

Wells County Commissioner's Meeting Minutes February 5, 2026

The February meeting was called to order by Chairman Dockter at 8:00 AM. Present at the meeting were Stan Buxa, Dennis Dockter, Bryan Lutt, Danny Maxwell, Brian Miller, Lydia Gessele, Donnie Muscha, Kathy Muscha, and Daniel Stutlien.

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

BL (*M*), BM (*S*) to approve the minutes from the January Special Meeting held 1/9/26. Unanimously carried.

DM (*M*), BM (*S*) to approve the minutes from the January Special Meeting held 1/20/26. Unanimously carried.

Employee timesheets were reviewed by the commissioners.

BM (*M*), BL (*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*), BM (*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.

The only correspondence received this month was the Spring Light Goose Conservation Order and a Spring Wild Turkey Proclamation issued by the State of ND, and the WC Extension Agency's Q4 newsletter.

Regarding Commission appointments, for the District Health Committee, SB (*M*), BM (*S*) to appoint Beth Huseth for a vacant seat. Unanimously carried. For the JDA Committee, BM (*M*), BL (*S*) to re-appoint Sherrie Lien, Robert Martin, Arnie Selzler, and Paula Tweeton, and to appoint Donnie Hoepfer for a vacant seat. Unanimously carried. On the HSZ Board, SB (*M*), DM (*S*) to re-appoint Becky Hagel and Brian Miller. Unanimously carried.

Commission Portfolios were discussed. In recent years, EMS was not held by any Commissioner as a portfolio. As such, Dennis Dockter agreed to take the portfolio for '26. SB (*M*), BM (*S*) to grant Dennis Dockter the EMS portfolio. Unanimously carried.

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

Jana Mogren sat with the Commission to address matters related both to Planning & Zoning and the Office of the Tax Director. The P & Z Committee has already approved OTPC's request to bury lines near Concordia Church rural Hamberg and Fisher Sand & Gravel requested a permit to crush gravel in the Johnson pit for the upcoming Hwy. 52 project. SB (*M*), DM (*S*) to approve the permits. Unanimously carried. Mogren also apprised the Commission the RRWS Project has reached out may be submitting permits soon to continue work in southern WC. Assessor's fees for townships and cities were discussed as well as updating rural land use and valuations. Presently, townships pay \$400/yr. and city fees vary, and rural land use is still using a 2008 guidance model.

WC Road Foreman, Brent Keller, sat with the Commission to discuss matters of his Dept. Keller briefly discussed the possibility of WC purchasing traffic counters for county roads. An estimate of \$2,800 for two full sets could get the county the equipment needed for this purpose. Keller notified the Commission gravel has been hauled and stockpiled for future use, and chips are scheduled to be hauled and piled next. Further, with the mild winter, the department has been focusing on equipment repairs. Keller discussed some furnace trouble at the Fessenden shop. The unit is 46 years old and will likely need to be replaced. Estimate to replace is just under \$4,000 installed. Lastly, Keller discussed personnel, particularly for the summer months, as well potential retirements coming in the Dept.

Jason Mayfield of Wold Engineering met with the Commission to discuss the two successful Flex Funding projects for WC. WC was awarded Prairie Dog Grant funding for a mill & overlay on Old 52, and West Norway Township was awarded a road re-route near two bridges north and east of Fessenden that need to be removed and replaced with a single crossing. Bridge funding has not yet been secured, so there is no path to move forward yet for the West Norway project, and the Old 52 project is likely a '27 project. Mayfield also shared safety funds for 2027 awarded for a curve just west of Fessenden as well as a curve south of Sykeston. This safety project should be in conjunction with the mill and overlay project.

The Commission resumed discussions on the New Rockford Canal property within WC. The Commission plans to visit with the Eddy County Commission regarding what could potentially be done by acquiring this property.

The Commission continued discussions regarding long-term planning in an ongoing effort to develop clarity regarding the financial challenges and fiscal direction of WC in the coming years. Following input, a tentatively finalized document will be reviewed in March for approval. Regarding capital projects as a part of long term planning, SB (M), BL (S) to replace the KTL roof and tuckpoint and install gutters on the Festival Hall. Unanimously carried. The Commission anticipates completing the Festival Hall foundation work and Courthouse tuckpointing in either '27 or '28.

The next WC Departments meeting will be held Thursday, February 19^h, at 2:30 PM.

The Annual Township Officers Assn. Meeting will be held Friday, February 27th, at 9:30 AM at the Festival Hall.

The next Six-County Meeting will be held in Kidder Co. Tuesday, March 10th, at 10:00 AM.

The next regular meeting of the WC Commission will be held Wednesday, March 4th, at 8:00 AM in the KTL Building.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:01 AM.

The following Fees and Receipts were approved and ordered filed:

Clerk of Court	\$	235.00
Recorder	\$	2,212.10
Sheriff	\$	860.00
Misc.	\$	804,038.75

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

#Direct Deposit	Payroll, General (1000)	\$	97,412.08
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, Road (2001)	\$	45,076.07
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, 911 (2003)	\$	1,351.39

#Direct Deposit	Payroll, County Agent (2005)	\$ 3,365.21
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, Social Welfare (2007)	\$ 64,371.81
#ACH BC/BS	Insurance	\$ 65,760.12
#ACH NDPERS	Retirement	\$ 32,982.21

Feb. 2026 General

Wells County Treasurer	\$98.66	Central Supplies
ODP Business Solutions, LLC	\$142.28	Central Supplies
Pitney Bowes	\$114.75	Postage Meter Rent
NDTC	\$786.01	Telephone
Wells County Treasurer	\$358.21	Telephone
Otter Tail	\$2,524.33	Countywide Utilities
Fessenden City	\$526.30	Countywide Utilities
Central City H20+	\$318.00	Water
Central Plains Water	\$429.39	Countywide Utilities
Wells County Treasurer	\$82.35	Bank Charges
Dakota Dust-Tex	\$484.17	Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
MARC	\$1,424.05	Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
Wells County Treasurer	\$438.02	Janitor Supplies
Tracys Market	\$232.33	Janitor Supplies
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$17.95	Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
Bold Enterprise LLP	\$183.50	Courthouse Maintenance
Herald Press	\$635.46	Legal Publications
ND Assn. of Counties	\$400.00	Spec Op
Central Dakota 6-County Org.	\$420.00	Annual Dues
Advanced Business Methods	\$76.00	Contracted Services
ND Assn. of Counties	\$3,600.00	Technology
NDTC	\$100.72	Technology
Idemia Identity & Security	\$1,428.00	Technology
NDACo Resources Group	\$264.68	Technology
Software Innovations	\$750.00	Technology
Foster County Treasurer	\$6,412.11	Indirect Payment
Eddy County Treasurer	\$3,515.83	Indirect Payment
Houchin Tax Service	\$105.00	Professional Services
ND Assn. of Counties	\$264.60	Drug testing-employee
Daniel Stutlien	\$70.88	Auditor Health Ins.
ND County Auditors Association	\$200.00	Dues/Registration Fees
Daniel Stutlien	\$72.50	Travel/Mileage
ND County Auditors Association	\$200.00	Dues/Registration Fees
ND State Treasurer	\$35.00	Marriage Licenses
Carrie Krause	\$232.00	Travel/Mileage
Wells County Treasurer	\$674.00	Cont'd Ed-TD
ND Sheriffs & Deputies Association	\$400.00	Dues/Registration Fees
Wells County Treasurer	\$100.00	Dues/Registration Fees
ND State Radio	\$263.00	Maintenance - State Radio
Timothy Mueller	\$159.17	Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Kotaco Fuel & Propane	\$130.21	Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.

Wells County Treasurer	\$1,149.01	Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$80.24	Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Axon Enterprise Inc.	\$10,994.40	Sheriff Camera
Kreiter Autoworks, Inc.	\$8,056.24	Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
NDEMA	\$50.00	Dues/Registration Fees
Rosas Pizza	\$150.00	Grant Match
Tracys Market	\$53.96	Grant Match
NDTC	\$59.24	Telephone
Wells County Treasurer	\$114.19	Telephone
Tammy Roehrich	\$261.00	Travel/Mileage
Otter Tail	\$55.31	Utilities
Dakota Steedsman	\$285.65	Mileage
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$1,292.70	Fuel
Otter Tail	\$764.00	Festival Hall/Fair Utilities
Fessenden City	\$321.00	Festival Hall/Fair Utilities
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	\$52,356.40	

HB1066

KLJ Engineering, LLC	\$5,337.41	HB 1066
Maddock Construction Co.	\$65,901.75	HB 1066
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	\$71,239.16	

911

ND State Radio	\$23,061.36	Data Base/Circuiting/Updates
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Jail & Trans.

HACTC	\$122.57	Jail & Transport Medication
HACTC	\$4,940.00	Jail & Transport Prison Board
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	\$5,062.57	

Co. Agent

Leaf	\$235.91	Copier Lease & Maint.
NDTC	\$121.43	Telephone
Ciera Kotaska	\$255.20	Travel/Mileage
Connie Loen	\$27.55	Travel/Mileage
Otter Tail	\$52.68	Utilities
NDSU-Ag Budget Office	\$7,249.99	Share of County Agent
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	\$7,942.76	

Social Services

Wells County Treasurer	\$15.00	Client Support
Wells County Treasurer	\$173.39	Fuel/Foster Care
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$71.91	Fuel/Foster Care
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$99.53	Vehicles
Alicia Lamm	\$13.78	Meals/Foster Care
Wells County Treasurer	\$29.55	Fuel/Child Protect. Serv.
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$49.81	Fuel/Child Protect. Serv.
Wells County Treasurer	\$13.00	Vehicles
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$74.49	Vehicles

Wells County Treasurer	\$50.15	Parent Aid/Lodging/Hotels
Patriot Fuels	\$209.07	Family Social Worker/Fuel
Opdahl Body Shop	\$3,052.14	Vehicles
Wells County Treasurer	\$12.37	Meals/Foster Care
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$254.92	In Home Care/Fuel
Becky Dockter	\$25.62	In Home Care - Travel/Mileage
Wells County Treasurer	\$181.30	Contracted Services
Leaf	\$312.00	Contracted Services
4th Corporation	\$140.00	Contracted Services
Advanced Business Methods	\$328.95	Contracted Services
NDTC	\$714.24	Telephone
Dakota Central	\$172.59	Telephone
Wells County Treasurer	\$434.94	Telephone
Wells County Treasurer	\$23.50	Vehicles
Central City H20+	\$51.00	Water
ITD	\$124.49	Zone Admin Support/IT Other
Duchscherer Supply	\$25.99	Supplies
Wells County Treasurer	\$133.10	Zone Admin Supp./Office Materials
Wells County Treasurer	\$54.00	Subscriptions & Memberships
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	\$6,840.83	

Weed Control

Danny Maxwell	\$107.87	Salary - Board Meeting
Donna Rau	\$220.87	Salary - Employee
Dale Schmitz	\$327.00	Travel/Mileage
Houchin Tax Service	\$580.00	Professional Services
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	\$1,235.74	

Hwy. Tax

Harvey Oil Co.	\$2,191.00	Fuel
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$5,602.37	Fuel
RDO Equipment Co.	\$17,664.00	Highway Machinery Warranty's
NAPA-Harvey	\$1,159.13	Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Patzer Truck Repair	\$1,447.02	Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Power Plan	\$8,296.52	Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Butler Machinery	\$6,837.48	Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Linde Gas & Equipment	\$160.38	Supplies
Wells County Treasurer	\$441.41	Supplies
American Welding & Gas	\$261.35	Supplies
Lemer's ACE & Rental	\$300.64	Supplies
Menards-Minot	\$106.80	Supplies
NDTC	\$145.58	Telephone
Otter Tail	\$565.27	Utilities
Northern Plains Electric	\$432.68	Utilities
Fessenden City	\$255.73	Utilities
Harvey City	\$66.20	Utilities
ND Assn. of Counties	\$396.90	Drug testing-employee
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	\$46,330.46	

24-7

Office Of Attorney General

\$239.00 Scram Fees

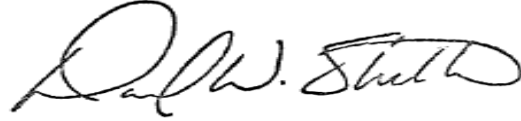
\$214,308.28

Approved:



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

Attest:



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