OLIVER COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

July 7, 2026

OLIVER COUNTY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS were called to order at 1:00 PM with all members present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Lee Husfloen moved and Bradley Dahl seconded the motion to approve the agenda. All in favor, none opposed; motion carried.

Lee Husfloen moved and Bradley Dahl seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2026 and June 22, 2026 meetings. All in favor, none opposed; motion carried.

Bradley Dahl moved and Lee Husfleon seconded the motion to approve the following bills for payment and approve the following bills previously paid. A roll call vote was held, with Bradley Dahl, aye, Lee Husfloen, aye, Rob Schmidt, aye; motion carried.

Allstate Peterbilt-243.44
Big State Industrial Supply-116.94
CapFirst Equipment Finance-15752.74
CapFirst Equipment Finance-20840.56
Capital Trophy-35.25
Center Machine Inc.-2574.66
DMS Wear Parts-3230.80
Election Systems & Software-1027.30
ETS Systems-513.50
Interstate Bearing Systems-102.23
Kenneth Rude-1846.91
Menards-355.45
Mercer County Sheriff's Dept-75.00
Mid-American Research Chemical-340.19
NDAAO-50.00
NDACO-63.00
NDACO Resources Group-925.00
NDACS-50.00
North Central International-222.98
NW Tire-794.54
Quadient Finance-200.00
Statewide Services-6698.00
Stein's Inc-185.40
Keith Vitek-650.00
OK Tire-814.68
Gibbs & Sons-1055.43
Center Republican-3752.39
Mercer-Oliver Emergency Mgmt-2177.69
Richard Schmidt-471.25
Jean Kautzman-1395.23
Mercer County HR-4571.65
Rud Oil-2969.69
IState Truck Center-36.85
ITD-1217.30
S&M Lawn Services-409.00
Butler-42185.07

The following bills previously paid were approved:

Aflac-128.52
AT&T Mobility-491.64
Center-Stanton School-2591.86
Center Park District-96.35
City of Center-1785.29
Colonial Life-1100.43
Companion Life Ins-384.66
Lauren Eggers-36.00
Janet Fagerland-262.50
Cale Ferderer-300.00
Fidelity Security Life-58.06
Rita Giesen-262.50
Sheila Hildebrand-406.05
Liberty Business Systems-1223.41
MDU-1235.45
Mercer County Ambulance-45.92
Morton County Auditor-35.20
Morton County Council on Aging-54.60
Morton County Sheriff-45.00
Nationwide Retirement-1801.00
ND State Treasurer-1505.57
Oliver County Ambulance-186.43
Oliver County Clerk of Court-45.00
Oliver County Rural Fire-131.50
Oliver Soil Conservation District-68.75
Oliver County Treasurer-542.24
Oliver County Water Resource Dist-170.48
Red Top Recovery-375.00
Roughrider Electric-216.13
Rud Oil&Gas-30449.24
Jaden Schmidt-362.48
Joel Schulte-4500.00
Security First Bank of ND-46745.54
Alysia Staigle-401.75
Thomson Reuters-543.96
Verizon Wireless-42.06
VISA-4085.05
Washburn Rural Ambulance-34.92
WRT-692.64
Western Plains Public Health-94.04
Payroll-88969.96

Linda Nelson, Risk Manager, reviewed the Risk Manager budget.

Patrick Waters, States Attorney, reviewed the States Attorney and Public Defender budget.

Patrick Waters, States Attorney, requested approval to look for a contract for help with support staff work within his office for $20 an hour for up to 20 hours a week.

Jaden Schmidt, Auditor, reviewed the Auditor budget.

Laura Huber, Treasurer, reviewed the Treasurer's budget. Laura Huber requested approval to open another bank account for ACH deposits. Bradley Dahl moved and Lee Husfloen seconded the motion to approve Laura Huber to open another bank account for the purpose of ACH deposits to the County. All in favor, none opposed; motion carried.

Western Plains Public Health held their budget hearing with Erin Ourada present.

The ordinance amendment for Concentrated Animal Feed Operations was brought for second consideration. Bradley Dahl moved and Lee Husfloen seconded the motion to approve the ordinance amendment for Concentrated Animal Feed Operations. All in favor, none opposed; motion carried.

The Oliver County Comprehensive Plan 2050 was brought for second consideration. Bradley Dahl moved and Lee Husfloen seconded the motion to table the Comprehensive Plan until the next meeting. All in favor, none opposed; motion carried.

The ordinance amendment for Public Hearing/ Avoidance Zone language was brought for second consideration. Bradley Dahl moved and Lee Husfloen seconded the motion to table the ordinance amendment until the next meeting. All in favor, none opposed; motion carried.

Mickie McNulty-Eide, Recorder, reviewed the Recorder's budget.

The Internal Emergency Declaration was reviewed. Lee Husfloen moved and Bradley Dahl seconded the motion to lift the Internal Emergency Declaration. All in favor, none opposed; motion carried.

Dave Hilliard, Sheriff, reviewed the Sheriff's Department budget. Alice Grinsteinner, HR/ EM, requested the Commission review Deputy Sheriff Hufford's wages and consider increasing. Bradley Dahl moved and Lee Husfloen seconded the motion to increase Bryce Hufford's wages to $30 per hour effective the next pay period. A roll call vote was held; Lee Husfloen-aye, Bradley Dahl-aye, Rob Schmidt-aye. The motion carried.

Discussion was held on Open Records Requests. Bradley Dahl moved and Lee Husfloen seconded the motion to require all open record requests to be provided an estimate of cost and all costs must be paid up front prior to work being done on and sending the open records. All in favor, none opposed; motion carried.

Discussion was held on the Extension Agent position. A special meeting with an executive

session will be held on July 8 at 8 am.
Rebecca Bethke, Clerk of Court and Janitor, reviewed the Clerk of Court and Janitor budgets.
Alice Grinsteinner, Oliver/Mercer HR/EM, reviewed the Human Resources and Emergency Manager budgets.
Kenny Rude, Road Superintendent, reviewed the Special Road, Unorganized Road, Road & Bridge and Highway Tax budgets.
Discussion was held on Haul Road Agreement fees.
Shelly Wald, Readitech Engineering, discussed a potential fiber optic project for Oliver County. A Highway Utility Permit would need to be acquired to place the conduit within the county road right of way. Bradley Dahl moved and Lee Husfloen seconded the motion to approve Readitech Engineering the ability to obtain a permit for work within the right of way. All in favor, none opposed; motion carried.
Rick Schmidt, NDSU Extension, reviewed the Extension budget.
The Tax Equalization and Assessor budgets were reviewed. Lee Husfloen moved and Bradley Dahl seconded the motion approve abatements for Homestead Credit #2507900 and Farm Exemption #16005001. All in favor, none opposed; motion carried.
The Planning & Zoning budget was reviewed.
Jaden Schmidt, Auditor, reviewed all other non-departmental budgets.
Bradley Dahl moved and Lee Husfloen seconded the motion to approve the preliminary budget for 2027. All in favor, none opposed; motion carried.

DEPARTMENT	AMOUNT REQUESTED
General Fund	
Governing Board	$57,150.00
Public Defender	$8,000.00
Auditor	$114,590.00
Treasurer	$107,715.00
State's Attorney	$108,300.00
Assessor	$ 36,500.00
Recorder	$60,623.00
Superintendent of Schools	$1,870.00
Tax Equalization	$51,136.20
Clerk of Court	$ 53,325.00
Soils	$600.00
Janitor	$ 33,000.00
Elections	$1,200.00
Building & Grounds	$48,600.00
Utilities	$39,500.00
Printer, Copier, Fax	$28,000.00
Publishing	$7,000.00
Computers & ITD Services	$ 77,000.00
Postage	$9,400.00
Retirement	$100,000.00
Examination Fees (Audit)	$17,000.00
Organization Dues	$17,500.00
Office Furniture	$2,500.00
Human Resources	$ 30,000.00
General Miscellaneous	$63,220.00
Sheriff	$ 768,117.60
Probation Officer	$ 4,500.00
Coroner	$2,200.00
Risk Management	$ 5,250.00
DES	$32,000.00
Property Insurance	$17,000.00
Radio	$3,000.00
Health Insurance	$ 275,000.00
County Park	$ 2,500.00
Planning & Zoning	$28,600.00
Fair Board	$15,000.00
Economic Development	$ 2,500.00
Total General Fund	$ 2,229,396.80
Special Funds	
Unorganized Roads	$ 2,822,500.00
Highway Tax	$ 535,000.00
Special Roads	$ -
Road& Bridge	$ 350,000.00
Western Plains Public Health	$58,555.00
Historical Society	$ 7,700.00
Senior Citizens	$ 65,750.00
Ambulance	$ 180,000.00
E-911	$ 80,000.00
Capital Projects	$ 130,000.00
Veteran Services	$ 16,500.00
Extension	$ 130,094.00
Weed Control	$123,400.00
Soil Conservation	$ 51,500.00
Water Management	$ 10,000.00
TOTAL SPECIAL FUND	$4,560,999.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	$6,790,395.80

The Commission meeting was recessed at 3:31 pm.
The Commission meeting was called back to order at 3:37 pm.
Building Permit #1094 for Reda Clinton and Stephanie Clarys for a shop was presented in the SE ¼ of Section 14, Township 141, Range 83. Bradley Dahl moved and Lee Husfloen seconded the motion to approve Building Permit #1094. All in favor, none opposed; motion carried.
Building Permit #1095 for Eric Rosenquist for a garden shed was presented in Lot A of the NW ¼ of Section 8, Township 142, Range 82. Lee Husfloen moved and Bradley Dahl seconded the motion to approve Building permit #1095. All in favor, none opposed; motion carried.
Building Permit #1096 for Applied Digital for one data center building was presented in section 24, Township 142, Range 85. Rob Schmidt, Commissioner, presented a list of conditions to be added to the permit. Public comments were received by Jannelle Combs, Arlo Bakker, Lori Hammer, and Dave Nehring. Bradley Dahl moved and Lee Husfloen seconded the motion to approve Building Permit #1096. A roll call vote was held; Bradley Dahl-aye, Lee Husfloen-aye, Rob Schmidt-nay. Building Permit #1096 was approved. A Road Use and Operation Agreement will be presented for approval with conditions that were presented added to it.
Building Permit #1054 for Kortnie Smith was presented for an extension. Bradley Dahl moved and Lee Husfloen seconded the motion to approve the extension of Building Permit #1054. All in favor, none opposed; motion carried.
Bradley Dahl moved and Lee Huslfoen seconded the motion to approve the revised permit fees as presented. All in favor, none opposed; motion carried.
Project updates were provided by the various projects in the county.
Lane Dahl, BNI, discussed the overpass work.
Kyle Larson, Minnesota Power, discussed the HVDC project.
Jannelle Combs and Dave Nehring discussed the Applied Digital data center project.
Discussion was held on the NDACO Annual conference. All three commissioners will attend.
Bradley Dahl moved and Lee Husfloen seconded the motion to end the working childcare credit program when the state program ends. All in favor, none opposed; motion carried.
Lee Husfloen moved and Rob Schmidt seconded the motion to have Bradley Dahl be the head of the Home Rule Committee and organize the meetings. All in favor, none opposed; motion carried.
Discussion was held on the Oliver I & II wind facilities and that residents also received letters about safety concerns similar to the Oliver IV project.
Discussion on a fourth deputy for the Sheriff's department was tabled to July 8th.
The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 pm.
The next meeting of the Oliver County Commission will be at 1:00 PM, August 10th, 2026 at the Oliver County Courthouse Courtroom.
Jaden Schmidt, Oliver County Auditor

Robert Schmidt, Chairman of the Board

(08-20-2026)