

BILLINGS COUNTY COMMISSION Proceedings

BILLINGS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Date: August 4, 2026

**9:00 A.M. Location: Billings
County Courthouse**

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

Others in attendance: Marcia Kessel, Dean Wyckoff, Rudy Syminow, Pat Rummel, Grant Geis, Cody Armbrust, Travis Collins, Dale Frieze, Julie Reis, Stacey Swanson, Darianne Johnson, Kayla Messall, Kinley Slauter, Andrew Krebs, Danielle O'Brien, Robert Gates, Jeremy Wood, Pat Redmond, Kyle Shockley, Jared Gietzen, Juliana Hammerstrom. Chairman Rodne called the meeting to order at 9:00am. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes & Agenda

Rodne requested adding clarification to the special budget meeting minutes regarding a prior motion that failed due to lack of a second, noting that discussion ensued and the statement was made to leave the salaries until the new commission members were elected. The board agreed to add this clarification.

Motion: Klym moved to approve the July 7 regular and 29 & 31 Special, 2026 Commission Minutes. Haag seconded. All voted aye.

The Dickinson Public Library Director was unable to attend.

Motion: Haag moved to approve the agenda with the removal of the Library discussion. Klym seconded. All voted aye.

PUBLIC COMMENT –
Jesse Romanyshyn

A written public comment from Jesse Romanyshyn was

read into the record. The letter addressed questions regarding the Unified Command Center food service contract during the Presidential Library opening week, including cost, vendor selection, and lack of a bidding process. The sheriff indicated he would respond during his department report.

EMS Report

The EMS department reported 86 patient contacts for July, totaling 223 for the year. Additional patient contacts occurred during the library opening week through contracted medical providers. Staffing updates included hiring a new EMT beginning September 1. Multiple grants were being pursued, including Rural EMS and RHTP funding.

Fire District / Burn Ban Clarification

Cody Armbrust, Assistant Fire Chief and the board discussed enforcement of smoking restrictions under the county burn ban. The board determined that enforcement discretion is necessary and that designated areas generally include vehicles, buildings, paved or developed surfaces. No changes were made to the resolution at this time.

Sheriff's Report

Sheriff Dean Wyckoff presented June and July call statistics, noting a significant increase in July due to the America 250th event and library opening. Traffic enforcement activity was reviewed. The sheriff also addressed the public comment letter, explaining the food service vendor selection process and school superintendent requirement of the vendor.

Domestic Violence & Rape Crisis Center

Darianne Johnson and Kayla Messall provided updates on shelter capacity, increased rent for the Safe Visitation Center, and service demands. The organization requested an increase in county funding from the prior year's \$60,000 allocation. No motion was made at

this time; discussion was deferred to budget deliberations.

Auditor/Treasurer Report

The quarterly pledge report was presented by Auditor Kessel.

Motion: Klym moved to approve the pledge report. Haag seconded. All voted aye.

Two invoices were reviewed:

1. TK Elevator – A voluntary fuel surcharge invoice for \$100. The board declined payment and removed it from the bill list.

2. Fire District Reimbursement – The fire district submitted an invoice requesting reimbursement for volunteer labor during the Presidential Library opening.

Motion: Klym moved to approve the reimbursement for the stipend to the Fire District members who worked the A250 event. Rodne seconded. All voted aye.

An NDDOT resolution for the Vesey Bridge project was presented.

Motion: Rodne moved to sign the NDDOT Resolution approving the bid on Project BRJ-0004(057). Klym seconded. All voted aye.

Planning & Zoning

Tax & Zoning Director Stacey Swanson presented ARW & Pipeline Permits:

-2026-11 – John & Irene Schrock – Residential approach off Green River Rd – Franks Creek Subdivision, 22-141-99

-Pipeline 4480 – Garret Hecker – ag water lines – 123rd Ave SW – sections 9, 10-141-98

Motion: Haag moved to approve both applications with conditions. All voted aye.

The TY Pickett industrial appraisal contract renewal was presented for \$29,000 per year for two years.

Motion: Klym moved to renew the contract with TY Pickett & Co. Inc. for industrial property appraisal services for 2027 and 2028. Haag seconded. All voted

aye.

GIS / Aerial Imagery Project

Tax & Zoning Director Swanson applied for and received a \$50,000 grant for aerial imagery in Billings County. Aerial imagery proposals from EagleView were reviewed. The board selected the oneinch imagery option for the Medora area.

Motion: Rodne moved to award the Medora Area Orthophotography and Oblique 1" imagery to EagleView. Haag seconded. All voted aye.

Roosevelt Custer Regional Council

Shannon Ellig provided a regional update, including grant activity, tourism initiatives, business support programs, and the 2027 budget request of \$7,700. This request was placed in the preliminary budget for approval. A short recess was taken at approximately 10:30 AM.

Billings County School District – LU Fund Request

The School Board presented its annual LU funding request and introduced Danielle O'Brien as the new school Superintendent. The district reported current building fund balances and outlined planned facility upgrades including cafeteria/kitchen flooring, intercom and phone system replacements, and secureentry office renovations. The district requested \$2,000,000, allocating \$1.5 million to the building fund and \$500,000 to the general fund.

Motion: Klym moved to approve \$2,000,000 to the Billings County school district from LU for 2027. Rodne seconded. All voted aye.

Redistricting/Election Updates

States Attorney Jared Gietzen provided a statutory review of redistricting actions. The redistricting board adopted a fivedistrict map for publication; a public meeting is scheduled for August 17. The Attorney ad-

vised that the two new commissioner seats must be residency districts (Districts 4 and 5) as listed by the proposed redistricting map. Petition requirements total 195 signatures. If no candidate files to be on the ballot, the seats will still appear on the general election ballot as write-in positions. Statutory conflicts between redistricting and election laws were noted, but residency-district requirements remain controlling in his opinion.

Bid Opening – Thompson Pit Scoria Crushing Project

3 bids were opened at 11am as advertised and verified for compliance (bond and contractor license):

- Fisher Sand & Gravel – \$225,000

- Knopik Pit Management – \$243,100

- Wyrick Construction – \$208,000 (apparent low bid)

Motion: Haag moved to award Wyrick Construction the 2026 Thompson Pit Crushing & Stockpiling bid at \$208,000.00 contingent upon engineer and Road Superintendent review. Klym seconded. All voted aye.

Engineer's Reports

Jeremy Wood, Northern Plains Engineering was present to report:

- CMC Route Guardrail Improvements: Final guardrail installed; punchlist work underway; seeding may require later inspection.

- Tim Armbrust Pit: Crushing underway; clay hauled in to meet PI specifications.

- Bobby Kubas Pit: Crushing to begin after completion at Armbrust Pit.

- Chip Seal Project: Contractor start date pending; completion required by September 1.

- 15th Street Grading Improvements: Awaiting Forest Service review of environmental documents.

- Pavement Justification Study: Traffic counts completed;

DOT data incorporated; route analysis underway.

Jeremy Wood, KLJ was present to report:

- 135th Avenue (Fryburg Area): Grading and seeding nearly complete; railroad coordination pending.

- Vesey Bridge (DOT Project): DOT bid opening completed; low bid by Edward H. Schwartz Construction; concurrence recommended.

Road Department Report
Road Superintendent Pat Redmond reported:

- District Staffing & Equipment: Final vacancy in District 3 filled; loader delivery scheduled for District 1.

- Shared Use Path – East River Road: Construction underway; bridge fabrication scheduled for spring.

- Buffalo Gap Road: Forest Service delays noted.

- Paving Proposal – 135th Avenue (10th to 38th): Estimated cost approx. \$1.7 million; no external funding awarded; included in preliminary road budget. No action taken. Haag noted he would like to see Gas Plant Rd paved.

EMS Housing Proposal

Commissioners reviewed a proposal to purchase two modular housing units for EMS staffing. Discussion included unit age, renovation needs, project cost, zoning requirements, and city sewer capacity. Additional information and city consultation required. No action taken.

2027 Preliminary Budget

Auditor Marcia Kessel presented the draft 2027 county budget after including the increase to Domestic Violence/Rape & Abuse Crisis Center.

The proposed General Fund budget for 2027 is \$8.23 million, which is slightly lower than last year. Some of this decrease is due to onetime costs from the Presidential Library event dropping off. The General Fund preliminary total was set at \$8,233,696.21, reflecting a decrease of \$344,883.72 from

the prior year. Without the Presidential Library impacts, the General Fund Budget reflected an increase of \$155,116.

The county also reviewed required transfers between funds, including:

- An estimated \$250,000 transfer to the Weed Board for next year.

- Routine transfers from the Land Utilization Fund to the School District and Road & Bridge.

- The required 18mill levy for the Unorganized Township Road Fund, which allows the county to qualify for state road funding.

The Auditor also provided a summary of expected revenues. Over the past five years, the county's General Fund revenue has typically brought in

\$5–6 million per year, depending heavily on oil and gas activity.

Fund Balances and Spending Outlook

Kessel reviewed the Treasurer's Cash Report showing the county's current balances. Discussion ensued regarding how much of the 2026 budget remains unspent and anticipated oil and gas revenue expected later in the year. The county anticipates ending 2026 with roughly \$6 million in the General Fund.

The final budget hearing will be held October 6 at 1pm.

Motion: Haag moved to approve the 2027 Preliminary Budget. Klym seconded. All voted aye.

Exempt Employee Bonus Commission revisited prior discussion regarding onetime performance bonuses for two exempt employees (Emergency Manager and Sheriff) for extensive work related to the Presidential Library emergency operations period. Commissioners reviewed estimated hours worked, planning workload, and comparable

past bonuses. Haag suggested \$10,000, Klym suggested \$2,000.

Motion: Rodne moved to approve giving a one-time bonus to Kyle Shockley and Dean Wyckoff in the amount of \$9,500.00. Haag seconded. Haag and Rodne voted aye. Klym voted nay. Motion carried.

The following claims were approved:

JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA	16,026.06
CONSOLIDATED TELCOM	1,031.07
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT	2,112.25
JAMES OIL WELL SERVICE INC	51,416.56
MEDORA, CITY OF	1,643.76
ROUGH RIDER ELECTRIC COOP INC	3,395.18
RTC NETWORKS	337.53
VISA	209.12
WEX HEALTH INC	45.50
NDFOP STATE LODGE TREASURER	54.00
NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC HEALTH INS TRUST	105,917.91
STATE DISPERSEMENT UNIT	2,862.60
WEX HEALTH, INC.	1,558.34
N.D. P.E.R.S.	10,430.00
ND PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIRE SYSTEM	59,449.55
JOB SERVICE NORTH DAKOTA	1,145.82
ND STATE TAX COMMISSIONER - PAYROLL	6,651.00
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF ND	5,425.10
ND PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIRE SYSTEM	1,319.42
ABC FENCING LLC	3,280.00
AFFORDABLE TREE SERVICE LLC	4,500.00
B&H OILFIELD SERVICES LLC	31,155.00
BELFIELD AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY INC	952.50
BIG HORN TIRE	1,672.24
BILLINGS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOC	210.21
BILLINGS COUNTY RURAL FIRE DISTRICT	3,431.48
BILLINGS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT	3,706.05

BISMARCK POLICE DEPT	JAMES OIL WELL SERVICE
.....25,422.80	INC
BLUE SKY DUMPSTERS, LLC	JB'S WINDOW CLEANING
.....780.60	SERVICE
BOBCAT OF DICKINSON	750.00
.....280.88	JENSEN BROTHERS
BOESPFLUG TRAILERS &	CONSTRUCTION, INC
FEED	356,310.77
23.40	KEVIN'S AUTO & TRUCK
BOSS OFFICE PRODUCTS	REPAIR
1,245.34	1,308.57
BOUND TREE MEDICAL LLC	KLJ ENGINEERING LLC
146.23	75,836.74
BRAUN DISTRIBUTING INC	KREBS MACHINE & REPAIR ..
791.24	353.00
BURIAN STEVE	KUBIK BOGNER RIDL &
1,500.00	SELINGER PLLP
BUTLER MACHINERY CO	12,000.00
.....52.95	KUNTZ MASON
C & D OILFIELD SERVICES	41.58
INC	LADBURY JIM
32,666.25	1,200.00
CODE 4 SERVICES INC	LOGO MAGIC
20,044.57	1,580.00
DAK INSURANCE	MEDORA, CITY OF
8,763.00	1,099.17
DAKOTA COMMERCIAL	MENARDS DICKINSON
RUGS	719.34
256.50	METRO AREA AMBULANCE
DAKOTA DIRT WORKS	SERVICE INC
1,700.00	2,000.00
DEERE CREDIT INC	METRO-BILLING SERVICES ..
12,750.00	250.00
DICKINSON HARDWARE	MGM RURAL SANITATION
.....144.79	LLC
DICKINSON PRESS	457.31
262.09	MICHELS KYLE
DICKINSON PUBLIC LIBRARY	142.67
.....5,049.38	MIDWEST DOORS OF
DOUBLE EE SERVICE INC	DICKINSON, INC
747.22	4,029.79
DRYLAND ENTERPRISES	ND ASSOCIATION OF
19,065.00	COUNTIES
DTE INC	237.26
124,440.00	ND ELECTRIC LLC
EAST END AUTO & TRUCK	314.51
PARTS	ND STATE TREASURER
28,631.60	129.11
ENVIROTECH SERVICES INC	NORTHERN PLAINS
.....18,352.00	ENGINEERING LLC
ERE TRUCKING LLC	59,980.96
16,972.50	NUTRIEN AG SOLUTIONS
FARMERS UNION OIL CO -	12,655.00
BEACH	OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT
15,555.78	GENERAL
FISHER SAND & GRAVEL CO.	6,136.56
.....1,034.27	ONE CALL CONCEPTS
FORSGREN ASSOCIATES	15.00
INC	PRAIRIE LUMBER COMPANY
2,726.88	34.50
GALL'S INC	PUMP SYSTEMS INC
86.35	3,415.80
GEORGE'S TIRE LTD	PUTNAM KAREN
1,630.00	647.20
H L E B E C H U K	QUADIEN LEASING USA INC
CONSTRUCTION INC	348.48
13,505.00	QUALITY XTERMINATORS
J AND J OPERATING LLC	630.00
79.13	RDO EQUIPMENT CO
	2,870.63
	RED ROCK FORD
	92.73
	ROMANYSHYN TRUCKING &
	EXCAVATING
	14,100.00
	RUDY'S LOCK & KEY
	467.50
	RUNNINGS SUPPLY INC

.....588.49
 SANFORD HEALTH
 OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE ...
89.00
 SANFORD INPT PHARMACY .
1,665.00
 SERVICE PRINTERS.....379.15
 SERVICE PRO EXPRESS
 LUBE523.66

 SHERWIN-WILLIAMS CO
82.45
 SOUTHWEST WATER
 AUTHORITY6,059.11
 SOUTHWESTERN DIST
 HEALTH UNIT2,661.19
 T-MOBILE.....1,572.84
 TAYLOR PRINT IMPRESSIONS
 INC6,075.10
 THE THOMPSON RANCH,
 LLLP1,500.00
 TRAPPER'S INN15,300.00
 TRMF15,915.00
 TUGGERS INC.....935.00
 UNIFORM CENTER.....85.99
 US FOODS, INC.....35,353.01
 US POSTAL SERVICE
2,400.00
 VALS SANITATION.....1,033.00
 VERIZON WIRELESS...365.27
 VESTIS972.42
 WALLWORK TRUCK CENTER
2,029.80
 WARNE CHEMICAL &
 EQUIPMENT CO.....80.54
 WEST DAKOTA OIL INC
3,707.28
 WESTERN CHOICE
 COOPERATIVE.....39,556.56
 WESTERN DAKOTA ENERGY
 ASSOCIATION5,250.00
 WESTLIE MOTOR CO
3,571.52
 WINTER EQUIPMENT CO
5,955.03
 BILLINGS COUNTY RURAL
 FIRE DISTRICT.....39,970.00

Revenues for materials
 and/or services rendered in
 July: Bill Cerkoney \$472.50
 scoria; ND Parks & Recreation

\$14,882.00 36th Street Rd
 Project; Qwain Malkowski
 \$694.35 millings & truck-
 ing. WEED SPRAYING: Jeff
 Baranko \$10.00, Dale Baranko
 \$32.92, Ernest & Nell Buckman
 \$159.29, Joey & Rene Berger
 \$184.96, Cory Smith \$37.07,
 Terry Gregory \$164.41, Kyle
 Pennington \$75.22, Rod
 Wagner \$9.98, Glenn Redmond
 \$35.86.

Revenues for the month
 of July: Road & Bridge per-
 mits \$7,858.39; Highway
 Distribution \$19,202.47;
 Oil & Gas Production Tax
 \$208,542.83; Royalties
 \$45,098.12; Unorganized Oil &
 Gas Production Tax \$13,902.86;
 Interest \$62,325.46; State
 Aid Distribution \$41,798.80;
 ND Treasurer Flex \$1,732.41;
 Opioid \$191.72; Cash Bar
 Permits \$100.00; Unorganized
 ND Treasurer Flex \$16,177.12;
 Township Distribution
 \$28,278.89, copies \$3.25; Dept
 of Agriculture LAP \$13,547.84.

Payroll in the following
 amounts was approved for July:
 General Fund \$245,391.71;
 Road and Bridge Fund
 \$136,558.42; Weed Fund
 \$53,168.79; Emergency Fund
 \$69,822.86.

The board approved the
 revenue vouchers for the month
 of July: Recorder \$8,624.80;
 Zoning \$2,450.00; Court
 \$85.00; EMS \$5,703.47; Sheriff
 \$98.00.

Motion: Klym moved to ad-
 journ at 2:24pm. Haag second-
 ed.

/s/ Dean Rodne
 Dean Rodne, Chairman
 /s/ Marcia Kessel
 Marcia Kessel, Auditor

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