

**McLean County Commission Proceedings**  
**Tuesday, August 18, 2026**

The second regular August 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; Chief Deputy Sheriff Richard Johnson; Building and Maintenance Supervisor Curt Malo; and Falkirk Mining Representative Adam Ourada.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 4, 2026. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Johnson requested permission to create a hiring list for Federal Prisoner Transport Officers. He stated recent retirements have left the Sheriff’s Department with only two at this time. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to authorize advertising for the position and hiring one or more Federal Prisoner Transport Officers. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey presented an update on department operations reporting that Subsurface, Inc. has completed the repair on the culvert north of Wilton. He also stated that mowing was delayed last week as three tractors were in need of repair. Discussion followed.

Grey stated that a Harper Mower was purchased and picked up yesterday. He also stated the mower is working as expected. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to approve purchase of the Harper mower by the Highway Department. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson stated that a letter was sent to Spring Creek Cabin Association (SCCA) regarding an extra speed bump that was not approved and notifying them that prior approval will be required each year to install speed bumps. Grey stated the chloride used on the road by the SCCA for dust control also needs to be addressed as he feels this is making the road more difficult to maintain. Discussion followed.

Malo presented bids for roof repairs on the McLean County Courthouse, Law Enforcement Center (LEC), and garage in the parking lot. He recommends accepting the bid for Class 3 shingles in the amount of \$58,902.50 from DML Custom Building and Remodeling (DML) for the LEC only. Malo explained that a steel roof is not necessary if the right shingle and correct nails are used. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to accept the proposal from DML for the LEC roof repair as recommended by Malo. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to continue our document shredding contract with Record Keepers LLC at the same rate previously paid even though the State of North Dakota has procured a new contractor for this service. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to concur with the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the application submitted by Allo Towers in care of the State of North Dakota, Wayzata, Minnesota requesting approval of a Conditional Use Permit involving land owned by Suydam Family Farms, LLLP located in a portion of the SE¼, Section 3, Township 149 North, Range 87 West. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to concur with the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the application submitted by Garrison Rural Water District, Garrison, North Dakota requesting approval of a zoning change involving 1.51 acres of land owned by Marlowe and Jean R Miller located in Outlot A in NW¼SW¼SE¼, Section 8, Township 148 North, Range 85 West. 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 application submitted by Kyle and Dana Lizotte, Max, North Dakota requesting approval of a Conditional Use Permit involving 2.01 acres of land located in Outlot A in the NE¼SE¼, Section 18, Township 150 North, Range 83 West. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee to concur with the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the application submitted by by Nicholas A. and Natasha A. Thompson, Max, North Dakota requesting approval of a Conditional Use Permit involving 4.19 acres of land located in Outlot A in the NE¼NW¼, Section 7, Township 149 North, Range 82 West. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Ourada requested a public hearing be set for temporary 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  |
| Order temporarily closing certain   | ) | of Section Line Roads |
| 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 county road, 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 county road located in the W2 of Section 32 and the SE4NW4 of Section 32, Township 145 North, Range 83 West
3.

Petitioner asserts that the closing of the above-described road will not deprive adjacent landowners access to their property.
1.

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 18th day of August, 2026

The Falkirk Mining Company

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

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to accept the petition as presented and schedule a public hearing on September 15, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

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

Chairperson Olson recessed the meeting at 9:17 a.m.

Chairperson Olson reconvened the meeting at 9:22 a.m.

Road Superintendent Jim Grey, Chief Deputy Sheriff Richard Johnson, Clerk of Court Gwyn Bosch, Chief Deputy Auditor Lori Foss, Recorder Heidi Anderson, Disaster Emergency Services Director Noelle Kroll, Land Use Administrator Todd Schreiner, and McLean County Water Resource Board Members Lynn Oberg and Shannon Jeffers joined the meeting for preliminary budget review.

Knutson presented Information from NDACO Executive Director used for 2027 budget planning along with preliminary budget and explained changes. Discussion followed.

Oberg presented the preliminary 2027 Water Board budget and explained the issues being addressed with projects for Phase 2 of Painted Woods, a new Wolf Creek Subdivision, and new developments in Garrison. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the preliminary budget as presented below and set the Budget Hearing for September 15, 2026 at 9:15 a.m. The preliminary budget 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.

Schreiner rejoined the meeting to answer questions regarding notice from the City of Washburn when zoning changes occur on extra territorial property. Discussion followed.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:58 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