

BILLINGS COUNTY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

BILLINGS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - JANUARY 6, 2026 9:00 A.M. - Commissioners Room, Billings County Courthouse, Medora, ND PRESENT Chairman Dean Rodne, Commissioner James Haag, Commissioner Steven Klym.

Others present during portions of the meeting: Auditor Marcia Kessel, State's Attorney Jared Gietzen, Tax & Zoning Director Stacey Swanson, Maintenance Supervisor Dale Frieze, Sheriff Dean Wyckoff, Major Travis Collins, Fire Chief Kyle Shockley, Road Superintendent Pat Redmond, EMS Director Kyle Michels, Clerk/Recorder Juliana Hammerstrom, Deputy Auditor Anna Moe, Lori Elliot, and other staff and members of the public.

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Rodne called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Rodne stated his intent for future meetings to be recorded by video and reiterated meeting etiquette, including the requirement that speakers state their name before commenting. Auditor Kessel activated audio and video recording equipment.

PUBLIC COMMENT No public comment was offered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Chairman Rodne noted one correction under the prior month's report from Misty Hayes regarding Buffalo Gap Road.

Motion: Approve the December 4, 2025 regular meeting minutes and the December 30, 2025 special meeting minutes. Made by: Haag Second: Klym Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Auditor Kessel requested adding a City of Medora Rural Catalyst Grant Application - Letter of Support.

Motion: Approve the agenda with the addition. Made by: Klym Second: Haag Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS FIRE DEPARTMENT - Chief Kyle Shockley

•Reported 56 responses in 2025 and seven spills in the past month.

•Annual meeting scheduled for March 18 at Medora Hall.

•Board meetings will rotate through stations on the third Wednesday of each month.

•Presented the annual Bowman Radar Contract.

Motion: Approve the annual Bowman Radar Contract for \$2,500. Made by: Rodne Second: Klym Vote: All voted aye. Motion carried.

SHERIFF - Dean Wyckoff •Provided updates on planning for the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library (TRPL) grand opening.

•Multiple coordination meetings scheduled with the Governor's Office, Highway Patrol, DOT, Library staff, and City/County officials.

•Requested state assistance due to anticipated attendance exceeding local capacity. •Reported receipt of a \$5,000 grant from Oneok.

•Pat Rummel emphasized the need to identify a funding source for county obligations related to the TRPL event.

•Noted recent public concern regarding the I94 speed limit changes; speed limit restored to 80 mph.

Commissioner comments reinforced urgency in securing state/library funding commitments within the week.

MAINTENANCE - Dale Frieze

•Reported a water main break on the south side of the courthouse caused by a rusted 6" coupler. Repairs completed; preventive maintenance performed on the 4" line.

•Discussion held regarding afterhours emergency notifications and potential need for ad-

ditional monitoring sensors. EMS - Director Kyle Michels

•Reported 370 calls in 2025, a new department record. •Yearend report provided. •Received a \$5,000 Oneok grant to replace tactical vests.

•All ambulances operational; new ambulance delayed to September 2026.

ENGINEERING - Jeremy Wood, Northern Plains Engineering

•135th Avenue Project: Culvert phase completed; remaining grading expected in April-May. Awaiting DOT response on flex funding request.

•Upper Magpie Bridge Project: Rightofway and Corps permit secured. DOT must update wetland table. April bid opening anticipated.

•Project will use a double-cell box culvert; historic bridge to be removed due to no adoption interest.

ROAD SUPERINTENDENT - Pat Redmond

•Crews plowing snow, sanding, and hauling stockpiles.

•District 1 installed front lift and blower; District 2 hired a new employee.

•State exploring rightofway acquisition and construction of 36th Street to Rough Rider State Park.

•Discussion on Sully Creek subdivision rightofway and utility easements.

•State to fund improvements; gravel surfacing likely.

•Wyrick Construction to begin crushing at Maus and Schurke pits in spring. Load Pass Road Restrictions Discussion

•Redmond recommended north vs. south of I94 as the only enforceable zone boundary.

•Commissioners discussed challenges of east/west boundaries and inconsistent road conditions.

•Consensus to proceed with north/south zoning for load restrictions. Equipment Use Policy

•Commissioners discussed nonemployees operating county equipment.

•Auditor confirmed policy manual prohibits this and insurance does not cover nonemployees.

•Board directed that the practice must stop.

AUDITOR'S REPORT - Marcia Kessel

•Council on Aging Appointment: Darlene Mitchell resigned; Auditor will return next month with a recommendation.

•City of Medora Rural Catalyst Grant Application: Presented letter of support for the city pool project.

Motion: Approve the letter of support for the City of Medora's Rural Catalyst Grant application. Made by: Klym Second: Haag Vote: All voted aye. Motion carried.

2026 RESOLUTIONS: Auditor Kessel presented the resolutions for 2026. The full text of the resolutions are on file in the Auditor's Office and posted on the public bulletin board in the Billings County Courthouse. Resolutions 2026-01 through 2026-10 are as follows:

Resolution 2026-01 designates the following appointments:

State's Attorney - Jared Gietzen and Olivia Krebs (Kubik, Bogner, Ridl & Selinger Law Firm)

Emergency Manager - Kyle Shockley

Magistrate - Juliana Hammerstrom

Tax Director - Stacey Swanson

Zoning Inspector - Stacey Swanson

Highway Superintendent - Patrick Redmond

County Land Use Coordinator - Stacey Swanson

County 911 Coordinator - Stacey Swanson

County Superintendent of Schools - Marcia Kessel

Risk Manager/Title VI Coordinator - Juliana Hammerstrom

Courthouse Maintenance - Dale Frieze

Veteran Service Officer - Jessica Clifton

Coroner - Jim Ladbury

EMS Director - Kyle Michels

Wellness Coordinator - Yelena Gerbig

Consulting Engineers Kadrmas, Lee & Jackson. P.C.

-Interstate Engineering

-Northern Plains Engineering

-Forsgren & Associates

-Brosz Engineering

-Highlands Engineering

-Houston Engineering

-Ulteig Engineering

Resolution 2026-02 sets regular monthly meetings of the Board of County Commissioners for 2026 to begin at 9:00 A.M. on the following dates unless changes are posted and advertised to the official county paper: January 6, February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 4, July 7, August 4, September 3, October 6, November 5, December 3. Special meetings will be subject to the notice requirement in the Century Code, which is to notify the official newspaper and post the meeting notice in the courthouse.

Resolution 2026-03 designates the following holidays when the courthouse will be closed: January 1 - New Year's Day, January 2 1/2 day New Years Day, January 19 - Martin Luther King Day February 16 President's Day, April 3 - Good Friday, May 25 Memorial Day, June 19 - Juneteenth, July 3 - Independence Day, September 1 Labor Day, November 11 Veterans' Day, November 26 & 27 - Thanksgiving, December 24 (1/2 day) - Christmas Eve, December 25 - Christmas Day.

Resolution 2026-04 designates the courthouse will be open every Monday through Thursday during the hours of 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., Friday 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon with the exception of holidays and other declared closings. All courthouse employees still work a 40 hour work week.

Resolution 2026-05 designates reimbursement for expenses of county employees and officials in the performance of county duties: mileage 90% of GSA rate, 1st Qtr. 6:00 A.M. to Noon \$9.00, 2nd Qtr. Noon to 6:00 P.M. \$14.00, 3rd Qtr. 6:00 P.M. to Midnight \$22.00, 4th Qtr. Midnight to 6:00 A.M. (Lodging) 100% of GSA rate.

Resolution 2026-06 authorizes the County Auditor/Treasurer to pay certain miscellaneous expenses such as postage, freight, telephone, regular employee payroll and apportionments.

Resolution 2026-07 designates the following depositories for County funds: First State Bank of Golva, Choice Financial of Belfield, BMO Bank of Beach, Bravera Bank of Dickinson, Bell Bank of Fargo.

Resolution 2026-08 authorizes the County Auditor/Treasurer to invest, reinvest, and redeem Certificates of Deposit and other investments of the County.

Resolution 2025-09 directs that all legal notices be published in the official elected County newspaper, "Billings County Pioneer," and be posted in the Courthouse.

Resolution 2025-10 sets the salaries for county officials, deputies, clerks and employees as follows:

The Board of County Commissioners set the following maximum salaries for the positions listed below, on either an annual or hourly basis, and which salaries are exclusive of that official's or employee's health insurance and/or other benefits:

Commissioners (3) .. 33,416.54

Sheriff .. 119,297.79

Major (1) .. 94,138.20

Captain (1) .. 90,434.08

Deputy Sheriff (4) ... 85,694.54

Deputy Sheriff (1) ... 82,824.53

Fire Chief/Emergency Manager /Deputy Sheriff .. 100,074.39

Auditor/Treasurer... 105,636.79

Deputy Auditor/Treasurer /Title VI Assistant 1 (2) .. 82,824.53

County Recorder /Clerk of Court Magistrate .. 99,222.68

Deputy County Recorder

/Wellness Coordinator .. 82,824.53

Deputy County Clerk of Court /Wellness Coordinator .. 80,712.98

Tax Director/Zoning Inspector /911 Coordinator .. 100,756.23

Deputy Tax Director /Zoning Inspector .. 80,604.99

Emergency Medical Services Director .. 96,003.56

Deputy Emergency Medical Services Director .. 87,018.30

Senior Paramedic .. 80,119.55

Paramedic (4) .. 77,745.10

EMT .. 54,899.00

EMT (3) .. 50,000.00

Road Superintendent .. 99,100.23

Road Foreman (4) ... 87,576.13

Road Crew (15) .. 82,451.13

Weed Control Officer 89,484.68

Deputy Weed Control Officer .. 82,451.13

Courthouse Maintenance /Custodian .. 67,219.50

Motion: Approve Resolutions 202601 through 202610. Made by: Klym Second: Haag Vote: All voted aye. Motion carried.

TAX & ZONING - Stacey Swanson

•No December zoning meeting; no ARW applications.

•January meeting will include:

-Floodplain ordinance update required by SB 2027.

-Camping/campground ordinance review.

-Housing discussion

•Flood ordinance must be adopted by May 31, 2026; timeline outlined for zoning and commission review.

•Primary Residence Credit application window open January 1-April 1; applications submitted through the State.

RECESS

The Board took a brief recess before concluding remaining business.

FINANCIALS

VERIZON WIRELESS .. 227.08

JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA .. 6,981.69

CONSOLIDATED TELCOM .. 1,042.65

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT .. 2,101.60

MEDORA, CITY OF .. 808.64

ROUGH RIDER ELECTRIC COOP INC .. 3,174.78

RTC NETWORKS .. 864.78

VISA .. 336.31

WEX HEALTH INC .. 45.50

CHARLES SCHWAB .. 1,669.40

NDFOP STATE LODGE TREASURER .. 54.00

NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC HEALTH INS TRUST .. 107,301.50

STATE DISPERSEMENT UNIT .. 1,869.00

WEX HEALTH, INC. .. 1,475.01

N.D. P.E.R.S. .. 11,155.00

ND PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIRE SYSTEM .. 56,641.39

ABRAHAMSON MARY .. 298.31

ARMBRUST BRYAN & WENDY .. 46.00

ARMBRUST DAVID & DOROTHY .. 46.00

AWENDER NATHANIEL .. 129.00

AXON ENTERPRISE INC .. 5,629.41

BENCO EQUIPMENT - BISMARCK .. 66,560.00

BILLINGS COUNTY RURAL FIRE DISTRICT .. 28,379.50

BLUE SKY DUMPSTERS, LLC .. 793.20

BOSS OFFICE PRODUCTS .. 1,179.53

BOUND TREE MEDICAL LLC .. 1,271.30

BUTLER MACHINERY CO .. 27,212.96

CODE 4 SERVICES INC .. 12,248.11

DAKOTA COMMERCIAL RUGS .. 147.95

DIAMOND TRUCK EQUIPMENT .. 528.00

DICKINSON HARDWARE .. 154.71

DICKINSON PUBLIC LIBRARY .. 5,004.67

ECOLAB PEST ELIM DIV .. 379.22

EGLY EDWIN .. 147.60

EVERSPRING INN & SUITES .. 660.00

FARMERS UNION OIL CO - BEACH .. 25,906.91

FERGUSON ENTERPRISES INC #1657 .. 42.65

FORSGREN ASSOCIATES INC .. 34,087.94

FORUM COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY .. 918.00

FOUR CORNERS CAFE .. 762.62

FUGERE KEVIN .. 121.00

GALL'S INC .. 446.37

GEORGE'S TIRE LTD .. 1,352.00

GOLDENWEST ELECTRIC COOP INC .. 482.27

GOOSENECK IMPLEMENT .. 290.01

HAAG JAMES M .. 435.40

HAMPTON INN - BISMARCK .. 330.00

HILD JOHN .. 31,806.75

H L E B E C H U K CONSTRUCTION INC .. 693.75

J AND J OPERATING LLC .. 3,867.20

J P STEEL & SUPPLY INC .. 235.20

KEVIN'S AUTO & TRUCK REPAIR .. 266.78

KLJ ENGINEERING LLC .. 13,727.19

KLYM EMILY .. 229.60

KREBS MACHINE & REPAIR .. 317.96

KUBIK BOGNER RIDL & SELINGER PLLP .. 3,000.00

LADBURY JIM .. 600.00

Linde Gas & Equipment Inc .. 125.24

LOGO MAGIC .. 1,176.00

MAC'S HARDWARE .. 279.74

MALLEY'S SAFETY SUPPLY LLC .. 3,057.16

MENARDS DICKINSON .. 456.63

METRO-BILLING SERVICES .. 275.00

MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS .. 989.80

ND DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY .. 660.00

ND ELECTRIC LLC .. 3,733.08

NDACO RESOURCES GROUP INC .. 279.99

NORTHWEST TIRE INC .. 1,450.89

NOVA FIRE PROTECTION .. 2,525.00

OK TIRE STORE-DICKINSON .. 129.98

PEPPERBALL .. 1,715.00

POLENSKY MYRON .. 28.50

PREMIER SPECIALTY VEHICLES INC .. 54,574.00

PUMP SYSTEMS INC .. 181.76

RDO EQUIPMENT CO .. 19,800.00

RDO EQUIPMENT CO .. 14,029.98

REDMOND PERRY .. 144.80

RICHARD ALLAN .. 111.20

RICHARD MINDY .. 10,000.00

ROUGH RIDER INDUSTRIES .. 228.16

RUNNINGS SUPPLY INC .. 1,548.30

SANFORD INPT PHARMACY .. 1,092.00

SMITH CORY .. 121.00

SOUTHWEST MULTI-COUNTY CORRECTION CTR .. 17,750.10

STATE AVE VETERINARY CLINIC .. 219.75

STEIN'S INC .. 93.20

STREICHER'S .. 1,317.03

TALLEY INC .. 136.91

TOTAL SAFETY US INC .. 572.00

TYLER BUSINESS FORMS .. 458.79

VESTIS .. 769.99

WALLWORK TRUCK CENTER .. 118.80

WEST DAKOTA OIL INC .. 1,526.37

WESTERN CHOICE COOPERATIVE .. 23,229.85

WESTLIE MOTOR CO .. 106,523.00

ADAMS DAVID T & DONNA J .. 500.00

ADAMS JAMES W .. 1,500.00

ARMBRUST BRYAN & WENDY .. 750.00

ARMBRUST DAVID & DOROTHY .. 750.00

BELFIELD AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY INC .. 2,564.08

BILLINGS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT .. 1,500.00

BILLINGS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT .. 2,000,000.00

BOCK RONALD C & JUDY A .. 1,500.00

BOSS OFFICE PRODUCTS .. 267.81

BROSZ ENGINEERING INC .. 4,255.00

CHARBONNEAU CAR CENTER .. 316.90

CLYDE KEVIN & BETH .. 1,500.00

CODE 4 SERVICES INC .. 17,484.87

CORDOVA CONSTRUCTION .. 5,642.00

DELL MARKETING LP .. 1,829.38