

## McLean County Commission Proceedings

Tuesday, October 7, 2025

The first regular October meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairperson Steve Lee. Present were Commissioners Lee, Steve Cottingham, and Curt Olson. Also present were Auditor Beth A. Knutson; Deputy Auditor Lynda Snyder; Road Superintendent James Grey; Computer Operations Director Lori Foss; Chief Deputy Sheriff Richard Johnson; Michael Lindblom; Bob Larson; Kathy and Dan Wagner; and Rainbow Energy Director of Projects Jon Price.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 16, 2025, as submitted. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Foss presented a quote for five laptops and software from NRG Technology Services in the amount of \$9,916.58. Foss stated that all laptop replacements were budgeted.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to authorize purchase of the laptops and software from NRG Technology Services. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Johnson asked for permission to extend the probation period for an employee of the Sheriff's Department trying to pass their GED to fulfill the minimum job requirements. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to approve extending the probationary period through June 2026. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Building and Maintenance Supervisor Curt Malo joined the meeting and asked permission to replace the light fixtures in the shower in the Law Enforcement Center (LEC) with tamper-proof fixtures per the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation requirements. He stated that only two fixtures need to be replaced at this time and the Maintenance Department will install them. Discussion followed.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, to approve purchase of new light fixtures for the LEC with amount not to exceed \$650 per fixture. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried. Discussion followed.

Malo stated that he had been seeking bids for glass partitions for the offices with direct access to the public. He went on to explain that five windows will be needed in the Clerk of Court, States Attorney, Auditor, and the Dakota Central Human Services Zone departments. Discussion followed.

Chairperson Lee asked Malo to return to an upcoming meeting for approval once bids are final.

Grey presented an update on department operations reporting that mowing will be completed in the next couple weeks and graveling continues across the county. Discussion followed.

Grey presented a boring request from RTC Networks (RTC) to bore and plow 1 1/4" HDPE pipe to provide service to Shay Collins at 2388 21<sup>st</sup> Street NW in Benedict North Dakota. RTC is requesting permission to be in County Road (CR) 23 right-of-way for approximately 2 1/8 miles, beginning in NE 1/4 of Section 19, Township 149 North, Range 81 West, vibratory plow a 24-fiber optic cable at the depth of 42 inches, in the west right-of-way for 5,734 feet including boring the wet area in NE 1/4SE 1/4 of Section 19, boring the SE 1/4 of Section 19 to NE 1/4 of Section 30, and boring CR 23 from NE 1/4NE 1/4 of Section 30 to NW 1/4NW 1/4 of Section 29 where a vault will be set on the edge of the right-of-way then continue south in the east right-of-way for 5,403 feet including boring the wet area in the SW 1/4NW 1/4 of Section 29 and Ken Adam's driveways in the NE 1/4NE 1/4 of Section 32 to the existing vault. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to approve the boring request for RTC to provide service to Shay Collins. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey stated that Moritz Sport and Marine contacted him, the Can-Am Defender XT previously purchased has arrived and we should receive the unit next week once the modifications are completed.

Grey informed the board that he and Assistant Road Superintendent Travis Verke will be attending the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Local Road Conference in Sioux Falls, SD, on October 20-22, 2025. Discussion followed.

Chairperson Lee recessed the regular McLean County Commission meeting at 9:00 a.m. and opened the public hearing for the request of a no wake zone or no access buoy placement at Brush Lake.

Knutson provided an explanation of the Century Code rules and clarification of the purpose of the public meeting being held. Discussion followed.

Larson stated his opposition. Discussion followed.

Kim Wagner stated her concern with the blind channel and obstructed view as this is a unique situation. Discussion followed.

Lindblom stated his opposition and concerns with placing a buoy in this area. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, that the McLean County Commission will not request a no wake zone or no access buoy from the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Discussion continued on the Brush Lake Association being more communicative of rules and trying to resolve issues within the community themselves.

Knutson stated the Wagners were responsible for the publishing charge for the public hearing, however, the commission requested the notice be published in all county newspapers resulting in additional charges. Knutson recommended that McLean County pay any cost over \$150 previously quoted to the Wagners for the publication.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to cover the additional cost over \$150 for advertising the public hearing in all papers. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Chairperson Lee adjourned the public hearing for a request of a no wake zone or no access buoy placement at Brush Lake at 9:34 a.m.

Chairperson Lee reconvened the 2026 McLean County budget hearing at 9:42 a.m.

State's Attorney Ladd Erickson joined the meeting.

Knutson presented copies of the 2026 McLean County budget to the Commission and went over the changes. Discussion followed.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the 2026 cost-of-living increase of 2.5% and salary step adjustments of 2.5%. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to approve the McLean County 2026 budget as presented. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The final budget for McLean County for the calendar year beginning January 1 to December 31, 2026, is available for public inspection anytime during regular business hours in the McLean County Auditor's Office.

Chairperson Lee adjourned the 2026 McLean County budget hearing and immediately reconvened the regular McLean County Commission meeting at 9:57 a.m.

Erickson stated he has been contacted about a potential battery storage project being constructed west of Garrison. This project would stabilize the grid in the area for Central Power and McLean Electric. Discussion followed.

Erickson presented a low interest loan program through Bank of North Dakota for improved access of infrastructure on county roads. The purpose of the loan would be to pave the road to the Industrial Park at Rainbow Energy Center. Erickson stated that the application is due November 1, 2025, and the county would have the option to decline the funds if approved. Discussion followed.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, to authorize application to the Bank of North Dakota for a loan to finance improved county road infrastructure. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson presented the Pledge of Securities received from TruCommunity Bank. The total public deposits were \$21,246,766.92 and the total pledged securities were \$22,574,918.94 on October 1, 2025.

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 Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to approve the Dakota Central Human Service Zone (DCHSZ) Transfer of Funds Resolution and the McLean County Auditor's Sweep Account Transfer of Funds Resolution from September. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

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

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the 2026 Commission Meeting Schedule calendar with one change in December moving the meeting on December 22 to December 29. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to change the second meeting in December 2025 from December 16 to December 30. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to appoint Ashley Woolley as the 2025 ND State Fair Delegate. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson presented final recommendations for minimum sale prices on real estate forfeited to the county. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to approve minimum sale prices of property taken for delinquent 2022 taxes as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

**Notice of Sale of Real Estate Forfeited to the County**  
**For Delinquent Taxes**  
**Chapter 57-28 N.D.C.C.**

Notice is hereby given that the following real estate has been forfeited to the County of McLean, State of North Dakota, for delinquent taxes that said county has taken tax deed for such property and will offer it for sale at public auction beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, in the county commission chambers of the McLean County Courthouse.

Each Parcel of real estate will be offered separately and sold to the highest bidder, but not for a sum less than the minimum sale price listed below. Payment must be made in cash. The sale shall continue until such time as all parcels forfeited to McLean County have been offered for sale and/or sold.

**Appraised Value of Property Taken for Delinquent 2022 Taxes**

Parcel #	Legal Description	Amt Owed	Minimum	Sale Price
		<u>Butte City</u>		
73-0001-10306-000	Lots 3-4 Blk 4 Original Townsite	\$1,545.15	\$2,169.03	
73-0001-10370-000	South 143' Lot 2 Blk 8 Original Townsite	\$1,564.47	\$2,194.84	
73-0001-10499-000	Lot 22, Less West 5' Blk 20 Original Townsite	\$1,812.22	\$2,516.61	
		<u>Garrison City</u>		
75-1602-00008-000	Lot 5 Blk 2 Pankratz 2 <sup>nd</sup> Addition	\$1,384.47	\$1,958.00	
		<u>Mercer City</u>		
77-1501-00073-000	E2N2 Lot 14 (150X150) Olesen's Addition	\$8,068.41	\$8,093.18	
77-1501-00074-000	W2N2 Lot 14 (150X150) Olesen's Addition	\$7,438.72	\$7,607.49	
		<u>Turtle Lake City</u>		
79-1801-00005-000	Lots 10-11-12 Blk 1 Ramsey Addition	\$1,090.54	\$1,355.76	

Given pursuant to authority of law this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2025, at Washburn, ND

/S/ Beth A. Knutson \_\_\_\_\_  
Beth A. Knutson  
McLean County Auditor

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, to set the hearing for the minimum sales prices of delinquent properties for 9:15 a.m. on October 21, 2025. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Recorder's Department for the month of September in the amount of \$10,647.30.

Received and ordered filed the fee collection report from the Sheriff's Department for the month of September in the amount of \$1,633.00.

Knutson presented the Joint Powers of Agreement with Ward County for housing inmates for 2026.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the Joint Powers of Agreement with Ward County for 2026 as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

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

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m. The commission minutes and agenda can be found on the county website at <https://www.mcleancountynd.gov>.