

Official Proceedings of the Board of Burke County Commissioners August 18, 2026

1. OPENING & ROLL CALL

The Board met in regular session on Tuesday, August 18, 2026 at the Burke County Courthouse, Bowbells ND beginning with Chairman Jarret Van Berkorn, Commissioner Shannon Holter and Commissioner Kurt Koppelsloen presiding. Also present were Amber Fiesel, States Attorney, Lyann Olson, Burke County Tribune and Sandy Raines, Columbus City Auditor.

Chairman Van Berkorn called the County Commission meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

2. BUSINESS

A. MINUTES

Motion by Comm. Holter, second by Comm. Koppelsloen to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 4, 2026. Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion carried.

B. BILLS

Motion by Comm. Holter, second by Comm. Koppelsloen to approve the bills list and that the County Auditor be instructed to pay the bills out of the proper funds. Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion carried.

GENERAL

County Employees\$79,079.91
TOTAL\$79,079.91

COUNTY AGENT

County Employees\$3,278.60
TOTAL\$3,278.60

VETERAN'S SERVICE OFFICER

County Employees\$1,234.75
TOTAL\$1,234.75

WEED CONTROL

County Employees\$306.80
TOTAL\$306.80

911

County Employees\$244.89
TOTAL\$244.89

GRAND TOTAL\$84,144.95

ROAD & BRIDGE

City of Columbus\$47.98
City of Lignite 139.00
City of Powers Lake 68.75
Farmers Union Oil Company 8,854.98
General Equipment
& Supplies Inc. 700.00
Lignite Oil Company 20,484.79
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. 45.26
Noonan Landfill LLC 100.00
Normont Equipment Co. 5,367.80
North Country Mercantile
& Equipment LLC \$ 109.04
Spielman Excavating, LLC ... 1,937.50
TOTAL 37,855.10

GENERAL

Havanah Nelson\$1,145.21
Jeremy Ragle 1,200.00

Stephanie Black 56.55
Axon Enterprise Inc 6,193.00
Burke County Tribune 45.00
Burke Divide Electric
Cooperative 63.63
Dacotah Bank 1,689.53
Farmers Union Hardware \$98.98
Farmers Union Oil Company 4,153.45
Global Safety Network, Inc. 226.80
Harry's Tire Service 1,053.04
Information Technology
Department 1,385.90
K Squared Electric Inc. 447.38
Lignite Oil Company 466.46
Matthew Bender & Co 510.24
Morelli's Distributing, Inc. 52.20
Mountrail County
Correctional Center 359.00
Northwest Communications 46.46
Quadiant Finance USA, Inc. 1,500.00
Sentry Siren 1,890.00
Thomson Reuters- West 225.34
Vestis 511.63
TOTAL \$23,319.80

COUNTY AGENT

Daniel Folske\$418.00
TOTAL\$418.00

DISTRICT HEALTH

First District Health Unit.... \$15,495.50
TOTAL\$15,495.50

HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL

Motorola Solutions\$7,808.47
TOTAL\$7,808.47

VETERAN'S SERVICE OFFICER

NDACTVSO\$120.00
TOTAL\$120.00

WEED CONTROL

Daniel Folske\$31.18
Farmers Union Oil Company ... 572.32
TOTAL\$603.50
GRAND TOTAL\$85,620.37

3. APPOINTMENT SCHEDULED

Public Comment: Sandy Raines, Columbus City Auditor, thanked Spencer and his crew in Road and Bridge for all their help for the Columbus City Anniversary event. She also thanked the County for the support.

Stephanie Black, Planning & Zoning Administrator, met with the board.

A motion by Comm. Holter, second by Comm. Koppelsloen to approve the building permit for Allo Towers in Minnesota Twp. S33 T162N R89W for a wireless communications tower. Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion carried.

Spencer Goodman, County Road Supervisor, met with the board.

Spencer reported on several projects including but not limited to; work with the borrowed durapatcher, radiuses in Columbus, BC 8 paving to begin next week, renting with the possible purchase of a skeleton bucket and a \$52 per ton savings on salt sand by making it themselves. Discussion was also held on a couple railroad crossing exemptions.

Barry Jager, DES/911/Grant Writer, met with the board.

Barry reported the county's hazardous mitigation plan was submitted to the state and is under review. A motion by Comm. Holter, second by Comm. Koppelsloen to continue with the same policy of paying half of the purchase price of a state radio for the Powers Lake Fire Dept new UTV. Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion carried. Barry gave a retirement date of December 31, 2026 for the Disaster Emergency Services Dept. He would like to stay on as a temporary or PT position for the 911 and Grant Writing Depts. Working 1 to 1.5 days a week. The commissioners all agreed to the proposition.

Jason Mayfield, Wold Engineering, met with the board.

Jason updated the commissioners

on the BC 5 & 7 project. He stated the project was in the final paperwork stages of being complete. BC 8 paving will begin August 24th or 25th and last about 3 weeks.

Tracy Stover, Custodian/Maintenance, met with the board.

Tracy presented several quotes. The commissioners approved the floor waxing and roof maintenance projects. The board asked Tracy to gather more quotes for an annual maintenance plan on the HVAC system. The board decided on a 30' by 6" flagpole. Tracy reported the elevator was working again.

Sheriff Throntveit met with the board.

Discussion was held on the proposed Burke County Deputy contract with Powers Lake City. With an adjustment to

the city's salary contribution and contract term, the commissioners agreed to move forward with the contract. No action was taken at this time.

Patrick Carabello, Brosz Engineering, met with the board.

The Guerdett Bridge (07-134-03.0) project update; the request to extend the project deadline to change the contract extension date to next year, due to the dam removal not being complete, is on hold with the state until they know if the dam will be removed this year. The Bob Person Bridge (07-104-03.0) project has been qualified for the registry of historic places. Work with the engineers and SHPO has begun to determine the next steps.

DISCUSSION

The Board discussed outsourcing the investigation of the employee harassment claim, filling the two vacant positions, and the potential consolidation of offices. No action was taken.

4. ADJOURN

The Board adjourned at 11:52 a.m. to meet again in regular session September 1, 2026 at 8:00 a.m.

Minutes read and approved this 1st day of September 2026.

Jarret Van Berkom
Chairman, Burke County Board
of Commissioners

Amie Vandegraft
Burke County Auditor

September 9, 2026