

McLean County Commission Proceedings

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

The first regular April meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 8:33 a.m. by Chairperson Steve Lee. Present were Commissioners Lee, Steve Cottingham, and Curtis Olson. Also present were Auditor Beth A. Knutson; Administrative Assistant/Receptionist Lynda Snyder; Chief Deputy Sheriff Richard Johnson; Road Superintendent James Grey; Assistant Road Superintendent Travis Verke; Mark Lelm; and NorDak North Reporter Ethyn Williams-Calvert.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 8, 2025, as submitted. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey presented an update on department operations reporting that they are still blading and plan to start shoulder work as weather permits. He also stated that they have completed all crack sealing for the season. Discussion followed.

Grey requested permission to get proposals for the purchase of the track skid steer he budgeted for. He stated he will present them at the meeting on May 6, 2025. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to authorize requesting quotes for a track skid steer. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson presented an email from county resident Eden Johannes stating her concerns with road conditions in the vicinity of the County Road 14 and County Road 15 intersection. Grey stated that he is aware of the problems in that area and this incident occurred after a fresh snow and the road was already saturated. Verke stated that work on the curb and gutter and graveling of the road is planned. Discussion followed.

Knutson stated that the project award letter was received for Job 24497, SC-2800(053), a county wide chip seal project to be completed by Asphalt Surface Technologies Corporation (ASTECH), from the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT). Discussion followed.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, to approve signing the award as presented in the award letter. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Johnson requested permission to host a Proactive Patrol Tactics course in Washburn on April 21-25, 2025. The cost of the training is \$3,299.73. He stated that the Sheriff would like to use Sheriff's forfeiture funds to pay for the course. He also stated that the course will help replenish the forfeiture account as a result of the proactive tactics learned in this course. Discussion followed

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to approve the Sheriff's Department hosting the Proactive Patrol Tactics course with payment for the course to be made out of Sheriff's forfeiture funds. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Johnson requested permission to designate a new Jailer/Dispatcher Lieutenant effective today. This advertisement for the open position was in-house. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to approve hiring the selected Jailer/Dispatcher Lieutenant effective today. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Falkirk Mining Representative Adam Ourada joined the meeting to present a petition to request that the Board of McLean County Commissioners permit and approve the conducting of surface coal mining operations by the petitioner within 100 feet of the outside right-of-way line. Discussion followed.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, to accept the petition as presented and to schedule a public hearing on May 6, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Before The Board Of  
McLean County Commissioners

In The Matter of the Application )  
of The Falkirk Mining Company )  
for an Order Permitting Surface ) Petition  
Coal Mining Operations within 100 )  
Feet of the Outside Right-Of-Way )  
Line of Certain Public Roads )

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 38-14.1-07, of the North Dakota Century Code and Chapter 69-05.2-04 of the North Dakota Administrative 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 Board of McLean County Commissioners permit and approve the conducting of surface coal mining operations by the Petitioner within 100 feet of the outside right-of-way line of the following public roads:

- a. The west side of the county road located along the section line between Sections 19 and 20, Township 146 North, Range 82 West
  - b. The north and south sides of the county road located between Sections 19 and 30, Township 146 North, Range 82 West
  - c. The east and west sides of the county road located between Sections 30 and 29, Township 146 North, Range 82 West
  - d. The east and west sides of the county road located between Sections 31 and 32, Township 146 North, Range 82 West
  - e. The east and west sides of the road located between Section 24, Township 146 North, Range 83 West and Section 19, Township 146 North, Range 82 West
  - f. The north and south sides of the county road located between Sections 24 and 25, Township 146 North, Range 83 West
3. Petitioner asserts that the interests of the public and the interests of affected landowners will be protected from the proposed surface coal mining operations.

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 8th day of April, 2025.

The Falkirk Mining Company

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

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

Knutson presented the Pledge of Securities received from TruCommunity Bank for the period ending March 31, 2025. The total public deposits were \$26,722,497.32 and the total pledged securities were \$27,178,868.00 with an overage of \$456,370.68.

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

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the McLean County Auditor's Sweep Account Transfer of Funds Resolution from March. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

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

Knutson presented the application for a 2025 Beer and Liquor License Class I submitted by Gramma Jo's Eatery & Catering LLC located on Brush Lake (f/k/a Brush Lake Pavilion). Background checks for outstanding violations have been completed by the Sheriff's Department and all necessary fees have been received. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to approve the application as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson presented a Gaming Site Authorization Application submitted by Strawberry Lake Improvement Association for bingo, raffles, electronic 50/50 raffle, pull tab dispensing device, electronic pull tab device, prize board, prize board dispensing machine, sports pools, twenty-one, poker and calcutta activities at DL's Strawberry Kooler of Ruso from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to approve the Gaming Site Authorization Application as submitted by Strawberry Lake Improvement Association. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the Local Raffle Permit Application submitted by McLean County 4-H Leader's Council for a 50/50 raffle to be held June 12 through June 14, 2025, at the McLean County Fairgrounds. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the Local Raffle Permit Application submitted by Hiddenwood Sportsmen Club for a raffle to be held June 14, 2025, with prizes listed as a Weatherby Element 12-gauge semi-automatic shot gun, two North Dakota State Fair concert passes and adult gate passes, a 42-inch outdoor propane fire pit, and a Froggy 45-quart cooler with a total prize value of \$1,311.99. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson presented the 2026 police contract proposal. She stated that the contracts with the cities will see a 2% increase. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to approve the 2% increase to the police service contracts with the cities as presented. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson stated she will send out the new contracts in May. Discussion followed.

Knutson presented a SB 2113 Flexible Transportation Program Funding Reimbursement Request for signature. Discussion followed.

Knutson stated that the Ryder Makoti Rural Fire Protection District has submitted a resolution opposing the transfer of land to the proposed White Shield Fire District. Discussion followed.

Knutson requested approval to advertise for a Mclean County Weed Board appointment which is an unexpired 2-year term through December 31, 2026.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, to approve advertising for an unexpired 2-year term for the McLean County Weed Board. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Recorder's Department for the month of March in the amount of \$10,386.76.

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Sheriff's Department for the month of March in the amount of \$1,920.00.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, 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, Olson and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:19 a.m. The commission minutes and agenda can be found on the county website at <https://www.mcleancountynd.gov>.

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Steve Lee, Chairperson

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Lynda Snyder, Administrative Assistant