

**McLean County Commission Proceedings**  
**Tuesday, May 5, 2026**

The first regular May meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairperson Curt Olson. Present were Commissioners Olson, and Steve Lee. Also present were Auditor Beth A. Knutson; Deputy Auditor Lynda Snyder; Road Superintendent Jim Grey; and Falkirk Mining Representative Adam Ourada. Absent: Steve Cottingham.

Grey stated that although other counties have started lifting load restrictions, we are still experiencing issues with saturated roads throughout the county and he is not comfortable with lifting them at this time.

Grey gave a department update stating that shoulder work is going well and reclaimers are working as they should now that adjustments were made.

Grey requested approval to purchase a road groomer as he feels the department would benefit from this when using a motor grader is not the best option. He stated that this purchase would be within his budget. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Olson, to authorize the Highway Superintendent to purchase a road groomer with cost not to exceed \$25,000.00. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee and Olson. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Cottingham. Motion carried.

Grey stated he met with cabin owners in the Douglas Bay Cabin Site and decided on the best placement for speed bumps, signs and reflectors in accordance with North Dakota Century Code guidelines. Grey presented these locations to the commission for approval. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Olson, to approve final placement and installation of speed bumps, reflectors, and appropriate signage. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee and Olson. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Cottingham. Motion carried.

Knutson presented proposed salary adjustment for Jesse Feist as he was promoted to Detective on the South Sakakawea Narcotics Task Force. His proposed salary is \$61,108.53 which is 3.04% over his current salary. She stated the proposed salary would be effective May 1, 2026 with no further adjustments after six months.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Olson, to approve the salary adjustment as proposed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee and Olson. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Cottingham. Motion carried.

Knutson presented two letters of interest for Sportsmen's Centennial Park Camp Host. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Olson, to appoint Sara Wheeler as camp host for the year of 2026. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee and Olson. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Cottingham. Motion carried.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Olson, to approve the DCHSZ Transfer of Funds Resolution and the Sweep Account Transfer of Funds Resolutions as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee and Olson. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Cottingham. 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 April 30, 2026. The total public deposits were \$26,235,475.55 and the total pledged securities were \$26,289,775.41 with an overage of \$54,299.86.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Olson, to accept the Pledge of Securities as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee and Olson. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Cottingham. Motion carried.

Knutson presented 2027 Police Contracts stating contracts were increased by 2% and approved by Chief Deputy Sheriff Richard Johnson and Sheriff J.R. Kerzmann. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Olson, to approve the 2027 Police Contracts as presented. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee and Olson. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Cottingham. Motion carried.

Chairperson Olson opened a public hearing at 9:00 a.m. for the petition below filed with the McLean County Commission:

## Resolution of McLean County Commission

Whereas, The Falkirk Mining Company ("Falkirk") has petitioned the Board of County Commissioners of McLean County, North Dakota ("Commission") to temporarily close the following described section line road that interferes with surface coal mining operations pursuant to the provisions of Chapters 38-01-07.1 and 38-01-07.2 of the North Dakota Century Code:

- 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

Whereas, a public hearing was held upon the Petition of Falkirk before the Commission on the 5th day of May, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. CDT, in the Courthouse in the City of Washburn, North Dakota, and the Commission having heard and considered all of the testimony and evidence presented.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Commission does hereby find, conclude, and determine as follows:

1. That the Commission has jurisdiction over the subject matter of the Petition and the section line roads involved therein.
2. That the Notice of Hearing on said Petition was duly served and published as required by law.
3. That the temporary closing of said section line roads is necessary due to the fact that said section line road interferes with Falkirk's conduct of surface coal mining operations.
4. That the temporary closing of said section line roads does not deprive adjacent landowners access to their property.
5. That a public benefit exists in temporarily closing said section line road and that the interests of public and the affected landowners will be protected.

Be it further resolved, based on the foregoing, that the Commission hereby determines and orders as follows:

1. That the following section line road be temporarily closed until such time as Falkirk's surface coal mining operations which affect the use of said section line road by the general public are completed:
  - 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
2. That Falkirk provide farmers access to their lands for farming purposes during the time that said section line road is temporarily closed.
3. That within a reasonable period of time after completion of surface coal mining operations Falkirk shall restore said section line road to as good a condition as existed prior to the temporary closing to the extent required by the Commission.
4. That Falkirk inform the Commission when the restoration of said section line road is completed, at which time Falkirk shall tender said section line road to the Commission for acceptance for general public use.
5. That the Commission may at any time exercise its rights to monitor the continued need for the temporary closing of said section line road and may request Falkirk to show cause why said section line road should not be reopened if surface coal mining operations in the vicinity thereof have been completed.
6. That this Resolution, the Petition involved therein, the Affidavits of Service and the Affidavits of Publication of Notice of Hearing be filed with the McLean County Auditor.

Dated this 5th day of May, 2026.

Attest:

McLean County Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
Beth Knutson, County Auditor

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Moved by Lee, seconded by Olson, to approve the petition for temporary road closure as presented. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee and Olson. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Cottingham. Motion carried.

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Recorder for the month of April in the amount of \$10,037.90.

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Sheriff for the month of April in the amount of \$1,339.64.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Olson, to approve the Gaming Site Authorization submitted by Washburn American Legion Post 12 of Washburn for bingo, pull tab dispensing device, electronic pull tab device, prize board dispensing device, twenty-one, and poker activities at Painted Woods Golf Course from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee and Olson. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Cottingham. Motion carried.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Olson, to approve the Gaming Site Authorization submitted by American Legion Post 91 for bingo, raffles, pull tab dispensing device, and prize board dispensing device activities at Totten Trail from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, and Olson. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Cottingham. Motion carried

Knutson presented two liquor license transfers for Bar 701 in Garrison. She stated that the real estate taxes for this establishment are three years delinquent on property taxes. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Olson, to deny the transfers due to the delinquent taxes. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee and Olson. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Cottingham. Motion carried

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: Lee and Olson. Nay: None. Absent and not voting: Cottingham. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:34 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