

**MINUTES OF EDDY
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
EDDY COUNTY COURTHOUSE
July 7, 2026, 8:00A.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chairperson Dave Gehrtz. Present were Commissioner James F. Allmaras, Commissioner Glenda Collier, State's Attorney Ashley Lies, Auditor Bobbie Indergaard, and Dalton Keay with the New Rockford Transcript.

Chairperson Dave Gehrtz began the meeting by leading the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner James F. Allmaras made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Attorney Fees to New Business. Commissioner Glenda Collier seconded the motion, all were in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Glenda Collier made a motion to approve the June 2, 2026 Regular Meeting and June 4, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes. Commissioner James F. Allmaras seconded the motion, all were in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Glenda Collier made a motion to approve the May and June Monthly Statement from the Treasurer's Office and the June 2026 Financials and Expenditures and Revenue Budgets.

Commissioner James F. Allmaras seconded the motion, all were in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner James F. Allmaras made a motion to approve the November 2025 and the following June 2026 bills. Commissioner Glenda Collier seconded the motion. Roll Call vote: Dave Gehrtz Yes vote, James F. Allmaras Yes vote, and Glenda Collier Yes vote. Motion carried.

JUNE BILLS

Nelson Auto Center45,930.00
CASNR285.69
McHenry Ambulance.....60.57
Two Rivers Ambulance....533.34
Garrison Diversion393.01
NR-S School.....12,249.93
ECSCD1,383.28
Midkota School2,726.91

Warwick School.....127.41
Dakota Prairie School.....13.04
Paradise Township359.15
Cherry Lake Township.....304.00
Columbia Township.....655.95
Pleasant Prairie Twp.....329.64
Superior Township.....453.30
Rosefield Township847.03
Colvin Township364.08
Lake Washington Twp373.92
Tiffany Township.....281.18
Sheldon Township.....250.92
New Rockford Twp610.08
Munster Township701.50
Freeborn Township.....381.59
Eddy Township240.65
Hillsdale Township.....226.32
Bush Township319.80
Gates Township439.12
Grandfield Township.....355.02
Tolna Fire Prot. District69.53
Warwick Fire District.....51.97
NR Rural Fire District.....172.96
Historical Society.....36.21
Eddy Co. Water Res.....367.18
Eddy County Council on
Aging289.97
City of Sheyenne1,025.33

NR City Park District.....2,672.07
City of NR29,672.94
Adv. Bus. Methods5,125.11
Bank Forward3,260.85
Brady, Martz & Assoc. 10,500.00
Butler Machinery Co.....374.82
Carrington Motor.....308.00
Cash & Carry Lumber6.79
CenDak Cooperative ..11,660.66
CenDak Cooperative ..12,210.69
Cenex Fleetcard879.10
City of Sheyenne110.10
Coast to Coast Solutions .93.25
Column Software PBC273.60
Do It Best.....43.78
Donna Young39.15
Election Sys. & Software .883.10
Flower Scent-R.....63.00
Haley Auto Repair.....3,155.00
LRLEC2,889.16
LRLEC2,700.00
Leaf.....271.19
Linde Gas & Equipment...256.33
Linderman Const.....2,100.00
Meehan Machine.....98.91
Napa Auto Parts81.76
NDAAO50.00
NR Utility Services.....339.96
Nodak Electric Coop67.59
NDTC884.71
Northern Plains Electric...274.00

Office of Attorney Gen.....155.00
Otter Tail Power Co1,490.21
Pitney Bowes Bank500.00
Pro Forms.....255.44
Quill66.67
Rockin Fitness.....600.00
Steins.....13.78
The Medicine Shoppe65.21
Transcript Publishing1,025.45
Underground Vaults & Storage
.....225.60
Warren Implement19.25
Advanced Bus. Methods...36.00
Amy Perleberg320.00
AT&T Mobility630.02
Bill Smith40.00
CenDak Cooperative4,181.35
Cenex Fleetcard429.04
Central Plains Water Dist...59.90
City of NR.....756.00
Corey Longnecker40.00
David Fite250.00
Donna Young95.29
Elite Spraying70.00
Everspring Suites220.00
Info. Tech Dept1,380.35
Insure Forward13,244.00
James Ludwig300.00
Jerry Schuster40.00
LR Sheet Metal Corp1,323.15
Leon Hoyt1,450.00
Messner Gravel590.00
Mike Schaefer40.00
MDU285.19
NDACS50.00
Quill38.56
RDO Equipment2,190.40
Rough Rider Industries....451.92
Shauna Laber352.00
Tiffany Harr276.74
Elan Financial Services.2,639.16
Aflac145.21
Aflac516.50
Ameritas162.53
Colonial Life.....461.25
Elec. Fed. Tax Sys.....25,427.21
NDPERS1,139.00
NDPERS34,466.68
NDPERS17,536.00
Heartland Law Office....9,748.47
Report Totals\$290,353.73
Payroll.....\$81,746.47
Total\$372,100.20

Public Comments: No Public Comments.

Commissioner James F. Allmaras provided an update on

Lake Region Public Health per-

sonnel issues. Denton Heisler was reinstated, temporarily on probation, until the next meeting held July 20, 2026.

Eddy County Employee BBQ will be held at the Eddy County Shop on July 15, 2026. Eddy County Commissioners cover all expenses. City of New Rockford and City of Sheyenne were invited with both city commissions paying expenses for their employees that attend.

Sandra Shively with the North Central Planning Council introduced Ann Pollard. She is the career coach for Exploration Classroom, which is one of the funding requests. Budget is based on population per county and project includes six counties. Presently the project is in all the schools of each county. When the grant application came out, economic development offices and North Dakota Region 3 developed this program with the intent to expose students to careers that are in our region. Hoping to keep them here or entice them to return. Grant has expired to purchase equipment. Total budget request is \$72,859, for an interactive van. Request to Eddy County is \$5,666.01 to be shared equally with New Rockford Area Betterment Corporation. The request to the commission would be \$2,833 to support spring 2027 and fall 2027 schedule. The van has 6 VR headsets allowing students to watch videos on agronomy, dental hygiene and assisting, diesel technology, and veterinarian. North Central Planning Council is a host to the small business development center. SBA is funded by getting matched through the Bank of North Dakota and then local match. Anything received through the SBA award, must be matched dollar for dollar. The lead center is located at UND and the grant goes through UND. With the Bank of North Dakota funds, less match is requested from each match provider. Eddy County has been a match provider with North Central Planning Council for 16 years. Last year's request

was \$1,665. This year's request would be \$790 to continue the with the 2026 SBDC program in region 3. Last item was the mill request. Each regional council received local funding for an EDA grant, a three-year partnership planning grant, which helps fund operations and economic development activities in six counties. NCPC requested a half a mill, which will be approved at budget review. Commissioner Glenda Collier made a motion to approve the \$790 for the SBDC. Commissioner James F. Allmaras seconded the motion, all were in favor. Motion carried. Commissioner Glenda Collier made a motion to approve the \$2,833 for the van. Commissioner James F. Allmaras seconded the motion, all were in favor. Motion carried.

Norris Kjos with Eddy County Transit System addressed his concerns. He always thought the buses were owned by Eddy

County, now he believes they are owned by Devil's Lake Senior Center. He feels they could pull our buses at any time. He has contacted, Foster County, Benson County, and Valley City. He feels there are more options available for Eddy County residence in regards to meals and transit services by looking at resources elsewhere. Clarification needs to be researched on who owns the van and bus, and transportation needs for our county. Glenda agreed to reach out to Devils Lake Senior Center.

Tim Becker questioned townships taking zoning back and where does the legal side lay when taken back. Tim is concerned that once townships take zoning back, then the legal side of everything lies with the township, and townships can't afford it. He doesn't feel that townships understand the legality that they will have to bear the costs. The wrong people are out there talking to townships with false information. Ashley has referred townships to Jamie Tennison, Township Attorney. Ashley will also reach out to

NDIRF on clarification or if they can send out information to the townships.

Andrew Presnell, City Auditor asked the commissioners to split the cost of a new AC unit for the Eddy-New Rockford Library. Total cost is \$6,100, half would be \$3,050. James F. Allmaras made a motion to pay half the cost of the AC unit and labor. Commissioner Glenda Collier seconded the motion. Roll Call vote: Dave Gehrtz Yes vote, James F. Allmaras Yes vote, and Glenda Collier Yes vote. Motion carried.

Julie Shrock, VSO reviewed her budget. She informed the board that Ramsey, Nelson, Benson, and Sheridan County do not have a VSO, making transportation limited. She is working with 52 active veterans getting medical records and medical care to prepare for the claim process. She also assisted with the veteran's 4th of July parade float. Giving an office update, she's had a few veteran concerns regarding office comfort, hours, and location. A lot of issues are handled over the phone, comfort is allowed by being more mobile when working with the veterans.

Lisa Thompson, Emergency Manager, also reviewed her budget. Updated on Text My Gov, switch over is going well and about 1,600 phone numbers were pulled in. 911 Coordinator, Tia Davis is helping where she can, but Lisa expressed the urgency of filling the position. 911 building AC was serviced. Numerous grants have been looked at, but seem to fall under Homeland Security for security or terrorism. 2025 Homeland Security Grant awarded to replace locks on doors, no disbursement to date. 2026 Homeland Security Grant applying for locks again if no movement on the 2025, also gave information to the Sheriff as it's leaning towards law enforcement, border protection, and

immigration. Hazard Mitigation Plan, Wells County is not willing to do a joint plan again. If grant

money doesn't flow through for multi-hazard mitigation, that plan is going cost us roughly \$25,000, could be 2027, 2028, or 2029. This item was included in her budget. Lisa updated on the apartment fire over the 4th of July. 15 people were displaced, she spent 3 days assisting the Fire Chief and City Superintendent as we don't have enough resources to cover these events. EM duties are being converted to 911 duties, taking up her time where needed elsewhere. Continuing to discuss her budget, she added on Flood Plain of \$3,000 to cover her additional duties.

Todd Weber, Road Superintendent advised on bid tabs for Brantford Road. Requesting a motion to proceed with Close Construction to start on the contractual part of it: Interstate Engineering to get the contracts and notice to proceed, and contract awarded. Commissioner Glenda Collier made a motion to proceed with Close Construction for the Brantford Road. Commissioner James F. Allmaras seconded the motion. Roll Call vote: Dave Gehrtz Yes vote, James F. Allmaras Yes vote, and Glenda Collier Yes vote. Motion carried. Todd discussed the rent on the Hamar Shop. The least negotiating he can get is a \$1,000 a month with the Andersons, that would be from October 2025 to October 2026. He requested a contract to be written up and payment processed. We own the building, Todd suggested a year-to-year contract, as we do have other options. Todd needs to state a

completion date for the Klumph Bridge. The manufacturer of the box culverts is giving us November 15th, 2026 as a completion date to pour of the boxes. Mike Mays, Interstate Engineering, suggestion was to put a 2027 completion date on it, Todd's thinking is September 2027 to ensure safety.

District Court/Juvenile and New Rockford Rural Fire budgets were presented and reviewed.

Conversation regarding the NDIRF handicap bathrooms value replacement. Insurance came in with a year built of 1924, per Glenda should be 2014 or 2015. It had an insured value of \$67,200 for replacement. Glenda requested input if that's enough. Cost to rebuild was originally \$33,000 2 years ago. Glenda will visit with Bruce at Cash and Carry to determine a neutral party cost of replacement based on square footage, etc. The address has also been updated for insurance purposes.

Roof bid will have to go into the paper for 2 weeks. We have 1 bid for total replacement, the party is not interested in a partial repair. Bobbie would like clarification of what kind of replacement request we are asking for. Is it three different information points: a bid to repair, a bid to replace shingles with kind of a quotation

of a 50 year, and the bid of the gutters. It was agreed that Bobbie and Ashley would work together to prepare an ad for the paper to include a separate bid to replace

shingles and a bid for gutters.

Pledge of Securities were presented and discussed. Tabled until next month to discuss with Becki Schumacher, Treasurer.

Dave Gehrtz discussed attorney fees for charges of litigations against the county. To date, Larry Danduran, \$33,552.25. David Fite, \$16,562.60. Jesse Schuster, \$3,957.46, for a total of those three individuals at \$54,072.31. We also have Patrick Waters that was hired to help us at \$9,748.47. Additional fees to come yet, we have \$3,500 to \$4,500 that Walters will be invoicing us. We were just served papers again by Mr. Fite and Mr. Schuster, also not included in this total yet. We have spent \$63,000 defending ourselves. Requesting to have this in paper, he wants the public to see what is transpiring. Sitting on the law enforcement center board in Devil's Lake, Dave stated they have NDIRF and have had two lawsuits, causing the premium to go up 20%.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:09 A.M. The next regular meeting will be August 4, 2026, at 8:00 A.M.

APPROVED BY EDDY
COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS:

Dave Gehrtz
Chairman, Board of County
Commissioners
Bobbie Indergaard
Auditor

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