

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF
THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
KIDDER COUNTY, STEELE,
NORTH DAKOTA
June 5, 2026
9:00am**

The Board of County Commissioners met on Friday, June 5, 2026 in the Commissioners room at the Kidder County Courthouse in Steele, ND. Commissioners Darrell Guthmiller, Tim C. Dronen, Nicholas Friez and Auditor Jean Schoenhard present. Also Present: Richard Paolinelli Steele Ozone & Kidder County Press, Derrick Becker and Micah Gear Lewis and Clark Resource development.

Chairman Guthmiller called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. 9:00am Public Comment: No Public Comment at this time.

Minutes of May 8, 2026 meeting were reviewed. Dronen moved to accept the minutes. Friez seconded. Motion passed with 3-0 vote.

The agenda was reviewed. Friez moved to adopt the agenda with additions seconded by Dronen. Vote 3-0 motion passed.

Sharon Tecca Load Pass Administrator joined the meeting and gave a Load Pass report. Tecca left the meeting.

Sheriff Barry Vannatta joined the meeting and handed in his reports. Discussion was held on the reports and a quote for a leak in the roof of the Deputies housing. Friez made a motion to accept the quote from Jon Harter Construction to replace the roof of the deputies housing with tin, seconded by Dronen, discussion, none, all in favor, aye, opposed, none, motion carried. Vannatta left the meeting.

Derrick Becker and Micah Gear Lewis & Clark Resource Development came to the table. Becker gave a presentation on lending, grants, loan advantage, loan rates, rural health and timelines for grants. Discussion was held on grants. Becker and Gear left the meeting.

Sheriff Vannatta came back to the meeting.

Theresa Kellington and Craig Hagen came to the meeting to introduced herself to the Commission and said she was interested in the States Attorney Office. States Attorney Eric Hetland isn't running for the office. Kellington is looking to grow and

expand her business. Discussion was held on funding, job description and cases. Kellington and Hagen left the meeting.

Sheriff Vannatta discussed open range law with the Commission and the confiscation of cows.

Discussion was held on budgets for offices and limitations, weight scales getting certified for free. Discussion was also held on the 6 county regional commissioners meeting and the 6 counties going together for weight enforcement. Vannatta will check into getting the scales certified.

Youthworks contract renewal for delinquent youth was discuss. Friez made a motion to renew the Youthworks contract, seconded by Dronen, all in favor, aye, opposed, none, motion carried.

Vannatta left the meeting.

Schoenhard gave an election report. As of today 569 ballots were sent out and 416 were returned. Discussion of a new law in place stating that the postmarks no longer count, any ballots received the day after the election will be taken to the Canvass Board to be rejected for late arrival.

Friez gave a Six County Regional Commissioners Meeting update. Items were scales, 3% Conditional Use Permit Fees, soft spots in roads,

PTO instead of vacation and sick leave, moratoriums, home rule charters, rights of way, data centers & mini nuclear sites and section line abandonments. Discussion held.

11:00 am County Commission recessed their regular commissioners meeting to meet as the Board of County Equalization. Present: Darrell Guthmiller, Nicholas Friez, Timothy C. Dronen, Tax Director Jim Albrecht and Auditor Jean Schoenhard. No others in attendance.

Tax Director Albrecht recommended the following, these amounts are based on Kidder County sales and the subsequent input from local entities.

Commercial Property will increase approx. 5.2%. The final value of \$30,864,259.00 for 2026 compared to \$29,228,559.00 for 2025.

Agriculture will have a 3% reduction. \$355.80 for final value. The state price/acre was \$356.63. This places the ag-land value for the county at 99%, which is in compliance.

Residential property will increase approx. 4%. The value of \$127,389,639.00 for 2026 compared to \$122,211,187.00 for 2025.

All values for 2025 were in compliance with State regulations.

Unorganized Kickapoo and Liberty Townships will have no changes.

Discussion was held on sales, land values, rental rates and inundated acres.

Equalization meeting will remain open until 12:00pm.

Albrecht left the meeting.

Regular County Commission meeting resumed with County Equalization meeting remaining open.

Friez attended a meeting concerning a rural water tank north of Logan County in southern Kidder County. Discussion held.

Western Pains Public Health email was discussed.

Schoenhard reported on the NDACo Premium Discounts, Learning Management System (LMS) Class and Safety Dividend Credit the county received. Discussion held.

NDACo Fall Conference Delegate was discussed.

Lowell Malard with Butler joined the meeting and gave a proposal and cost for a new motor grader. Discussion held. Malard left the meeting.

No one attended the County Equalization meeting.

Friez made the motion to approve County Equalization Per Tax Director Jim Albrecht's recommended values, which is within the NDSU guidelines and close the Equalization meeting, seconded by Dronen, discussion, none, all in favor, aye, opposed, none, motion carried. Equalization meeting closed.

Equalization meeting adjourned 12:00pm.

Recess for lunch 12:00pm

Resume from lunch 1:00pm. Present: Darrell Guthmiller, Tim "Charlie" Dronen, Nick Friez, Jean Schoenhard, Jen Heck RDO, Scott Mann RDO.

Mann gave a proposal and cost for a new motor grader. Discussion held. Mann & Heck left the meeting.

Commission called Treasurer Vickie Murray to the meeting to discuss financing on a new blade. Discussion held. Murray left the meeting.

NDACo Delegate discussion was resumed. Options were discussed. Friez made a motion to appoint Jim Albrecht as Kidder County Delegate for the NDACo October conference, seconded by Dronen, all in favor, aye, opposed, none, motion carried.

Treasurer Vickie Murray along with Mark Sand rejoined the meeting.

Discussion was held on a loan and interest rate for a new motor grader. Discussion held.

Friez made a motion to purchase a John Deere 772P Motor Grader, seconded by Dronen, discussion held on price and service, roll call vote: Guthmiller, aye, Dronen, aye, Friez, aye, motion carries. Murray and Sand left the meeting.

Monthly State Aid was reviewed. Friez made a motion to transfer the monthly state aid distribution funds from the General Fund to the Kidder Road Fund, seconded by Guthmiller, discussion on roads, rocks and gravel, all in favor, aye, opposed, none, motion carries.

June bills were reviewed.

Courthouse Payroll:
Commissioners, Courthouse, Weed Board
\$40,655.65
Less WH 3,285.68, SS 3,195.34,
ND St. Tax WH 127.75,
Insurance 536.69, Deferred Compensation 2,075.00, FSA 100.00
\$31,335.19

Commissioner Approved Payroll:
General Fund, Hwy Tax Fund,
Kidder Road, Co. Agent, VSO, Library,
Zoning: \$64,748.31
Less WH 4,661.75, SS 5,48.61, ND St. Tax 113.78,
Insurance 491.47, Deferred Com-

pensation 1,650.00;
\$52,782.70

USPS.....\$1,247.00
Choice Financial.....14,694.83
Elan Financial.....2,987.84
Steele Auto Body & Lube.....93.06
Cenex Fleet Fueling.....867.38
Don Wilhelm, Inc.25,842.00
WEX Bank.....239.25
Susanna Ongstad.....150.00
Verizon.....429.66

Advanced Business Systems.....340.23
BEK Communications.....925.92
Bowerman Insurance.....241.00
Clare Heinze.....346.51
Countryside Signs & Designs.....295.00
Elections Systems & Software, Inc.....7,470.26
Electronic Communications.....5,272.00
Farmers & Merchants Oil Co.....260.69
ITD.....1,133.50
Kidder Co. 4-H Council.....1,000.00
Kidder County Fair Association.....18,000.00
Matthew Bender & Co., Inc.....96.81
NRG-NDACO Resources Group.....3,325.72
Quill Corporation.....216.47
Storey Kenworthy.....212.91
Stryker Sales, LLC.....491.81
The Sidewell Company.....2,179.57
Valley Plains Equipment.....1,086.91
Wilhelm Chevrolet.....478.64
Farmers & Merchants Oil Co.....3,813.09
MDU.....1,106.56
Menards.....542.59
Stutsman County Corrections.....323.11
Advanced Business Systems.....146.30
Annie Craven.....248.83
Barnes & Noble.....275.79
BEK Communications.....163.82
Dawson Greenhouse.....70.00
Ingram Library Services.....644.76
MDU.....107.08
Shipley Electric.....502.30
Advanced Business Methods.....358.88
Monica Fitterer.....190.64
Pat Leier.....154.25
F/S Manufacturing.....664.91
Mike Keily.....17.40
Ron Martin.....65.25
Kevin Price.....26.10
Christ Gerr.....32.63
Kenny Fischer.....10.15
Barbara Steinke.....8.00
Arena Welding & Manuf, Inc.....1,635.56
Butler Machinery Company.....1,697.50
ND LTAP-UGPTI/ND SU.....250.00
Dakota Springer.....244.72
Farmers Union Oil Co-Pettibone.....5,255.79

Klim Plumbing, LLC.....1,200.00
NAPA Auto Parts.....217.98
RDO Equipment Co.....5,253.80
South Central Reg Water Dist.....41.23
Tappen Farm Supply.....57.25
Tappen Oil Company.....4,150.10
Farmers & Merchants Oil Co.....\$78.69

Friez made the motion to approve the June bills. Seconded by Dronen. Vote 3-0. Motion carried.

Monthly reports were reviewed and signed: County Recorder: \$7,651.00 May 2026.

Discussion was held on numbers from previous years for the Primary Election.

Roadhouse temporary liquor license was reviewed. Commission denied the license due to outstanding taxes.

Discussion was held on 17th St SE in Kickapoo Township. Landowners want small section of the section line closed.

Board reviewed motor grader hours and utilization sheet. Discussion held. Doug Wendal called into the meeting concerning the closure of 17th St SE section line. Discussion held. Call ended with Wendal.

Discussion was held on the motor grader road rotation.

Graveling areas and blading was discussed.

With no further business before the board Friez made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:05pm.

Read and approved this 10th day of July 2026.

/s/ Darrell Guthmiller, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

/s/ Jean Schoenhard,
County Auditor