

OLIVER COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

January 8th, 2025
OLIVER COUNTY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS were called to order at 1:00 PM with all members present. Jaden Schmidt, Auditor, took over as temporary chair. Nominations were opened for Chair. Lee Husfloen nominated Dave Berger for Chair. Dave Berger declined the nomination. Dave Berger nominated Lee Husfloen for Chair. Rob Schmidt seconded the nomination. No further nominations were given. A vote was held; all in favor, none opposed; Lee Husfloen is the Chair. Lee Husfloen opened nominations for Vice Chair. Dave Berger nominated Rob Schmidt for Vice Chair. Rob Schmidt seconded the nomination. No further nominations were given. A vote was held; all in favor, none opposed; Rob Schmidt is Vice Chair. Dave Berger moved and Rob Schmidt seconded the motion to approve the agenda. All in favor, none opposed; motion carried. Rob Schmidt moved and Dave Berger seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the December 30th and 31st meetings. All in favor, none opposed; motion carried. Rob Schmidt moved and Dave Berger seconded the motion to approve the following bills for payment and approve the following bills previously paid. A roll call vote was held, with Dave Berger, aye, Rob Schmidt, aye, Lee Husfloen, aye. Motion carried.

Center Machine-382.69
Don Haag-85654.87
IAAO-240.00
LCRDC-2460.25
NACO-450.00
NASASP-39.00
ND County Auditors Assn-400.00
NDAAEA-75.00
NDACO-619.00
NDACO-5497.00
NDAE4-HYW-100.00
NDWCA-470.00
Stein's-56.54
Mountain Plains Youth Services-1750.00
Electrowatchman-8310.36
Dakota Fluid Power-141.26
Bobcat-1000.00
Mercer Oliver EM-4193.16
ITD-911.25
Allstate Peterbilt-524.62
Robert Schmidt-69.68
Adjutant General-120.00
NDACO-200.00
David Hilliard-135.00
VisionWest ND-200.00
Secure Software Solutions-4100.00

The following bills previously paid were approved:
Security First Bank-19839.50
Alice Grinsteinner, EM/HR, requested permission for request for proposals for an engineering firm for the Hazard Mitigation Plan. There is a grant that would cover 75% of the cost as well. The commission was in favor of Alice Grinsteinner putting out at RFP. Alice Grinsteinner, EM/HR, discussed an update to the Homeland Security Grant and the projects she is working on with it. Alice Grinsteinner, EM/HR, discussed upcoming FEMA Flood Plain hearings, which will be 1:30 on February 11th and 1:30 on March 13th. Commission portfolios were discussed. Dave Berger moved and Rob Schmidt seconded the motion to approve the portfolio assignments as follows:

Portfolios
Dave: Auditor, P&Z, Tax/EQ, Risk Manager, County Rd
Lee: Supt of Schools, Treasurer, Extension, Weed Control, Janitor
Rob: Clerk of Court/Recorder, Human Resources, Emergency Services, Veterans Services, States Attorney, Social Services, Sheriff, City Golf Board
All in favor, none opposed; motion carried.
Rob Schmidt moved and Dave Berger seconded the motion to approve Security First Bank of ND as the County Depository. All in favor, none opposed; motion carried.
The Pledge Analysis was handed out to the Commissioners.
Rob Schmidt moved and Dave Berger seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2025-1; BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Oliver County Commission requests that the North Dakota Highway Patrol monitors Oliver County roads. All in favor, none opposed; motion carried.
Discussion was held on board appointments for Planning & Zoning, Weed Board and Park Board. At the time of the meeting there were 3 applications for Planning & Zoning, 1 application for Weed Board and 0 applications for Park Board.
Discussion was held on the request for Board member pay. Lee Husfloen discussed that the rates should remain the same until budget discussions for 2026 begin.
Jaden Schmidt discussed estimates from SRF Consulting for updates to the Planning & Zoning Ordinance and the Comprehensive Plan. The Commission requested Schmidt check if there are other firms that do this type of work and report back.
Discussion was held on Keith Vitek taking over the snow and ice removal for the county courthouse. Dave Berger moved and Rob Schmidt seconded the motion to hire Keith to do the outside work for the courthouse in the summer and winter at an hourly rate of 27.50. Dave Berger rescinded the motion and stated he would discuss with Keith Vitek about the hourly rate.
Discussion was held on having the Courthouse closed on January 9th, due to President Carter's funeral. No action was taken and the Courthouse will remain opened on January 9th.
Kyle Miller, Road Superintendent, discussed road issues. Gravel concerns were addressed.
Kyle Miller, Road Superintendent, has stepped down as road superintendent, but would like to remain as a blade operator, effective January 9th.
Discussion was held on advertising for the position on the website, Job Service and Facebook. Alice Grinsteinner will take care of that.
Lee Husfloen thanked Kyle for his time as road superintendent.
Discussion was held on the State Road Department building and land. When the state offers their lot for sale, the county could consider purchasing.
Discussion was held on County Vehicle Decals and Magnets. Dave Berger moved and Rob Schmidt seconded the motion to approve the purchase of decals and magnets through signs.com. All in favor, none opposed; motion carried.
The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm. The next meeting of the Oliver County Commission will be at 1:00 PM, February 10th, 2025 at the Oliver County Courthouse meeting room. (02-13-2025)

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SUBMITTED PHOTOS | TOM WOLF

Traveling chess educator Tom Wolf has been inspiring youths to learn the game of chess since 2021. A former secondary education teacher, Wolf has established a full-time job of traveling throughout North Dakota to hold chess enrichment courses. “I ask myself, sometimes, why I do this, why do I drive all around North Dakota and do this, especially in the winter,” Wolf said. “But then I get there and suddenly I get an adrenaline rush with how excited the kids are.”

school finally booked him for a session and Sinclair was pleasantly surprised with not only how well his students responded to Wolf’s teachings, but picking up tidbits of information on chess himself.

“I knew how to play chess before, but when I watched his sessions, I found myself learning a few things I didn’t know,” Sinclair laughed. “He presents it in a way where kids can pick it up.”

Sinclair said his own children learned to play chess and enjoy playing each other after school. Though there may only be a handful of students that pick up the game after participating in Wolf’s sessions, Sinclair said it was well worth having him come in and giving kids an new opportunity for enjoyment.

“We have recesses where kids will play, which is something for them to do, especially when it’s 20-below outside,” Sinclair said.

In an age where young children and young adults spend endless hours on their hand-held electronic devices, there are a few students at Beulah Public Schools who have taken up the interest of the classic board game, which is a refreshing delight for parents and teachers alike, said Beulah Middle School Principal Stacy Munson.

“It’s really cool that we have kids interested in chess,” said Munson, who has welcomed Wolf to her fifth- and sixth-grade classrooms to teach the students chess the last few years. “It’s so nice to see some kids still have interests in something that is more than just video games or their cellphones. Sadly, with the majority of kids these days, these electronic devices dominate their lives. So it’s refreshing to see these kids more interested in board games.”

Chess is a popular game that has been shown to improve memory function, which, in general, psychologists point to chess being a highly effective way to advance one’s intelligence.

“It helps with their strategical thinking and it’s a promising improvement of their intelligence for the future for those kids interested in playing chess,” Munson said.

She said the number of students interested in Wolf’s chess enrichment program fluctuates from year to year at Beulah Public Schools, however, without Wolf’s influence, Beulah students may never get an opportunity to learn the classic board game.

Since Wolf has arrived, interest has grown and though the school district cannot afford to create a chess club due to a lack of available faculty, the school does provide supervised sessions in the high school library on Wednesdays after classes.

Though he usually only visits a particular town or

school once a year – which he plans to visit Center-Stanton Public Schools in March for the reading month, for example – Wolf said he is working on finding a way to share his traveling schedule for all students interested in wanting to join him in other chess programs that may be nearby them.

In the meantime, Wolf has encouraged his young chess enthusiasts to hone their skills and enjoy the game of chess online, at Chess.com.

“You don’t even have to create an account or log on,” he said. “And you can play against a ‘bot.’ One of the nice things about playing online is the computer won’t let you make an illegal move so you can learn from it.”

To learn more about Wolf’s chess enrichment programs, call him at 701-426-3768, or email him at wolfpack@bis.midco.net.

Todd Wolf’s tentative schedule for February:

- Feb. 1: 9:30 a.m. to noon and 12:30 to 3:00 p.m., at Full STEAM Ahead 2 Chess clinics in Minot
- Feb. 2: 2 to 4 p.m., Capital City Chess Club in Bismarck
- Feb. 3-6: 8 to 8:30 a.m. and 3 to 4:15 p.m., Chess Club at Centennial Elementary in Bismarck
- Feb. 7: 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., chess enrichment in Hazelton
- Feb. 8: 2 to 4 p.m., Capital City Chess Club in Bismarck
- Feb. 10-13: 3:10 to 4:25 p.m., chess club at Silver Ranch Elementary in Bismarck
- Feb. 10: Bismarck High Feeder School tournament at Wachter Middle School
- Feb. 13: 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., kids chess club at Bismarck Public Library in Bismarck
- Feb. 14: 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., chess enrichment in Hazelton
- Feb. 16: 2 to 4 p.m., Capital City Chess Club in Bismarck
- Feb. 19: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., chess enrichment in Glen Ullin
- Feb. 20: 6:30 to 8 p.m., kids chess club at Bismarck Public Library in Bismarck
- Feb. 21: 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., chess enrichment at Lincoln Elementary in Jamestown
- Feb. 23: 2 to 4 p.m., Capital City Chess Club in Bismarck
- Feb. 24-27: 7:30 to 8:30 a.m., Liberty Elementary Chess Club in Bismarck
- Feb. 24-27: 3:15 to 4:15 p.m., Elk Ridge Elementary Chess Club in Bismarck
- Feb. 27: 6:30 to 8 p.m., kids chess club at Bismarck Public Library in Bismarck

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