

Council updates

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The regular Belfield City Council meeting on Feb. 10, 2026, featured a second reading of the work on curbs and sidewalks, as the city continues to build and edify its water system and replace the drainage and infrastructure above it, along with a decision pertaining to fees for the Belfield Sportsman Club and the use of the city's emergency training room and restrooms for various activities.

The final agree-

ment pertaining to the Belfield Sportsman Club's access leaves the city's volunteer fire department in charge of scheduling, as it pertains to the facilities' use, which was unanimously approved by the council. The agreement will remain in effect until either party requests termination but will be renewed annually.

Brosz Engineering provided an update about progress on the sewer/water-improvement project, although the company is currently under

winter suspension. The safe-sidewalk project is expected to be closed out early in 2026, and the west lift station's estimated cost is roughly \$1.494M. Community Development Block Grant funding would equal \$1M, which has been green-lighted. The Stark County side of the finances – if approved – would equal \$385K, which would leave \$109K remaining.

The next decision is how to further fund the project, either through a task-order submitted by Brosz or other sour-

es. Brosz engineers see this as an important project that must be tackled and moving forward both the CDBG funding and Stark County dollars would be necessary for obvious reasons. But if the city desires to proceed with the project, the Belfield City Council would have to approve the design of the lift station at a future meeting.

Further, the project would have to meet a "Build America, Buy America" stipulation, which is an act from 2021 that demands

all iron, steel, manufactured projects and construction materials used in federally funded infrastructure projects be produced in the United States. In the event the city doesn't wish to fund the project via fees or taxpayer dollars, a loan would be required to satisfy the completion of the project to the tune of \$109K, which carries interest of about 2-3.8 percent as of recent estimates.

According to councilmen and engineers, the lift station is on "borrowed time," and it was roundly agreed to advance the design process and proceed with the project. Much of the funding is covered, but the future decision must satisfy that

series of requirements the council is focused on accommodating to encourage the project's completion sometime in 2027.

Moving forward towards seeking, particularly, the CDBG funding was seen as the best way forward, but financially facilitating the project is crucial to rectifying a potential series of difficulties that could get worse over time.

For more information about the Belfield City Council, please keep reading the Billings County Pioneer and/or visit the website at www.cityofbelfield.com/2144/Government.

BILLINGS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1 Proceedings

BILLINGS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
Minutes of Annual Meeting- January 14, 2026
OFFICIAL MINUTES

The annual meeting of the Billings County School Board was called to order by Kinley Slauter at 5:05 p.m. MT, Wednesday January 14, 2026, at the DeMores School in Medora. Board members Eric Bock, Joey Kessel, Jessie Evoniuk, Kwirt Johnson, and Kinley Slauter were present. Also present for all or part of the meeting were Superintendent Shae Peplinski, Assistant Superintendent Danielle O'Brien, Maintenance Super Robert Hushka, and Business Manager Robert Gates. In attendance was Jessie Berger and John Martin

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

M/S Kessel/Evoniuk to approve the consent agenda, which included the December 10th meeting minutes, the payments list, the financial reports, and the addition of four items to the agenda. AIF.

At this time, President Slauter asked if there was anyone in the public that wished to address the Board. With no comments, Slauter closed the public comment session.

Peplinski informed the board that the punch list was completed along with most of the day 2 items. The uncompleted day 2 items were awaiting parts and scheduling. Slauter mentioned that most of the shrubs and plants have been destroyed by deer and landscaping will need to be re-

placed this spring. There was further discussion on window shades for the new classrooms and the west side gym windows. Peplinski then brought forward for discussion the conversion of rooms 103 & 104 as a front office by the secure entrance. Discussion followed. Gates reminded the board that JE Dunn pay apps. for October and November had been held pending completion of the punch list. M/S Kessel/Johnson seconded to approve payment of JE Dunn pay apps dated October 13, and November 11, 2025. Some discussion followed. With no further discussion a roll call vote was taken with all in favor. Motion approved. Hushka provided a written and oral report on facilities maintenance.

Peplinski and O'Brien submitted the 2026 Strategic Plan to the board for review. The Board will hold public input on the Strategic Plan during the Feb. 11, 2026, meeting. Public comment will begin at 5:30p.m. The 2026/2027 school

calendar was presented to the board. M/S Evoniuk/Bock to approve the 2026/2027 Billings County School District calendar. AIF.

Slauter brought forward the need to investigate the NDSBA's new superintendent evaluation. There is an introduction of the new superintendent evaluation being presented at the NDSBA's Winter Summit on February 5th and 6th. After some discussion no members can attend the Winter Summit and asked Gates if remote access to the session was available or if it would be recorded. Gates later responded to the board that there would be no remote access or recording, but a representative from NDSBA said that this is just an introduction and there will be many more opportunities to learn about the evaluation.

Peplinski informed the board of upcoming events. Both schools will be finishing up the second round of NDA+ testing. There will be a spelling bee on

February 11th, and graduation is being scheduled tentatively for May 20th.

O'Brien informed the board that the school district needs to send an application to the state to continue the four-day school week. M/S Evoniuk/Johnson to approve the school district administration to submit the four-day school week waiver to the ND Department of Public Instruction. AIF.

Gates presented the semi-annual investment report. M/S Kessel/Bock to approve the investment report. AIF. Gates presented the quarterly pledged assets report. M/S Evoniuk/Bock to approve the pledged assets report. AIF. Gates then informed the board that the school district received the funds pledged by Billings County Commissioners. The funds were deposited in the General Fund. M/S Kessel/Johnson to transfer \$1,500,000 of the pledged funds from the General Fund to the Building Fund. AIF.

The next school board

meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2026, at 5:00p.m. at DeMores Elementary with the public input on the strategic plan starting at 5:30p.m.

Transportation committee: Kessel informed the board that school bus contractors were at the County Commissioner meeting asking for additional plowing at bus stops.

Buildings/Grounds/Food Service Committee: There is a need for freezer space. Discussion followed.

Sports Co-op committee: Informed the board that the sports co-op has made an athletic trainer available for games and practices.

Johnson moved and Kessel seconded, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:06p.m.
/s/ Kinley Slauter
Kinley Slauter, President
/s/ Robert Gates
Robert Gates, Business Manager

Published February 26, 2026

CITY OF MEDORA COUNCIL Proceedings

City of Medora
Minutes of Regular Meeting
2/3/2026
(Subject to Council review and approval)

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Mayor Derwin Zuroff. Present were Council Members Tracy Sexton, Jodi Johnson, Clarence Sitter, Jim Bridger, Administrator Ivy Maus, City Engineer Shannon Hewson, and City Attorney Sandra Kuntz.

Consent Agenda
• Minutes January 6, 2026
The minutes from January 6, 2026, were reviewed. Sexton made a motion to approve the minutes from January 6, 2026; Sitter seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Department Reports
• Brosz Engineering Report

Hewson provided a summary of updates for items/proj-

ects they are currently working on.

Sexton made a motion to approve the lift station bid from JR Civil for \$1,181,279.25; Johnson seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Sitter made a motion to approve the payout to Cordova Construction for work completed on Pacific Avenue Water Main Replacement in the amount of \$73,978.40; Bridger seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Sexton made a motion to approve the bid letting for WWTF Cell #4; Johnson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

• City Attorney Report
City Attorney Kuntz provided the board with items/projects she is currently working on.

• Ambulance Report
A written report was provided.

• Police Department Re-

port
A written report was provided.

• Public Works Report
Johnson made a motion to approve the bid with Associated Pool Builders for pool work contingent upon the grant being approved; Sitter seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

• MCVB Report
A written report was provided.

• MCC Report
A written report was provided.

• City Auditor's Report
Sexton made a motion to terminate the City's contract with Point CPA after completion of the 2020 audit; Sitter seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

• Interstate Engineering
Rachel Laqua, Planning Director with Interstate Engineering presented an overview of the Community Survey results. She outlined the transition to the next phase of the project, which involves the formation of a steering committee to guide future planning efforts. Discussion followed.

• NDDOT Mike Njos
No report was provided.
New Business
• Theresa Hsu Wagon

Rides
Discussion was held.
• Medora Community Center Rate Exemptions

Sexton made a motion to approve the Medora Community Center Rate Exemption letter and application with the submission date being 45 days prior to the event; Bridger seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Sitter made a motion to approve DeMore's School to have a rate exemption for the Spelling Bee on February 11th; Johnson seconded. Motion passed with 3 votes in favor and 1 against.

• Zoning Appointment
Sitter made a motion to re-appoint Ella-Jo Corneil to the zoning commission; Johnson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

• 2025 Financial Statement
Sexton made a motion to approve the 2025 Financial Statement; Sitter seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

• Pacific Avenue Water Main Replacement - Pay Application #2

Carla Olson (Apex Engineering Group) and Hewson presented an update on the Wasterwater Treatment Facility. Discussion was held.

• Alcohol/Beer License

L'Amour Bistro LLC
Sexton made a motion to approve the Alcohol/Beer License for L'Amour Bistro LLC, Bridger seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

• MCC/Medical Services
Sitter made a motion to authorize the use of the Community Center for medical services free of charge for the week of the library's grand opening; Bridger seconded. Motion passed unananimously.

• Billings County EMS City Camping Site
Discussion was held.

• Transient Merchant/TRMF Trolleys
Council moved to table the trolleys with the Theodore

Roosevelt Medora Foundation until next month, and asked that they provide them with a revised route plan, financial guarantees via a surety bond, and a commercial liability policy.

• Seasonal Employee
Discussion was held.

Miscellaneous Business
Sexton is currently working with the library to coordinate a public meeting. The goal of this meeting is to provide the community with an overview of the opening strategy for this summer.

Financial Statements

RTC Networks	805.65
AT&T Mobility	835.91
ROUGH RIDER ELECTRIC COOP, INC	2867.37
ROUGH RIDER ELECTRIC COOP, INC	2270.07
ROUGH RIDER ELECTRIC COOP, INC	21.00
SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY	59.94
SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY	3414.66
Brosz Engineering, Inc.	53157.75
MAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	399.90
SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT	25.00
NRG TECHNOLOGY SERVICES	1950.00
FIRST STATE BANK	1458.89
GS Publishing, LLC	311.69
TEMP RIGHT SERVICE, INC.	1841.70
2BOSS OFFICE PRODUCTS	176.81
VIZION SIGNS	1213.15
CHOICE INSURANCE	875.00
SAX MOTOR CO	365.34
Russel Lapp	75.00
Legal Edge Solutions, PLLC	9800.00
STEIN'S, INC	1385.30
JOHNSON CONTROLS	384.00
BORDER STATES ELECTRIC SUPPLY	190.35
ITD	127.90
Advanced Business Methods	..

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BERGER ELECTRIC, INC.	48660.00
Flint Group	7500.00
Evan Beach	149.99
WORKFORCE SAFETY & INSURANCE	4326.97
Brosz Engineering, Inc.	2347.50
FARMERS UNION	5468.48
VESTIS	695.56
AFLAC2 AFLAC	163.96
DENTAL INSURANC AMERITAS	1067.73
FIT EFTPS	4720.40
GROUP TERM LIFE NDPERS HEALTH	13021.36
NDPERS PUBLIC S NDPERS RETIREMENT	3785.82
NDPERS RETIRMEN NDPERS	5937.83
SIT OFFICE OF STATE TAX COMM	224.23
VISION INSURANC FIDELITY SECURITY LIFE	(106.27)
• Claim Vouches, Financials — review and approval	Payroll for January \$73,084.49.
Payroll, Claim Vouchers, Financials — review and approval.	Sexton made a motion for approval of the financials; Johnson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Announcements
• Deadline for Zoning Applications — Friday, February 6, 2026 @ 12:00pm

Zoning Meeting—Tuesday, February 17, 2026 @ 6:00pm
Deadline for Council Agenda Items — Friday, February 20, 2026 @ 12:00pm

Next Council Meeting — Tuesday, March 3, 2026 @ 6:00pm

Adjourn
Sexton made a motion to adjourn at 9:05pm.

/s/ Derwin Zuroff
Derwin Zuroff, Mayor
/s/ Ivy Maus
Ivy Maus, Auditor
Published February 26, 2026

Notice of Candidate Filing Deadline

Notice is hereby given that the deadline for filing to have a candidate's name printed on the ballot for the Billings County School District is April 6, 2026, by 4:00 p.m. The following offices are up for election:

- School Board Member District #1 (4-year term)**
- School Board Member District #2 (4-year term)**
- School Board Member at Large (4-year term)**

A candidate for a school district office must prepare and sign a document stating the candidates name and the position for which the individual is a candidate, and a SFN 10172 Statement of Interest form. Both of these documents must be filed with the school district business manager for Billings County School District by the above deadline date and time. All forms are available from either the school district business manager for Billings County School District or may be obtained online at <https://vip.sos.nd.gov/PortalListDetails.aspx?ptlhPKID=30&ptlPKID=3#content-start>

Published February 26 & March 5, 2026



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