

**Commissioner Meeting
January 6, 2026**

Chair Brandon Carlson called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Commissioners John Hokana, Jerry Walsh, Kacey Holm, and Marke Roberts were also present. Auditor Sheppard was also present. The media was not present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Holm made a motion to approve the minutes from December 16th and 30th with corrections. Roberts seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Sheppard presented two quit claim deeds from the tax sale in November. Holm made the motion to sign the deeds. Walsh seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Hokana made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10.

Sheppard called the new meeting to order at 9:11 am.

Sheppard requested nominations from the floor for Commissioner Chair for 2026. Carlson made a motion to appoint Kacey Holm as Chair. Walsh seconded. Seeing no other nominations, Walsh made a motion to cease nomination and cast a unanimous ballot for Holm. Carlson seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried. The meeting was turned over to Chair Holm.

Holm requested nominations from the floor for Vice Chair. Walsh made a motion to nominate Carlson for Vice Chair. Roberts seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

OtterTail Power Company representative Kris Koch joined the meeting at 9:20.

Additions to agenda

Upcoming 5-county meeting

Abatement hearing

Walsh made a motion to approve the vouchers as submitted. Carlson seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

The Commission reviewed the list of board appointments that expired at the end of 2025. Sheppard will update the pay for each board and verify some of the dates included on some members for accuracy.

The Commission also discussed the lack of pay to the Fair Board members for the time they put in serving on that Board. Carlson made a motion to authorize the Fair Board to pay their board members up to \$150.00 per meeting and mileage at the Board's discretion. Hokana seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

The Zoning Board was discussed. There are three positions that expired. Holm stated that they are so close to having completed the project, he would really like the group to stay as it is. Sheppard will include the opening in the advertisement for the paper. In the letters to those expiring, Sheppard will also request their continued support by staying on the Board.

The Commission took a break at 9:55 and returned at 10:00.

The 5-county meeting was discussed and no date preference was given. Sheppard will notify the Commission once a time and date has been set.

Tax Director Don Flaherty joined the meeting at 10:03.

Roberts made a motion to open the abatement hearing. Carlson seconded. Motion carried.

Flaherty presented disabled vet credits for 2025 and homestead credits for 2025 for the Commission to review. The parcels fit the guidelines for the two programs. Roberts made a motion to approve the abatements. Hokana seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

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

County Agent Breana Kiser joined the meeting at 10:10.

Flaherty presented to the Commission the Ag land values from the state of North Dakota for the 2026 tax year. The average price per acre has decreased by 6.4% according to the NDSU numbers. This would put the county at 104.29% if no adjustments would be made to ag values for 2026. The county is required to be within 90% to 100% of the average number given. Discussion followed as to how much of a deduction would need to be made. After some discussion, Carlson made a motion to use 95% to equalize the ag values for 2026. Walsh seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

States Attorney Radermacher asked the Commission that they not make final changes to the employee manual, as she is still reviewing some of the out of date items in the manual. The Commission agreed to wait until the next meeting for the employee manual.

Highway Superintendent Jeff Hagen and DES/911 Coordinator Charlie Russell joined the meeting at 11:07.

Hagen presented load pass permits to be signed for the townships of Albertha, Yorktown and Hudson. Carlson made a motion to sign the contracts. Walsh seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

The Commission discussed the culvert cost share agreement that had been presented to the Commission for their review. Walsh made a motion to adopt the policy, if approved by the Water Board as well. Carlson seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

KLJ Engineer Bryan Tykwinski joined the meeting via electronic means. Roberts asked Tykwinski to check on the two year contract with the county in case it needs to be renewed this year.

Tykwinski asked if there had been any progress on signing the contract with Central Specialties for the 87th Avenue and 95th Street project. Walsh made a motion to sign the contract. Hokana seconded. Radermacher updated the Commission on the discussions she has had with Applied Digital and her reviewing of the MOU that the county has. Radermacher stated that funding should be in place before the contract is signed. Tykwinski will update the contractor on what the delay with the signing of the contract is. Radermacher will continue reaching out to Applied Digital to get everything in place. At the advice of the States Attorney, the motion and second to sign the contract have been pulled until further clarification on the full payment of the project can be made.

Hokana made a motion to adjourn at 11:58.

Commissioner Meeting January 20, 2026

Chair Kacey Holm called the meeting to order at 9:06 am. Commissioners John Hokana, Jerry Walsh, Brandon Carlson, and Marke Roberts were also present. Auditor Sheppard, OtterTail Power Company representative Kris Koch and Applied Digital Representative Emma Perrotti were also present. States Attorney Kim Radermacher was in attendance via electronic means. The media was not present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Additions to the Agenda

- Asphalt Zipper
- Road contract with Central Specialties
- Abatement hearing
- Old television
- 5 county meeting

Carlson made a motion to approve the amended minutes from January 6th. Roberts seconded. Motion carried.

Sheppard presented an additional voucher in the amount of \$26,189.11 to Jensen Brothers Construction for a road project with Divide Township. Roberts made a motion to pay the vouchers presented with the addition of the voucher to Jensen Brothers and the exclusion of the invoice to TextMyGov in the amount of \$4,500 due to the new system is not functioning. Hokana seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Hokana made a motion to approve the December 2025 financials as presented. Walsh seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

The Commission discussed a letter received concerning the Dickey County Senior Citizen Board. After some discussion concerning the legal response to the letter, Carlson made a motion to have Radermacher compile a letter in response to the letter that will be sent to the author of the original letter, along with a copy sent to the Dickey County Senior Citizen Board. Roberts seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Walsh informed the Commission that there is a party that is interested in possible purchasing the Asphalt Zipper. Radermacher stated that as the equipment was put up for bid earlier and no bids were received, the Commission could accept a reasonable offer and not have to repeat the bidding process. Walsh stated that the party will be coming to look at the equipment. An offer should be sent to the Auditor Sheppard and will be presented to the Commission.

Sheppard is requesting a head county for the 5-County Association meeting next Thursday, January 29th in Fort Ransom. Walsh and Carlson plan on attending. Highway Superintendent and Auditor Sheppard will also be attending.

Sheppard requested approval to sell the television that used to be used in the Commissioner room and the cart the television sits on. Sheppard stated the original plan had been to use the television if the Commissioner meeting needed to be moved to the Courtroom. IT Consultant Jamie Nelson had informed Sheppard that McIntosh County may be interested in purchasing the television. Walsh made a motion to sell the television at a price that Nelson feels is appropriate. Carlson seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

County Agent Breana Kiser and Family and Community Wellness Agent Kasi Holm joined the meeting and presented their quarterly narrative. Kiser informed the Commission that there have been 40 new members in 4-H. There are approximately 130 total members in Dickey County.

Walsh discussed with the Commission the need for changes to the salaries for the Sheriff's office to resolve the staffing issues in that department. Walsh presented his proposal for changes to be made, after the research he completed. Walsh made a motion to:

- 1) Increase Sheriff starting salary by \$15,000 to \$100,981.
- 2) Increase Deputy 1 starting salary by \$15,000 to \$72,135 starting salary.
- 3) Increase Deputy 1 salary to \$75,027 after probationary period.
- 4) Provide up to a \$10,000 relocation reimbursement to new Sheriff Department hires with terms and conditions.
- 5) Set staffing level for the Sheriff's department at 4 full time positions for 2026.

6) Create a new grade level of Chief Deputy with a starting salary of \$87,135.

Hokana seconded. The comparison presented included a comparison to Emmons County, whose Sheriff's budget is twice the amount of our budget. Roberts reminded the Commission that the Emmons County budget would include their jail budget which is not included in Dickey County's Sheriff budget. Roll call was Walsh yes; Hokana yes; Carlson yes; Holm no; Roberts no. Motion carried.

The meeting went into recess at 10:15 and returned at 10:20.

Walsh made a motion to make the effective date of the Sheriff wage change to be January 1st, 2026. Hokana seconded. Roll call was Walsh yes; Hokana yes; Carlson yes; Holm no; Roberts no. Motion carried.

Treasurer Wonada Lematta and Tax Director Don Flaherty joined the meeting at 10:20.

Carlson made a motion to open the abatement hearing. Hokana seconded. Motion carried.

Flaherty presented five parcels for consideration. The first one located in Oakes had applied for new home construction exemption but was not sent to the Tax Director's office to be processed. There are also four parcels that are four homestead credit applications. Roberts made a motion to approve the 5 abatements. Carlson seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

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

Park Board Chair Andi Schimke and County Recorder Kelly Schmidt joined the meeting to discuss the county land out at Pheasant Lake. Discussion followed concerning selling the land or developing the land Park land as discussed earlier. After some discussion, Holm made a motion to sell the available acres at Pheasant Lake to be determined at the second meeting in February. Carlson seconded. Roll call was Hokana yes; Walsh yes; Roberts no; Holm yes; Carlson no. Motion carried. Carlson will contact auctioneers in the county to present to the Commission for a decision as to who will be hired to auction off the land.

Highway Superintendent Jeff Hagen, DES/911 Coordinator Charlie Russell, and KLJ Engineer Bryan Tykwinski joined the meeting at 10:45.

Tykwinski updated the Commission on the easement issues being discussed with US Fish and Wildlife for the road project on County Road 12. The Issue has been resolved. Tykwinski presented a task order in the amount of \$46,000 for the additional work required because of the work with US Fish and Wildlife. ND DOT concurs with the additional cost. Carlson made a motion to sign the task order. Walsh seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Tykwinski and Radermacher discussed the conversations with Applied Digital concerning the additional cost above the \$6,000,000 covered by the loan to the city of Ellendale and the share with the ND DOT. Applied Digital is responsible for any costs over \$6,000,000, based on the Memorandum of Understanding between the county, the City of Ellendale, and Applied Digital. Walsh made a motion to sign the contract. Carlson seconded. Roll call was Hokana yes; Carlson yes; Holm yes; Roberts no; Walsh yes. Motion carried.

Hagen presented a LoadPass agreement for German Township. Carlson made a motion to sign the agreement. Roberts seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Hagen presented to township blading contracts for 2026 and 2027 from German and Kentner townships. Roberts made a motion to sign the contracts. Hokana seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion carried.

Holm presented a letter received from Weed Officer Terry Weis thanking the Commission for their support of the Weed Board and Weis' work as the weed officer. Commission commended Weis on the Weed Control Partner award he received at the State Weed Convention.

Hokana made a motion to adjourn at 11:50.

| Salaries | | 181,318.19 63727-63813 | |
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| Human Services | Monthly Expenses | 9,446.39 | 120589 120598 |
| ND Association of Counties | 2026 County Dues | 8,059.00 | 120599 |
| ND County Auditors and Treasurers Assoc | NDACO Dues 2026 | 400.00 | 120600 |
| ND County Commissioners Assoc | 2026 NDCCA Dues | 1,725.00 | 120601 |
| ND Emergency Management Assoc | ND EMG Assoc Dues | 50.00 | 120602 |
| Overpayment Refund | Overpayment of taxes | 178.48 | 120603 |
| Overpayment Refund | Overpayment of taxes | 219.89 | 120604 |
| Overpayment Refund | Overpayment of taxes | 93.90 | 120605 |
| Postmaster | Post Office Box Rent- States Attorney | 133.00 | 120606 |
| Q & N Corporation | Screen Protectors for Poll Pads, Novastor | 449.89 | 120607 |
| Secure Software Solutions | Pat License Renewal for 2026 | 4,400.00 | 120608 |
| Fullerton City Auditor | Fullerton Utilities for 2026 | 200.00 | 120609 |

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| Lorena's Cleaning Serv. | Cleaning at the Hwy Dept | 400.00 | 120610 |
| ND Association of CO Engineers | Dues | 485.00 | 120611 |
| KLJ Engineering LLC | TWP-0011(027) PCN 24310- BOX Culvert Replace | 2,624.47 | 120612 |
| Middlestead Donald | Gas for the VSO Vehicle | 16.00 | 120613 |
| South Central Dakota Regional Council | DC Support for Regional Council 2026 | 10,693.00 | 120614 |
| ND 911 Association | 911 Association Dues | 100.00 | 120615 |
| Zahn Doug | Forbes Tower Yearly Rent | 500.00 | 120616 |
| ND Association of Counties | 2026 Workers Comp | 25,120.64 | 120617 |
| Starion Insurance Agency | Auto Premium, CGL Premium, INMRC Premium, Premium | 76,093.00 | 120618 |
| Cities, Townships, Schools | Cities, Townships, Schools | 1,388,189.03 | 120619 120668 |
| ND Public Employees Retirement | BCBS | 55,182.80 | 120669 |
| ND Public Employees Retirement | Life Ins | 486.48 | 120670 |
| ND Public Employees Retirement | BCBS HD | 9,474.20 | 120671 |
| ND Public Employees Retirement | Dental | 458.72 | 120672 |
| ND Public Employees Retirement | Vision | 56.76 | 120673 |
| ND Public Employees Retirement | Life INS HD | VOIDED | 120674 |
| ND Public Employees Retirement | Life INS HD | 138.04 | 120675 |
| ND Public Employees Retirement | DEF COMP | 1,900.18 | 120676 |
| ND Public Employees Retirement | DEF COM HD | 746.00 | 120677 |
| Wex Health INC | Flex | 1,137.35 | 120678 |
| ND Public Employees Retirement | HSA | 696.03 | 120679 |
| Accounts Management | Garnishments | 398.27 | 120680 |
| Accounts Management | Garnishments | 369.08 | 120681 |
| Community Volunteer EMS of LaMoure | Ambulance Collections, SAD | 2,222.41 | 120682 |
| Kulm Ambulance Corps | Ambulance Collections, SAD | 2,556.39 | 120683 |
| Edgeley Ambulance Service | Ambulance Collections, SAD | 2,078.35 | 120684 |
| Oakes Volunteer Ambulance Service | Ambulance Collections, SAD | 11,841.64 | 120685 |
| Ashley Ambulance District | Ambulance Collections | 2,022.17 | 120686 |
| Ellendale City | Airport, SAD, Ambulance Collections, sad | 20,822.16 | 120687 |
| Oakes City | Airport, SAD | 4,634.35 | 120688 |
| Garrison Diversion | Collections, SAD | 10,243.00 | 120689 |
| James River Soil Conservation 975 | Collections, SAD | 24,898.70 | 120690 |
| Ellendale Fire | Collections, SAD | 17,117.14 | 120691 |
| Oakes Fire | Collections, SAD | 11,409.28 | 120692 |
| Dickey Sargent Joint Water Resource District | Special Assessments, Bond Special Assessments | 34,851.11 | 120693 |
| Dickey County Senior Citizens | Tax Collections, SAD | 10,109.89 | 120694 |
| Dickey County Historical | Collections, SAD | 2,527.04 | 120695 |
| Dickey Sargent Irrigation District | Dickey Sargent Irrigation specials | 10,943.74 | 120696 |

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| Sargent County Drain #11 | Sargent County Drain #1 specials | 3,133.48 | 120697 |
| LaMoure Fire | collections | 1,980.59 | 120698 |
| ND State Treasurer | State Medical, Clerk of Court Fees | 9,901.33 | 120699 |
| Dickey County Treasurer | Clerk of Court Fees | 395.00 | 120700 |
| 281 Repair LLC | Remove & Replace Transfer Case Shift Motor | 1,017.44 | 120701 |
| Dickey County Leader | Legal Nov Mins | 344.52 | 120702 |
| Great Western State Supply LLC | Large Disc- Sheriff office | 454.50 | 120703 |
| Information Technology Dept | Tech fee | 1,817.95 | 120704 |
| Napa Central | Blower Motor- DES | 97.01 | 120705 |
| Napa Central | Lockout Kit- Sheriff's Office | 107.66 | 120706 |
| ND County Recorders Assoc | Recorder Association dues-2026 | 500.00 | 120707 |
| Overpayment Refund | Overpayment of taxes | 1,139.54 | 120708 120710 |
| Overpayment Refund | Overpayment of taxes | 3,636.09 | 120711 120716 |
| Quadient Leasing USA, INC. | Lease Payment on the mail machine | 294.99 | 120717 |
| Software Innovations | First Core Logic File Creation Request | 750.00 | 120718 |
| Southeast ND County Commissioners Association | 2026 Dues | 400.00 | 120719 |
| US Records Midwest LLC | DC Leader 2026 Binder | 288.00 | 120720 |
| Vanguard Appraisals INC | Service Plus | 2,640.00 | 120721 |
| Vesti's | Rug Service | 162.96 | 120722 |
| Agtegra Oakes | Diesel for the highway shop | 3,676.58 | 120723 |
| Bertsch Ty | Mileage Checked Roads, Personal Vehicle | 43.40 | 120724 |
| Dakota Fluid Power Inc. | Cylinder repair due to leaking | 400.02 | 120725 |
| Dakota Valley Electric Coop | Utilities | 161.00 | 120726 |
| Dickey County | 20% road and Bridge | 4,318.21 | 120727 |
| Ellendale City Auditor | North Landfill Key | 500.00 | 120728 |
| John Deere Financial | Elbow Fit, Plug, O-Ring, Hardware kit, conn., hardware, put grapple on bucket | 1,708.19 | 120729 |
| John Deere Financial | Grader payment | 78,470.24 | 120730 |
| KLJ Engineering LLC | Gravel Stockpile survey, DC Hwy 12 Widening, 86th Street SE | 7,211.63 | 120731 |
| Locators & Supplies Inc | Plow Markers | 220.27 | 120732 |
| Matheson Tri-Gas Inc. | Lincoln Nozzle | 154.49 | 120733 |
| Napa Central | Switch- Hwy Dept | 134.26 | 120734 |
| North Dakota One Call | One Call Charge | 4.50 | 120735 |
| Ottertail Power Company | Oakes Shop Utilities | 83.26 | 120736 |
| Vesti's | Rug Service Invoice-2520711195 | 201.87 | 120737 |
| Waste Management | Garbage pickup | 100.79 | 120738 |
| Overpayment Refund | Land Sales Tax Payments | 3,862.35 | 120739 120743 |
| Pharmchem | Sweat Patch, Fentanyl screen | 95.85 | 120744 |
| Office of Attorney General | 24/7 Program | 725.00 | 120745 |
| Stutsman Correctional Center | Held an inmate for 12 Days | 1,200.00 | 120746 |
| Haakenson Jean | Office Supplies for Oakes Office | 175.00 | 120747 |
| Lynn Johnson Lock & Key Service | Dup Office Key | 21.10 | 120748 |
| Ellendale Grocery | Office supplies | 21.27 | 120749 |

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| North Dakota State University | Programs | 80.00 | 120750 |
| Dakota Improvement | Maintenance | 40.67 | 120751 |
| Dakota Valley Electric Coop | Wilson Dam Utilities, Guelph Tower utilities | 133.00 | 120752 |
| Dickey County Hwy Dept | December Gas bill- Des, Vso county car usage | 610.31 | 120753 |
| Dickey Rural Networks | Phone Bill | 1,404.10 | 120754 |
| Farmers Union Oil Co | Parts, Propane for Hwy Shops, Fuel for West Shop | 4,904.89 | 120755 |
| Montana Dakota Utilities | Storage Shed, Courthouse, Hwy Dept, Fullerton Shop, Weed Board Building- Utilities | 5,551.55 | 120756 |
| NDSU Extension Service-AG Budget | County half of Breana and Kasi's salary | 13,949.42 | 120757 |
| Office of the Adjutant General | 2026 annual lets, renewal, lets terminal fee, 911-line fees Aug, Sept, Oct | 25,992.38 | 120758 |
| Human Services | Monthly Expenses | 5,915.17 | 120759 |
| | | | - 120770 |
| JP Morgan Chase Bank | Calendars, Training Material, Service Contract, License, Utilities, 4-h items, hay probe tip, promo cards | 1,131.56 | 120771 |
| Ohnstad Twichell PC | Legal Fees | 2,485.50 | 120772 |
| ND Township Officers Association | Township Dues | 6,000.00 | 120773 |
| Dickey County Township Officers Assoc. | Township Dues | 450.00 | 120774 |
| ND State Tax Commissioner | Sales Tax | 726.25 | 120775 |
| Jensen Brothers Construction INC | Divide Twp Box Culvert Replacement | 26,189.11 | 120776 |
| Wex Health INC | Cancer | 50.00 | 120777 |
| ND Public Employees Retirement | Retirement | 26,036.11 | 120778 |
| ND Public Employees Retirement | Retirement | 3,452.06 | 120779 |
| ND Public Employees Retirement | Def Comp | 1,900.18 | 120780 |
| ND Public Employees Retirement | Def Comp HD | 746.00 | 120781 |
| Wex Health INC | Flex | 1,280.82 | 120782 |
| ND Public Employees Retirement | HSA | 728.33 | 120783 |
| Aflac | Cancer | 2,541.85 | 120784 |
| Delta Dental Plan | Dental | 2,446.45 | 120785 |
| Ameritas Life Insurance Corp | Vision | 345.32 | 120786 |
| ND Child Support Division | Garnish | 200.00 | 120787 |
| Accounts Management | Garnishments | 398.27 | 120788 |
| Accounts Management | Garnishments | 369.08 | 120789 |
| James Valley Regional Lodge | Dues | 66.34 | 120790 |

Wanda Sheppard, Auditor

Kacey Holm, Chairman