

**McLean County Commission Proceedings**  
**Tuesday, May 19, 2026**

The second regular May meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 8:32 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; Dave Olson; Larry Smith; and Greg Feser.

Grey presented the Commission with the certified road miles from the organized townships for acceptance and signatures.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to accept the certified road miles for the organized townships. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey provided an update on the road groomer being purchased stating that we will receive free delivery as they have another delivery in our area. Discussion followed.

Grey requested that load restrictions remain in place until June 1, 2026, at the earliest. He stated that blade work was affected by the recent rainfall but will continue as weather permits. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to authorize the Highway Superintendent to lift road restrictions when deemed appropriate for 2026. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey presented three permits from Falkirk Mining Company to bury 12-inch HDPE pipe twelve feet deep to convey water from mining pits. Discussion followed. Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the three permits as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Cottingham stated that the North Dakota Public Service Commission has requested documentation that the alternate route was approved when discussed at the Temporary Road Closure Hearing on May 5, 2026. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to accept the alternate route presented by Falkirk Mining Company at the hearing. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Chairperson Olson stated he was informed that vehicles are parking on the road outside the baseball field in Garrison during games. A concerned citizen stated farm machinery is not able to properly and safely use the road at these times and this is creating a safety issue as kids are walking in between cars out into the road. Discussion followed.

Knutson informed the board that Bar 701 in Garrison has paid all three years of delinquent real estate taxes and requested approval of the two special event permits previously submitted by Bar 701 for weddings in McLean County. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the special event permits as presented. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson presented the 2027 City of Benedict Police Contract for signature as it was already approved.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to approve a Special Events Liquor License transfer for The Riverboat Saloon for the ranch rodeo during Washburn's Riverboat Days to be held at the North Dakota 4-H Camp on June 6, 2026. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to approve a Special Event Permit for the Falkirk Mine Fishing Tournament to be held at Sportsman's Centennial Park, of Garrison, on June 13, 2026. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson presented a five-year service award certificate for Deputy Auditor Diane Blumhagen for signature.

Knutson presented a listing of delinquent taxpayers owing real estate taxes over \$4,000.00. Discussion followed. This listing is available in the McLean County Auditor's Office.

Land Use Administrator Todd Schreiner and Assistant Director of Tax Equalization Elizabeth Patterson joined the meeting.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to concur with the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the request submitted by Michael and Maria Wanzek for a variance of the setback requirements of the McLean County Zoning Ordinance involving land located in Lots 17 & 18 adjacent to Stutes Blue Lake Subdivision, NE ¼ of Section 21, Wise Township. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to concur with the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the request submitted by Jeffrey J. and Holly R. McElwain for a variance of the setback requirements of the McLean County Zoning Ordinance involving land located in Lot 114, Snake Creek Cottage Site, Malcolm Township. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to concur with the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the request submitted by Joshua Thompson (Jeremy and Karen Thompson, landowners) for a conditional use permit involving four acres of land located in Outlot C in Government Lot 1, Section 7, Township 149 North, Range 82 West. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Olson presented amendments to the plat drawing for the Raging River Subdivision stating he would like an easement removed in order to prevent development north of the road that he has built. The original plat was previously approved by the McLean County Planning and Zoning Commission. Schreiner stated he had to defer to the States Attorney on the changes presented. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to deny the request to amend the subdivision plat. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Chairperson Olson presented a service award certificate to departing employee, Diane Blumhagen. Her last day will be Wednesday, May 27, 2026.

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, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:50 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