

# GOLDEN VALLEY COUNTY COMMISSION MEETINGS MINUTES

## GOLDEN VALLEY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS January 6, 2026

The Golden Valley County Commissioners met at 9 a.m. on Jan. 6, 2026 in the commission room at the courthouse. Chairman Adam Smith called the meeting to order. Commissioners Robert Schmeling and Rory Farstveet were present for the meeting, along with Gary Howard with the *Golden Valley News*.

Commissioner Schmeling moved to accept the agenda as presented and Commissioner Farstveet seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Farstveet moved to approve the December regular and special meeting minutes and Commissioner Schmeling seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Schmeling moved to approve the current vouchers for payment and Commissioner Farstveet seconded. Roll call vote: Farstveet-aye, Schmeling-aye, Smith-aye. Motion carried.

Current business brought forward to the Board:

- Commissioner Schmeling moved to appoint the following annual appointments for 2026: Commissioner Farstveet to the Roosevelt Custer Board, Commissioner Smith to the Community Action Board, Commissioner Schmeling to the GVC Zoning Board, Commissioner Farstveet to the Airport Board, Commissioner Smith to the Library Board, Commissioner Farstveet to the Human Services Board, and Commissioner Schmeling to the SW Correctional Center Board, and Commissioner Farstveet seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- The following resolutions were reviewed and approved as listed below:

### RESOLUTION 2026-1 Appointment of Officers, Clerks, Custodian and Road Foreman

State's Attorney: Christina Wenko  
Assistant State's Attorney: Stephen Fetch  
Tax & Zoning Director: Carla Beeler  
Custodian: Dave Helsper  
Road Foreman: Peter Wirtfeld  
Veterans Service Officer: Jessica McClellan  
Coroner: John Foster  
Cafeteria Plan Administrator: Tamra Sperry  
Safety Risk Manager: Cassandra Szudera  
Engineer: Selected Per Project DES Director: Rachel Keohane

All elected officials shall appoint their deputies and/or clerks and are subject to limitations of the fiscal budget approved and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioner Farstveet moved to adopt Resolution 2026-1; Commissioner Schmeling seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### RESOLUTION 2026-2 Public notice of regularly scheduled meeting dates to be held in the commis- sioners room of the Golden Valley County Courthouse at Beach, ND, and the hour of beginning of meetings

WHEREAS, under provisions of Chapter 11-11-05 N.D.C.C., the Board of County Commissioners shall determine the dates for regular commissioners meetings for the year 2026,

AND WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners shall observe daylight savings time during those months daylight savings time is observed and mountain standard time during those months mountain standard time is used,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners meetings shall begin at 9:00 a.m. on the following dates and may be adjourned from time to time if necessary:

January 6 - February 3

March 12 - April 7

May 5 - June 2

July 7 - August 4

September 1 - October 6  
November 10-Election Year  
December 1  
In the event of a special session called either by the County Auditor or the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, the person calling the meeting shall notify the news media according to the provision of Chapter 11-11-05 of the N.D.C.C.

Commissioner Schmeling moved to adopt Resolution 2026-2; Commissioner Farstveet seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### RESOLUTION 2026-3 Establishment of Days the Courthouse is Closed Due to Holidays

WHEREAS, under provisions of Chapter 1-03-01 of the N.D.C.C. and by actions of the Board of County Commissioners to declare days the courthouse will be closed,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the courthouse will be closed in observance of the following:  
January 1-New Years Day  
January 19-Martin Luther King  
February 16-Presidents' Day  
April 3-Good Friday  
May 25-Memorial Day  
June 19-Juneteenth  
July 3-Independence Day  
September 7-Labor Day  
November 11-Veteran's Day  
November 26-Thanksgiving  
November 27-Thanksgiving  
December 24-Christmas Eve  
December 25-Christmas  
December 31-New Years Eve  
(Close at Noon)  
Jan. 1, 2027-New Years Day  
Courthouse closings will also be observed upon action of the President of the U.S.A. and the Governor of the State of N.D.

Commissioner Farstveet moved to adopt Resolution 2026-3; Commissioner Schmeling seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### RESOLUTION 2026-4 Business Hours of Courthouse Offices

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners will determine the hours the courthouse offices will be open,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the courthouse offices will be open Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Friday 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with the exceptions of holidays.

THEREFORE, IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that in the event of inclement weather the County will follow the Public School closure schedule.

Commissioner Farstveet moved to adopt Resolution 2026-4; Commissioner Schmeling seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### RESOLUTION 2026-5 Reimbursement for Mileage, Meals and Lodging

WHEREAS, County Employees may incur expenses for mileage, meals, and lodging in the performance of carrying out the duties required by the County,

AND WHEREAS, if County Employees obtain prior approval from the Board of County Commissioners to incur such expense, the County Auditor, upon being presented with documented evidence and is satisfied with audit of expenses, may approve payment between regularly scheduled Commissioners meetings,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County allow reimbursement for expenses incurred according to Chapter 11-10-15, 11-15-12, and 54-06-09 of N.D.C.C. as follows:

In-State Travel Reimbursement rates:

Meals: Breakfast - \$9.00; Lunch - \$14.00; Dinner - \$22.00

Breakfast: Travel must begin by 7:00 a.m.

Lunch - 12:00 p.m.: Must be in travel 1 hour before and at least 1 hour after (Must be in travel by 11:00 a.m. and after 1:00 p.m.)

Dinner - 6:00 p.m.: Must be in travel 1 hour before and at least 1 hour after (Must be in travel by 5:00 p.m. and after 7:00

p.m.)  
Lodging Rate: \$110.00  
Personal Vehicle Mileage Rate: \$0.725  
Commissioner Schmeling moved to adopt Resolution 2026-5; Commissioner Farstveet seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### RESOLUTION 2026-6 Expedition of Business

WHEREAS, it appears the business of the County will be expedited by authorizing the County Treasurer, upon audit of the County Auditor, to pay certain miscellaneous items, such as postage, freight, utilities, (gas, electricity, water, & telephone), Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota employee premiums, refund orders, regular employee payroll, and apportionments.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County Treasurer be allowed to pay such claims.

Commissioner Farstveet moved to adopt Resolution 2026-6; Commissioner Schmeling seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### RESOLUTION 2026-7 Listing of Depository Banks

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the County Treasurer to deposit monies from time to time,

AND WHEREAS, it is necessary for the County Treasurer to draw upon the deposits,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following banks be named for depository funds;

First State Bank of Golva, Golva & Beach, ND:  
Custodial Funds, Certificates of Deposit, Checking Acct. of Refund Orders, Checking Account for County Business BMO, Beach, ND:

Depository for Withholding Funds, Certificates of Deposits, Checking Acct. for County Business

Western Co-op Credit Union, Beach, ND: Savings Account

Stockman's Bank, Wibaux, MT: Certificates of Deposit

Bell Bank, Fargo, ND: Certificates of Deposit

Commissioner Schmeling moved to adopt Resolution 2026-7; Commissioner Farstveet seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### RESOLUTION 2026-8 Pledge of Securities

WHEREAS, it is necessary to have Pledge of Securities,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the following pledges be accepted at 110%:

BMO, Beach, ND  
\$3,643,032.85

First State Bank of Golva, Golva & Beach, ND  
\$18,114,538.00

Bell Bank, Fargo, ND  
\$350,000.00

Commissioner Farstveet moved to adopt Resolution 2026-8; Commissioner Schmeling seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### RESOLUTION 2026-9 County Treasurer to Invest and Reinvest Funds

WHEREAS, county funds may be invested in Certificates of Deposit or US Treasury Notes to draw interest,

AND WHEREAS, these funds mature from time to time,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County Treasurer be authorized to invest funds and reinvest upon maturity of Certificates of Deposit. All CD's that are redeemed or reinvested shall require the signature of both the County Treasurer and County Auditor.

Commissioner Schmeling moved to adopt Resolution 2026-9; Commissioner Farstveet seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### RESOLUTION 2026-10 Posting and Publishing Legal Notices

WHEREAS, it is necessary to publish legal notices in the official county newspaper,

AND WHEREAS, the public has expressed the "Golden Valley News" be the official paper,

AND WHEREAS, from time to time legal notices are to be

posted in the Courthouse,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the "Golden Valley News" be declared the official county newspaper for the year 2026 and be it further resolved that the bulletin board in the lobby of the Courthouse be declared the location for posting legal notices.

Commissioner Farstveet moved to adopt Resolution 2026-10; Commissioner Schmeling seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### RESOLUTION 2026-11 Salaries of Elected and Appointed Officials

WHEREAS, the board of County Commissioners shall set forth salaries of county officials and employees,

AND WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners have adopted a budget for the year 2026,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following maximum salaries be set either on an annual or an hourly basis:

Auditor/Human Resource Manager - \$74,275.07  
Treasurer - \$53,503.47

Deputy Auditor/Deputy Clerk of Court/Recorder/Risk Manager/Website Admin. - \$26.45/hour

Clerk of Court/Recorder/Magistrate - \$57,085.03

Tax/Zoning Director/GIS - \$50,385.70

County Agent (County share 50%) - \$32,228.00

County Agent Secretary - \$23.29/hour

DES Coordinator - \$18,243.24

Sheriff - \$79,345.02

Deputy Sheriff - \$64,775.52

Deputy Sheriff - \$71,253.48

Chief Deputy Sheriff - \$78,378.84

Office Deputy - \$27.34/hour

Custodian - \$21.22/hour

Road Foreman - \$80,489.68

Road Crew (2) - \$28.99/hour

Road Crew (1) - \$27.32/hour

Road Crew (2) - \$30.56/hour

Road Crew (1) - \$33.17/hour

Weed Control Officer - \$73,096.05

Commissioners (3) - \$19,235.00

Cafeteria Plan Administrator - \$1,473.93

County Coroner - \$5,472.88

Veteran's Service Officer (Contracted with Stark County) - \$10,000.00

911 Coordinator/Office Floater - \$19.12/hour

Librarian - \$28.25/hour

Zoning Board Members & Secretary - \$45.00/Meeting

Commissioner Schmeling moved to adopt Resolution 2026-11; Commissioner Farstveet seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Board agreed to hold the Annual Township meeting in conjunction with the regular February 3, 2026 meeting at 1 p.m.

Commissioner Schmeling moved to approve payroll for January on January 16, 2026 and for February on February 13, 2026 due to the normal payroll dates falling on a holiday and Commissioner Farstveet seconded. Roll call vote: Farstveet-aye, Schmeling-aye, Smith-aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Schmeling moved to reappoint Sue Marman to another 3 year term to the Library Board and Commissioner Farstveet seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Farstveet moved to appoint Cody Ueckert to the Fair Board and Commissioner Schmeling seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held on installing an AC/Heater unit in the Public Health Nurse Office. Custodian Helsper with get a quote on what it would cost to install a unit in that office.

County Auditor Sperry reminded the Board to get their campaign finance and statement of interest into her office by the January 31, 2026 deadline.

The Board reviewed the agreement with Mackoff Kellogg Kirby & Kloster, P.C. for 2026 legal services with Christina Wenko as the State's Attorney. There is no change in the rate of \$6,000/month from 2025. Commissioner Schmeling moved to sign the agreement and Commissioner Farst-

veet seconded. Roll call vote: Farstveet-aye, Schmeling-aye, Smith-aye. Motion carried.

Road Foreman Pete Wirtfeld and Gayle Cox with Brosz Engineering met with the Board. Cox gave the Board an update on the Garner Bridge fencing corrections. Flex funding approvals should be announced this month. Wirtfeld updated that Board on some equipment getting repairs. Other various road topics were discussed.

Commissioner Schmeling moved to adjourn and Commissioner Farstveet seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

The following vouchers were audited and approved for the month of January 2026:

GV County Employees

January Payroll... \$73,761.52

NDPERS..... \$1,000.00

NDPERS..... \$20,482.34