

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING NELSON COUNTY PARK BOARD March 3, 2026 - 8:30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cody Johnson with the following Park Board members also present: Doug Flaagan, Mike Haugland, Harley Eidsness, Cameron Swenson and Aaron Mork.

Moved by Park Board member Mork and seconded by Park Board member Swenson to approve the minutes for the February 17 meeting. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Agenda Additions -- None. Moved by Park Board member Mork and seconded by Park Board member Haugland to approve the agenda as presented. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Public Comments -- None. Campground business was discussed.

Bar and café business was discussed. Moved by Park Board member Mork and seconded by Park Board member Flaagan to pay the bills as presented: Lakota American -- \$63.96; Tri-County Water -- \$206.90; ND Telephone Co. -- \$463.97; Nodak Electric Cooperative -- \$899.00. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

There being no further business, moved by Park Board member Mork and seconded by Park Board member Haugland to adjourn the meeting. All members voted "yes." Meeting adjourned.

and seconded by Commissioner Flaagan to eliminate the half-time on-call rate for the sheriff's department overtime. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Discussion was had on the positions of superintendent of schools, emergency manager, human resources, 911 coordinator and highway department office manager. Discussion was tabled until the next regular meeting. Directive was given to Nathan Parks, auditor, to gather more information on contracting for human resources.

The commissioners gave updates on their portfolios. Moved by Commissioner Mork and seconded by Commissioner Haugland to approve the bills as presented. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

There being no further business, moved by Commissioner Mork and seconded by Commissioner Swenson to adjourn the meeting. All members voted "yes." Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Nathan Parks Nelson County Auditor Cody Johnson Chairman

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING NELSON COUNTY COMMISSION March 11, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.

Commissioners Cody Johnson, Cameron Swenson and Aaron Mork were present in the community room of the Nelson County Courthouse for an informational meeting with State Emergency Communications Center for dispatching services.

Angela Herda, emergency manager, introduced Darin Anderson, State Emergency Communications Center director, who was present via Microsoft Teams to present information on the State Emergency Communications Center and state-run 911 dispatching. Also present were members of local fire departments, ambulance districts and the Nelson County Sheriff's Department. No action was taken. Meeting adjourned.

Nathan Parks Nelson County Auditor Cody Johnson Chairman

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING NELSON COUNTY PARK BOARD March 17, 2026 - 8:30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cody Johnson with the following Park Board members also present: Doug Flaagan, Mike Haugland, Cameron Swenson and Aaron Mork.

Moved by Park Board member Mork and seconded by Park Board member Haugland to approve the minutes for the March 3 meeting. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Agenda Additions -- None. Moved by Park Board member Mork and seconded by Park Board member Swenson to approve the agenda as presented. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Public Comments -- None. Campground business was discussed.

Moved by Park Board member Mork and seconded by Park Board member Flaagan to advertise for lawn mower bids with trade of older mower. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Bar and café business was discussed. There being no further business, moved by Park Board member Swenson and seconded by Park Board member Mork to adjourn the meeting. All members voted "yes." Meeting adjourned.

Nathan Parks Secretary

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING NELSON COUNTY COMMISSION March 17, 2026 - 9 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cody Johnson with the following commissioners also present: Doug Flaagan, Mike Haugland, Cameron Swenson and Aaron Mork. Josh Frey, state's attorney; and Nathan Parks, auditor, were also present.

Moved by Commissioner Mork and seconded by Commissioner Flaagan to approve the minutes from the March 3 meeting. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Additions to Agenda -- Human services construction and E911.

Moved by Commissioner Mork and seconded by Commissioner Swenson to approve the agenda as amended. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Public Comments -- None. Curt Loe, highway superintendent, joined the meeting to discuss road and bridge business.

Paul Bjornson, KLIJ Engineering, joined the meeting to discuss construction engineering business. David Steffan, Nelson County Township Officers Association, joined the meeting to discuss the township cost-share in the Nelson County Road and Bridge Policy and relay concerns he has heard at annual township meetings.

Moved by Commissioner Mork and seconded by Commissioner Haugland to approve the 2026 Nelson County Road and Bridge Policy. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

David Sateren, Nelson County Water Board, joined the meeting to discuss the 2026 Clara-Bartlett snag and clear with a hearing at 3 on April 7, 2026.

Kurt Schwind, sheriff; Angela Herda, emergency manager; and Josh Frey, state's attorney, joined the meeting to discuss the county membership of the Lake Region Law Enforcement Center and E911 dispatching.

Also discussed was an agreement with Grand Forks County for incarcerations. Discussion was tabled pending review and approval by the sheriff and state's attorney.

Nathan Parks, auditor, presented his findings from meetings with potential human resource contractors. Discussion was tabled for further research.

Human services construction project was discussed. Nathan Parks, auditor, requested permission to advertise for bids for the project.

Moved by Commissioner Haugland and seconded by Commissioner Flaagan to advertise for bids for the human services construction project. Bids due end of business day on Monday, April 6. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Nathan Parks, auditor, presented the February financial statements.

Moved by Commissioner Swenson and seconded by Commissioner Mork and to approve the February financial statements. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

The commissioners gave updates on their portfolios.

Moved by Commissioner Mork and seconded by Commissioner Flaagan to approve the bills as presented. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

ND State Tax Commissioner 1,363.00 Lakota American 208.26 Agriculture 195.00

Communication 195.00 Angela Herda 398.75 Axon Enterprise, Inc. 10,956.49 Balco Uniforms 334.87 Cenex Fleet Fueling 70.90 Creative Planning 208.67 Delores Lillehaugen 521.24 F & M Bank 1,389.10 Lakota Car Wash 78.00 Lakota Municipal Utilities 1,049.38

ND Fraternal Order of Police--W. Fargo 135.00 ND Fraternal Order of Police--GF 30.00

NDSU Extension 197.45 Service Tire 1,775.69 Towner Co. Auditor 1,176.79 Traci Trostad 23.63 Tyler Technologies 6,745.76 Verizon Wireless 596.66

Advanced Business Methods 304.60 Butler Machinery 4,316.23 City of Michigan 77.03 Farmers Elevator Co. 201.74

Honeyford 24,005.76 Farmers Union Oil Co. --DL 1,534.55 Farmers Union Oil Co. --Tolna 689.75

Gwyneth Wieler 200.00 Office of Attorney General--1250 813.00

Otter Tail Power Co. 1,188.19 Polar Communications 733.44 RDO Truck Center 240.79

Skips NAPA Auto Parts 1,000.74 Farmers Union Oil--DL 1,709.25 Guard911, LLC 948.00

Hamster Oil, LLC 99.41 Information Technology Dept. 1,324.25

Lakota Hardware 119.46 Softchoice Corp. 319.96 ND State MathCounts 210.00

Alken Glass Unlimited 1,590.00 D & M Service 130.75 Farmers & Merchants Bank 247.21

LR Law Enforcement Center 15,940.18 NAPA Auto McVillie Motors 422.82

ND Clerks Assn. 100.00 Nodak Electric Co-op 237.00 Premium Waters 216.43

City of McVillie 183.96 Farmers Union Lumberyard 43.00

Gilbertson's 349.80 Haugland Trucking 6,138.72

Kimball Midwest 156.32 Mac's Hardware 141.99 Menards 119.85

ND Dept. of Environ. Quality 105.00 ND Telephone Co. 207.42

PowerPlan 2,044.77 Verizon Connect 181.33

Nathan Parks 444.40 Total \$297,643.59 County General Net Salary & Bridge Net \$76,132.51

Salary 52,284.54 Human Services Net Salary & Expenses 70,586.28

Weed Control Net Salary & Expenses 2,278.90

Total \$201,282.23 Grand Total \$498,925.82

There being no further business, moved by Commissioner Mork and seconded by Commissioner Haugland to adjourn the meeting. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Nathan Parks Nelson County Auditor Cody Johnson Chairman Nelson County Commissioners

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING NELSON COUNTY COMMISSION March 18, 2026 - 7 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cody Johnson with the following commissioners also present: Mike Haugland. Also present via Microsoft Teams were Doug Flaagan, Cameron Swenson and Aaron Mork. Josh Frey, state's attorney; and Nathan Parks, auditor, were also present.

Moved by Commissioner Haugland and seconded by Commissioner Swenson to approve the agenda as amended. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

An agreement with Grand Forks County for jailing inmates was discussed.

Moved by Commissioner Mork and seconded by Commissioner Haugland to sign the agreement with Grand Forks County for jailing inmates. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Haugland and seconded by Commissioner Flaagan to give formal notice to the Lake Region Law Enforcement Center of Nelson County's termination as a membership effective Dec. 31, 2026. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

There being no further business, moved by Commissioner Mork and seconded by Commissioner Haugland to adjourn the meeting. All members voted "yes." Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Nathan Parks Nelson County Auditor Cody Johnson Chairman Nelson County Commissioners

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING NELSON COUNTY COMMISSION March 23, 2026 - 9 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cody Johnson with the following commissioners also present: Doug Flaagan and Mike Haugland. Also present via Microsoft Teams were Cameron Swenson and Aaron Mork. Josh Frey, state's attorney; and Nathan Parks, auditor, were also present.

Moved by Commissioner Haugland and seconded by Commissioner Flaagan to approve the agenda as presented. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Nathan Parks, auditor, presented a breakdown of costs in 2025 for the Lake Region Law Enforcement Center and E911 dispatching through the LEC. Also presented was a formal letter in regard to notifying the LEC board of the withdrawal of Nelson County as a member of the Lake Region Law Enforcement Center effective the end of 2026.

Starr Klemetsrud, LEC director, was also present for the discussion. Moved by Commissioner Flaagan and seconded by Commissioner Haugland to approve signing the formal notice of the withdrawal of Nelson County from the Lake Region Law Enforcement Center effective 11:59 p.m. on Dec. 31, 2026. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

There being no further business, moved by Commissioner Haugland and seconded by Commissioner Flaagan to adjourn the meeting. All members voted "yes." Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Nathan Parks Nelson County Auditor

Cody Johnson Chairman Nelson County Commissioners

Why do Americans celebrate Cinco de Mayo?

Cinco de Mayo is a Mexican holiday celebrated by millions of people each year. Oddly enough, the majority of those people live in the United States instead of Mexico.

Cinco de Mayo commemorates the Battle of Puebla, during which the Mexican Army overcame significant obstacles to defeat the French Army under the direction of General Ignacio Zaragoza.

On May 5, 1862, an attacking French Army battled against Mexican forces that were roughly half the size of their opponents. Despite that decided disadvantage, the Mexican Army won the battle. Mexican forces would ultimately be defeated by the French a year later, but that same year witnessed the first celebrations of Cinco de Mayo in California, where Mexican miners celebrated the heroic efforts of their countrymen a year prior.

Curiously, those 1863 celebrations would prove to be a harbinger of things to come, as Cinco de Mayo eventually became a more prominent holiday in the United States than it did in Mexico.

The only major celebrations of Cinco de Mayo in Mexico, where the day is a holiday but not considered a significant one (banks and government offices remain open), take place in Puebla, though the neighboring state of Veracruz also treats the day with a greater degree of significance than elsewhere in Mexico.

Historical reenactments of the battle and parades are part of celebrations in Puebla.

Celebrations in the United States are considerable, as many people, including those with no ancestral ties to Mexico, look forward to May 5 as an opportunity to celebrate Mexican culture and food as well as the many traditions that make Mexico such a unique and special place.

Cinco de Mayo celebrations in the United States bear some resemblance to the country's St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland, though many American St. Patrick's Day celebrants have no connection to Ireland or the Catholic Church. Rather, the day has become an opportunity for people from various backgrounds to celebrate Irish culture, much like Cinco de Mayo marks a chance to celebrate Mexican culture.

-metrocreativeconnection

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING NELSON COUNTY COMMISSION March 3, 2026 - 9 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cody Johnson with the following commissioners also present: Doug Flaagan, Mike Haugland, Cameron Swenson and Aaron Mork.

Moved by Commissioner Mork and seconded by Commissioner Haugland to approve the minutes from the February 17 meeting. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Additions to Agenda -- None. Moved by Commissioner Swenson and seconded by Commissioner Mork to approve the agenda as presented. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Public Comments -- None. Curt Loe, highway superintendent, joined the meeting to discuss road and bridge business.

Moved by Commissioner Flaagan and seconded by Commissioner Haugland to advertise for culvert and gravel bids to be opened on April 7, 2026 at 9 a.m. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Angela Herda, emergency manager, joined the meeting to provide an update on the Floodplain Ordinance.

Moved by Commissioner Flaagan and seconded by Commissioner Swenson to approve the Model D Floodplain Ordinance for Nelson County. All members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Amber Fahey, clerk of court, joined the meeting to discuss a summer internship position and the upcoming deadline for the Court Facilities Grant.

Moved by Commissioner Swenson and seconded by Commissioner Mork to approve a budget of \$5,000 for a summer internship position at the courthouse. On a roll call vote all members voted "yes." Motion carried.

Jesse Madche, chief deputy sheriff, joined the meeting to discuss sheriff business.

Moved by Commissioner Haugland

ABSENTEE/MAIL BALLOT APPLICATION SECRETARY OF STATE SFN 51468 (10-2023) For Office Use Only Precinct Part

Application must be for at least one of the following elections: (check all that apply) June (Primary) election, City or city special election, State or county special election, November (General) election, School or school special election

Applicant Information: (ALL FIELDS REQUIRED)

Voter's name, Date of birth, Daytime telephone number

North Dakota ID type used: (check one) Driver's license, Non-driver's ID, Long-term care certificate (include with application), Tribal ID, Passport (only for voters living outside the United States) or military ID**, Applicant without ID*

ID number (required only if driver's license, non-driver's ID, tribal ID, passport, or military ID is selected above)

Residential address, City, State, ZIP code

Ballot delivery address (if different from residential address), City, State, ZIP code

I do solemnly affirm that I have resided or will reside in the precinct where my residential voting address is located for at least 30 days next preceding the election and will be a qualified elector of the precinct.

Signature (required), Date

Applicant Unable to Sign:

If the applicant is unable to sign the applicant's name, the applicant shall mark [X] or use the applicant's signature stamp on the application in the presence of a disinterested individual. The disinterested individual shall print the name of the individual marking the "X" or using the signature stamp below the "X" or signature and shall sign the disinterested individual's own name following the printed name together with the notation, "witness to the mark."

Printed name of person making mark or voter's signature stamp, Signature of "witness to the mark"

*Applicant Without ID:

If the applicant does not possess or cannot secure an approved form of identification due to a disability with which the individual lives and which prevents the individual from traveling to obtain, another qualified elector of the state may attest that the applicant is a qualified elector of that precinct by signing below and providing his or her approved North Dakota identification number. NOTE: A qualified elector may not attest the qualifications of more than four applications in an election.

Printed name of attester, Driver's / non-driver's / tribal ID number

Signature of attester, Date, Daytime telephone number

**Active Military and Overseas Voter:

Check ONE (if applicable): Citizen living outside of the United States, Uniformed service or family member living away from the voter's residence, yet within the United States, Uniformed service or family member living away from the voter's residence, yet outside the United States

If one of the check boxes above applies to you, please indicate your preferred ballot delivery method: Mail, Email (provide email address), Fax (provide fax number)

Mail or submit to the auditor of your county of residence or appropriate election officer (The signature on this affidavit will be compared to the signature on the affidavit on the envelope in which the absentee ballot must be placed.)

CALL TO ADVERTISE 473-5436

Custom Grain & Seed Need Something Specific? Call us! Hard Red Spring Wheat, Lentils, Flax, Peas, Forage Crops, Oats, Financing Options Available, Contact Your Trusted Seed Advisor 701-256-2599

DEVILS LAKE ANIMAL CLINIC My VetStore Online.com Flea & Tick Season Ticks are starting to show up. Order today to safeguard your pets. Peter Tjelta, DVM For appointments call (701) 662-3321 Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Order online today at: www.dlanimalclinic.com Ships to your home. FREE SHIPPING on orders over \$75. Shop On Website from our Facebook page