
**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS, KIDDER COUN-
TY, STEELE, NORTH DAKOTA
August 14, 2026
9:00am**

The Board of County Commissioners met on Friday, August 14, 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, Jason Steidl, Justin Lang Dawson Mayor, Leon Wolff, Al Malinowski, Neil Fanta Dawson Council Members.

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 July 10, 2026 meeting were reviewed. Friez moved to accept the minutes. Guthmiller 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.

Guthmiller called on the City of Dawson Mayor Justin Lang, discussion was held on the Sheriff's Department patrolling the City of Dawson, Sheriff not be able to enforce city ordinances because it is civil, unless there is a contract with the City. Sheriff Department can only enforce criminal law not civil; Municipal is different than County. Discussion was held on Special Assessments the city can implement on property owners for mowing and cleaning of lots.

NDSU Co Agent Monica Fitterer joined the meeting regarding her quarterly report. Fitterer reported she returned to the office full time in May and Abby Keily was hired as Summer Admin Assistant. During the summer she interviewed and hired Ashly Peyer part time after Abby returns to college in August. Fitterer did a story time on insects at the library, she also helped at Central Farm Safety Camp, she has also been busy with updated and new 4-H resources with the State 4-H committee. Fitterer reported on 4-H Happenings during the summer with a Showmanship Clinic and in-depth fitting clinics for beef and dairy goats and also a horse showmanship and

grooming clinic. Discussion held. Fitterer is planning fall projects, fair went well and have been busy with end of year 4-H books. Fitterer left the meeting.

Sheriff Barry Vannatta joined the meeting. Discussion was held with the City of Dawson Mayor Lang and Council members Wolff, Malinowski and Fanta concerning the cost and time of contracting.

Mike Rivinius Wold Engineering joined the meeting.

Sheriff, Commission and Dawson officials discussed citations and special assessments. Lang, Malinowski, Fanta, Wolff and Sheriff Vannatta left the meeting.

Rivinius joined the table. Guthmiller asked about putting fabric down in a road, Rivinius explained how to put it down and placing rip rap. Discussion was held.

Discussion was held on future overpass projects on I-94. Rivinius said the Emmons County detour thru Kidder County has started. Rivinius presented the contract for preliminary engineering for Williams Township Flex Funding Road project. There will be no construction this year for the townships flex fund projects just preliminary engineering.

Discussion was held on what is the best method for packing gravel roads. Discussion was also held on crack sealing. Rivinius left the meeting.

Oliver Bromke joined the meeting to see if there were any questions on his proposal he presented. Discussion held. Bromke left the meeting.

Sheriff Vannatta joined the meeting and handed in his monthly reports. Discussion was held on mowing and weed control and maintenance at the Deputy's trailer. Commission discussed with Sheriff Vannatta about the Deputy Joppa and Deputy Aaron staying at the ambulance hall instead of staying in the housing provided by the county. Commission wants the deputies to use the housing the county provided or find a place to rent, they feel the deputies are taking advantage of the county. Sheriff Vannatta will talk to the Deputy Joppa and Deputy Aaron and left the meeting.

Gregory Davis MAH Development and Lisa Schmidt joined the meeting.

Gregory Davis came to the table and introduced himself and told the Commission about MAH Development. He said they are here to help out small communities with housing. Kidder County is a HUB Zone and there are

grants to help with upgrades for the elderly. Davis also spoke on MAH Development helping to get grants and funding for multi-family housing. Davis said they know how to get the funding and the county is in need of housing. Discussion held. Davis and Schmidt left the meeting.

Recess for 5 minutes.

Discussion was held on Oliver Bromke's proposal for legal services and appointment procedure. Position should be bonded. Discussion was held on the 2027 budget for services, on loss of local control of the office if something isn't in place by January 2027 and contracted on a year-by-year basis. Discussion was also held on up holding city ordinances. Commission will contact States Attorney Hetland to discuss options. Bromke left the meeting.

Librarian Anne Craven met with the commission to give an overview of the library. The library has seen an increase in registered users, visits to the library, number of circulations, number of electronic materials circulations, library programs, and library program attendees from 2023 to 2025. The library has story time, summer reading programs, book club and other programs. Craven said there has been building upgrades and they are considering building on to the library. The library has been working with the Extension Office on programs. They will be upgrading the WIFI in the future. There is an increase in public computer usage. Craven discussed the 2027 budget and increases are due to raises and the building updates. Commission told Craven she is doing a good job. Craven left the meeting.

Recess for lunch 12:00pm

Resume from lunch 1:00pm Commissioners Guthmiller, Dronen, Friez and Auditor Schoenhard present.

Road Supervisor position was discussed. Friez put together an interview question and scoring sheet for the position. There are two applicants. Discussion was held on a 6 month probation with a review after 6 months, pay increase of a dollar, start date of September 1st and CDL. Special meeting for interviews will be set up for August 20, 2026 starting at 8:30am in the Commissioners room.

Closing of a section line request opinion from States Attorney Eric Hetland was read and discussed. Discussion was held on vacating the section

line instead of closing. County would vacate the road instead of closing the section line.

NDACo Conference will be October 11-13, 2026 at the Bismarck Events Center. Guthmiller, Dronen and Friez will attend.

Western Plains public health letter was discussed.

Discussion was held on ADA compliant doors on the annex of the courthouse by the Sheriff's Department and Human Services Department.

Six County Meeting will be in McIntosh County, agenda items discussed.

Opioid settlement funds were discussed. Dronen made the motion to transfer the Opioid Settlement Funds to the Kidder County District Health Unit per House Bill 1447, seconded by Friez, discussion, none, all in favor, aye, opposed, none, motion carried.

State Aid Distribution funds were discussed. Friez made a motion to keep 100% of the State Aid Funds in the General Fund, seconded by Dronen, all in favor, aye, opposed, none, motion carried.

August bills were reviewed.

Courthouse Payroll:

Commissioners, Courthouse, Weed Board

\$40,955.65

Less WH 3,292.88, SS 3,218.29,

ND St. Tax WH 127.75,

Insurance 536.69, Deferred Com-

pensation 2,075.00, FSA 100.00

... \$31,605.04

Commissioner Approved Payroll:

General Fund, Hwy Tax Fund, Kid-

der Road, Co. Agent, VSO, Library: ..

... \$59,797.93

Less WH 4,229.17, SS 4,669.89,

ND St. Tax 83.84,

Insurance 491.47, Deferred Com-

pensation 1,650.00:

... \$48,673.56

NDDOT..... 11.50

Cenex Fleet Fueling 98.17

Verizon..... 429.73

Elan Financial Services 4,679.97

WEX Bank 1,638.28

Monica Fitterer..... 297.26

Advanced Business Methods..... 253.33

Clare Heinze..... 64.60

Bowerman Insurance..... 11,283.00

BEK 928.65

Chance Schaffner..... 900.00

Choice Financial Ins. 1,354.00

ITD-Info Tech Dept 253.00

ITD-Info Tech Dept 907.15

Loren Lang 551.00

Larson Elevator 1,249.20

Matthew Bender & Co. 77.80

NDEMA..... 50.00

NRG..... 4,513.86

Quill Corp..... 747.07

Software Innovations..... 5,800.00

Steele Auto Body..... 558.21

WEX Health..... 70.00

City of Steele 319.07

Farmers & Merchants..... 285.31

MDU 1,432.74

Menards..... 533.25

Steele Ozone..... 3,528.56

Centre, Inc..... 1,500.00

Office of Adjutant General ... 12,436.98

Guardian Lock & Safe 6.00

Abby Kelly..... 126.12

NDSU Extension..... 8,092.90

Lang's Lawn Care..... 9,696.62

Tuttle Farmer's Elev. 1,800.14

Christ Gerr..... 34.20

Kenny Fischer..... 10.64

Kevin Price..... 27.36

Mike Kelly..... 18.24

Ron Martin..... 68.40

Kidder Co. Health Dist. Health.....

..... 1,109.78

Hoffer Sand & Gravel 3,802.56

Sayler Excavating..... 23,663.00

Arena Welding 551.62

Butler Machinery..... 1,640.64

Deere Credit..... 9,400.00

Farmers & Merchants..... 3,981.73

Farmers Union Oil-Pettibone.....

..... 7,604.72

Hoffer Landscaping 19,145.39

Jon Wayne Trucking 14,409.67

KEM..... 142.53

Mac's Hardware..... 143.05

Northern Plains Elec..... 101.65

RDO..... 4,099.52

South Central Water Dist..... 41.23

Tappen Farm Supply 113.66

Tappen Oil Co..... 6,956.35

Titan Machinery 584.05

Valley Plains Equip 6,063.00

Zimmerman's Manuf..... 150.00

Annie Craven..... 697.65

Barnes & Noble 476.05

City of Steele 93.29

DEMCO 310.87

MDU 194.76

Stuart Blotter..... 60.00

WSI..... 250.00

Janet Schauer 45.83

Judy Landenberger..... 38.00

Serena Schmidt..... 36.48

Discussion held on road repair/ gravel bills.

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

Monthly reports were reviewed and signed: County Recorder: \$7,253.50 July, 2026. County Sheriff: No report submitted.

Custodian Clare Heinze joined the meeting regarding a quote for handicap doors for the annex portion. Quote was discussed.

Discussion was held on the drainage on the north side of the Kidder County Senior Services / Food Pantry building.

Guthmiller made a motion install handicap doors on the annex building by the Sheriff's Department and by the Human Services Office to be ADA compliant, seconded by Friez, discussion held on being ADA compliant, all in favor, aye, opposed, none, motion carried. Heinze will order the doors. Heinze left the meeting.

Discussion was held on the Preliminary Budget Hearing notice date.

Preliminary budget hearing Date will be September 11, 2026 at 1:00pm in the Commissioners Room.

Discussion was held on finding a water truck for road work, and graveling.

With no further business before the board Guthmiller made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:40pm.

Read and approved this 11th day of September 2026.

/s/ Darrell Guthmiller,
Chairman Board of County Com-
missioners

/s/ Jean Schoenhard,
County Auditor

BEK 164.03