

# Minutes of Logan County Commissioners

**REGULAR MEETING  
Board of Logan County  
Commissioners  
Napoleon, ND  
June 3, 2026  
(unofficial or subject  
to approval)**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Logan County Commissioners was called to order at 1:01 pm in the meeting room of the Logan County Courthouse by Chairperson John Wald. Present were Commissioners Bryan Batsch and Blanche Schumacher, Auditor Jody Kristiansen, and Jessica Wald representing the Napoleon Homestead. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Schumacher moved, seconded by Batsch, to approve the agenda with the addition of bill for mowing abandoned cemeteries. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Batsch motioned, seconded by Wald, to approve the May regular meeting minutes. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Wald motioned, seconded by Batsch, to approve the monthly report of county funds. All in favor, motion carried.

Schumacher motioned, seconded by Batsch, to approve the auditor's list of vouchers prepaid during the months of May and June, vouchers payable for June as well as the following payroll vouchers: County General for \$45,135.12 VSO for \$822.00, E911 for \$425.00, Agent for \$2,940.00, Highway Dept or \$25,605.59. All voted in favor, motion carried.

The following is a list of the vouchers with invoices attached which were authorized for payment by the Board:

16603-City of Gackle—water and garbage at Gackle shop.....	41.21
16604-South Central Regional Water District—water at Napoleon shop.....	40.62
16605-Luke Mosset Welding—fuel tank.....	1,000.00
16606-Canadian Pacific Railway Co—Lehr shop rent.....	1,389.15
16607-Ecolab—pest control at shops.....	475.00
16608-Martell's True Value—lock nuts, washers & wrenches.....	104.56
16609-Locals' Convenience Center—official travel.....	1,437.63
16610-Valley Plains Equipment—oil, rock rake repairs, belly dump repairs & towels.....	1,193.01
16611-Newman Traffic Signs—flashing signs, spacers, posts & railroad signs.....	1,242.80
16612-True North Steel—culverts.....	27,641.60
16613-Blanche Schumacher—reimburse mileage.....	258.10
16614-Emmons County Weed Board—annual compensation.....	25,000.00
16615-Napoleon Homestead—weed board envelopes & printing notices & minutes.....	2,455.31
16616-North Dakota State University—cost share of computer for admin assistant.....	806.81
16617-Josh Becker—reimburse for shovel for soil sampling.....	59.99
16618-Fredonia Coop Oil Co—bulk fuel at Lehr shop.....	5,480.00
16619-Allied Energy—bulk fuel for Gackle shop.....	4,581.67
16620-Martell's Carquest—clamps & funnels.....	184.13
16621-JHL Truck Service—remaining due on transmission/clutch repair 2005 KW.....	10,006.95
16622-Quill corporation—envelopes.....	77.98
16623-KLJ Engineering—professional services on projects.....	24,465.00
16624-JM Autobody & Paint—replace windshield on unit 4380.....	960.26
16625-NDIRF—reimburse for sales tax paid in error.....	57.14
16626-Personalized Stamped Envelope Program—	

envelopes for Treasurer's office.....	1,443.25
16627-Montana Dakota Utilities—courthouse electricity.....	490.90
16628-Underground Vaults & Storage—annual storage agreement.....	225.60
16629-Otis Elevator Company—fuel surcharge.....	175.00
16630-Dustin Hammond—reimburse for residential internet.....	56.50
16631-Computer Express—monthly service contract & office 365.....	900.00
16632-Amanda Hayden—repair ceiling fan & mowing.....	368.75
16633-Axon Enterprise—Ammunition for sheriff's department.....	411.36
16634-Election Systems & Software—election prep, ballots & programming.....	1,766.33
16635-Rough Rider Industries—courtroom desk, delivery & installation.....	1,696.00
16636-Matthew Bender & Co—annual renewal.....	77.81
16637-Napoleon Oil Co—bulk fuel for Napoleon & official travel.....	4,375.34
16638-City of Lehr—water, sewer & garbage at Lehr shop & water on empty lot.....	93.23
16639-The Insulation Place of Bismarck, LLC—Gackle shop insulation.....	16,330.00
16640-RDO Equipment Co—bulk DEF.....	420.00
16641-Central Dakota Frontier Coop—official travel, oil change & tires.....	5,217.12
16642-Barry McCleary—mowing of abandoned cemeteries.....	1,750.00

The monthly fund report, highway worker logs, and statements of fees were reviewed.

Committee reports were given.

Katie DeWitt, KLJ Engineering, gave progress reports on the Burnstad Road project, the Turner Bridge project and the Blue Ball project. Katie informed the Board that KLJ would be willing to enter into a contract to do very high-level estimates for six sites of interest that were provided by Commissioner Schumacher for road repairs. Schumacher also discussed checking the degradation site DeWitt shared pictures of at the last meeting. She informed the Board that she spoke with McIntosh County Road Superintendent Chris Opsahl and his suggestion was to use cold mix to make the repairs. No action taken.

Chairman Wald reported the company that took down the elevator may be able to remove the concrete fuel tank containment shed when they tear down a different building in town.

Schumacher provided Kristiansen with either a phone number or email for most members of the zoning board.

Schumacher completed the township road mileage certification for her area. Batsch and Wald will meet with Kristiansen to complete the certifications in their areas.

Handbook updates were tabled to the next regular meeting.

One application was received in response to the county's employment ad. The application was reviewed. No action taken. The position will be posted on the ND Job Service website. The matter will be revisited at the next regular meeting.

The county equalization meeting began at 2:00pm with taxpayer Dale Johnson providing the commissioners with several pages of information, each. He began his presentation with informing the Board that he has been arguing with Tax Director Trisha Laine for several years and she refuses to use the method he wants her to use to assess his parcel located in Logan County so he went to the legislature to have them change century code. This resulted in the order of two considerations being switched in century code. He stated that even though he got century code changed, Laine won't change the method of assessment

and consider use as a modifier. He feels that since he put his parcel in an easement, and it can no longer be broken up and that he only charges \$25 an acre for rent, that his taxes should be much lower than they are. He proved examples from Kidder and Emmons County. Emmons assesses the same way Logan County does and he said, in his opinion, Kidder is the only one doing it right. He ended his presentation with the request that the Board cut his assessed value in half and make Laine change the modifiers she uses for assessment purposes. Laine was then given the opportunity to start the equalization meeting.

Laine began the equalization meeting with going over the number of homestead applications, real estate exemption applications, disabled veteran credit applications and what the city boards of equalization authorized for increases or decreases for each city. Napoleon would be increasing residential values 4% to reach the tolerance level required by the State while the cities of Gackle, Fredonia and Lehr were within tolerance and chose to make no changes to values within their respective cities. Laine called for any present who wished to dispute their value within any of those city limits to come forward; with no one present, she moved on.

Laine provided the Board with the homestead credit applications, real estate exemption applications received in organized townships. Laine called for any present who wished to dispute their value within any organized township to come forward; with no one present, she moved on.

She supplied the Board with the information on homestead credit applications, real estate exemption applications and disabled veteran credits in the unorganized townships. Laine responded to Johnson's claims as this was the appropriate time to address objections to values on parcels located in unorganized townships. Laine began with informing the Board that Johnson's request to apply use as a modifier will need to be denied, as use is not an approved modifier in Logan County. She reported to the Board that one parcel of land cannot be adjusted based on use, that the whole county would need to be reassessed if the Board would choose to accept use a modifier and that there would be a cost associated with the change. She also informed the Board that the information required to apply use as a modifier is not public record and she has no access to that information. Laine informed the Board that she has never been notified by the State that she is assessing incorrectly and that, in her opinion, the county is not out of compliance with the method of assessment she is using adding that just because a modifier may be used doesn't mean it has to be used. Laine ended her response to Johnson's request by sharing that easements are a management decision, that the soils are the soils and they don't change just because an owner chooses to use it differently.

Wald motioned, seconded by Schumacher, to deny Johnson's request to lower his assessed value or change the county's approved modifiers until told by the State to make the changes. Wald and Schumacher voted aye, Batsch was silent. Motion carried. Johnson then informed the Board that he would be going to the State Equalization meeting and that he would get the method of assessment changed before he dies.

Laine proceeded with the equalization meeting and reviewed the county's residential values, commercial values and ag values that were previously approved. Laine recommended no increase to either residential or commercial structures as the county is withing the state tolerance levels. She added that some commercial values are a little low and that she will

work on reassessing commercial properties individually, rather than request the Board raise all commercial values across the board.

Wald motioned, seconded by Batsch, to approve the assessment books as presented by Laine with no changes. All in favor, motion carried.

Clerk of Court Laura Henry addressed the Board with a renewal contract for community service. Henry informed the Board the cost would remain the same but the program hadn't been utilized enough to make it worth the expense. Wald motioned, seconded by Batsch, to not renew the agreement. All voted in favor, motion carried. Henry also shared with the Board that her deputy, Amanda Hayden had purchased banners to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States and wanted to obtain permission to hang them on the windows on the front of the building. The request was approved and the Board instructed Henry to have Hayden submit a bill and request for reimbursement.

Trish Laine addressed the Board with a request to obtain an estimate to wire outlets in the server room as they are plugged into an extension cord that goes through the roof into an outlet in the treasurer's office at this time and the server has been shutting itself down a lot lately. The request was approved.

A bid opening was held for the sale of a 1997 JD770CH Motor Grader. One bid was received in the amount of \$20,000. The bid did not meet the reserve previously set by the Board. The bidder was called and given the option to increase his bid. He increased his bid to \$25,000. Batsch motioned, seconded by Schumacher, to accept the amended bid and sell the grader, plus accessories, to Troy Zillmer for \$25,000. All in favor, motion carried.

Josh Becker, NDSU, made a request to the Board to add garden containers to the rock area in front of the courthouse. The request was approved.

No one was present for public comment.

The resolution approved at the previous meeting for grant acceptance for regional livestock planning was reviewed and approved again. Schumacher moved, seconded by Batsch, to approve the Chair's signature on the following resolution. All voted in favor, motion carried.

**RESOLUTION  
RESOLUTION APPROVING  
AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY  
OF LOGAN COUNTY AND  
SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL  
COUNCIL FOR PURPOSE OF  
REGIONAL LIVESTOCK PLANNING  
GRANT ACCEPTANCE**

WHEREAS the County of Logan on behalf of its County Commission desires to enter into agreement with the South Central Regional Council to apply for a Regional Livestock Planning Grant which the County is eligible. The Agreement further provides the County with identification of suitable locations for rural economic development, including animal feeding operations, agricultural processing and storage facilities and other agriculture related development.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Board of Logan, North Dakota as follows:

1. Following completion of the site analysis process the county will review county and township zoning land use regulations. The county may update zoning or land use regulations based on recommendations of site analysis process. Additionally, county will provide information to townships of said county so they may review and update zoning and land use regulations as they see fit.

2. That John Wald, the Chair of the County of Logan, and Jody Kristiansen, the County Auditor, are authorized to sign the Agreement.

Passed and Adopted by the Council on this 3rd day of June,

2026

An offer was received from Shari Ehrlichman to use county equipment to mow the grass at the Gackle Shop. Wald stated that the shop employees could mow the lawn themselves. The offer was declined.

Batsch motioned, seconded by Schumacher, to approve the following permits: Brian/Jarett Jangula – shouse, Dan Bitz – building, Raphael/Ellene Brendel – grain bin, Jack Horner – fence, Gross Cattle Co – 2 deep pitted cattle barns. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Batsch informed the Board a highway worker graveled around a culvert in an organized township and the work/expense was not approved by the township. He stated he had told the worker not to do any work in organized townships without township supervisor approval, but the work was done anyway so he told the township not to pay when the county billed them since they didn't approve the work. The Board agreed that no work should be done in organized townships without supervisor approval and all will remind the workers they oversee and the county will absorb the cost of the gravel and trucking for this occurrence. It was pointed out that it was a dangerous area on a bus and mail route that was not being addressed by the township and the employee had good intentions.

Schumacher submitted two letters of response for Board approval. One was to Jessica Tagestad, Wold Engineering, in support of the improvements being completed by Cokato Township on 55th St SE between sections 1 & 2; the other was to Kirk Hoff regarding response to the proposed grade raise roadway improvement on ND 30. The Board approved the letters and signed.

An email was received from MDU regarding the installation of 26 miles of transmission lines in Logan and McIntosh Counties. Kristiansen requested guidance on how to respond to the email as she hasn't had a permit request like this come through before – would it be a normal utility permit or would the process for a conditional use permit need to be followed? Schumacher will speak with ASA Walker and will work with Kristiansen to determine which criteria will need to be followed.

A late bill for mowing abandoned cemeteries was received during the meeting. All commissioners reviewed the bill and instructed Kristiansen to add it to the list of bills approved earlier in the meeting.

Wald questioned again if bills can be paid prior to commission meetings. Schumacher reminded him her research determined century code didn't allow for it, the only bills that may be paid prior to a meeting are those you sign a contractual agreement with to pay by a certain date (example: loan payment or credit card bill) and regular recurring bills (utility bills). Wald will look into what can be done with several businesses that are requiring payment up front or need payment between board meetings.

Wald informed the Board that Guthmiller is in the Presler pit and he would like to have him crush gravel at \$3.80/yard. Wald stated the bid winner for gravel crushing won't go into this particular pit to crush gravel. Schumacher will speak with Walker to see what the county's options are.

Informative materials were distributed that included the general accounts receivable report and ballots from Kem and Dakota Valley.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:07 pm.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Logan County Commissioners will be held July 8, 2026, at 1pm.

John Wald, Chairperson  
Board of  
Logan County Commissioners

Attest:  
Jody Kristiansen  
Logan County Auditor