

ADAMS COUNTY

Commission Proceedings

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ADAMS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA JANUARY 13TH, 2026

The Board of Adams County Commissioners met in regular session with the following present: Dustin Laufer, Kevin Pagel, and Steven West.

Chairman Dustin Laufer called the meeting to order at 8:00 am

DECEMBER 11, 2025. MINUTES:

Commissioner West moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting as presented, second by Commissioner Pagel; and by unanimous vote. Motion carried.

AGENDA:

Commissioner West moved to approve the agenda as presented, second by Commissioner Pagel and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

OFFICE FEES:

Fees collected by county officers were paid to the Auditor/Treasurer for Road and Bridge \$49,735.99.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

February 17th, 2026, at 8:00 am as the next meeting. Commissioner Pagel moved to allow Commission Chair Laufer to come in and pay monthly bills earlier, second by Commissioner West, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

Financials were reviewed.

911 ADDRESSING:

It was discussed to have this addressed at the next LEPC meeting at the end of January.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR:

Commissioner Pagel moved to appoint Dustin Laufer as Chair, second by Commissioner West, and by unanimous vote; motion carried. Commissioner West moved to appoint Commissioner Pagel as Vice-Chair, second by Commissioner Laufer, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

BOARD APPOINTMENT:

Commissioner West moved to approve Cody Jorgenson as the REAP board, second by Commissioner Pagel, and by unanimous vote; motion carried. ACDC and Airport Authority remain with positions.

2025 BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

Commissioner West moved to approve the following budget amendments for the 2025 budget year. Unorganized Road and Bridge \$2,200.00, Document Preservation \$1,758.83, Emergency \$1,774.59, and Extension \$7,745.19, second by Commissioner Pagel, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

2025 YEAR END TRANSFERS:

Commissioner Pagel moved to approve the following year end transfers for work completed by the Road and Bridge department and re-

maining funds from the Farm to Market fund. \$4,033.12 from Farm to Market into the Road and Bridge fund, and \$60,632.50 from Unorganized Twp fund to Road and Bridge fund. The two transfers total \$64,665.62, second by Commissioner West, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

ND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION:

Met with the Commission via TEAMS. The meeting was to discuss a request from the Kirschmann family for the ability to utilize State Highway 8, 12, and 22 with heavier loads. The new permit request would be for up to 129K pounds, the current restrictions being 105.5K pounds. The highways run into Adams County, so the DOT requires input from the County Commission. Questions and discussions were on limitations being for divisible loads (grain) and not indivisible loads. Discussion was also held on neighboring states, SD and Montana, having much more lenient restrictions on their state highways. Any road restrictions placed would supersede this request. NDDOT did do an analysis on the three highways and did not believe the request would cause any extra harm. Commissioner West voiced concern on the allowance possibly opening up requests in the future onto county roads. The special permit would only be in effect on the exact route applied for by the Kirschmann family.

ADAMS COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER:

Frank Fettig met with the Commission to discuss his upcoming plans of retirement at the end of March 2026 and discussed his gratitude for being allowed to hold the office for the past years. Discussion was had on a replacement option, and if there were any suggestions. Commissioner Pagel moved to approve the resignation of Frank Fettig as the Adams County Veteran Service Officer as of March 31, 2026, second by Commissioner West, and by unanimous vote; motion carried. The Commission thanked Mr. Fettig for the several years of service as the Veteran Service Officer and appreciated the work he has completed for the county.

ADAMS COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGER:

Michele Gaylord met briefly to inform the Commission that FEMA has not funded their half of her position's salary. Michele discussed a few items from her City of Hettinger items. KMM building sale to the American Legion and a grant for the Armory. Discussion was had on cleaning the EOC building and disposing of old equipment.

EXTENSION AGENT ASSISTANT PAY:

Melodi Boke, the current assistant in the office, did not have a pay increase discussed during budgeting due to the increase in pay during the secondary position at the road department. Commissioner Laufer discussed allowing a 2% increase for the year 2026. Commissioner Pagel moved to approve an increase of 2%, second by Commissioner West, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

DESIGNATE DEPOSITORIES:

Commissioner West

moved to designate both Dacotah Bank and Dakota Western Bank as depositories for County public funds, second by Commissioner Pagel, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

2026 EQUALIZATION HEARING DATE AND TIME:

For advertising purposes, Adams County Director of Tax would like to have the time and date of the annual hearing early. The County needs to hold their annual equalization hearing in the first 10 days of June. The regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday June 9th; it was decided to have the hearing during June 9th at 1:00 pm.

ADAMS COUNTY ROAD SUPERINTENDENT:

Justin Blade met with the Commission to give updates on his department. Mr. Blade drove Country Club Road with Brosz Engineering and noticed several items that need attention by Martin Construction, the county still owes the contractor the retainage money. Mr. Blade has been traveling the county and preparing a plan for the 2026 season. The Commission shared their input on several areas they have noticed need attention. Discussion was had on the CDL progress. Employees, Tom Arndorfer and Jay Ohm, are willing to become certified trainers for Adams County employees. Commissioner Pagel moved to approve both Tom Arndorfer and Jay Ohm as certified trainers, second by Commissioner West, and by unanimous vote; motion carried. There is no fee to Adams County for this. The couple employees are completing the class work for the required CDL's, as the course is about 8 hours. Mr. Blade would like to have an agreement created for CDL training, to maintain employees for Adams County. A draft from Burleigh County was available for review. Discussion was held on the need to find a value that the county will hold responsibility for. Mr. Blade and his office assistant will come up with an estimated cost. The truck and the motor are at the Tenold shop getting repaired, no tentative completion date was known, hopefully by April. Mr. Blade and Assistant Melodi Boke are going to Road Superintendent training tomorrow, both were excited about the additional training. Mr. Blade is starting to prepare a listing to sell items on bid, the list was not complete and ready for this meeting. The Commission discussed the earlier meeting with the Kirschmann family and NDDOT for the special permitting for heavier use on State Highway 8, 12, and 20. Mr. Blade did not have any issues with this. Commissioner West moved to approve the permit request through the State of ND, second by Commissioner Pagel, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

BROSZ ENGINEERING:

Billy Doerr met with the Commission. A letter from the NDDOT was received last week for acceptance on the bridge removal on 17th

Avenue. The funding will not cover the design engineering, so that will be the only cost to the county. The County will also hold the responsibility of the bidding process. Flex funding will fund the remaining costs of the bridge removal. Mr. Doerr explained the minimal preliminary engineering, with the most expensive part being the environmental studies required. No information has been received on the road project funding, hopefully by next month. The bridge projects applied for replacement were not accepted. NDDOT will hold a bid acceptance this Friday on the Schmaltz bridge replacement/Haynes bridge removal project, awarded over a year ago. Reeder bridge replacement/removal is planned for 2027 construction. Mr. Doerr discussed the condition of Country Club Road. It was shared that Martin Construction has not completed the last requested items stemming from the top-soil condition. The project is not ready to be signed off as completed, and the final payment will not be released. Mr. Doerr discussed the Commission needs to think about a future plan on what they would like to see going forward on Country Club Road, and if they plan to chipseal. Discussion was had on the possibility of waiting a full season to watch the road and condition for a year before chip sealing. Timelines on advertising and bidding may cause this to wait, since the first phase of the project is not even completed yet. Federal dollars could be utilized on Cemetery Road, as the road could use a chip seal. Several potholes also need to be fixed on the road. It was estimated at a cost of \$550k for a single layer, the DOT funding would cover 80%. Commissioner West questioned possibly borrowing ahead and milling Overhead Road this year. Mr. Doerr will prepare cost estimates on several projects for the 2026 construction season.

RIGHT OF WAY REQUEST:

Was reviewed from Everett Johnson for a new approach 1.4 miles South of Bucyrus on 8th St. Road Superintendent Blade recommended an approval on the request and discussed there was no need for a culvert as the approach will be on a hilltop. Commissioner Laufer questioned if he has ownership of the land. It was determined that the Right of way requests should state ownership or the legal owner of the property should be the applicant.

PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION-11:00 AM:

No one was available for public comment

ADAMS COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY:

Aaron Roseland met with the Commission to share updates from his department. Mr. Roseland discussed the flood plain Administration contract which will be ready for next month's meeting. The Commission shared their concerns about requiring permits in the county. Mr. Roseland worried about the extra re-

sponsibility, requirements, and certifications that the flood plain Administrator, currently held by Adams County Director of Tax Equalization, Katie Roseland. State's Attorney Roseland encouraged the Commission to review the ordinance before the next meeting to keep themselves informed. The Prairie Public contract was reviewed with Mr. Roseland. Discussion was had on the vehicle currently stored in the EOC garage space and why not in the impound lot or if it can be removed.

LEASE AGREEMENT EXTENSION- PRAIRIE PUBLIC:

30-year lease agreement with Adams County for use of the land where the current radio tower (hospital hill) Commissioner West discussed the only thing he questioned would be if the tower ever disbanded, would the county hold responsibility in the cost to continue with a tower. The original lease had an automatic 30-year renewal, so no action was required by the Commission, as the letter was just information on the continuance. The only responsibility of Adams County would be to continue to have the power lines available for Prairie Public Broadcasting.

BILLS:

Commissioner Pagel moved the following bills to be paid, Second by Commissioner West, and by unanimous vote. Motion carried.

ND County Auditor's Association \$400.00
 Melling & Roseland Law \$192.82
 Aaron Roseland \$95.48
 Matthew Bender & Co., Inc. \$174.61
 Sidwell \$6,030.00
 Dakota Dust-Tex Inc. \$447.30
 Adams County Treasurer \$1,420.00
 Convergint Technologies LLC \$1,092.64
 Computer Projects of IL., Inc. \$500.00
 Central Dakota Frontier Cooperative \$214.67
 Wex Health, Inc \$49.00
 Quadient Finance USA Inc \$54.56
 Marco Technologies LLC \$340.77
 Quadient Leasing USA, Inc \$348.48
 RJ Locksmithing \$12.50
 Software Innovations \$2,250.00
 Southwest Multi-County Correctional Center \$1,979.97
 ND Post Board \$154.48
 AT & T Mobility \$497.42
 Cenex Fleet Fueling \$553.77
 Office of Attorney General – 1250 \$310.00
 FIBT: Att Credit Dept .. \$677.3

Brosz Engineering \$1,427.50
 Hettinger City \$1,067.50
 Linde Gas & Equipment Inc \$683.00
 Southwest Water Authority \$82.53
 B & C Plumbing & Heating \$237.00
 The Current Connection \$74.95
 Hettinger Clothes Closet \$20.00
 Laufer Vermeer \$124.84
 Stippich, Inc \$226.30
 Runnings Supply, Inc \$1,426.93
 Advanced Business Methods \$591.18
 NDSU Ag Budget Office Dept 7510 \$7,262.20
 Aspen Lenning \$393.40
 Center Point Publishing \$55.73
 Dacotah Banks, Inc . \$443.72
 Scott Mattis \$700.00
 ND State Treasurer \$3,529.25
 Consolidated Communications ... \$1,107.73
 DUV Sanitation \$1,412.00
 Hettinger City \$180.14
 Information Technology Dept \$1,116.55
 J.P. Morgan Chase Bank \$205.57
 Montana Dakota Utilities \$5,916.44
 Office of the Adjutant General \$12,609.95
 Slope Electric Cooperative \$164.15
 Verizon Wireless \$85.14
 December Payroll \$79,693.84

Commissioner Pagel moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Commissioner West, Chairman Laufer declared the meeting adjourned at 12:19 PM.

ATTEST:
 /s/Dustin Laufer
 Dustin Laufer, Chairman
 Board of County Commissioners

/s/Krista Faller
 Krista Faller,
 Adams County Auditor/
 Treasurer

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NOTICE OF ADAMS COUNTY ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT (11-11-11 NDCC)

Notice is hereby given that the 2025 Annual Financial Statement for Adams County, North Dakota has been prepared and is available for public inspection at the office of the County Auditor/Treasurer, Adams County Courthouse, 602 Adams Avenue, Hettinger, North Dakota.

Dated at Hettinger North Dakota this 18th day of February 2026.

Krista Faller
 Adams County Auditor/Treasurer

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NOTICE OF HEARING

ADAMS COUNTY

The Adams County Commission will hold a public hearing on March 10, 2026, beginning at 9:00 AM in the Community Room of the Adams County Courthouse, 602 Adams Ave, Hettinger, ND to consider the following items:

- Ordinance 2026-01 amending the Adams County North Dakota Zoning Ordinance.

Proposed changes include:

- Redacting any reference to floodplain management including all of Article 5, Section 6 entitled "Floodplain District—Purpose"

All relevant documents may be viewed by the public at the office of Adams County Auditor/Treasurer or the office of the Adams County Zoning Administrator 602 Adams Avenue Hettinger, ND between the hours of 8:00 am – 12:00 and 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm, Monday through Thursday and 8 am – 12:00 pm Friday.

All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing to make their views known. If you have special needs in order to take part in the hearing, please contact the Adams County Auditor/Treasurer several days prior to the hearing.

2-26-3-5