

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BENSON COUNTY
NORTH DAKOTA
August 4, 2026**

The Benson County commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2026 at 8 a.m. in the commissioner room of the Benson County Courthouse, Minnewaukan, ND. Commissioners present: Dick Horner, David Davidson and Tammy Kuk. Ron Stadum and Doris Griffin were absent. The meeting was called to order by Chair Davidson. Other people present: Kelly Glover, Benson County Farmers Press; James P. Wang, Benson County state's attorney; Laura Wanzek, Benson County sheriff; Scott Todahl, DEM and highway superintendent; and Ted Robinette.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A motion was made by Horner, seconded by Kuk, to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of July 21, 2026. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

Scott Todahl, DEM and highway superintendent, met with the board to give a report for the highway department. He stated one of the bills needs to be corrected regarding the purchase of fuel. Todahl stated the ND Game and Fish may be interested in the Wood Lake property owned by Benson County.

Commissioner Doris Griffin joined the meeting via telephone.

Todahl stated it may be beneficial for the county to retain the house at Wood Lake for future use. Davidson stated his concern with the shooting that recently occurred at the Wood Lake beach area.

A motion was made by Kuk, seconded by Horner, to have the chair to sign the contract for construction for chip-seal project PC-0300(026). All members voted yes. The motion carried.

The board reviewed the plat map of BC No. 1 Subdivision to see if a survey needs to be done to split the county house property from the Wood Lake shop building property. The board discussed placing a camera on the premises to assist the sheriff's department in watching the area. State's Attorney Wang gave input on this issue and stated an abstract should be located to see if there were

any restrictions on the property. A motion was made by Griffin, seconded by Horner, to allow a survey of the property to take place if needed. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

The board reviewed and discussed the monthly county bills. A motion was made by Horner, seconded by Kuk, to pay all county-approved bills. All members voted yes. The motion carried unanimously. The following bills were paid:

Plummer Construction	\$16,500.00
Verizon	\$397.76
Otter Tail Power Co.	744.36
CenDak Cooperative	25,282.25
Otter Tail Power Co.	41.42
Robert Mlynar	453.82
Allan Wolfe	304.00
Anna Kramer	720.00
Brandon Yri	720.00
Cody Fritel	720.00
Ed Volk	670.00
Emily Carlson	720.00
Francis Schneider	720.00
Jorgenson Trust	720.00
Ken Higbee	584.80
Kevin Fritel	720.00
Klay Oland	720.00
Kory Jorgenson	720.00
Kyle Shively	680.00
Lonnie Griffin	100.00
McClintock Estate	720.00
Nick Duchscher	720.00
Philip Volk	720.00
Phillip Schaan	720.00
Roger Kenner	720.00
Ron Kramer	720.00
Scott Shively	680.00
Tim Finley	445.20
Travis Anderson	720.00
Travis Fritel	720.00
CenDak Cooperative	
--Maddock	7,016.03
Farmers Union Oil Co.	2,225.11
Farmers Union Oil	
--York	141.02
H. E. Everson	53.75
ND Dept. of	
Transportation	996.45
Nodak Electric Co-op	90.28
ND One Call	4.50
Northern Plains Elec.	67.00
Otter Tail Power Co.	148.37
Runnings Supply, Inc.	85.45
BC Highway Dept.	260.00
CenDak Cooperative--	
Maddock	719.56
Dukes Car Wash	
& Detail Center, Inc.	249.95
Farmers Union Oil	
--York	1,178.32
Gerrells and The	

Golden Rule	580.85
Interstate Billing	
Service	16.07
JB Vending, LLC	92.05
Maddock Comm. Ctr.	350.00

NDACS	50.00
ND Telephone Co.	806.34
Northern Plains Elec.	58.22
Office of The Adjutant	
General	240.00
Elijah Goetz	160.20
Aflac	1,187.94
Blue Cross Blue Shield	
of ND	3,323.50
Colonial Insurance	241.63
First Unum Life	
Insurance Co.	328.34
National Life Group	
One	450.00
ND Child Support	
Division	358.00
US Treasury	449.40
Robert Mlynar	2,148.99
CenDak Cooperative	36,056.13
John Deere Financial	552.05
Otter Tail Power Co.	167.46
Cole Papers	22.56
Jones Brothers	239.00
Marshall & Swift	721.90
Prairie Public	264.50
Redwood Toxicology	
Laboratory	33.62
BC Farmers Press	280.00
Warne Chemical	
& Equipment Co.	227.65
Rachel Maddock	476.11
James Wang	854.67
Jayla Smith	150.00
Olaf Nord	351.79
NAPA Auto Parts	79.58
ND Assn. of Counties	63.00
Pederson's Septic	
Service	220.00
Scott Todahl	253.75
Balco Uniform Co., Inc.	446.00
Information Technology	
Dept.	1,981.35
ND Safety Council	415.00
Pitney Bowes Global	
Financial Services	461.28
BC Farmers Press	3,319.16
LR Law Enforcement	
Center	13,761.40
LR Residential	
Re-entry Center	150.00
Dakota Mailing &	
Shipping Equip., Inc.	82.18
Bonnie Erickson	305.00
Laura Winson	125.00
Tasc	2,900.65
Nationwide Retirement	
Solution	732.00
ND Public Employees	

Retirement	25,357.47
Rachel Maddock	445.29
Minnewaukan City	117.66
City of Maddock	146.74
City of Leeds	28.00
Spirit Lake Tribe	
Refuse Control	20.00
Trevipay-Walmart	105.50
Advanced Business	
Methods	306.69
Minnewaukan City	459.10
Matthew Bender & Co.,	
Inc.	97.11
NDACo Resource	
Group	6,478.69
Thomson Reuters	
--West	462.18
Maddock Business	
& Technology Ctr.	150.00
Floodwater Properties ..	500.00
NDACo Resource	
Group	117.98
Proforms	690.56
Rieger Service	141.00
Spirit Lake Tribe	2,500.00
LR Law Enforcement	
Center	5,597.32
City of Maddock	1,056.42
Samantha Sears	683.03
Jonathan Rice	891.00
Dist. to Entities	\$100,242.49

July 2026 NET PAYROLL
Co. Road\$57,654.77
General/DEM/Co. Agt. .. 82,133.05

Sheriff Wanzek met with the board to give her sheriff's report. She presented her calls for service report for July 2026. She stated there were 297 calls received that were documented. Wanzek stated the deputy attending LETA is scheduled to graduate on Aug. 21, 2026. She informed the board she has two applicants that will be interviewed in the near future. Davidson mentioned to Wanzek that cameras are needed at Wood Lake. She stated she has been working with BIA on this issue. Wanzek stated she does have her deputies drive that area when they are able. State's Attorney Wang stated if

the people partying at the location are Native American, the tribal police/BIA will need to be involved. The board concluded that perhaps the tribal police/BIA could have access to the cameras that will be installed.

Robinette was present for the

public comment period. Robinette stated he believes allowing data processing centers would be opening a can of worms and was concerned about the increase in taxes for property owners.

Aaron Birst, NDACo executive director, joined the meeting via Teams.

State's Attorney Wang gave input on the concerns of Robinette and stated his concerns are the reason the moratorium is being put into place. Robinette stated the setback should be at least one mile in the ordinance. Robinette also stated any costs of cleanup will be greatly increased 10 years from now so the bond needs to be adjusted accordingly. He also stated his concern with the data processing centers using water from the aquifers which may lead to a low water supply in the future.

Birst discussed the model data center zoning ordinance with the board. He stated the NDACo annual conference will be held on Oct. 11-13, 2026 and the issue of data processing centers will be on the agenda for discussion. He informed the board of the difference between hyperscale data centers vs. a regular data center. Birst stated any moratorium should only be for a set period of time. Discussion was held if the legislators would be controlling the setback distances. Birst stated Mountrail County has a 25-page document which regulates data processing centers, but staffing is needed to make sure the regulations are followed. Birst stated Dickey County is bringing in approximately

\$1.5 million in additional property tax revenue per month. Birst stated there are approximately 10 data processing centers in ND at this time with three of them qualifying as hyperscale centers. Davidson questioned what type of bonding could be used for cleanup costs if a data processing center should close or go bankrupt.

The board reviewed a draft resolution for a moratorium for data processing centers prepared by Wang. A motion was made by Kuk, seconded by Horner, to approve the resolution and have the chair sign. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

Jessica Tagestad and Morris Holden Jr., Wold Engineering, met with the board to update on the recent projects happening in Benson County. Tagestad asked the board about the bridge structure removal south of Flora. A motion was made by Kuk to move forward with advertising for someone to adopt the bridge structure as it is on the historical register. The motion was seconded by Horner. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

The board reviewed the proposed distribution to the senior citizen centers in Benson County. A motion was made by Griffin, seconded by Kuk, to approve the distribution. All members voted yes. The motion carried.

The board reviewed the July 2026 report from Benson County Transportation.

A motion to adjourn was made at 9:15 a.m.

Bonnie Erickson
Benson County Auditor
David Davidson
Chair