

Divide County Commission Minutes

June 24, 2025
The Board of Divide County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, with all members present, Chairman Jacobs presiding. Jordan Rusche, Journalist, was also in attendance. Board worked on the 2026 budget.

Gayle Jastrzebski
County Auditor/Treasurer
Isaac Jacobs, Chairman,
Board Divide County
Commissioner

June 26, 2025
The Board of Divide County Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, June 26, 2025, with all members present, Chairman Jacobs presiding. Jordan Rusche, Journalist, Maria Kroshus, Deputy Auditor/Treasurer was also in attendance. Minutes from June 3, the meeting was read and approved with minimal corrections.

Chrissy Running-Recorder/Clerk requested travel for her and her deputies during the months of July through September for special clerk of court training. Chrissy informed the Board that as part of their training until September, they will often travel to Williston.

The Board agreed to change the meeting from July 3, 2025 and moved to July 1, 2025 followed by the Budget Meeting.

Attorney Seymour Jordan discussed a quote for necessary masonry repairs on the courthouse. One side of the building was noted to be more affected than others. He explained that some exterior materials are nearing the end of their lifespan, and that preventative maintenance is recommended to avoid more extensive and costly repairs in the future.

Commissioner Johnson emphasized the importance of addressing maintenance issues but expressed concern over the high cost involved. The Board asked Mr. Jordan whether there might be any grant options to help with the project. They briefly discussed the possibility of looking into this further and considered scheduling the work for the following year.

Repairs to the Sheriff's office will be excluded from the current plan and may be addressed separately through a future public ballot. The Board also plans to obtain additional estimates for potential roof and foundation repairs. It was emphasized that a formal written contract should be established to clearly define the scope of work and expectations, to avoid miscommunication as experienced in prior projects.

The Board agreed to reach out to the contractor for clarification on certain parts of the proposed work and to begin preparations for possible grant opportunities and project planning for the next year.

The Fair Board, including members Emily Pulvermacher, Melissa Adams and Brenda Lownsberry discussed this year's fair season. Attendance this year showed some variation compared to previous years, factors such as busy family schedules, weather conditions, and the

presence of multiple fairs in the area may have influenced participation.

The fair board raised concerns about rising entertainment costs compared to previous years. The Board of Commissioners highlighted the need for improved contract negotiations. Additionally, the Commissioners discussed exploring new ideas to attract more attendees, emphasizing the importance of keeping activities appealing to families and children. Ms. Pulvermacher brought up the outstanding invoices. Ms. Lownsberry confirmed and informed the board that the bills need to be paid.

Amber Haugland from the Rodeo Association reported increased participation in the adult rodeo with eight teams, while youth rodeo attendance was slightly down, possibly due to competing county fairs. Amber Haugland clarified that the Rodeo Association is a separate entity but expressed willingness to collaborate with the Fair Board to improve overall activities.

The Board of Commissioners mentioned plans for facility improvements, including new restrooms, upgraded food and beverage areas, improved seating, enhanced fencing, and the potential replacement of the grandstand. They also discussed making necessary improvements to existing structures to support these plans.

Ms. Pulvermacher requested better office storage solutions, and the Board agreed on relocating supplies and equipment to a secure public space in the courthouse for improved organization and accountability.

Financial challenges this year were acknowledged by Fair Board with a commitment to developing a more detailed and structured budget for future fairs to better manage expenses and resources.

Lastly, Ms. Pulvermacher announced her resignation but will continue to serve until the annual meeting in October and assist in finding a replacement.

Sam Pulvermacher & Stephanie Reistad DC School Board Members and Dr Anthony Vandal School Superintendent, met with the board to discuss community goals and Year in Review. School Board Members provide an update on their ongoing efforts to improve student outcomes and engagement. They shared information about updated policies, student assessment results showing progress, and new programs like mentoring and character development. The school board also discussed plans to increase community involvement. The Commissioners acknowledged these updates and expressed appreciation for the progress being made.

Shari Bublitz 911/ DES/EME-reported that grant funding was received to support AED placements across the county. Key locations are being identified, with a focus on accessibility, maintenance, and user training.

Ms. Bublitz mentioned that temporary accommodation was provided following a recent apartment fire, with some reimbursements secured.

She also noted that the Red Cross recommended having a small contingency fund. The board concurred that the existing procedures for handling these situations are adequate.

Jason Mayfield Wold Engineering met with the board to discuss the next flex funding application amounts. Mr. Mayfield updated the board on the Flex Fund application, proposing to add three miles along County Road 2 for micro mill and micro surface to complete pavement in Divide County. He clarified that once funds are awarded, projects have a 2-to-3-year construction period.

The board agreed to adjust local funding percentages strategically to improve the application's competitiveness, with some projects receiving higher local matches and others lower. Mr. Mayfield noted preliminary engineering costs may be fully state funded in some cases. The application will be submitted early when the funding window opens in July.

Mr. Haugenoe mentioned to the Commissioners that new full-time employee has been hired to assist with operations. He has relevant experience and is supporting various county duties.

Commissioner Eriksmoen informed Bryan of a sand washout near Skjermo Lake caused by heavy rain. Bryan noted he plans to blade the sand back into place.

Because the meeting was moved to an earlier date, Commissioner Eriksmoen suggested submitting timesheets early to ensure timely payroll processing. Bryan agreed, confirming employees would sign off promptly on the meeting morning and emphasized careful review to avoid discrepancies. This plan for early submission and prompt sign-off was accepted to maintain efficient payroll processing during the holiday period.

Correspondence was reviewed and placed on file.

Board authorized the chairman to enter into the agreement with Topaz for oil gas lease on Section 2-162-103 and Section 15-162-103 and to sign the addendum with Koda Resource Operating LLC.

Motion was made by Commissioner Johnson seconded by Commissioner Eriksmoen to approve the HSIP fund in for fiscal year 2029 for lighting and rumble strips.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rodney Johnson Seconded by Commissioner Eriksmoen to adopt the following Public Comment Policy: DIVIDE COUNTY. All present voted in favor.

RESOLUTION OF POLICY REGARDING PUBLIC COMMENT REQUIREMENTS AT REQUIRED MEETING

WHEREAS, Divide County (the "County") is a North Dakota County and political subdivision under Chapters 11-01 of the North Dakota Century Code.

WHEREAS, as a North Dakota political subdivision, the County is subject to North Dakota's open meetings requirements under Chapter 44-04 of the North Dakota Century Code.

WHEREAS, during the 2025 Legislative Session, the North Dakota Legislature approved SB 2180, a bill that includes a new public meeting requirement in Chapter 44-04 for cities, counties, townships, school districts, park district, and water resource districts (the "Public Entities").

WHEREAS, under SB 2180, at every regularly scheduled meeting, the Public Entities must include an opportunity for members of the public to provide comments.

WHEREAS, SB 2180 directs the Public Entities to implement policies that include rules for public comments, including time limits for public speakers, total meeting time limitations for public comment, rules regarding permissible topics, and rules of decorum.

WHEREAS, the County must comply with SB 2180 and approves this Resolution of Policy in compliance with the public comment policy requirements under SB 2180.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Resolution of Policy represents the County's official policy regarding public comments at regular board meetings as mandated under SB 2180.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County's policy under this Resolution of Policy ensures the public's right to speak at a regular meeting and ensures the public comment process is orderly, efficient, and respectful.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County approves the following policy regarding public comments at the County's meetings, under SB 2180:

1. The County will include a public comment agenda item as the first non-procedural agenda item at all regular meetings of the County.

1. "Regular" meetings include the County's regularly scheduled monthly meetings, as approved by the County and filed with the Divide County Auditor, all as required under N.D. Cent. Code § 44-04-20(3).

2. Each person interested in providing public comments at a meeting must submit a speaker card, in person or via email, to the County's Auditor prior to the meeting being called to order that includes:

1. the person's name;
2. the person's address; and
3. an agenda item from the current meeting agenda or the previous meeting agenda that the person seeks to address.

3. If a speaker card does not include all three items above, the person is disqualified and the person may not speak at the meeting.
4. The County will afford each person three minutes to provide comments. The County will notify each speaker when the three minutes have expired and the speaker will promptly conclude.

5. To ensure orderly and efficient meetings, the County will limit the public comment agenda item to a total of thirty minutes, regardless of how many people have submitted speaker cards.

6. The County will call on each

person who has properly submitted a completed speaker card to present public comments, in the order of submission.

7. All comments must:
1 address the agenda item identified on the speaker card, from the current meeting agenda or the previous meeting agenda; and

2. be pertinent to the County.
8. Comments may not:
1. be defamatory, abusive, harassing, or unlawful;

2. include information that is exempt or confidential under North Dakota open records or open meetings law; or

3. interfere with the orderly conduct of the County's meeting.

9. Speakers may not yield their allotted time to another person.

10. Anyone unable or unwilling to speak in-person may submit written comments to the County's Auditor prior to the meeting; the written comments must include the person's name and address and must be pertinent to an agenda item from the current meeting agenda or the previous meeting agenda. If a person submits written comments to the County's Auditor at least twenty-four hours prior to the County's meeting, the Auditor will circulate and distribute the comments to the County's Board of Managers prior to the meeting and the County will address and discuss the comments at the meeting. If a person submits written comments to the County's Auditor less than twenty-four hours prior to a meeting, the County will not address or discuss the comments at that meeting and the Auditor will circulate and distribute the comments to the County's Board of Managers after the meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution of Policy supersedes any of the County's previous policies or practices regarding public comments at the County's meetings.

Date Approved: June 26, 2025
DIVIDE COUNTY
/s/ Isaac Jacobs, Chairman,
Board Divide County
Commissioner

ATTEST:
/s/Gayle Jastrzebski
County Auditor/Treasurer
All present voted in favor.

Chairman and Auditor signed the Flex Fund Reimbursement in the amount of \$63,611.42.

Motion was made by Commissioner Eriksmoen seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the Primary Residence Abatement for the following individuals that qualify: Ekness Family Trust Joyce Ekness, Keith Torgeson, Elaine Heide Living Trust, Lynn Aaberg Living Trust, Lee Rindel, Randy Rowse, WTF Trust-Jordan Wells, and Matthew Velasquez. All present voted in favor

The following bills on motion made and approved were placed in line for payment:

Rose Deep Cleaning..... \$7,105.00
WTF Trust Jordan Wells..... \$500.00
Wrap Technologies, Inc..... \$389.00
Williston Tire Center..... \$2,048.58
Williams County Sheriff . \$3,825.00
Waynes
Welding And Repair..... \$2,219.29

Vestis \$643.92
Verizon \$40.01
Velasquez, Matthew \$500.00
Tyler Swanson..... \$770.30
Transunion
Risk An Alternative..... \$110.00
Torgeson, Keith..... \$500.00
Source One Supply \$306.69
Sorums \$4,018.68
Sheridan Electric Coop Inc....\$616.86
Shari Bublitz \$126.00
RTC Networks \$238.00
Rowse, Randy Trust \$500.00
Rindel, Lee..... \$500.00
Red Rock Ford \$107.82
Radisson Blue Fargo \$318.00
Quill \$334.97
PRO It LLC Minot \$30.00
PRIA \$60.00
Northwest
Communications Coop.... \$1,606.61
Newman Traffic Signs..... \$2,275.53
New Century Ag \$39,133.23
ND State
Tax Commissioner \$500.00
ND Assn Counties \$252.00
Montana Dakota Utilities..... \$5,672.32
Michael Dehn..... \$45.00
Marco Technologies LLC ., \$228.86
Marco Technologies \$180.71
Lindsey Grocery..... \$56.05
Kimball Midwest \$263.74
Julie Unhjem \$70.00
Journal Publishing Inc..... \$594.08
Joseph Minwegen..... \$90.00
John Deere Financial C . \$12,128.47
Jerrys Transfer Service..... \$424.00
Jamie Vandal \$327.75
Jacobs Hardware Hank ... \$1,199.53
Interstate Power
Systems Inc \$1,824.48
Information
Technology Dept..... \$1,522.90
Hose And Rubber Supply..... \$63.51
Heide, Elaine Living Trust..... \$500.00
Guardian Inn \$237.62
Gayle Jastrzebski \$120.00
First State
Bank And Trust \$1,582.08
Farmers Union
Oil Company..... \$1,998.44
F And F
Sprinkler Systems \$330.00
Ekness Family
Trust Joyce Ekness..... \$500.00
Dks
Plumbing And Heating.... \$2,483.15
Divide County Treasurer..... \$51.63
Divide County
Fair Assn \$15,000.00
Dacotah Paper Co. \$631.71
Circle Sanitation Inc \$284.00
Cenex Fleet Fueling \$415.53
Burke Divide Electric \$52.93
Bummer Depot..... \$156.50
Ben Erickson..... \$45.00
Att Mobile..... \$646.52
Angela Dhuyvetter..... \$606.40
Amazon Seattle \$143.71
Aaberg, Lynn Living Trust \$500.00
Orr Auctioneers Inc..... \$7,803.70
Purple Wave Inc \$28,050.00
Total \$156,405.81
There being no further business meeting adjourned at noon to reconvene July 1, 2025.
Maria Kroshus
Deputy County Auditor/Treasurer
Isaac Jacobs, Chairman,
Board Divide County
Commissioner

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

James W. Martens #06495
jwmartens@martenspllc.com
MARTENS PLLC
P.O. Box 744
West Fargo, ND 58078
701.223.2000
Attorney for Estate
Probate No. 12-2025-PR-00017
IN THE DISTRICT COURT,
OF DIVIDE COUNTY,
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
In the Matter of the Estate of
Michael Lynn Hayes
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative of the above-named estate. All persons

having claims against the decedent are required to present their claims within three months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be presented to Tina Melancon Hayes, personal representative of the estate of Michael Lynn Hayes, c/o Martens PLLC, P.O. Box 744, West Fargo, ND 58078, or filed with the Court.

Dated this 11th, day of June, 2025.
/s/ Tina Melancon Hayes
Tina Melancon Hayes
Personal Representative of the Estate of Michael Lynn Hayes
/s/ James W. Martens
James W. Martens NDID#06495

NOTICE OF HEARING

Seymour R. Jordan #07785
JORDAN LAW OFFICE, PLLC
206 5th Street NE – P.O. Box 506
Probate No. 12-2025-PR-00077
Crosby, ND 58730
(701) 965-6451
Seymour@jordanlawnd.com
Attorney for Petitioner
Probate No. 12-2025-PR-00077
IN THE DISTRICT COURT,
NORTHWEST JUDICIAL
DISTRICT COUNTY
OF DIVIDE,
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
In the Matter of the Estate of
Thomas A. Dougherty
Deceased.

NOTICE OF HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Mary G. Dougherty has filed herein a Petition for Formal Appoint-

ment of Personal Representative in Intestacy of the Estate of Thomas A. Dougherty, deceased.

A hearing has been set upon said petition on the 1st day of August, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at the Courtroom of the above-named Court in the City of Crosby, County of Divide, State of North Dakota.

Dated this 24th, day of June, 2025.
JORDAN LAW OFFICE, PLLC
/s/Seymour R. Jordan
Seymour R. Jordan
N.D. Bar I.D. #07785
Attorney at law
206 5th Street NE
P.O. Box 506
Crosby, ND 58730
Phone: 701.404.7510
seymour@jordanlawnd.com
ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

LEE E. ARMSTRONG #04976
ARMSTRONG LAW OFFICE, P.C.
212 S. Central Ave.
PO Box 1327
Sidney, Montana 59270
Telephone: (406) 433-7700
Fax: (406) 433-7720
armlaw@midrivers.com
Attorney for Personal Representative
Probate No. 12-2025-PR-00066
IN THE DISTRICT COURT,
NORTHWEST JUDICIAL
DISTRICT COUNTY
OF DIVIDE,
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
In the Matter of the Estate of
Mary Ann Kinnison
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of

the above estate. All persons having claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within three months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be presented to Denise Matejovsky, c/o Armstrong Law Office, P.C., P.O. Box 1327, Sidney, MT 59270, Personal Representative of the estate, or filed with the Court.

Dated this 6th, day of May, 2025.
/s/ Denise Matejovsky
Denise Matejovsky
Personal Representative
LEE E. ARMSTRONG
ARMSTRONG LAW OFFICE, P.C.
212 S. Central Ave.
PO Box 1327
Sidney, Montana 59270
Attorney for Personal Representative

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Ray City Commission has scheduled a Public Hearing on July 14, 2025, at 7:00 P.M. in the Meeting Room at City Hall in Ray. This meeting will provide an opportunity for the public to provide comments on a variance application. The Applicant requests a variance from the R-1 zoning district regulations minimum lot area of 10,000 sq ft and minimum lot width of 75 feet to allow for the aggregation of three existing lots into two lots and subsequent construction of an accessory building to a 672 sq ft existing home.

An application was submitted by the applicant on June 27th, 2025. The parcels to be aggregated are: Lots 4, 5, and 6, Block 8 of Scotts Addition, addresses 316-324 Church St, Ray, North Dakota.

A copy of the variance application can be reviewed at the Office of the City Auditor Monday through Friday during regular business hours: 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM, and 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. The City Commission will consider all comments, written or spoken, at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted to the City Auditor's Office prior to the meeting date.

Should you plan to attend the hearing and need special facilities or assistance relating to a disability, contact the City Auditor at (701) 568-2204. The City Auditor will provide digital connection information for individuals interested in attending the meeting via Zoom upon request.

Ronda Rustad
Ray City Auditor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Building for Lease The City of Ray is offering a unique opportunity:

In order to meet an increasing demand for high-quality childcare and early childhood education services for residents of the City of Ray, ND, the Ray City Commission is requesting proposals from qualified persons and businesses interested in operating a daycare facility and/or preschool facility at a 2,500 ft2 property available for lease from the City. Interested persons and businesses should submit a detailed written proposal to the Ray City Auditor. Proposals should address the following:

- an outline of proposed operations including
 - ages accepted and projected capacity,
 - curriculum and any proposed extracurricular activities,
 - ability to offer specialized care,
 - necessary equipment,

- o projected hours of operation,
- o projected staffing plan (including desired staff to child ratios, accreditation, licensing)
- ability to undertake renovations to facility;
- projected utility and facility service needs;
- names and addresses of owner(s) and management team members;
- description of relevant experience in operating daycare and/or preschool facilities, including references;
- projected fee structure;
- projected financial support or funding sources and expected break-even point (in months);
- projected rent and utility budget;
- projected timeframe for starting operations; and
- other relevant information you wish to include.

Questions may be directed to the Ray City Auditor (701) 568-2204 or email: raynd@nccray.net

NOTICE OF HEARING

Olivia L. Krebs #08743
Kubik, Bogner, Ridl & Selinger
P.O. Box 1173
Dickinson, ND 58602-1173
Attorneys for the Petitioner
Probate No. 12-2025-PR-00078
IN THE DISTRICT COURT,
OF DIVIDE COUNTY,
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
In the Matter of the Estate of
Allan R. Davis
Deceased.

**NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR FORMAL
PROBATE OF WILL AND
APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Flora S. Davis has filed herein a petition for formal probate of will and appointment of personal representative.

Hearing has been set upon said petition on the 22nd day of August, 2025, at 11:00 o'clock a.m., at the Courtroom of the above-named Court in the City of Crosby, County of Divide, State of North Dakota.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that any person appearing for the purpose of objecting to any matter or item contained within the above-mentioned petition for formal probate of will shall file herein and serve upon the undersigned counsel for the Petitioner their written objections to the same not later than seven (7) days prior to the above scheduled hearing
Dated this 25th, day of June, 2025.

/s/ Olivia L. Krebs
Olivia L. Krebs #08743
Kubik, Bogner, Ridl & Selinger
P.O. Box 1173
Dickinson, ND 58602-1173



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