

Dickey County Commission regular meeting minutes, March 18, 2025

Commissioner Meeting
March 18, 2025

Chair Brandon Carlson called the meeting to order at 9:03 am. Commissioners John Hokana, Jerry Walsh, and Kacey Holm were also present. Commissioner Marke Roberts was in attendance via electronic means. Auditor Sheppard and resident Cindy Bagley were also present. Administrative Assistant Monica Pakonen, States Attorney Kim Radermacher, Clerk of Court Andi Schimke, and Dickey County Sheriff's office personnel were in attendance via electronic means. Media was not present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda
House Bill 1258
Change of miles for chip seal project
Holm made a motion to approve minutes from the March 4th meeting, as amended. Walsh seconded. Motion carried.

Sheppard presented an additional voucher in the amount of \$568.98 for property taxes on the new county building purchased in July. Walsh made a motion to approve the vouchers with addition. Holm seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Holm made a motion to approve the February 2025 financials. Hokana seconded. Discussion included the effect of any proposed legislative changes to NDCC, and the possible cap placed on the county, if passed. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Walsh made a motion to pass the resolution as stated below. Roberts seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Whereas, July 2nd, 1955, will mark the 70th Anniversary of the national debut of "The Lawrence Welk Show" on television; a show which was aimed at family friendly variety in acts and music which spanned numerous genres such as Country, Jazz, Pop, Polka, and Patriotic.

Whereas, Lawrence Welk, a native of Strasburg, North Dakota took to the national stage values and love for music that started like crops in North Dakota soil and the harvest benefited generations of Americans during times of war and peace, prosperity and difficulty.

Whereas, in North Dakota he was recognized in his lifetime such as being inducted into the Rough Rider Hall of Fame in 1961, awarded an honorary degree by North Dakota State University in 1965. Later, his birthplace, the Ludwig and Christina Welk Homestead where he lived until he was 21 was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is today open to the public, and owned by the State of North Dakota.

Whereas many North Dakotans are of full or partial German and/or Norwegian descent, it is noteworthy that Lawrence Welk was of German (German Russian) heritage, and Myron Floren originally from Webster, South Dakota was the son of immigrants from Norway and was himself inducted into the Scandinavian American Hall of Fame in Minot, North Dakota in 1984. Their success stories are among the examples of how far Americans from anywhere in America can go with hard work and perseverance.

Whereas "The Lawrence Welk Show" is still aired regularly across America in several states including North Dakota (on Sunday evenings in North Dakota) more than 40 years after its last episode, and more than 30 years after his passing.

Whereas his aim at family friendly entertainment is an example of a worthy goal in any generation as is the idea of bringing together quality from the past and present, and worth of all corners of North Dakota to come together to celebrate.

NOW, THEREFORE, The Dickey County Commission hereby proclaims July 2, 2025, Lawrence Welk Day and a day to honor "The Lawrence Welk Show" in Dickey County, North Dakota.

Radermacher is requesting the purchase of a higher quality printer to handle the printing needs of her office. The amount of printing done in her office has required the purchase of a new printer almost yearly. IT consultant Jamie Nelson has given Radermacher a quote to replace the printer. Radermacher stated that the Civil Asset Forfeiture Fund has enough money to purchase the printer, which will also not require any tax dollars. Holm made a motion to allow the

purchase of the new printer. Hokana seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Environmental Services employee Scott Peterson and Bower Tree Service representatives Ray Bower and Alex Bower joined the meeting at 9:30. Peterson informed the Commission that there was a backup of sewer water in the boiler room March 10th and Rapid Response was called. Rapid Response informed Peterson there was a collapse in the pipe. The floor would need to be cut out in the boiler room to replace the pipe, which they quoted the county \$4,150 to complete the repair. Walsh made a motion to approve the quote from Rapid Response. Holm seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

R Bower spoke with the Commission on the numerous ash trees on the property. Bower's recommendation is to replace the trees before the disease starts in the trees. There are 29 ash trees on the block of the courthouse. Discussion included that Dickey County has no plan at this time for the replacement of those trees. Bower does not replant the trees but would take out the old trees. The county could work with the James River Valley Soil Conservation Service to plant new trees. Walsh recommended Bower complete a quote for the county. Discussion followed concerning other certified vendors in the county and the possibility of getting a quote from them.

Treasurer Wonada Lematta and Tax Director Don Flaherty joined the meeting at 9:35. Health District employee Kerry Waldo joined the meeting via electronic means.

Sheppard presented a local permit application from the Ludden Sportsman Club to have a raffle board at Rack-It-Up on March 29th and 30th. Walsh made a motion to approve the permit and to waive the fee. Hokana seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Discussion followed concerning work completed by Rapid Response on two furnaces at the Human Services building in Ellendale. After some discussion, Walsh made a motion to have Rapid Response clean up the area and patch the roof where the old exhaust vents were, at no cost to the county. Holm seconded. Discussion followed that a quote would

need to be received if there was any additional cost to the county before the work was completed. Holm seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

The meeting went into recess at 9:55 and returned at 10:00.

DES/911 Coordinator Charlie Russell joined the meeting.

Holm made a motion to open the Abatement hearing. Walsh seconded. Motion carried.

Flaherty stated he had several late homestead credit applications, involving multiple parcels and a couple of tax years. Holm made a motion to approve the applications. Roberts seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Flaherty presented a parcel that was mistakenly charged property tax for 2023, as the taxpayer qualified for farm residency exemption. The exemption was not entered into the tax system. This will reduce the tax bill by \$652.37. Walsh made a motion to approve the correction. Holm seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Holm made a motion to close the abatement hearing. Walsh seconded. Motion carried.

Sheriff Chris Estes joined the meeting at 10:09.

Flaherty requesting the schedule be set for the county tax equalization meeting for June 5th starting at 1:00 pm. Commission agreed to the date.

Highway Superintendent Jeff Hagen joined the meeting at 10:10.

Sheppard presented a letter to the Highway Patrol requesting assistance with the patrolling for overweight vehicles in 2025. Holm made a motion to send the letter. Walsh seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion followed concerning the contract with The Village. The original contract is up in 2026, but the consensus was that the employees need to be made more aware of what they offer. Sheppard will request that The Village representative have a meeting with all employees so that all employees know what The Village offers. Sheppard will contact The Village to get a meeting set up.

Discussion followed concerning the possible combination of the Auditor position and the Treasurer position. Walsh is suggesting that the positions be com-

bined and make them appointed, not elected. Roberts' suggestion would be to make all positions appointed, leave the two positions as separate, and hire a county manager with Human Resource duties to supervise the offices. Discussion will continue next month, after the Commission have time to consider the change.

KLJ Engineer Bryan Tykwinski joined the meeting at 10:30.

Roberts discussed with the Commission his concerns on House Bill 1258, which is taking more authority away from local governments. Roberts stated that the Commission needs to watch this bill.

Discussion followed concerning the gravel pit parcel that is coming up on a land auction in April. Dickey County owns part of the quarter already and has removed gravel from there in the past. The question was raised about Dickey County looking into purchasing one of the parcels. The date of the auction is April 3rd at the Gladstone Inn 11:00 am. The next Commissioner meeting is April 1st so a decision could be made at that time if the county should bid. The Commission will do research and go into executive session on April 1st to decide on bidding. Sheppard requested information on where funding will come to make this purchase, as it has not been budgeted.

Lematta presented the pledge reports for September and December 2024. After reviewing the reports, Hokana made a motion to accept both reports and have the Chair sign. Holm seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Tykwinski stated that Hagen and Tykwinski had driven County Road #2 and #3, and do not feel that they need a chip seal this year but could maybe use a micro-surface in a year. The new pavement on County Road #8 would be good. The engineering contract of \$15,000 for the chip seal projects for 2025 should be less due to the decrease in miles.

Flexible funding applications are coming out in May and Tykwinski stated County Road #2 as a micro-mill would be an excellent idea. Tykwinski stated there is a legislative bill that would add additional money to the flex funding fund for township bridges and a separate bucket for townships and cities.

Hagen presented two blading con-

tracts for approval and signature. Holm made a motion to sign the contracts. Walsh seconded. Motion carried.

Hagen presented township Load-Pass agreements with Yorktown, Maple, Kentner, and German Townships. Holm made a motion to sign the agreements received. Hokana seconded. Motion carried.

Hagen presented eight permits from Intermountain Infrastructure Group LLC for boring fiber-optic across county roads within the US Highway 281 and ND Highway 11 road right of way. Roberts made a motion to approve the permits. Holm seconded. Motion carried.

Hagen reported that the tractor for the 2025 lease will not arrive as projected. The solution given was to have the current tractor serviced and returned to the county to use for another year at the same rate of \$33 per hour. Holm made a motion to have the tractor serviced and redo the lease for another year. Roberts seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Hagen informed the Commission that a bid opening for gravel hauling for 2025 is on April 1st and the propane bid opening will be April 15th.

Estes informed the Commission of an issue requiring the need for an impound lot over the weekend. Discussion followed on the possibility of a chain link fence that is secure and where cameras can be placed, probably either on the east side or the north side of the storage building southeast of the highway building. Estes will get a quote for the chain link fence and cameras.

Estes informed the Commission that an officer was hurt over the weekend. Discussion followed concerning the current policy which does not pay overtime to deputies in the case of sick time. Walsh made a motion to change the policy to allow overtime pay for the coverage of sick time or an uncovered shift. Holm seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Hokana made a motion to adjourn at 12:14.

Respectfully Submitted

Brandon Carlson, Chairman

Wanda Sheppard, Auditor

(Published April 17, 2025)

Dickey County Commission special meeting minutes, (fairgrounds) March 27, 2025

March 27, 2025
Special Meeting

Chair Brandon Carlson called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm at the Dickey County Fairgrounds Archery Building. Also in attendance are Jerry Walsh, John Hokana, and Kacey Holm. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The list of attendees is on file with the Auditor's Office.

Carlson turned the meeting over to DES/911 Coordinator Charlie Russell. Russell reminded those in attendance that the goal of this meeting is to discuss the different projects and when the fluctuation in staffing could occur. The meeting is for planning purposes and not for complaints concerning the projects.

Applied Digital representatives Nick Phillips and Martin Vega discussed the Applied Digital project. There are currently ten buildings that are operational and a 380,000 square foot building that is still under construction. Dirt work has been started on two additional buildings and those buildings are estimated to be 900,000 square feet each and will be north of the buildings that are currently there. There are currently approximately 500 construction workers with the possibility of that number doubling shortly.

Phillips talked about road improvements that should be completed this summer or early fall that will create a bypass around Ellendale to get to the site. Plans are for a deceleration lane for trucks to turn on to 87th Street and Highway 11 will be widened. This will be funded by the state of North Dakota and Applied Digital. Phillips stated the 20 homes that have been moved to the south side of Ellendale and the first homes will be move-in ready starting next week. A new 38-unit apartment building will be built starting this summer. The approximate count of full time employees once all buildings are operational is 300. Applied Digital's goal is to have 100 of those employees living in Ellendale.

The plan for the retention ponds on the site is to allow fire departments or farmers to pick up water. There will be another town hall meeting in the next months. Phillips stated they are looking at a camera system to place at the stop sign to turn on Highway 11. Digital photos of those running the stop sign will be sent to the Sheriff's office so that fines can be charged.

JETx project representatives were Kris Koch and Todd Langston from Ottertail Power Company and Dan Albrecht from MDU. Koch stated that the end of the line will be at the existing Ellendale sub-station to the west of town. The route permit is anticipated to be filed in May and the route permit completeness

process should be completed in August. At that point, the state will have to finalize their approval of the project. Koch stated it should be the beginning of 2026 before the route is approved by the state. Koch stated that the signed easements for the project are currently at 67% secured for the whole project, with Dickey County at 89%. Geotechnical testing is currently being done. The plan is for construction to start in Quarter 3 of 2026 with a finish date of Quarter 4 2028. The number of personnel during the height of the project would be 59 workers, covering the areas of Aberdeen, Ellendale, and Jamestown.

Albrecht gave an update for MDU projects in the Ellendale area. Most of the work MDU is working on is located close to the Ellendale sub-station, including work for Applied Digistal. There will be a 345 kV sub-station expansion because of the JETx project. The Ellendale sub-station which feeds the city of Ellendale will also need to be updated. Most of these projects will occur between 2026 through 2030.

A question was raised concerning the JETx project and Applied Digital. Langston gave a history of the loop that starts at Center with a 345kw line that goes to Jamestown to Fargo to Minneapolis to Brookings to the Big Stone line on the west end of Ellendale. The JETx line will finish the loop and is not connected to Applied Digital. An explanation was given concerning the power lines. In this case, Ottertail Power Company owns the lines, but MISO operates them. MISO's responsibility is to look at the need for power over the next ten to fifteen years. The customers of MISO ultimately pay for the project.

Summit Carbon Solutions (SCS) representative Charlie Adams gave a brief update on the carbon pipeline project. The project covers five states, Iowa, North Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, and South Dakota. South Dakota recently passed a law that has delayed the construction of the pipeline. When all permits are in place and the project is being constructed, there will be approximately 100 workers for about six months that will require temporary housing. Once operational, there will be two to three pipeline technicians. SCS will work with the county on road use permits. SCS will also give a \$50,000 grant for the EMS in Dickey County, for training and equipment for first responders. In response to a question, Adams stated that SCS has their own easements and do not share easements with JETx.

EDF Renewables representatives Adam Batiste and Sarah Thronson gave an update on EDF's wind project, which has been in development for the last two years. They are moving from

the land acquisition stage into the next step. The project should be operational in 2030 or 2031. The land to be used is in Northwest, Young, Potsdam, German, Whitestone, Hamburg, and Valley Townships. State and local permits will be applied for in 2026-2027. Construction mobilization could occur as early as 2029. Road use permits will be completed with the county. The project is still early so the size of the project is not clear currently. The original plan was a 500 megawatt project but as technology improves, the project may change. Environmental studies have started to verify where the towers can be placed. At the peak of construction, there would be 200-300 workers. It is estimated that the project will produce 8-12 full time employees during operation. Batiste stated that this is only planned as a wind development with no plans to add a battery. Thronson stated that environmental field studies are slated to begin this spring, including helicopter surveys conducted for avian species such as eagles, grouse, etc.

Invenergy representative Michael Iacopetti discussed their wind tower project. The development of the project is anticipated to continue through 2027 with construction anticipated in 2028. Invenergy is currently working with landowners in the area. Iacopetti stated that they will also work with the county and townships to have road use agreements prior to construction starting. The project will be a 215-megawatt project with approximately 48 turbines if the 4.5-megawatt turbine size is selected. The site will be operational by 2031. The project will be connected to the Ellendale substation. There will be 250 construction workers, with five to six full time when operational. Iacopetti did not have the names of the townships where the project will be located, but the area is in the southern part of the county.

Department of Commerce representatives Maria Effertz-Hanson and Anya Hondel stated they felt the community has a great opportunity, connecting the dots with local, state, and federal.

The question was asked concerning wetland easements at the Applied Digital site. Phillips stated that easements were relocated to a spot north of the plant.

Vega stated that Applied Digital wants to work with the community. Vega introduced Andrea Mireles who is assisting with the outreach to the community. There is an e-mail where people can send their questions to Applied Digital. That email is community@applieddigital.com and there will be a quarterly newsletter to keep the community up to date.

A resident asked the question of why there are so many projects at the same time. Phillips stated that there is a large

amount of energy in the area and there was no way to get it out. Phillips stated that MDU has been able to return money to the residents of Dickey County because of the increase in electric usage in the area.

A resident questioned if anything has been done about possible mental health crisis in the area. Effertz-Hanson offered to be involved in those conversations. Commissioners discussed they have been short a sheriff deputy for over a year.

A resident questioned if the sewer system will be able to handle the large influx of people. Mayor Flaherty stated that the engineers have checked out the sewer system and it will be able service approximately 1,800 to 1,900 people. City Council Meidinger reminded those in attendance that the city just completed a sewer project.

Hokana made a motion to adjourn at 2:30.

FINANCIAL

Salaries	174,406.41
Human Services	2,717.22
Allard Trophy Company	35.00
Carlson Brandon	40.60
Cole Paper	189.94
Dickey County Fair Board	27,820.00
Dickey County Hwy Dept	194.41
Dickey County Hwy Dept	1,178.66
Dickey County Leader	460.10
Ellendale True Value	188.64
Holm Kacey	170.80
House of Glass INC	625.50
Imaging Spectrum INC	298.42
Mid-State Organized Crime	100.00
ND Clerks Association	100.00
Otis Elevator Company	1,007.04
Overpayment Refund	1,370.15
Q & N Corporation	1,875.00
Q & N Corporation	3,689.00
Q & N Corporation	26.50
Roberts Marke	37.80
Schmidt Kelly	61.30
Sheppard Wanda	53.20
Stutsman County Auditor	312.50
Two Lane Tactics LLC	149.99
Walsh Gerald	36.40
Agtegra Oakes	117.38
Dakota Valley Electric Coop	365.37
Economy Oil Co	20,465.70
Ellendale True Value	113.02
Farmers Union Oil Co	3,349.59
John Deere Financial	1,853.20
KLJ Engineering LLC	7,695.23
Napa Central	222.71
Southeast Water Users	50.32
Vestis	192.58
Waste Management	89.50
Dickey County Hwy Dept	331.85
R2 Properties LLC	2,340.00
Kiser Breana	841.50
Bismarck Ramkota Hotel	330.00
Gemar Justin	67.20
Hansen Stephen	1,162.00

AT&T Mobility	773.65
Dickey County Hwy Dept	61.67
Ellendale City Auditor	570.26
ND Public Employees Retirement	46,691.66
ND Public Employees Retirement	439.56
ND Public Employees Retirement	8,223.10
ND Public Employees Retirement	458.72
ND Public Employees Retirement	14.19
ND Public Employees Retirement	130.02
Cities, Townships, Schools	2,862,297.42
ND Public Employees Retirement	1,674.00
ND Public Employees Retirement	562.00
Wex Health Inc	1,217.49
ND Public Employees Retirement	724.97

Community Volunteer EMS of LaMoure	2,006.05
Kulm Ambulance Corps. INC	3,572.06
Edgeley Ambulance Service	3,428.89
Oakes Volunteer Ambulance Services	27,529.14

Ashley Ambulance District	1,020.80
Ellendale City	30,680.41
Oakes City	7,307.76
Garrison Diversion	17,352.15
James River Soil Conservation	42,432.15

Ellendale Fire #2	25,621.84
Oakes Fire	27,814.73
Dickey Sargent Joint Water Resource District	33,489.77
Dickey County Senior Citizens	56,672.49

Dickey County Historical	4,298.22
Kedish House	1,396.44
Dickey Sargent Irrigation District	18,586.77

Sargent County Drain #11	2,155.26
ND State Treasurer	16,848.33
Dickey County Treasurer	590.00

Wex Health Inc	50.00
Central Business System INC	218.96
Dakota Plains Credit Union	16.99
Dakota Plains Credit Union	78.15
Dickey County Hwy Dept	171.94

Dickey County Hwy Dept	1,152.59
Dickey County Leader	150.00
Farmers Union Oil Co	111.30
Flaherty Don	71.50
House of Glass INC	64.18

Information Technology Dept	1,793.95
Kinzler Kasie	28.00
Lexipol LLC	3,707.48

Montana Dakota Utilities	89.01
NDSAA	400.00
North Dakota League of Cities	120.00

Q & N Corporation	386.00
Quadient Finance USA INC	87.87

Radisson Hotel Bismarck	102.50
Ramada Bismarck Hotel	198.00
Rapid Response Plumbing Heating & Air	325.00
Sign Solutions	70.86
Treasure Clearing	18,587.10
Vestis	164.53
Agtegra Oakes	520.29
Bertsch TY	70.00
Dakota Valley Electric Coop	404.46
Dickey County	6,931.28
Farmers Union Oil Co	6,486.98
John Deere Financial	189.39
Lorena's Cleaning Serv.	400.00
Montana Dakota Utilities	481.66
Ottertail Power Company	68.19
Team Laboratory Chemical, LLC	1,991.50

Vestis	192.58
Waste Management	178.89
KLJ Engineering LLC	2,189.16
North Dakota Attorney General	660.00

Barnes County Corrections	100.00
Dickey County Treasurer	568.98
Stutsman Correctional Center	5,200.00
The Medicine Shoppe	95.90
Farmers Union Oil Co	75.00
Starion Bond Services	103,655.00
Chads Electric INC	2,495.00
Dakota Valley Electric Coop	125.00

Dickey County Hwy Dept	67.67
Dickey Rural Networks	5,833.95
Montana Dakota Utilities	5,390.17
Napa Central	166.53
Rapid Response Plumbing Heating & Air	13,250.00

Human Services	45,473.60
Starion Bond Services	181,952.50
Ohnstad Twichell PC	3,174.04
ND Public Employees Retirement	25,071.14

ND Public Employees Retirement	3,221.84
ND Public Employees Retirement	1,674.00

ND Public Employees Retirement	562.00
ND Public Employees Retirement	116.64

Wex Health Inc	1,217.49
ND Public Employees Retirement	724.97

Aflac	2,573.57
Delta Dental Plan of MN	2,491.66
Ameritas Life Insurance Corp	405.28
ND Child Support Division	200.00
James Valley Regional Lodge #4	66.34

Q & N Corporation	1,931.99
ND State Tax Commissioner	942.33

Respectfully Submitted

Brandon Carlson, Chairman

Wanda Sheppard, Auditor

(Published April 17, 2025)

