

BILLINGS COUNTY COMMISSION Proceedings

BILLINGS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Date: September 3, 2026

9:00 A.M. Location: Billings
County Courthouse, Medora,
ND

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

Others in attendance: Marcia
Kessel, H. Patrick Weir, Rudy
Syminow, Laura Grzanic,
Kevin Kessel, Pat Rummel,
Kule Shockley, Cody Armbrust,
Diane Weir, Olivia Titcomb,
Dean Wyckoff, Travis Collins,
Pat Redmond, Joey Kessel,
Stacey Swanson, Andrew
Krebs, Dale Frieze, Katie
Dillman, Julie Reis, Gayle Cox,
Billy Doerr, Ian Anguiano, Lori
Elliot, Misty Hays, Rob Schilling,
Jared Gietzen.

Chairman Rodne called the
meeting to order at 9:00am. The
Pledge of Allegiance was recit-
ed.

Minutes & Agenda

Motion: Klym moved to approve
the August 4, 2026 Commission
Minutes. Haag seconded. All
voted aye.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joey Kessel addressed the
Commission regarding bo-
nuses previously awarded
to the Sheriff and Fire Chief.
Comments included concerns
regarding legality and appro-
priateness of bonuses versus
salary adjustments, funding
sources, performance evalua-
tion criteria, concerns that the
Fire Board was not consulted
regarding the Fire Chief bonus
and questions regarding com-
missioner involvement during
presidential library event plan-
ning and whether public notice
requirements were implicated.

Kevin Kessel addressed the
Commission regarding com-
pensation awarded to county
officials and questioned whether
formal performance evaluations
were conducted, authority un-
der North Dakota Century Code
for bonuses to elected officials,
documentation supporting ad-
ditional duties performed during
presidential library and America
250 planning efforts.

States Attorney Jared Gietzen
explained that while salary in-
creases for elected officials
are expressly authorized un-
der Century Code, commis-
sion discretion exists regarding
compensation adjustments and
that the Commission's action
was not unlawful. Discussion
followed regarding extraordi-
nary emergency management,
law enforcement, and planning
responsibilities associated with
presidential library events and
America 250 activities.

Julie Reis addressed the
Commission regarding timeli-
ness of commission minutes
publication, publication require-
ments under NDCC 11-11-37,
historical instances of meeting
minutes not appearing in the
official newspaper, communica-
tion between the Auditor's Office
and newspaper staff. She also
requested clearer availability of
redistricting information on the
county website.

Auditor Kessel acknowledged
the concerns and indicated ef-
forts would be made to improve
publication tracking, posting
procedures, and communication
with the newspaper.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Courthouse Maintenance

Maintenance Supervisor Dale
Frieze reported a trade of a bob-
cat broom with a voucher antici-
pated for approximately \$4,000.

EMS Report

EMS Director Kyle Michels re-
ported record call volumes con-
tinue, Holly Boltz hired as para-
medic, filling a vacant position,
EMT course scheduled to begin
at the end of September, RHTP
grant application submitted for

over \$200,000, City approval received for proposed EMS crew housing project contingent upon a development agreement. EMS Crew Housing Discussion Discussion was held regarding purchase of two modular housing units to provide EMS staff

housing with an estimated purchase cost of \$327,399. There will be separate future bidding requirements for utility, concrete, and site work. The board also discussed timing concerns due to competing interest in the housing units.

Motion: Motion by Klym to approve purchase of two modular housing units from Next Frontier Company based upon the quoted price of \$327,399. Haag seconded. All voted aye.

Direction was given to continue preparation of bid specifications and development agreement review.

Dickinson Public Library Annual Report

Ian Anguiano of the Dickinson Area Public Library presented an annual report highlighting:

- 12% increase in Billings County library card usage.
- Strong utilization of book-mobile services.
- Increased digital library usage.

•Continued community engagement and literacy programs.

He also noted that Billings County representative Olivia Titcomb has become the president of the library board.

Sheriff's Department Report
Sheriff Dean Wyckoff reported August calls increased from 144 in 2025 to 172 in 2026, reimbursement efforts continue relating to America 250 and presidential library events. Investigation of reports regarding door-to-door aerial photography sales activity.

The Sheriff also discussed the planning, security, logistics, and ongoing follow-up related to presidential library and America 250 events and expressed appreciation for county support.

Planning and Zoning

TRMF Little Missouri Second Subdivision

Tax & Zoning Director Stacey Swanson reported zoning approval of a preliminary plat associated with TRMF subdivision proposal.

Application 2026-34, TRMF - presented for construction of a timber-frame entrance sign within county right-of-way near the Bully Pulpit Event Barn.

Discussion included placement within county right-of-way, indemnification language, liability considerations.

Motion: 2026-34 TRMF – Haag moved to approve application and variance with all conditions in the right of way permit. Klym seconded. All voted aye.

Application 2026-39 was presented requesting permission to occupy an RV while constructing a residence in Frank's Creek Subdivision.

Motion: 2026-39 John & Irene Schrock – Klym moved to approve the application for conditional use permit with a condition of one year while constructing their home. Haag seconded. All voted aye.

Data Center Moratorium Discussion

Planning and Zoning discussed the possibility of a one-year moratorium on data center development to allow preparation of regulations and ordinances before any potential applications are received.

State's Attorney advised additional research and drafting would occur before bringing a resolution to the Commission.

USFS Updates

Misty Hays and Rob Schilling from USFS provided updates on the North Plains Connector transmission line project, Buffalo Gap Road progress, oil and gas lease activity, the Travel Management Plan process, and current fire conditions. Discussion included access issues, proposed federal travel management rule changes, and a potential interstate truck park-

ing project near Fryburg.
 The board took a short recess.
 Weed Control
 Weed Superintendent Katie Dillman reported staffing challenges due to employees going back to school, continued weed spraying operations on county roads, private land, and Forest Service lands. Dillman stated that fall remains an effective treatment period for invasive species control and that if county residents would still like to get their property sprayed, to call the weed department.
 County Engineers
 Andrew Krebs from KLJ reported:

- Guardrail improvement project substantially complete pending grass establishment.
- Tim Armbrust gravel crushing project nearing completion.
- Bobby Kubas gravel pit operations ongoing.
- Thompson Pit project awarded and contracts being finalized.
- Chip seal project delayed until spring 2027.
- Ongoing environmental review work for 15th Street and Buffalo Gap Road projects.
- October federal aid meeting scheduled during NDACo conference.
- Review of East River Road/Sully Creek intersection determined guardrails were not warranted under current standards.

Shared Use Path and Buffalo Gap Road Projects
 Gayle Cox from Brosz Engineering reported:

- Shared-use path earthwork and gravel complete.
- Concrete work scheduled for September.
- Pedestrian bridge installation anticipated in spring 2027.
- Buffalo Gap Road environmental studies nearing completion, with design work expected to proceed toward 2027 construction.

Road Department
 Road Superintendent Patrick Redmond reported:

- Road maintenance and hauling activities completed on multiple county roads.
 - Milling operations completed: Blacktail and Fairfield.
 - New equipment delivered and additional equipment expected.
 - Gravel crushing projects nearing completion.
 - Trucks scheduled for auction through Pifers.
 - Upper Magpie Bridge project scheduled to begin in late October.
 - Intent sent to lease tractors for next year.
- Fire Chief/Emergency Management

Kyle Shockley provided his written report and reported that total burn ban remains in place, USFS considering additional restrictions due to continued dry conditions and county conditions remain variable across different locations.

Auditor/Treasurer Report
 Auditor Marcia Kessel reported:

- Monthly balance sheet and cash summary provided.
- Southwest Association of Counties commission caucus scheduled for September 14 in New England.
- Association of Counties convention registration information.
- Election preparations and worker training underway.
- Replacement election clerk appointed due to staffing change.

- Candidate filings:
 - District 4 two-year term: Kevin Kessel and Kyle Shockley filed petitions.
 - No petitions filed for District 5, resulting in a write-in election.

State's Attorney
 State's Attorney reported:
 •Ongoing work related to social services matters.
 •Election eligibility inquiries from potential District 5 write-in candidates.
 •Continued work on data center moratorium research and other county matters.

The following claims
were approved:

JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA
\$12,257.49
ND PUBLIC EMPLOYEE
RETIRE SYSTEM..... 63,015.50
N.D. P.E.R.S. 11,300.00
WEX HEALTH, INC. ... 1,558.34
STATE DISPERSEMENT UNIT
..... 2,862.60
NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
HEALTH INS TRUST
..... 107,309.05
NDFOP STATE LODGE
TREASURER 27.00
WEX HEALTH INC 45.50
VISA 656.38
RTC NETWORKS 1,025.03

ROUGH RIDER ELECTRIC
COOP INC 4,776.87
MEDORA, CITY OF 1,334.65
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
DEPT 2,517.25
CONSOLIDATED TELCOM
..... 1,031.07
ND PUBLIC EMPLOYEE
RETIRE SYSTEM..... 1,267.30
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD
OF ND 5,425.10
WESTLIE MOTOR CO
..... 12,078.14
WESTERN CHOICE
COOPERATIVE 23,726.46
WEST DAKOTA OIL INC
..... 2,398.20
WALLWORK TRUCK CENTER
\$944.54
VESTIS 812.16
VERIZON WIRELESS ... 365.27
ULINE 642.64
TW ENTERPRISES CRITICAL
POWER+ 2,769.04
TUGGERS INC 680.00
TROTTER CONSTRUCTION
INC 29,714.61
TK ELEVATOR
CORPORATION 753.74
THE WINDOW AND DOOR
STORE 4,936.00
TESSCO TECHNOLOGIES,
INC 350.75
T-MOBILE 1,622.88
SYMINOW RODNEY 97.80
STRYKER SALES
CORPORATION 357.76
STEFFAN SAW AND BIKE
..... 24.00
SOUTHWEST MULTI-COUNTY

CORRECTION CTR ... 6,812.40
SANFORD INPT PHARMACY .
..... 1,546.00
RUNNINGS SUPPLY INC
..... 890.60
RUDY'S LOCK & KEY ... 120.00
RS AMERICAS INC 52.33
ROMANYSHYN TRUCKING &
EXCAVATING 18,825.00
ROHAN HARDWARE 4.99
RODNE, DEAN 75.00
RDO EQUIPMENT CO
..... 289,300.00
PUTNAM KAREN 78.14
PUMP SYSTEMS INC
..... 3,368.69
PRAIRIE LUMBER COMPANY
..... 34.50
OUTHOUSE DUTY 610.00
NORTHERN PLAINS
ENGINEERING LLC
..... 29,950.00
ND DEPT. OF
TRANSPORTATION
..... 45,575.36
ND ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES 209.53
ND AG - NEWS 229.00
MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS
..... 108.65
MGM RURAL SANITATION
LLC 465.13
METRO-BILLING SERVICES ..
..... 350.00
MENARDS DICKINSON
..... 308.01
MAC'S HARDWARE 341.37
LONE TREE HILL
ENTERPRISES, INC. .. 1,247.40
LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT
..... 288.60
LEXIPOL LLC 4,141.91
LEGEND AUTO BODY
..... 2,853.75
KUBIK BOGNER RIDL &
SELINGER PLLP 12,000.00
KLJ ENGINEERING LLC
..... 51,604.68
JENSEN BROTHERS
CONSTRUCTION, INC
..... 92,499.13
JAMES OIL WELL SERVICE
INC 2,908.00
J P STEEL & SUPPLY INC
..... 518.10
IMPERIAL SUPPLIES LLC
..... 998.11
IDEMIA IDENTITY & SECURITY
USA LLC 2,542.00
GS PUBLISHING 2,479.85

GOOSENECK IMPLEMENT
 161.94
 GEORGE'S TIRE LTD
 5,058.00
 GALL'S INC 100.80
 FOUR CORNERS CAFE
 450.00
 FORSGREN ASSOCIATES
 INC 7,308.81
 FISHER SAND & GRAVEL CO.
 193,457.28
 FIRE & ICE REFRIGERATION,
 HEATING & AIR 9,675.00
 FARMERS UNION OIL CO -
 BEACH 15,802.58
 ERE TRUCKING LLC
 21,080.00
 EAST END AUTO & TRUCK
 PARTS 15,488.50
 DRYLAND ENTERPRISES
 20,150.00
 DOUBLE EE SERVICE INC
 1,918.14
 DICKINSON PUBLIC LIBRARY
 4,827.19
 DAKOTA COMMERCIAL
 RUGS 256.50
 DAK INSURANCE 371.00

 CNA SURETY 50.00
 CHARBONNEAU CAR
 CENTER 6,581.09
 CERKONEY CATHY 128.20
 C & D OILFIELD SERVICES
 INC 20,460.00
 BROSZ ENGINEERING INC
 43,263.00
 BRAUN DISTRIBUTING INC ...
 80.56
 BOUND TREE MEDICAL LLC..
 1,714.01
 BOSS OFFICE PRODUCTS
 914.14
 BOBCAT OF DICKINSON
 4,879.57
 BILLINGS COUNTY RURAL
 FIRE DISTRICT 81.59
 BELFIELD AUTOMOTIVE
 SUPPLY INC 1,095.11
 B&H OILFIELD SERVICES
 LLC 22,358.75
 ARMBRUST MARY LOU
 128.20
 ARMBRUST CODY 75.00
 ARCSEARCH 1,684.00
 ADVANCED BUSINESS

METHODS INC 495.18

Revenues for materials
 and/or services rendered in
 August: Ranchorama Arena
 Club \$1,237.50 EMS Standby;
 LAND, LLC \$5,550.00 Maah
 Daah Hey EMS Standby; Kaitlyn
 Sitter \$25.00 CPR Course;
 Krystal Thorndike \$80.00
 CPR Course; TR Presidential
 Library \$200.00 CPR Course;
 South Heart Events \$600.00
 Derby EMS Standby; David

Rodakowski \$553.50 scoria
 & trucking; Jackie Anheluk
 \$276.75 scoria & trucking.
 WEED SPRAYING: Rusty
 Tessier \$32.16, Emanuel Voight
 \$49.37, Dale Jilek \$49.37,
 Doug & Katie Oe \$191.37, ABC
 Fencing LLC \$440.37, Ray
 Thompson \$175.99.

Revenues for the month
 of August: Road & Bridge per-
 mits \$15,517.91; Highway
 Distribution \$17,663.01;
 Oil & Gas Production Tax
 \$189,892.33; Royalties
 \$26,972.62; Unorganized Oil &
 Gas Production Tax \$12,659.50;
 Interest \$56,132.23; State
 Aid Distribution \$44,108.96;
 ND Treasurer Flex \$1,916.24;
 Opioid \$114.39; Cash Bar
 Permits \$50.00; NDRIN
 \$6,910.45.

Payroll in the follow-
 ing amounts was approved
 for August: General Fund
 \$249,742.67; Road and Bridge
 Fund \$139,788.68; Weed Fund
 \$51,674.91.

The board approved the
 revenue vouchers for the month
 of August: Recorder \$23,707.00;
 Zoning \$10,145.08; Court
 \$165.00; EMS \$20,607.53;
 Sheriff \$414.00.

/s/ Dean Rodne

Dean Rodne, Chairman

/s/ Marcia Kessel

Marcia Kessel, Auditor

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