

McLean County Commission Proceedings
Tuesday, November 25, 2025

The second regular November meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 8:31 a.m. by Chairperson Steve Lee. Present were Commissioners Lee, Steve Cottingham, and Curt Olson. Also present were Auditor Beth A. Knutson; Deputy Auditor Diane L. Blumhagen; Deputy Auditor Emily K. Retterath; First District Public Health Nurse Pam Fischer; and Assistant Road Superintendent Travis Verke.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on November 2, 2025, as submitted. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Verke presented a boring request from Falkirk Mining Company to bore 10-inch HDPE pipe twelve feet below existing grade to be used to pass electrical cable under County Road (CR) 17. Discussion followed.

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

Verke presented an update on department operations reporting that a guard rail was struck which resulted in significant damage, 3D Specialties has been contacted for repairs. Verke also stated that graveling has been completed for the season and shop projects will start as well as tree removal in various areas. Discussion followed.

Building Maintenance Supervisor Curtis Malo joined the meeting to present a quote from Emineth Plumbing for a 3-inch water softener descaler. Discussion followed which resulted in tabling the quote until an upcoming commission meeting.

Fischer informed the commission of the circulation of a community health assessment survey in the county. Discussion followed.

Jared Mack from Eide Bailly joined the meeting via telephone to discuss the 2023 Audit Review for McLean County. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to accept the Eide Bailly 2023 McLean County Audit review. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

States Attorney Ladd Erickson joined the meeting via telephone to request the commission’s support of Rainbow Energy Center’s (REC) application for funding through the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) “Restoring Reliability: Coal Recommissioning and Modernization” initiative. Discussion followed.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, to approve and sign the letter of support for REC. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Erickson requested commission approval to apply for a \$5 million loan through the Bank of North Dakota (BND) Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund for a Rainbow Energy and Blue Flint Ethanol road project. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to approve the \$5 million dollar BND loan application with the understanding that there is no obligation to accept the loan. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson discussed the previously approved Back the Blue Grant, stating there were 39 employees receiving the funds instead of the prior amount of 40 which changed the disbursement amount to \$1,420.19.

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

Knutson discussed the previously approved Back the Blue Grant stating the amount changed to \$55,082.40. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to approve the Back the Blue Grant’s updated amount as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson requested approval to cover Back the Blue reimbursement difference of \$305.20 to be disbursed out of the General Fund.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, to disburse funds out of the General Fund. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson presented the employee commuter list for December 2025 through November 2026.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, to approve James Grey, Travis Verke, Curt Malo, Vance Tomlinson, and Troy Kittler as 2026 Commuter Benefit Employees. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson requested approval to advertise for the open Planning & Zoning Board for the Underwood seat.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, to advertise as requested. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson stated that John Schulz is no longer on the agenda due to the weather.

The board signed years of service recognition certificates for the following employees:

- Rhonda S Biffert, Jill L Gasaway, Eden F McLeod, Kelsey J Renner, Amanda D Schmidt, Jordon A Schumacher, and Donald T Simon for five years;
- Karissa K Rittenbach, Ricky L Richard, and Alexander D Torrez for ten years;
- Carey M Mautz, Henry A Bauer, Casey B Howe, Ryan S Oberg, and Dalen Schaefer for 15 years;
- James A Grey and Connie K Kelsch for 20 years;
- Paul O Jacobson for 30 years;
- Richard D Johnson for 40 years, and,
- Mary S Devlin for 45 years.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Olson, to approve the following vouchers for payment:

VOUCHER/ CHECK	REMIT NAME	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
UNPAID VOUCHERS			
1426	ARCHANGEL DEVICE LLC	GUARDIAN INFARED HYBRID ELITE SERIES	9,989.26
1426	ARTHUR RENNER	JAIL MEDICAL DIRECTOR	1,120.00
1426	BLUE360 MEDIA LLC	ND CRIMINAL AND TRAFFIC LAW MANUAL 2025	262.21
1426	BURLEIGH MORTON DETENTION CNTR	INMATE HOUSING	600.00
1426	BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	TROUBLE SHOOT ENGINE AND GENERATOR	810.00
1426	CARDIO PARTNERS INC	103 STOP THE BLEED KITS	9,942.59
1426	CENTRAL DAKOTA FRONTIER CO	JARDON AND GRAZON	4,840.00
1426	CHASE DRUG STORE	INMATE MEDS	268.68
1426	CHI ST ALEXIUS HEALTH GARRISON	INMATE MEDICAL	585.82
1426	CIVICPLUS, LLC	1 YEAR - SOCIAL MEDIA ADVERTISING	4,617.27
1426	DACOTAH PAPER COMPANY	GLOVES, TP, HAIR AND BODY SOAP, ETC	346.53
1426	DACOTAH PAPER COMPANY	COPY PAPER, GLOVES, BOWL CLEANER, TP	418.22
1426	DACOTAH PAPER COMPANY	GLOVES, BOWL CLEANER	131.19
1426	DIFFELY'S REPAIR, LLC	OIL CHANGES, TIRE REPAIR	547.79
1426	GARRISON RURAL WATER DISTRICT	PARK RURAL WATER USAGE	81.64
1426	GLADEN CONSTRUCTION INC.	LOST LAKE SENTIMENT CLEANOUT	18,600.00
1426	HIWAY 83 EXPRESS	GASOLINE	82.04

1426	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT	1ST DISTRICT HEALTH WAN	58.80
1426	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT	WAN	470.40
1426	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT	ADOBE ACROBAT	39.60
1426	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT	VESTA & SIRN	2,649.20
1426	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT	DES WAN	58.80
1426	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT	AZURE AD	7.85
1426	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT	INTUNE	6.60
1426	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT	INTUNE	6.60
1426	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT	OFFICE 365 BASIC	533.00
1426	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT	WAN ACCESS, OFFICE 365, ADOBE, VPN	1,751.05
1426	MAIN STREET MARKET	OCT GROCERIES FOR JAIL	5,109.73
1426	MAX FARM SERVICES	TAPE	2.99
1426	MCLEAN COUNTY AUDITOR	OCTOBER POSTAGE	30.13
1426	MDU	GAS - COURTHOUSE	65.80
1426	MDU	UTILITIES	574.15
1426	MENARDS	WINDSHIELD WASH	2.29
1426	ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES	COMMISSIONERS-NDACO CONV	540.00
1426	ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES	RECORDER-NDACO CONV	270.00
1426	ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES	AUDITOR-NDACO CONV	270.00
1426	ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES	ASSESSOR-NDACO CONV	165.00
1426	ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES	CLERK OF COURT-NDACO CONV	270.00
1426	NDACO RESOURCES GROUP	IT SUPPORT CONTRACT-DEC 2025	3,900.00
1426	NDACO RESOURCES GROUP	IT SUPPORT CONTRACT-DEC 2025	184.29
1426	NDACO RESOURCES GROUP	IT SUPPORT CONTRACT-DEC 2025	255.71
1426	NDACO RESOURCES GROUP	IT SUPPOER CONTRACT-DEC 2025	480.00
1426	NORTH CENTRAL INTERNATIONAL, LLC	MRAP REPAIR	722.11
1426	PRESORT PLUS, LLC	POSTAGE, PICKUP FEE, COURIER SERVICE	100.64
1426	QUADIENT FINANCE USA INC	POSTAGE MACHINE REFILL	2,000.00
1426	SCOTTS HARDWARE	HOSE FOR SINK IN COMMISSION ROOM	24.99
1426	SCOTTS HARDWARE	SWITCH, SWITCH COVER, TOOLS, BUG FUMIGATOR	68.74
1426	SCOTTS HARDWARE	SCREWS, BOLTS, COFFEE MAKERS, WATCH BATTERIES	238.76
1426	SIRCHIE	INK PAD, NO PRINT EVIDENCE TAPE	52.51
1426	STATE BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS	ND ATTORNEY LICENSURE 2026	380.00
1426	ULTEIG ENGINEERS INC	LOST LAKE DAM FISH PASSAGE	12,295.75
1426	ULTEIG ENGINEERS INC	LOST LAKE FISH PASSAGE	3,014.75
1426	UNDERWOOD & WASHBURN CLINICS	2025 HEALTH FAIR LABS, PHYSICALS	528.68
1426	UNICOM	WATCH GUARD MOBILE VIDEO SYSTEM	812.50
1426	VISION WEST ND, INC	SUPPORTER LEVEL MEMBERSHIP DUES	800.00
1426	WATER PURITY INC	WATER	24.00
1426	WEX HEALTH	MONTHLY ADMIN FEE	99.00
1426	WILTON FARMERS UNION OIL CO	OIL CHANGES, SHOP LABOR	742.30
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT			
1425	BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	SKID CENTER, WING SKID FORWARD, ETC	837.20
1425	DEERE CREDIT, INC.	LEASE PAYMENT - JD TRACTORS	5,625.04
1425	GARRISON CITY	WATER/SEWER/GARBAGE	53.20
1425	JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	PARTS, FILTERS	950.39
1425	MDU	WASHBURN	129.39
1425	MDU	TURTLE LAKE	24.64
1425	MDU	MAX	24.64
1425	MDU	GARRISON	98.96
1425	ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES	PRE-EMPLOYMENT & FOLLOWUP DRUG TEST	126.00
1425	RDO EQUIPMENT CO	JD FLEX WING ROTARY CUTTER	30,256.36
1425	S AND J HARDWARE	3/8" QUICK LINK & CONNECTORS	33.53
1425	TITAN MACHINERY	EQUIPMENT REPAIRS	1,348.80
1425	WALLWORK TRUCK CENTER	REPAIRS, PARTS	6,809.92
1425	WILTON FARMERS UNION OIL CO	GREASE, ANTIFREEZE, WASHER FLUID, ETC	1,255.59
DIRECT DEPOSIT			
1427	ANNA SIX	REIMBURSE LUBRIDERM FOR INMATE	10.93
1427	ANNA SIX	REIMB CPR TRAINING	53.00
1427	ASHLEY WOOLLEY	MILEAGE REIMB - STATE FAIR MEETING	84.00
1427	EMILY RETTERATH	MILEAGE REIMB	61.60
1427	LORI A FOSS	TELEPHONE-NON-SHERIFF	360.00
1427	NOELLE KROLL	MILEAGE REIMB	280.00
1427	SARAH BEDGAR	REIMB MILEAGE, LODGING, OUT OF STATE MEALS	812.38
1427	SHERRY GREY	REIMB POSTAGE	9.95
1427	TRAVIS R VERKE	CUB CADET WEED EATER	250.00
PAYROLL			
1405	NDPERS HEALTH AND LIFE INS	OCTOBER 2025 PAYROLL	237,004.44
1406	NDPERS	OCTOBER 2025 PAYROLL	97,860.72
1407	NDPERS/DEFERRED COMPENSATION	OCTOBER 2025 PAYROLL	7,782.50
1412	AFLAC	MONTHLY PREMIUM	1,682.20
1413	DELTA DENTAL	DENTAL INS PREMIUM	8,277.93
1414	BRAVERA WEALTH	MONTHLY CONTRIBUTIONS	1,291.60
1414	FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE	FOP DUES	59.00
1414	MISSOURI VALLEY FOP #3	FOP DUES	45.00
1421	AVESIS/FSL	VISION INS PREMIUM	1,771.52
1461	ND CHILD SUPPORT	CHILD SUPPORT	2,691.00
ON DEMAND/MANUAL CHECKS			
1404	WEX BANK	GASOLINE	14,866.73
401840	FLASH PRINTING	EXHIBITS-CASE NO 28-2025-CR-229	136.24
401841	CHI ST ALEXIS MEDICAL CENTER	INMATE MEDICAL	1,307.67
401842	CITY OF WASHBURN	COURTHOUSE AND LEC-WATER/SEWER	171.42
401843	DACOTAH PAPER CO	SCOURING PADS, STEAM PAN, TP, ETC	980.08
401844	GARRISON FARMERS UNION OIL CO	OIL CHANGE AND LABOR	503.26
401845	MCLEAN COUNTY IMPLEMENT	ANTIFREEZE, 5W40 OIL	137.91
401849	NORTHERN PLAINS PLUMBING	LABOR AND MATERIAL-DEMO STORAGE TANK	7,980.00
401850	S AND J HARDWARE	RV ANTIFREEZE, 3V BATTERY	167.89
401855	DACOTAH PAPER CO	TEST STRIPS, CAN LINERS, TP, SOAP, ETC	508.04
401856	ND ATTY GENERAL	REIMB FOR BACK THE BLUE GRANT OVERPMNT	250.00
401857	NDACO RESOURCES GROUP	DELL PRO LAPTOPS AND DISPOSAL OF OLD ONES	8,956.70
401858	NEVADA COUNTY SHERIFF	SERVICE OF NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE	100.00
1419	ENTERPRISE FLEET MANAGEMENT	LEASE PAYMENTS	15,802.50
401859	ND ATTY GENERAL	2ND REIMB FOR BACK THE BLUE GRAT OVERPMNT	55.20

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

Knutson suggested moving the commission meeting held on December 2, 2025, to a later time due to the Employee Recognition Potluck following the commission meeting.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, to move the meeting to 10:00 a.m. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:41 a.m. The commission minutes and agenda can be found on the county website at <https://www.mcleancountynd.gov>.

Steve Lee, Chairperson

Diane L. Blumhagen, Deputy Auditor