA-4121.18
 WRT-693.01
 Youthworks-1802.00
 Payroll-86383.49
 Sheriff's Department updates were provided. The new vehicle should arrive within a month. Lee Husfloen moved and Dave Berger seconded the motion to upgrade the radio in Deputy Ferderer's vehicle to be SIRN compatible. All in favor, none opposed; motion arrived. The Oliver County Community Foundation approved the County to receive \$5000 from their grant program for the AEDs for the Sheriff's vehicles. The impound lot will be cleaned out.
 Discussion was held on the teardown of the March 13th, 2026 meeting. The Center-Stanton music students helped tear down the meeting. A bill was submitted to the county for \$100 to pay them for the work done.
 Dave Berger moved and Lee Husfloen seconded the motion to approve recognition of Men's Health Month in June. All in favor, none opposed; motion carried.
 Lee Husfloen moved and Dave Berger seconded the motion to approve the appointment of Alysia Staigle as Election Inspector. All in favor, none opposed; motion carried.
 The Clerk of Court Funding agreement was sent to the county for final signatures.
 A handout was presented from the NDPSC for a meeting notice.
 BNI was present to discuss the 37th Avenue Overpass project and request approval on the revision of their plan for the bypass road. Lee Husfloen moved and Rob Schmidt seconded the motion to approve the revision and construction plans and development agreement for the County Road 37th Ave SW Overpass as presented below:
 WHEREAS, BNI Coal, LTD. desires to build a haul road between its coal mine expansion and the existing coal facilities which requires

the crossing of Oliver County Road 37th Ave SW;
 WHEREAS, BNI Coal, LTD. has worked with the County Engineer and has held multiple meetings with stakeholders to consider the safest and most efficient means of construction such crossing and has developed a proposal for the construction of an overpass on County Road 37th Ave SW over the haul road to be constructed;
 WHEREAS, the County has reviewed proposed plans and specifications for the construction of an overpass on County Road 37th Ave SW and;
 WHEREAS, the County Engineer has submitted these plans to the Commission and may recommend minor revisions to ensure the project meets all safety, design, and regulatory standards and;
 WHEREAS, the proposed Overpass Development Agreement has been prepared to set forth the responsibilities of all parties during the construction and use of the overpass and;
 WHEREAS, N.D.C.C. Sections 38-01-07.1 and 38-14.1-07 require the approval of the County Commission to temporarily close or relocate a county road and conduct coal mining operations within 100 feet of the outside right-of-way line of any public road; and construction of the overpass will include a temporary bypass road, the installation of the overpass and haul road, and various other coal mining operations, including installation of water retention ponds within 100 feet of the right-of-way;
 WHEREAS, BNI Coal, LTD. has submitted a Petition permitting surface coal mining operations within 100 feet of the outside right-of-way of certain public roads;
 WHEREAS, the Commission finds that the overpass project will improve public safety, traffic flow, and transportation infrastructure for the County while permitting BNI Coal LTD to continue its coal mining activities;
 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissions of Oliver County that:
 1. That the Commission has jurisdiction over the subject matter of the Petition and the road involved.
 2. That the Notice of Hearing on said Petition was duly served and published as required by law.
 3. That the temporary closing of said road does not deprive adjacent landowners access to their property.
 4. That a public benefit exists in temporarily closing said road and that the interests of the public and landowner will be protected.
 5. BNI will be financially responsible for the

construction of any and all replacements to private landowner access approaches or routes, to a standard equivalent or better to what existed prior to removal, as determined by the county engineer.
 6. BNI will inform the Commission when the construction of the Overpass is completed at which time the Commission may accept the road for public use.
 7. The construction plans for the County Road 37th Ave SW overpass are approved, together with any minor revisions as recommended by the County Engineer.
 8. The Overpass Development Agreement, as presented, is approved, with any minor modifications as may be necessary to carry out the intent of the agreements.
 9. BNI and the Commission will enter into a Road Use Agreement prior to construction activities commencing.
 10. The Petition submitted by BNI Coal, LTD. is approved and BNI Coal, LTD. is authorized to temporarily close or relocate such portions of the county road therein described and to conduct coal mining operations within 100 feet of the outside right-of-way line of the public roads therein described.
 11. The Chair of the County Commission, is authorized to sign all documents and take any actions needed to carry out this project. Discussion was held following the motion. The Bypass will exist for 18 months to two years. A roll call vote was held: Lee Husfloen-Aye, Dave Berger-Aye, Rob Schmidt-Aye. The above motion passed.
 Bids were opened for county road equipment. Lee Husfloen moved and Dave Berger seconded the motion to accept the highest bid on the equipment, with payment due within two weeks and prior to pickup, which will be between 7 am and 5 pm, Monday through Thursday with the Bill of Sale in hand. High bidder can contact Kenny Rude if alternative arrangements need to be made. All in favor, none opposed; motion carried.
 Dave Berger moved and Lee Husfloen seconded the motion to approve the Road Superintendent getting a county cell phone. All in favor, none opposed; motion carried.
 Lee Husfloen moved and Dave Berger seconded the motion to approve the purchase of a post hole pounder for \$4200. All in favor, none opposed; motion carried.
 Dave Berger moved and Lee Husfloen seconded the motion to approve purchase of new cutting edges for \$48000. All in favor, none opposed; motion carried.
 Lee Husfloen moved and Dave Berger seconded the motion to approve the purchase of road safety signs for \$4300. All in favor,

none opposed; motion carried.
 Dave Berger moved and Lee Husfloen seconded the motion to place 35 mph speed signs on 31st Ave. All in favor, none opposed; motion carried.
 Jim Jackson, Moore Engineering, was present to discuss future projects and the county wide chip seal project.
 Discussion was held on culvert issues, recycled asphalt found for the Hensler Road, 2 mile stretch of road from Sanger to Cross Ranch being returned to gravel.
 Discussion was held on the .55 acre of land near Les Henke's. From all that has been found, the state has ownership in it.
 Discussion was held on temporary road workers. 2 temps will be hired. All applicants, including former temps will need to apply for the position by April 21st.
 Discussion was held on County Commission districts and how to redraw district lines as well as moving from 3 commissioners to 5 commissioners. Discussion was tabled to the May meeting to discuss and get more information.
 Discussion was held on the data center ordinances updates.
 Dave Berger moved and Lee Husfloen seconded the motion to send an estimate and require payment prior to fulfilling the open records request submitted to the county. All in favor, none opposed; motion carried.
 Dave Berger moved and Lee Husfloen seconded the motion that the Planning & Zoning board will no longer write policy or ordinances.
 Discussion and public comments were made by Arlo Bakker, Dan Bueligan, Zoe Henke, Bradley Dahl, Brad Meckle, Greg Maier, Lori Hammer, Shae Brown, Aaron Hintz, Vern Henke, Jodi Hintz, Kristen Henke, Rick Aaser, Dave Porsborg, Jonathan Dagley, Patty Koapke, and Jaidra Dagley.
 Dave Berger requested that Patty Koapke read a letter that contained the resignation of Dave Berger as County Commissioner, effective immediately. Public comments were made by Kenny Rude, Nathan Dagley, Bradley Dahl and Patrick Waters.
 Brief discussion was held on the process following the resignation of a County Commissioner, including a notice of interest for the opening. Further discussion was tabled. The meeting was adjourned at 3:19 pm.
 The next meeting of the Oliver County Commission will be at 1:00 PM, May 12th, 2026 at the Oliver County Courthouse meeting room. Jaden Schmidt, Oliver County Auditor Robert Schmidt, Chairman of the Board (06-04-2026)

New ballot measure guide to be sent to voters ahead of June 9 Primary Election

BY NORTH DAKOTA SECRETARY OF STATE

The North Dakota Office of the Secretary of State will be mailing out a pamphlet with information regarding statewide Measure No. 1, which will appear on the June 9, 2026, Primary Election ballot.

The ballot measure guide will be mailed Friday April 24, 2026, to the households of 450,000 active North Dakota voters. An active voter is a person who has voted in a North Dakota election in the last four years. The ballot measure guide will also be posted at all voting locations and on the North Dakota Secretary of State website.

The new ballot measure guide was mandated by the North Dakota Legislature in 2025 as a result of the passage of Senate Bill 2230 which instructs the Office of the Secretary of State to create and mail out information regarding statewide ballot questions 45-days prior to a statewide election. This guide includes:

- An objective summary of the measure.
- The anticipated fiscal impact of the measure.
- Whether the measure was approved by the legislature or originated as an initiated or referred petition.
- An objective analysis of a vote in favor and a vote opposed.

“The next election is always the most important election.

Our office is a resource for voters seeking a sample ballot, polling location information, and information about the security, accuracy, and timeliness of North Dakota's election process,” North Dakota Secretary of State Michael Howe said. “The new ballot measure guide provides a way for voters to learn more about what will be on their ballot during this June's Primary Election.”

The North Dakota Office of the Secretary of State will also provide a ballot measure guide before the November 3, 2026, General Election.

For more election information Secretary Howe encourages all North Dakotans to visit vote.nd.gov ahead of each election.

SCHOOL

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this position?

It is important for me to run for this position because I care deeply about the future of our children, families, and community. Having lived in Stanton for over 27 years and raised our own children here, I have seen firsthand how school decisions directly impact students and families.

As a retired Early Childhood Educator, mother, and grandmother, I have both the experience and the time to dedicate to listening, learning, and helping make thoughtful decisions that put students first. Running for this position is my way of giving back to the amazing community that has shaped our family. I want to be a voice for families and help ensure that our Center-Stanton School remain a place where all children can learn, grow and succeed.

What do you want to accomplish in the first year if you are elected?

In my first year if elected, I want to focus on listening, learning, and

building strong relationships with parents, teachers, administrators, and community members. It is important to me to understand both the strengths of our district and the challenges we face before making major decisions.

I would like to work toward supporting academic excellence while also ensuring students feel safe, supported, and prepared for the future. I am especially interested in understanding how district decisions impact families in rural communities, including transportation, enrollment, and access to quality educational opportunities.

My goal is to be an informed, approachable, and thoughtful board member who represents the voices of our communities and helps make decisions that benefit students and families for years to come.

What do you feel are the top three issues that need to be addressed by the entity you are running for?

The top three issues I believe to be

addressed by the Center-Stanton School Board if elected are academic achievement and student performance, funding and budget sustainability, and staff support with student services.

First, academic achievement and student performance should remain a top priority. We must continually evaluate student outcomes, strengthen standards, and ensure students are receiving the support needed to succeed and improve our school's overall performance and reputation.

Second, responsible funding, budget management, and pursuing grant opportunities are essential to maintaining and expanding quality programs while being good stewards of district resources. Exploring additional funding opportunities can help strengthen student programs, classroom resources, and long-term district stability.

Third, teacher and staff retention, substitution teacher shortages, professional development, and strong student

support services-including special education-must continue to be addressed.

Supporting our educators through ongoing training, updated resources, and professional growth opportunities helps strengthen classroom instruction and student outcomes. By fostering a positive and inclusive environment where all students feel safe, valued, and ready to learn, we can better support academic success while ensuring teachers and students have access to quality educational materials, up-to-date teaching resources and the tools needed for effective learning.

If you are elected, how do you plan to commit time to this position outside of meetings?

If elected, I plan to commit time to this position both during and outside of scheduled meetings by staying informed, prepared, and engaged with our school community. As a retired early childhood educator, I have the flexibility and time to dedicate to reviewing

board materials, policies, budgets, and agenda items in advance so I can make informed decisions.

I also plan to attend school events, community activities, and opportunities to connect with parents, staff, and community members to better understand their concerns and perspectives. I believe effective school board service requires ongoing learning, communication, and accessibility.

I am committed to being available, listening, and dedicating the time necessary to responsibly serve for all students, teachers, staff, families and the district.

Why should people vote for you?

People should vote for me because I bring both experience in education and a deep personal commitment to our community. I have lived in Stanton for over 25 years, raised my family here and have seen firsthand the challenges and strengths of our local schools.

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