

BILLINGS COUNTY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

BILLINGS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Date: February 5, 2026 Location: Billings County Commission Room

Commissioners in attendance: Dean Rodne, James Haag, Steven Klym

Others in attendance: Marcia Kessel, Rebecca Duben, Jenn Carroll, Pat Rummel, Karen Putnam, Kyle Michels, Dale Frieze, Andrew Krebs, Pat Redmond, Kyle Shockley, Dean Wyckoff, Juliana Hammerstrom
Chairman Rodne called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Klym moved to approve the January 6, 2026 regular meeting minutes. Haag seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Haag moved to approve the February 5, 2026 agenda. Rodne seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Department Head Reports
State's Attorney - Jared Gietzen

Jared Gietzen was introduced as the new State's Attorney and stated his courthouse presence is primarily Thursdays and Commission meetings.

DEM - Kyle Shockley
Burn Restrictions

Resolution 2026 11 was reviewed establishing burn restrictions for 2026. Klym moved to approve Resolution 2026-11. Haag seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION NO: 2026-11 Burn Restrictions

WHEREAS, the Billings County Board of County Commissioners recognizes that current conditions have created an extreme risk to the citizens and property within Billings County, ND, of unnecessary loss by fire; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to regulate activities within the County which pose a potential hazard for such loss, should the present weather conditions continue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BILLINGS COUNTY IS DECLARED UNDER A FIRE EMERGENCY ORDER AND BURN RESTRICTIONS ARE IN FORCE.

This burn restriction is in effect for Billings County when the North Dakota Fire Danger Rating is in the High, Very High or Extreme and/or a Red Flag Warning has been issued for Billings County.

1. No recreational, Ag, or Industrial Travel is to be allowed off of surfaced roadways when the ND Fire Danger is in Very High, Extreme or Red flag conditions. Exemption: off surfaced roadway & Two track travel is allowed during Very High index but the vehicle must have a 2A extinguisher (or its equivalent, or greater) in or mounted to the vehicle.

2. Camp fires are allowed during High index in developed camp grounds inside of a designated fire ring (metal ring) and must have water or firefighting equipment readily available. Propane and white gas stoves, grills, and fire rings are allowed at any time during burn restrictions. No ash producing stoves or grills are allowed during restrictions.

3. Industrial operating crews and farmer/rancher operations shall have fire extinguishers and normal fire-fighting equipment at hand, and industrial personnel shall remain at the job site for one-half hour after daily operations are completed.

4. Smoking is restricted to inside of vehicles, buildings or designated areas clear of any dry vegetation or combustible materials.

5. Burn Restrictions to include any open burning which includes the ignition of fireworks, garbage and campfires.

Pursuant to NDCC 37-17.1-10, any person who willfully violates the burning ban established by this resolution is

guilty of a Class B Misdemeanor (UP TO 30 DAYS IN JAIL AND/OR A \$1500.00 FINE.), and restitution of fire suppression costs may be sought from the court.

Current burn restriction information and Fire Danger map can be found at www.ndresponse.gov, under the Wildland Fire tab, or contact local authorities.

Dated at Medora, ND, this 5th day of February, 2026.
Billings County, North Dakota

By: *Dean Rodne, Chairman*
Attest: *Marcia Kessel, Auditor*

Emergency Fund Use, Budget Amendments, and Pre Event Declaration Discussion
The board discussed whether to consolidate emergency event expenditures into a single account or maintain departmental budgets.

The board previously allocated \$500,000 for initial event related expenditures: \$150,000 Emergency Medical Service, \$200,000 Sheriff, \$150,000 Disaster Emergency Management Auditor Marcia Kessel stated that the Emergency Fund is restricted to disaster response and that she had contacted the State Auditor's Office and Eide Bailly who advised against using it for planned events. Additional concerns were raised regarding accountability, audit tracking, and grant reporting if funds are pooled.

The board and Pat Rummel, Dean Wyckoff and Kyle Shockley continued discussion of state and county consideration of pre event emergency declarations to enable use of emergency funds and potential reimbursement. Emergency Fund balance reported at roughly \$900,000.

House Bill 1018 provides \$1 million for event in Medora; reimbursement amounts unknown.

Resolution 2026 12 - Pre Event Emergency Declaration

Rodne moved to approve Resolution 2026 12, declaring a pre event local emergency and authorizing use of emergency funds for preparedness and response activities related to the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library event. Haag seconded. Motion carried. The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION NO: 2026-11

A RESOLUTION DECLARING A PRE-EVENT LOCAL EMERGENCY FOR A MASS GATHERING ASSOCIATED WITH AMERICA'S 250TH & THEODORE ROOSEVELT PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY GRAND OPENING

WHEREAS, pursuant to North Dakota Century Code Chapter 37-17.1, the Billings County Board of County Commissioners is authorized to declare a local emergency when conditions exist that threaten life, property, or public peace; and

WHEREAS, Billings County will host or support a planned mass gathering associated with the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library, a designated America and Freedom 250 Signature event, which is expected to draw a large number of attendees, dignitaries, and visitors to Medora and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, mass gatherings present an increased risk of public safety incidents, including but not limited to medical emergencies, traffic congestion, severe weather impacts, wildland fire risk, infrastructure strain, and potential public safety or security incidents; and

WHEREAS, forecasts and situational assessments indicate the potential for conditions requiring heightened readiness, interagency coordination, and rapid deployment of emergency resources; and

WHEREAS, advance declaration of a local emergency will allow Billings County to proactively activate emergency management authorities, coordinate with local, state, tribal, and federal partners, and ensure the protection of life,

health, safety, and property;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Billings County Board of County Commissioners:

1. A pre-event local emergency is hereby declared for Billings County, North Dakota, effective February 5th 2026, in anticipation of conditions associated with the mass gathering for the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library grand opening, this is a designated America and Freedom 250 event.

2. The Billings County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is authorized for partial or full activation, and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) may be activated as deemed necessary by the Billings County Emergency Manager.

3. The Billings County Emergency Manager, Sheriff, and other designated officials are authorized to take all lawful actions necessary to prepare for and respond to potential incidents, including:

a. Coordination and mutual aid with municipal, county, tribal, state, and federal agencies;

b. Pre-positioning personnel, equipment, and emergency medical resources;

c. Issuance of public information, safety messaging, and emergency warnings;

d. Emergency procurement of supplies and services in accordance with North Dakota law.

4. County officials are authorized to expend and obligate emergency funds necessary for preparedness and response actions related to this declaration, subject to ratification as required by law. Emergency Fund 2910-4240-393 may be used.

5. This resolution shall remain in effect until terminated by the Billings County Board of County Commissioners or in accordance with North Dakota Century Code Chapter 37-17.1.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Billings County Emergency Manager shall provide notice of this declaration to the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services and other appropriate agencies.

ADOPTED this 5th day of February, 2026.

BILLINGS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Dean Rodne, Billings County Chairman
Attest: Marcia Kessel, Auditor/
Treasurer

Event Planning: Lodging, Food, Public Safety, and Logistics

Lodging for responders secured for June 29-July 6 at a negotiated rate of \$41,000

Food vendor pricing and logistics pending; update to be provided at next meeting.

Coordination ongoing with the Library, City of Medora, and state agencies.

County Boards Stipends and Appointments

Klym moved to increase stipends for all county appointed boards from \$50 to \$75 per meeting, plus mileage. Haag seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Rodne moved to appoint Karen Putnam to the Council on Aging for a four year term. Klym seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Library Liquor License Application

The Board reviewed the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library's beer/liquor license request.

Discussion focused on defining the designated consumption area.

Commissioners expressed concern about approving alcohol consumption across the full 93 acre property.

Library representatives indicated alcohol would be limited to the building, caf?, and designated outdoor seating, and walkway with security monitoring exits.

Steven Klym moved to approve the application with only areas within the building. Haag seconded. All voted nay.

Action: Library to return next month with a clearly defined map of the proposed consumption area and management plan. Decision postponed.
Road & Bridge & Engineer - Pat Redmond & Andrew Krebs, KLJ

Guardrail improvements underway on seven bridges and CMC routes.

Clyde Pit crushing completed; seeding partially done; additional seeding planned for spring.

15th Street grading improvements ongoing; roadway design in progress.

Two flex funding applications submitted but not approved; will resubmit.

DOT bid for 2026 construction scheduled for February 27.

Tim Armbrust pit bid released for 60,000 cubic yards crushing.

Chip seal project awarded to Astech for \$880,050.65.

Environmental document for Forest Service realignment in progress; pavement justification study due end of 2026.

Kenworth trucks delivered; Western Star trucks pending; lease agreements in process.

Two road crew members achieved Level 2 Road Scholar status.

Contractor equipment use discussed; approved vendor list and insurance requirements needed. States Attorney will draft legal agreement for contractor equipment use; prepare MOU for vendors using county loaders in gravel pits.

Surplus equipment to be advertised for bid after new trucks arrive.

Discussed load pass revenue: 2023: \$242,058.06, 2024: \$230,640.14, 2025 YTD: \$171,347.26

ARW Permits:

ARW (Utility) 2026-1 Roughrider Electric Cooperative: Multiple locations/roads in 141-98, 142-98 and 142-99

ARW (Utility) 2026-2 Roughrider Electric Cooperative: 10-142-99 Blacktail Rd

Klym moved to approve ARW 2026-1 and 2026-2. Haag seconded. All voted aye.

After review of an Easement to Roughrider Electric Cooperative: West 50' of the East 500' of the South 100' in SE1/4SE1/4 of 10-142-99 100 lineal feet more or less, Klym moved to approve. Rodne seconded. All voted aye.

EMS - Kyle Michels Presented his monthly report and shared a quote received from paracorp.

SHERIFF - Dean Wyckoff Call volume down 163 calls from 2024-2025 due to weather. 4 arrests in 2025.

January 2026 up 33 calls compared to January 2024.

Financials:

The following claims were approved:

BILLINGS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOC.....230.79
BILLINGS COUNTY RURAL FIRE DISTRICT.....4,105.17
BILLINGS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT.....3,911.39
ND STATE TREASURER.....56.46

SOUTHWESTERN DIST HEALTH UNIT.....3,142.19
JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA.....6,092.63

BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF ND.....5,507.20
ND PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIRE SYSTEM.....1,411.48
CONSOLIDATED TELCO.....1,031.07

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT.....2,101.60
MEDORA, CITY OF.....803.24
ROUGH RIDER ELECTRIC COOP INC.....4,046.35
RTC NETWORKS.....864.52

VISA.....255.52
WEX HEALTH INC.....45.50
ND STATE TAX COMMISSIONER - PAYROLL.....8,280.00
ND STATE TAX COMMISSIONER.....3,940.05

CHARLES SCHWAB..1,711.13
NDFOP STATE LODGE TREASURER.....54.00
NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC HEALTH INS TRUST.....109,985.31

STATE DISPERSEMENT UNIT.....2,862.60
WEX HEALTH, INC.....1,475.01

N.D. P.E.R.S.....11,155.00
ND PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIRE SYSTEM.....61,513.21
ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS INC.....1,364.04

ARMBRUST CODY.....57.00
ARMBRUST EVAN.....277.55

BELFIELD AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY INC.....1,145.66
BELFIELD SPORTSMEN CLUB.....480.00
BERGER ELECTRIC INC.....522.81

BILLINGS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT.....12,000.00
BOBCAT OF DICKINSON.....130.93
BOSS OFFICE PRODUCTS.....1,185.53
BOUND TREE MEDICAL LLC.....946.53

BRAUN DISTRIBUTING INC.....338.70
BROSZ ENGINEERING INC.....6,545.00
BUCKMAN BRIAN.....558.39
CERKONEY CATHY.....100.75

CHI ST. ALEXIUS HEALTH CO. CARE -EAP.....628.23
CLEARGOV INC.....5,665.00
CODE 4 SERVICES INC.....7,996.99

DAK INSURANCE.....554.00
DAKOTA COMMERCIAL RUGS.....236.50
DAKOTA TOOL & MACHINE INC.....90.00
DICKINSON PUBLIC LIBRARY.....3,565.75

FARMERS UNION OIL CO - BEACH.....1,874.19
FORSGREN ASSOCIATES INC.....32,207.57
FOUTS GYPSY.....100.00
GEORGE'S TIRE LTD.....2,227.00
GS PUBLISHING.....850.03
HAAG DANIEL.....51.89
HAAG JAMES M.....137.75
HECKER GARRET AND KATHRYN.....\$304.36
HESTEKIN NPR/C JENNIFER.....600.00
HP INC.....12,358.15
J AND J OPERATING LLC.....1,961.06
J P STEEL & SUPPLY INC.....175.10
JAMESTOWN COMMUNICATIONS INC.....100.00
JILEK SHAWN.....575.69
KEVIN'S AUTO & TRUCK REPAIR.....897.66
KLJ ENGINEERING LLC.....7,157.01
KREBS ROSE AND WAYNE.....575.69
KUBIK BOGNER RIDL & SELINGER PLLP.....12,000.00
LADBURY JIM.....600.00
LIBERTY DOORS LLC.....380.00
MAC'S HARDWARE.....42.02
MENARDS DICKINSON.....115.93
MGM RURAL SANITATION LLC.....439.84
MIDWEST DOORS OF DICKINSON, INC.....845.86
ND 911 ASSOCIATION \$100.00
ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES.....48,531.53
ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY ENGINEERS.....350.00
ND ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE.....155.00
ND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOC.....1,325.00
ND DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION.....23.00
ND SHERIFFS & DEPUTIES ASSOC.....400.00
NDACO RESOURCES GROUP INC.....8,754.71
NEWMAN SIGNS, INC.....390.54
NORTH CENTRAL INTERNATIONAL, LLC.....473.84
NOVA FIRE PROTECTION, INC.....370.00
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL.....7,018.58
ONE CALL CONCEPTS.....12.00
PRAIRIE LUMBER COMPANY.....111.50
PUTNAM KAREN.....51.45
QUADIENT LEASING USA INC.....348.48
RAY ALLEN MANUFACTURING, LLC.....34.98
RDO EQUIPMENT CO.....265,706.35
RED ROCK FORD.....2,702.27
RODNE, DEAN.....60.15
ROTH JON G.....322.23
RUNNINGS SUPPLY INC.....1,723.57
SANFORD INPT PHARMACY.....185.00
SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY.....468.25
SUNSET LAW ENFORCEMENT.....5,965.20
SWANSTON EQUIPMENT CORP.....220.00
SYMINOW RODNEY.....71.75
T-MOBILE.....1,521.72
UGPTI-NDLTAP.....100.00
US POSTAL SERVICE.....88.00
VERIZON WIRELESS.....365.27
VESTIS.....588.65
VIKING GLASS OF ND, INC.....235.29
VISION WEST ND.....800.00

WALLWORK TRUCK CENTER.....18,971.87
WALLWORK TRUCK CENTER BISMARCK.....527,766.00
WARNE CHEMICAL & EQUIPMENT CO.....784.93
WEST DAKOTA OIL INC.....209.63
WESTERN CHOICE COOPERATIVE.....7,628.79
WESTLIE CROSSROADS TRUCK CTR.....14,168.15
ZOLL MEDICAL CORP.....4,628.00

The board approved the revenue vouchers for the month of January: Recorder \$2,763.20; Zoning \$275.00; Court \$70.00; EMS \$7,488.77; Sheriff \$295.00.

Revenues for materials and/or services rendered in January: Bill Palanuk \$298.13 scoria & hauling; Perry & Alicia Redmond \$1,838.75 scoria & hauling grading; Scott Wagoner \$246.00 scoria & hauling; Jesse Duckwitz \$783.38 scoria & hauling; Pete Odermann \$402.75 scoria & hauling; TR Presidential Library for Pat Rummel \$4,025.00; Mike Klatt \$823.50 scoria & hauling; Dave Jensen \$150.00 loader; Vernon Polensky \$523.50 scoria & hauling; Ameripride \$14.40 settlement. WEED SPRAYING: Bill Palanuk \$257.81, Richard Angus \$6,090.00, Giles Radtke \$116.12, Kevin Kessel \$92.66, ND Dept of Ag \$24,475.89.

Revenues for the month of January: Road & Bridge permits \$14,476.86; Highway Distribution \$21,583.15; Oil & Gas Production Tax \$394,462.42; Royalties \$19,519.80; Unorganized Oil & Gas Production Tax \$26,297.50; Interest \$67,788.41; State Aid Distribution \$41,125.41; ND Treasurer Flex \$55,353.55; Oneok grant \$5,000.00.

Payroll in the following amounts was approved for January: General Fund \$261,456.65; Road and Bridge Fund \$142,829.03; Weed Fund \$16,023.34.

Adjournment
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:35am.

/s/ Dean Rodne
Dean Rodne, Chairman
/s/ Marcia Kessel
Marcia Kessel, Auditor
Published March 12, 2026

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/s/ Dean Rodne
Dean Rodne, Chairman
/s/ Marcia Kessel
Marcia Kessel, Auditor
Published March 12, 2026



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