BILLINGS COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Date: October 6, 2026 9:00 A.M. Location: Billings County Courthouse

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

Others in attendance: Marcia Kessel, Joseph Fietek, Simran Sinsh, Jeremy Wood, Tom Marthaler, Evan Vettel, Paige Burian, Pat Redmond, Anthony Kessel, Joseph Kessel, Kyle Michels, Cody Armbrust, Julie Reis, Cody Cerkoney, Kevin Kessel, Kyle Shockley, Katie Dillman, Pat Rummel, Laura Grzanic, Dean Wyckoff, Travis Collins, Lori Elliott, Stacey Swanson, Rudy Syminow, Diane Weir, Deb Hanson, Brian Buckman, Brandy Presnell, Juliana Hammerstrom, Jared Gietzen.

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

Minutes & Agenda

Motion: Klym moved to approve the September 3 regular and 25 special, 2026 Commission Minutes. Haag seconded. All voted aye.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Commission received comments from candidate Kyle Shockley questioning the review and certification of nominating petitions. He stated that this was not intended to be on the agenda regarding Kevin Kessel's petition. Auditor Marcia Kessel responded by reading an email that had been provided to Shockley regarding his questions.

Department Reports

Fire Department / Emergency Management Assistant Fire Chief Cody Armbrust presented the monthly report. Updates were also provided regarding emergency management activities and department operations.

Sheriff's Department Sheriff Dean Wyckoff reported 152 calls for service during September 2026 compared to 137 calls during September 2025. Wyckoff also reported that discussions continue regarding potential of receiving reimbursement for the expenditures made for A250 operations. They will be meeting with TRMF and the Presidential Library Foundation.

Clerk of Court Clerk/Recorder Juliana Hammerstrom reported her office is currently holding approximately $240,000 pursuant to a court order in a civil matter. Discussion followed regarding handling of court-ordered funds and a separate civil judgment matter involving county road work and crushing invoices.

EMS Department EMS Director Kyle Michaels reported increased EMS activity, commencement of an EMT class with five students enrolled, and issues involving ambulance cot equipment. The Commission discussed Stryker maintenance contract options and future equipment replacement planning. Consensus was to go with the three year contract with Michels to choose the payment plan that was most advantageous.

Michels also reported that the Billings County EMS Service received the award for EMS Service of the Year by the ND EMS Association.

The Commission reviewed a request to forgive a nonresident ambulance bill associated with a July emergency response. Consensus of the board was to deny the request.

State's Attorney State's Attorney Jared Gietzen provided updates regarding the proposed crew quarters development agreement with the City of Medora. Discussion focused on wastewater system calculations, lift station cost allocations, and the need for further review with city representatives and engineering consultants.

Weed Control Weed Control Officer Katie Dillman reported receipt of a Forest Service funding agreement for 2027. extending through 2032, upcoming equipment purchases.

Tax & Zoning Director Swanson participated in regional housing study discussions, and will be attending a data center tour to assist with future zoning ordinance development.

Pipeline Permit

Motion: Klym moved to approve Petro Hunt pipeline permit 4481 crossing 8th St. and 123rd Ave. SW. – Section 9, 10, and 16-144-98. Haag seconded. All voted aye.

Little Missouri Second Subdivision Final Plat

The Commission reviewed the final plat for Little Missouri Second Subdivision in Medora's extraterritorial zoning area.

Motion: Haag moved to approve the Final Plat of Little Missouri Second Subdivision 2026-28, zoning Lots 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 as Recreational and Lots 4 and 7 as Commercial. Klym seconded. All voted aye.

Industrial Water Depot Ordinance Public Hearing

A public hearing was held on proposed amendments to the Billings County Zoning Ordinance regulating industrial water depots and ponds. Discussion focused on permitted and conditional uses in agricultural districts, definitions of freshwater depots and storage ponds, application fees, state permitting requirements, exemptions for stock dams and agricultural ponds, enforcement of dust and weed control conditions, maintenance responsibilities, and industry impacts. Questions from the public were raised and answered regarding water storage, diversion, permitting thresholds, and compliance requirements.

Motion: Klym moved to approve Article VI Special provisions Section 6.19 for Industrial Water Depots and Ponds as

presented. Haag seconded. All voted aye.

135th Avenue Surfacing Project Bid Opening

At 11:00am as advertised, bids were opened for the 135th Avenue surfacing project. Bids were received as follows: Mayo Construction $2,184,070.55, Central Specialties $2,403,411.24, Strata Corporation $2,178,061.60, and Northern Improvement $2,282,089.17.

Motion: Rodne moved to award the 135th Ave SW aggregate base & hot mix asphalt to the low bidder of Strata Corporation contingent upon engineer bid tabulations. Klym seconded. All voted aye.

Road Department Report

Road Superintendent Pat Redmond reported on road maintenance activities, aggregate crushing operations, bridge projects, equipment auction results, shared-use path construction, seeding projects, and upcoming bridge work. The Commission also discussed future culvert marker installation for improved visibility and safety.

Redmond presented Sourcewell blade quotes for 2027 delivery: JD 872P $454,700, Cat $490,674. Both fingertip controls. Cats have joysticks.

Motion: Klym moved to approve the low JD 872P quote for $454,700.00. Rodne seconded. All voted aye.

Water Depot Application Fee Structure

Motion: Klym moved to set the application fee for Industrial Water Depots for less than 50 acre feet or low hazard $250.00, more than 50 acre feet or high hazard $500.00. Haag seconded. All voted aye.

Conditional Use Permit No. 2026-42

Tax & Zoning Director Stacey Swanson presented Conditional Use Permit Application No. 2026-42 submitted by BOB Enterprises for construction of an industrial water pond on property owned by Kevin Volesky.

Motion: Haag moved to approve 2026-42 Freshwater Industrial Pond with conditions of ARW application and weed control plan, submission of DWR water permit approval, copy of agreement between operator and land owner, and other permanent or temporary structures permitted separately and dust control would be provided as required. Klym seconded. All voted aye.

The regular meeting recessed until the 1:00 p.m. budget hearing.

2027 BUDGET HEARING

The Commission reconvened to conduct the 1pm public hearing on the proposed 2027 Billings County Budget.

Auditor/Treasurer Marcia Kessel reviewed the proposed 2027 county budget, including General Fund appropriations, levy calculations, departmental and other entity budgets, fund balances, Road and Bridge funding, interfund transfers, and tax levy cap calculations. The proposed budget included a General Fund appropriation of $8,237,196.21 and an estimated General Fund levy of $420,000, resulting in a General Fund levy of approximately 17.29 mills.

Public comments and questions were received regarding county spending trends, road and bridge funding, employee bonuses in the current year, and future equipment purchases.

Motion: Haag moved to approve the 2027 Billings County Budget as presented. Klym seconded. All voted aye.

Motion: Klym moved to add item to agenda – open bid process for concrete plumbing, mechanical, electrical. Haag seconded. All voted aye.

EMS Crew Quarters Project

The Commission discussed next steps for the Medora EMS Crew Quarters project, including bidding requirements, infrastructure improvements, engineering services, and development agreement considerations.

Motion: Rodne moved to hire Jeremy Wood from Northern Plains Engineering to work on the crew quarters project. Klym seconded. All voted aye.

The following claims were approved:

BILLINGS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOC 214.74
BILLINGS COUNTY RURAL FIRE DISTRICT.....3,757.57
BILLINGS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT.....19,000.00
BILLINGS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT.....1,861.44
ND STATE TREASURER.....169.68
OBRITSCH BRAYDEN.....21,682.50
OBRITSCH TAIT & KAYLEEN..21,682.50
SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY.....20,760.88
SOUTHWESTERN DIST HEALTH UNIT.....2,718.87
JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA 4,915.57
CONSOLIDATED TELCOM 1,031.07
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT.....2,112.25
MEDORA, CITY OF....1,041.30
ROUGHRIDER ELECTRIC COOP INC.....3,962.08
RTC NETWORKS 1,025.73
VISA.....1,172.15
WEX HEALTH INC 45.50
N.D. P.E.R.S. 11,800.00
ND PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIRE SYSTEM.....60,991.34
NDFOP STATE LODGE TREASURER 27.00
NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC HEALTH INS TRUST.....107,306.23
STATE DISPERSEMENT UNIT 1,869.00
WEX HEALTH, INC. ...1,558.26
O'ROURKE JADEN.....965.16
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF ND 5,544.90
ND PUBLIC EMPLOYEE

RETIRE SYSTEM.....1,298.66
ABC FENCING LLC .....
.....44,692.05
ALL AROUND TIRE & OIL.....
.....25.00
ARMBRUST CODY.....75.00
ARMBRUST MARY LOU.....
.....128.20
ARMBRUST TIMOTHY R.....
.....234,076.00
B&H OILFIELD SERVICES LLC.....24,451.25
BELFIELD AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY INC 2,947.81
BIG HORN TIRE.....1,588.55
BILLINGS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOC 190.79
BILLINGS COUNTY RURAL FIRE DISTRICT.....7,525.70
BILLINGS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT.....1,394.83
BOSS OFFICE PRODUCTS ....
.....1,031.66
BOUND TREE MEDICAL LLC..
.....1,866.94
BROSZ ENGINEERING INC....
.....87,243.75
C & D OILFIELD SERVICES INC 23,947.50
CERKONEY CATHY.....128.20
CHARBONNEAU CAR CENTER.....24,753.00
CIVICPLUS.....8,059.33
CODE 4 SERVICES INC.....
.....1,788.80
DAKOTA COMMERCIAL RUGS 388.75
DICKINSON PUBLIC LIBRARY
.....6,389.16
DOUBLE EE SERVICE INC.....
.....1,579.50
DRYLAND ENTERPRISES .....
.....20,537.50
ELECTIONS SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE 2,664.98
EMS TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS LLC 3,000.00
ENVIROTECH SERVICES INC
.....18,352.00
ERE TRUCKING LLC.....
.....21,661.25
FARMERS UNION OIL CO - BEACH 25,425.41
FISHER SAND & GRAVEL CO.
.....149,474.48
GEORGE'S TIRE LTD.....30.00
GRAPHIC ATTIC LLC....980.76
GS PUBLISHING.....219.44
H L E B E C H U K CONSTRUCTION INC .....
.....16,677.50
J AND J OPERATING LLC.....
.....122.59
J P STEEL & SUPPLY INC.....
.....644.07
JAMES OIL WELL SERVICE INC 2,380.41
JB'S WINDOW CLEANING SERVICE.....850.00
JONES & BARTLETT LEARNING LLC.....1,741.99
JUST-IN GLASS.....429.99
KESSEL P & M FAMILY TRUST.....3,708.00
KEVIN'S AUTO & TRUCK REPAIR 230.95
KLJ ENGINEERING LLC.....
.....28,680.83
KNOPIK PIT MANAGEMENT LLC.....76,752.50
KREBS MACHINE & REPAIR ..
.....390.00
KUBIK BOGNER RIDL & SELINGER PLLP.....12,000.00
LADBURY JIM.....600.00
LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT....
.....132.71
MAC'S HARDWARE.....428.29
MAUS LAURA OR DARIN.....
.....92,622.00
MENARDS DICKINSON.....
.....79.86
MGM RURAL SANITATION LLC.....475.65
MID-AMERICAN RESEARCH CHEMICAL.....367.74
MOBILE EXTINGUISHER SALES & SERVICE LLC .....
.....239.00
ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES.....189.00
ND EMSA.....6,255.00
ND STATE TREASURER .....
.....92.42
NEWVISION SECURITY, LLC..
.....240.00
NEXT FRONTIER COMPANY..
.....220,875.00
NORTH CENTRAL INTERNATIONAL, LLC .....
.....387.76
NUTRIEN AG SOLUTIONS.....
.....245.00
OUTHOUSE DUTY 300.00
PENGUIN MANAGEMENT INC
.....3,144.00
PUMP SYSTEMS INC.....
.....2,178.95
PUTNAM KAREN.....76.52
RADISSON HOTEL - BISMARCK.....227.00
RDO EQUIPMENT CO.....
.....4,750.11
RED ROCK FORD 111.32
ROMANYSHYN TRUCKING & EXCAVATING.....23,175.00
ROUGHRIDER ELECTRIC COOP INC.....140,365.98
RUDY'S LOCK & KEY...704.00
RUNNINGS SUPPLY INC .....
.....2,259.42
SANFORD INPT PHARMACY .
.....2,037.00
SIGN SOLUTIONS.....1,618.05
SOUTHWEST MULTI-COUNTY CORRECTION CTR.....415.06
SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY.....5,130.96
SOUTHWESTERN DIST HEALTH UNIT 2,415.34
STEFFAN SAW AND BIKE.....
.....150.90
STEIN'S INC.....69.31
SWANSON STACEY.....659.75
SYMINOW RODNEY.....97.80
T-MOBILE.....1,667.23
THERAPY SOLUTIONS.....
.....125.00
TROTTER CONSTRUCTION INC 13,776.00
UGPTI-NDLTAP 75.00
UNIFORM CENTER 52.99
VANGUARD APPRAISALS INC
.....8,975.00
VERIZON WIRELESS...365.27
VESTIS.....1,192.44
WALLWORK TRUCK CENTER
.....881.84
WARNE CHEMICAL & EQUIPMENT CO.....430.17
WEST DAKOTA OIL INC .....
.....3,456.08
WESTERN CHOICE COOPERATIVE.....90,059.42
WESTERN DENT.....6,882.12
WESTLIE MOTOR CO .....
.....2,563.11
ZOLL MEDICAL CORP .....
.....2,485.00
A&I DISTRIBUTORS..2,006.88
GEORGE'S TIRE LTD .....
.....15,160.00
LITTLE MISSOURI RESTAURANT & SALOON .....
.....2,740.61

Revenues for materials and/or services ren-

dered in September: Chad Crist $501.75 millings & end dump; Belfield Public School $440.00 CPR Course; TR Presidential Library $11,350.00 Patrick Rummel ½ salary; TRMF $1,950.00 Security at Concerts. WEED SPRAYING: Dale Jilek $49.37, Rose Krebs $24.94, Tait Obritsch $95.30, Edwin Cerkoney $22.43, Don Schmeling $98.99.

Revenues for the month of September: Road & Bridge permits $23,709.90; Highway Distribution $17,527.69; Oil & Gas Production Tax $497,696.85; Royalties $28,876.40; Unorganized Oil & Gas Production Tax $33,179.80; Interest $56,041.44; State Aid Distribution $39,817.53; ND Treasurer Flex $1,732.20; BLM Mineral Royalty $123,165.50.

Payroll in the following amounts was approved for September: General Fund $247,523.08; Road and Bridge Fund $143,612.78; Weed Fund $24,306.28.

The board approved the revenue vouchers for the month of September: Recorder $5,231.40; Zoning $300.00; Court $245.00; EMS $10,559.53; Sheriff $411.00.

Adjournment

Motion: Haag moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:11pm. Klym seconded. All voted aye.

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

Published November 12, 2026