

**McLean County Commission Proceedings**  
**Tuesday, April 7, 2026**

The first regular April meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairperson Curt Olson. Present were Commissioners Olson, Steve Cottingham, and Steve Lee. Also present were Auditor Beth A. Knutson; Deputy Auditor Lynda Snyder; Road Superintendent Jim Grey; Disaster Emergency Services (DES) Director Noelle Kroll; Northwest Regional Emergency Response Coordinator Kevin Huston; Jon Martin and Michael Rivinius of Wold Engineering; Jeremy Holt of Anderson Western Inc.; Ralph Schneider of Knife River Materials; Austin Oritz of Central Specialties Inc.; Donald E. Johnson of Mayo Construction Inc.; and Adam Ourada of Falkirk Mining Company.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 17, 2026, as submitted. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Foss informed the commission that Carissa Schumaier was promoted to Patrol Corporal and presented her proposed pay increase. Schumaier's salary would be adjusted from \$62,608.55 to \$63,938.65, effective May 1, 2026. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the proposed salary adjustment effective May 1, 2026. Roll call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion Carried.

Kroll introduced Northwest Regional Emergency Response Coordinator Kevin Huston. Huston complimented Kroll on the valuable work she performs behind the scenes as the Disaster Emergency Services (DES) Director for McLean County. Discussion followed.

Kroll presented information on the use of grant funds awarded through the 2023 and 2025 State Homeland Security Programs. She also stated that on December 30, 2025, she accepted the 2025-2026 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant funds and asked permission to expend those funds. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to authorize DES Director Kroll to expend the 2025-2026 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness grant funds as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to authorize DES Director Kroll to accept funds if awarded for the 2023 State Homeland Security Programs Grant. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Building Maintenance Supervisor Curt Malo joined the meeting and presented two LED Lighting proposals from Ideal Energy to replace light fixtures in the courthouse for \$19,878.50 and the Law Enforcement Center for \$14,418.00. He stated grants will be applied for through State of North Dakota Department of Commerce. Malo requested that an additional \$500 be added to the proposals to include adjustable bulbs. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to accept both proposals from Ideal Energy as presented with the addition of \$500.00 for adjustable bulbs. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey presented an update on department operations stating that blading continues as weather permits. He was happy to announce that his department is fully staffed for the first time in months. Discussion followed.

Grey stated he has located another used plow truck at NorthStar Truck Sales in St. Cloud. He explained that this would be the third unit purchased there and they have always had good equipment and service leading up to the sale.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the plow truck purchase not to exceed \$70,000.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey stated that he would like to discuss changing gravel pricing as it has been 11 years since it was adjusted. He spoke with Sundre Gravel and their pricing varies from \$9 to \$11 per ton. Grey stated our current price is \$8 per ton. To avoid depleting our gravel supply and competing with private companies, he suggested increasing the rate to \$12 per ton. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to increase the gravel price to \$12 per ton. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Martin presented a project schedule from C3 Energy Partners LLC. He stated that after discussion with other counties and the state, they have no concerns with them completing the project. He recommended awarding Project FXS-2841(053) to C3 Energy Partners LLC in the amount of \$476,139.96. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to award the project as presented to C3 Energy Partners LLC. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Martin stated that the North Dakota Department of Transportation awarded funding for the Strawberry Lake Road Improvement Project under the Special Road Fund Program and is limited to a maximum of \$480,000.00. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to accept the funds awarded as presented. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Martin informed the Commission that paving is planned on County Road 14 going through the City of Underwood, however the city plans to replace water mains in five different areas of the road. Commissioners suggested waiting to pave this section as it is a waste to do the work only to have it ripped out. Martin agreed and stated that the project will start west of the anticipated water main replacements.

Chairperson Olson began bid openings at 9:00 a.m. for Project CP-2800(026), a county-wide mill and overlay project.

Bids were opened as follows: Mayo Construction Inc in the amount of \$6,346,340.55; Central Specialties Inc. in the amount of \$5,940,494.76; Knife River Corporation in the amount of \$6,339,748.40; and Anderson Western Inc. in the amount of \$5,875,089.12.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to award Project CP-2800(026) to Anderson Western Inc. for the bid amount of \$5,875,089.12. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Ourada requested a public hearing be set for the road closure according to the petition below:

**Before the Board of McLean County Commissioners**

In the matter of the application of )  
the Falkirk Mining Company for an ) Petition for Closing of Section Line Roads  
order temporarily closing certain )  
section line roads that interfere )  
with surface coal mining operations )

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapters 38-01-07.1 and 38-01-07.2, North Dakota Century Code, The Falkirk Mining Company ("Petitioner") states as follows:

1. Petitioner is a surface coal mining operator with the right to conduct surface coal mining and reclamation operations on or in the vicinity of the lands hereinafter described.
2. Petitioner requests that the following described section line roads, as shown on the map attached as Exhibit A, be temporarily closed due to the fact that such roads interfere with the Petitioner's conduct of surface coal mining and reclamation operations:
  - a. The section line road between the SW4 of Section 1 and the NW4 of Section 12, Township 144 North, Range 84 West
  - b. The road located on the quarter line between the NW4 and SW4 of Section 12, Township 144 North, Range 84 West
  - c. The road located between the E2 and W2 of Section 12, Township 144 North, Range 84 West
3. Petitioner asserts that the closing of the above-described section line roads will not deprive adjacent landowners access to their property.

4. After the completion of surface coal mining and reclamation operations, the Petitioner will restore the closed section line roads to as good a condition as existed prior to the closing of such roads to the extent required by the Board of McLean County Commissioners.

Wherefore, Petitioner requests that the Board of McLean County Commissioners set this matter for hearing and that thereafter Petitioner be granted the relief requested.

Dated this 7th day of April, 2026

The Falkirk Mining Company

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jay H. Kost, its President

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to schedule the public hearing on the presented petition for a road closure for May 5, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson presented the Clerk of Court Funding Agreement with the State of North Dakota in the amount of \$14,213.00 per month for the time period of July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2028, beginning August 1, 2027.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the Clerk of Court Funding Agreement as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to approve the DCHSZ Transfer of Funds Resolution and the Sweep Account Transfer of Funds Resolutions as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

DCHSZ Transfer of Funds Resolutions and McLean County Sweep Account Transfer of Funds Resolutions are on file in the McLean County Auditor's Office.

Knutson presented the Pledge of Securities received from TruCommunity Bank for the period ending March 31, 2026. The total public deposits were \$24,392,630.50 and total pledged securities were \$32,075,819.00 with an overage of \$7,683,188.50.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to accept the Pledge of Securities from TruCommunity Bank. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson stated a letter of interest was received from Steven Heger of Underwood for the open Planning and Zoning Board appointment. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to appoint Steven Heger as the Underwood representative on the Planning and Zoning Board. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson stated there were no letters of interest for the School Board Reorganization committee and Diane Schell expressed interest in the Special Assessment Commission. She explained that the Special Assessment Commission is for a two-year term and there is no need to appoint her until needed to avoid the term expiring. Knutson stated that she will notify Schell. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the Local Raffle Permit Application submitted by McLean County 4-H Leader's Council for a raffle to be held June 12 through June 14, 2026, at the McLean County Fairgrounds. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to approve the Local Raffle Permit Application submitted by Hiddenwood Sportsmen Club for a raffle to be held June 13, 2025, with prizes listed as a gun safe and miscellaneous items donated by local businesses with a total prize value of \$500.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Recorder for the month of March in the amount of \$11,829.30.

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Sheriff for the month of March in the amount of \$1,502.46.

Knutson presented the current list of delinquent tax payers owing more than \$4,000.00 showing 30 taxpayers three years delinquent owing \$266,751.72, 24 taxpayers two years delinquent owing \$240,038.64, and 21 taxpayers one year delinquent owing \$255,462.17 in back taxes.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to approve the following vouchers for payment:

A detailed list of checks is available for public inspection anytime during regular business hours in the McLean County Auditor's Office.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson stated that the Park Board meeting was moved to April, 21 2026 at 8:00 a.m. to accommodate interviews for the Park Manager position. Discussion followed.

Knutson presented the annual employee review of Land Use Administrator Todd Schreiner for review and approval. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to schedule the County Tax Equalization meeting for June 2, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m. The commission minutes and agenda can be found on the county website at <https://www.mcleancountynd.gov>.

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Curt Olson, Chairperson

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Lynda Snyder, Deputy Auditor