

Wells County Commissioner's Meeting Minutes April 7, 2026

The April meeting was called to order by Chairman Dockter at 2:00 PM. Present at the meeting were Stan Buxa, Dennis Dockter, Bryan Lutt, Danny Maxwell, Brian Miller, Lydia Gessele, Kip Kovar, Scott Mehring, Alex Molander, Neil Nelson of the Herald-Press, and Daniel Stutlien.

SB (*M*), BL (*S*) to approve the minutes from the March Meeting. Unanimously carried.

DM (*M*), BM (*S*) to approve the minutes from the March Special Meeting March 30th. Unanimously carried.

Employee timesheets were reviewed by the commissioners.

SB (*M*), BM (*S*) to approve the bills as presented. Unanimously carried.

The current WC Balance Sheet was reviewed and discussed. Also, the Auditor shared current county investments as well as Commission controlled WC funds. DM (*M*), BL (*S*) to approve the Balance Sheet. Unanimously carried.

DM (*M*), BL (*S*) to approve Laura Muscha, Treasurer, and Daniel Stutlien, Auditor, to purchase or cash out CD's and investments on behalf of WC. Unanimously carried.

Pledged Securities for all WC bank accounts were reviewed by the Commission. It was the consensus of the Commission the securities were adequate to cover the county's current deposits.

The only correspondence received this month was a letter from Oshkosh Township regarding paid blading. I shared the letter with Brent Keller and have responded to the letter writer, including inviting him to meet with the Commission. However, I did not receive a response.

Commission Portfolios were discussed.

Under the Public Comments portion of the meeting, no one was signed up to address the Commission.

Scott Mehring and Kip Kovar from Garrison Diversion addressed the Commission regarding the RRVWS Project. With some new monies available, the westernmost 32 miles from the McClusky Canal will get first attention beginning in '27 near Chaseley and to the west. They were directed to contact Jana Mogren in the Tax Director's office for permitting requirements and keep the WC Road Foreman, Brent Keller, and applicable townships in the loop on all road haul agreements.

WC Road Foreman, Brent Keller, sat with the Commission to discuss matters of his Dept. Keller briefly discussed personnel in his Dept. and they have gone to 4-day weeks (*M-R*). If the weather allows, blading should commence within a week with shoulder pulling also on the horizon. Keller also discussed Dept. equipment. A ditch along WC #6 south of Bremen was called into question for long standing drainage issues. Keller will get an estimate to complete the clean-up work, which may also mean the moving of a culvert.

Jason Mayfield of Wold Engineering and Bryan Tykwinski of KLJ Engineers joined the Commission to discuss bridge projects in WC. The bridge on WC #1 north of Fessenden will be replaced this summer and will go to bid very soon. The Commission will be interviewing for

construction engineering for the project. The engineers also clarified the projects on 19th St. NE and 47th Ave. and who is providing the road re-route and the bridge removal and replacement.

Lydia Gessele requested to speak to the Commission on the subject of education of WC Public Servants. Before addressing public servants, Gessele questioned Garrison Diversion permits in Bilodeau Township. Gessele also stated notices sent to WC in '25 went unanswered. Gessele provided the WC Auditor "settled law cases" for consideration. The Commission will direct WC States Attorney Oliver Bromke to formulate a response to Gessele.

WC Auditor Daniel Stutlien shared information with the Commission regarding the June Primary Election. The deadline has now passed for getting on the ballot. Ballot rotation drawings will be held this Wednesday, April 8th. Training for election workers will be held Tuesday, May 26th, at which time a public test of the machines will also be conducted. The election will be held Tuesday, June 9th, with votes centers at the Bowdon Fire Hall, Festival Hall, and Harvey City Armory with polls open from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM. An audit described by the State Auditor's Office will be conducted Monday, June 15th, and the Canvassing Board will meet at 10:00 AM Monday, June 22nd, to finalize the Primary Election.

A raffle permit from ND EMS Foundation was considered by the Commission. SB (M), DM (S) to approve the raffle permit request. Unanimously carried. #WC2026002

A gaming permit was submitted on behalf of the Aggie Foundation to renew their permit at Bremen Bar. DM (M), BM (S) to approve the gaming permit request. Unanimously carried.

A proposal from G & R Controls to provide automated heating controls for the basement of the WC Courthouse was considered. The proposal was for \$54,300 and must be completed outside of the heating season which typically begins in mid-late October. The proposal was tabled indefinitely.

The next Six-County Meeting will be held in Logan Co. in June.

The next regular meeting of the WC Commission will be held Tuesday, May 5th, at 8:00 AM in the KTL Building.

The next WC Departments meeting will be held Thursday, April 16th, at 8:30 AM.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:32 PM.

The following Fees and Receipts were approved and ordered filed:

Clerk of Court	\$	515.00
Recorder	\$	2,857.80
Sheriff	\$	904.50
Misc.	\$	99,278.63

On motion, the following bills were ordered paid: (*Gross wages, when listed*)

#Direct Deposit	Payroll, General (1000)	\$	97,591.62
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, Road (2001)	\$	44,708.73
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, 911 (2003)	\$	1,351.39
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, County Agent (2005)	\$	3,312.21
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, Social Welfare (2007)	\$	59,780.16
#ACH BC/BS	Insurance	\$	64,525.96
#ACH NDPERS	Retirement	\$	32,566.34

Apr-26 General

Brian Miller	\$116.00
Bryan Lutt	\$339.30
Carrie Krause	\$250.00
Carrie Krause	\$256.65
Chad C. Nodland, Atty. at Law	\$325.00
Dakota Dust-Tex	\$449.64
Daniel Stutlien	\$348.63
Danny Maxwell	\$207.35
Dennis Dockter	\$126.88
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$99.16
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$903.50
Fessenden City	\$440.53
Fessenden City	\$320.47
G & R Controls, Inc.	\$1,906.30
Herald Press	\$87.72
Herald Press	\$848.54
ITD	\$1,480.60
Jamestown Communications	\$2,228.75
Kreiter Autoworks, Inc.	\$3,281.87
Little Mart	\$81.82
ND State Treasurer	\$35.00
NDTC	\$636.44
NDTC	\$100.69
NDTC	\$57.85
Otter Tail	\$4,433.21
Otter Tail	\$50.02
Otter Tail	\$1,571.91
Software Innovations	\$10,800.00
Stan Buxa	\$203.00
Thyssenkrupp Elevator Corp.	\$3,093.29
Thyssenkrupp Elevator Corp.	\$2,500.00
Vanguard Appraisals	\$650.00
Ward Hilger	\$66.21
Wells County Treasurer	\$29.36
Wells County Treasurer	\$358.21
Wells County Treasurer	\$376.10
Wells County Treasurer	\$205.08
Wells County Treasurer	\$172.00
Wells County Treasurer	\$110.00
Wells County Treasurer	\$100.00
Wells County Treasurer	\$1,098.26
Wells County Treasurer	\$114.19
World Insurance Ass. LLC	\$3,382.00
	<u>\$44,241.53</u>

911

Janelle Pepple	\$59.00
Wells County Treasurer	<u>\$220.00</u>
	\$279.00

Jail & Trans

HACTC	\$100.00
Stutsman County Correction Center	<u>\$1,100.00</u>
	\$1,200.00

County Agent

Leaf	\$235.91
NDTC	\$123.40
Otter Tail	\$47.63
Wells County Treasurer	\$275.00
Wells County Treasurer	<u>\$200.00</u>
	\$881.94

Social Services

4th Corporation	\$140.00
Advanced Business Methods	\$252.95
Central City H2O+	\$60.00
Dakota Central	\$171.41
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$29.75
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$32.91
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$138.57
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$3.29
HANSON RUNSVOLD	\$3,500.00
ITD	\$118.67
Leaf	\$312.00
Little Mart	\$61.20
Little Mart	\$12.99
NDACo Resources Group	\$960.00
NDTC	\$590.65
Opdahl Body Shop	\$439.00
Patriot Fuels	\$107.59
Patriot Fuels	\$161.77
Paula Duren	\$250.00
Pitney Bowes Global Financial Services L	\$81.90
Wells County Treasurer	\$75.00
Wells County Treasurer	\$38.11
Wells County Treasurer	\$69.17
Wells County Treasurer	\$42.30
Wells County Treasurer	\$6.72
Wells County Treasurer	\$128.62
Wells County Treasurer	<u>\$390.59</u>
	\$8,175.16

Weed Control

Dale Schmitz	\$444.43
Danny Maxwell	\$162.63
Donna Rau	\$220.87
Kelly Muscha	\$218.87
Kyle Alfstad	\$225.91
US Treasury	<u>\$446.30</u>
	\$1,719.01

Highway Tax

American Welding & Gas	\$3.92
Brandjord Chevrolet	\$877.82
Butler Machinery	\$755.00
Central Plains Water	\$198.72
Double M Sanitation	\$175.00
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$13,584.81
Fessenden City	\$255.67
Gooseneck Implement	\$510.37
Harvey City	\$65.20
High Plains Equipment	\$202.15
Jeffs Key & Lock Repair	\$160.25
Lautt's Auto Body & Towing	\$210.00
Lemer's ACE & Rental	\$197.71
Linde Gas & Equipment	\$765.77
Meehan Machine	\$308.37
NAPA-Harvey	\$747.82
NDTC	\$145.58
Northern Plains Electric	\$1,191.47
Otter Tail	\$971.70
Patzer Truck Repair	\$873.60
Power Plan	\$3,447.74
Sykeston City	\$49.00
Wells County Treasurer	\$1,663.35
Wells County Treasurer	\$197.52
Wells County Treasurer	<u>\$1,034.60</u>
	\$28,593.14

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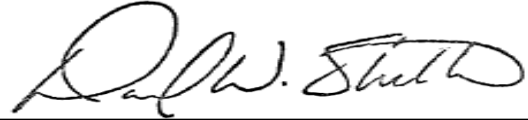
Office Of Attorney General	\$124.00
	\$85,213.78

Approved:



**Dennis T. Dockter,
Wells County Commission Chairman**

Attest:



**Daniel W. Stutlien,
Wells County Auditor**