

Wells County Commissioner's Meeting Minutes

July 8, 2025

The July meeting was called to order by Chairman Dockter at 8:10 AM. Present at the meeting were Stan Buxa, Dennis Dockter, Bryan Lutt, Danny Maxwell, Brian Miller, Jackie Bauerle, Ivy Brye, Lydia Gessele, Gene Hartl, Blake Liss, Wells McGiffert, Jana Mogren, Alex Molander, Annette Sprague, Steven Sprague, Dakota Steedsman, Daniel Stutlien, and Neil Nelson of the Herald-Press.

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

BL (*M*), DM (*S*) to approve the minutes from the June Annual Equalization Meeting. Unanimously carried.

Employee timesheets were reviewed by the commissioners.

DM (*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. BM (*M*), DM (*S*) to approve the Balance Sheet. 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.

SB (*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.

Correspondence from Garrison Diversion regarding their matching recreation grant program was shared with the Commission and has been sent to the seven cities in WC. Also shared was notice of a property transfer of the old Sykeston Rest Area to a nearby patron and notice from ND Water Resources of WC being re-mapped for flood risk accuracy.

Commission Portfolios were reviewed and discussed.

WC Clerk of Court, Carla Johnson, addressed the Commission regarding the duties and responsibilities of her office. Johnson provided a handout summing up the main responsibilities of the C of C's office working jointly with law enforcement, the States Attorney, the court system, and a multitude of other agencies.

Anne Ehni from the WC Soil Conservation District was slated to address the Commission, but was unable to attend. Ehni will be rescheduled for a subsequent meeting.

Steven Sprague of Fram Township visited with the Commission. Sprague began with appreciation for both the Commission and the Planning & Zoning Committee. Sprague encouraged the Commission to pass the ordinance as recommended by the P & Z Committee.

Wells McGiffert of PRC Wind spoke with the Commission regarding the Wind Ordinance. McGiffert also thanked both the Commission & the P&Z Committee and suggested PRC also supports the passage of the ordinance with some minor recommended alteration to clear up language.

WC Road Foreman, Brent Keller, met with the Commission to discuss matters of his Dept. Keller discussed present personnel and lack of applicants for open positions in the shop. Keller also discussed current and upcoming projects for the Dept. Keller also brought in Janelle Pepple to discuss street sign along county roads. SB (M), BL (S) to replace all street signs along county roads. Unanimously carried.

Jason Mayfield of Wold Engineering sat down with the Commission and talked about the Flexible Transportation Fund Program and the scoring matrixes for grant success. Mayfield also discussed bridge scour and bridge condition in WC. The Commission reiterated priorities of WC #1 and Old 52. The Hamberg Slough Project appears to be an after Labor Day project.

Two beer & liquor license extensions were requested from Flatland Trailblazers and the Fessenden Country Club, dba Festival Hall. BM (M), SB (S) to approve Fessenden Country Club request for Saturday, July 12th. Unanimously carried. BM (M), DM (S) to approve Flatland's request for Sunday, July 13th. Unanimously carried.

An estimate from Fargo Glass & Paint to replace the entrance doors at Festival Hall. The estimate for the front doors is \$15,893.00. The estimate for the back doors is \$9,863.00. An additional estimate of \$3,673.00 would be required to install accessibility openers in the front of the building. DM (M), BL (S) to approve funding for the front door and accessibility options. Unanimously carried.

The Commission considered selling parcel #45104000 now that it is cleaned up. The property had originally been home to the Cathay School. SB (M), DM (S) to approve the sale of the property to the City of Cathay for \$1. Unanimously carried.

A letter of resignation from Janelle Pepple was considered for her role as the manager of Festival Hall effective 12/31/25. SB (M), BM (S) to approve Pepple's resignation and thank her many years of management of the facility. Unanimously carried. This role will likely be absorbed in the Auditor's office.

WC Auditor, Daniel Stutlien, begin leading the Commission through the '26 budget requests of each WC department. Regarding potential employee salary and benefits, Stutlien apprised the Commission the '26 health insurance increase will be 9.1%. The Commission directed the Auditor to maintain the 2% along with \$800 and \$400 in equity payments. The Commission will plan to hold a special meeting later in July to examine the entire budget prior to and look at funding specifically considering the new caps.

In Planning & Zoning, the Commission considered a variance request from Mike Alvewhere to place a new house where his existing house is. SB (M), DM (S) to approve Alvewhere's variance request. Unanimously carried. The Commission was also asked to consider the new Wind Ordinance as submitted by the Planning & Zoning Committee with alterations regarding primary residence definition, blade clearance height, collector and feeder line placement, permit fees, and a setback of 1 mile w/ variance options as discussed. SB (M), DM (S) to approve the new ordinance as presented with modifications. Unanimously carried.

Consideration of a new policy regarding public commenting at regular meetings of the WC Commission was undertaken. This is required to become a standard part of each regular meeting of the Commission beginning in August. Requests to address the Commission will need to be made in advance of the meeting and must not only adhere to agenda items, but must also follow public decorum rules and adhere to other minimum guidance. BM (M), BL (S) to approve the new policy for public comments. Unanimously carried. The newly adopted policy will be

available at regular meetings and may also be obtained from the WC Auditor's Office at any time.

A special meeting of the WC Commission to examine the '26 budget will be held Tuesday, July 29th, at 8:00 AM. The regular August WC Commission Meeting will be Tuesday, August 5th, 2025 at 8:00 AM.

The next Departments Meeting will be held Thursday, July 17th, at 1:00 PM in the KTL Building.

The next Six-County Meeting will be held Tuesday, September 9th, in Emmons Co. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:56 AM.

The following Fees and Receipts were approved and ordered filed:

Clerk of Court	\$	100.00
Recorder	\$	3,624.50
Sheriff	\$	800.00
Misc.	\$	85,151.49

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

#Direct Deposit	Payroll, General (1000)	\$	100,187.41
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, Road (2001)	\$	45,550.59
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, 911 (2003)	\$	1,308.55
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, County Agent (2005)	\$	3,194.47
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, Social Welfare (2007)	\$	63,707.33
#ACH BC/BS	Insurance	\$	57,938.46
#ACH NDPERS	Retirement	\$	32,409.84

25-Jul

General

Wells County Treasurer	\$32.11 Central Supplies
ODP Business Solutions, LLC	\$7.89 Central Supplies
Wells County Treasurer	\$88.26 Postage
Dakota Mailing	\$108.72 Postage Meter Supplies
Wells County Treasurer	\$385.58 Telephone
NDTC	\$670.91 Telephone
Otter Tail	\$1,434.78 Countywide Utilities
Fessenden City	\$471.00 Countywide Utilities
Wells County Treasurer	\$136.30 Bank Charges
Klocke Enterprises	\$25.00 Award
G & R Controls, Inc.	\$3,949.50 Courthouse Maintenance
Tracys Market	\$19.05 Janitor Supplies
Wells County Treasurer	\$34.98 Janitor Supplies
Schmaltz's Greenhouse	\$961.48 Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
Weigelt Refrigeration	\$270.00 Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
Lemer's ACE & Rental	\$31.99 Janitor Supplies
Teves Construction	\$59,640.13 Courthouse Maintenance
Elite Spraying	\$190.00 Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
Klocke Enterprises	\$180.00 Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
Dakota Dust-Tex	\$676.52 Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$41.85 Janitor Supplies

Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$1,155.40 KTL Propane
Herald Press	\$461.76 Legal Publications
Frey Insurance	\$17,253.00 ND Insurance Reserve Fund
South Central Dakota Regional Council	\$9,685.00 Co. Dues
Wells County Treasurer	\$25.98 Technology
Wells County Water Resource District	\$29.22 Technology-reimbursement
NDACo Resources Group	\$39.99 Technology
Advanced Business Methods	\$3,161.70 Technology
ITD	\$1,655.05 Technology
NDTC	\$9,766.07 Technology
Wells County Health District	\$290.76 Opioid Settlement
Wells County Treasurer	\$137.23 Countywide Misc.
Eddy County Treasurer	\$2,159.00 Indirect Costs Due
Foster County Treasurer	\$8,138.50 Countywide Misc.-Indirect due
Western Products Inc.	\$68,402.50 FH & Fairground Maint.
Danny Maxwell	\$109.20 Travel/Mileage
Brian Miller	\$223.30 Travel/Mileage
Stan Buxa	\$245.00 Travel/Mileage
Dennis Dockter	\$147.00 Travel/Mileage
Bryan Lutt	\$277.20 Travel/Mileage
Wells County Treasurer	\$198.00 Travel/Mileage
Laura Muscha	\$260.40 Travel/Mileage
Convergint Technologies	\$610.51 Vault Inspection/Maint. Contracts
ND State Treasurer	\$105.00 Marriage Licenses
Wells County Treasurer	\$304.00 Travel/Mileage
Carrie Krause	\$483.24 Travel/Mileage
Robert S Thomas	\$175.00 Civil Commit; Indig. Council
Wells County Treasurer	\$103.77 Travel/Mileage
Lexipol LLC	\$406.00 Dues/Registration Fees
Wells County Treasurer	\$1,159.81 Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
NW Tire Inc.	\$524.40 Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Tyler Rispa	\$435.00 Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Opdahl Body Shop	\$753.76 Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Faye Schimelfenig	\$50.00 Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Janelle Pepple	\$198.80 Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Brandjord Chevrolet	\$384.76 Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$881.13 Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Kotaco Fuel & Propane	\$252.80 Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Guardian Fleet Safety	\$15,304.81 Vehicles
Janelle Pepple	\$204.31 Sheriff Promo Supplies
Hertz Funeral Homes, Inc.	\$945.00 Travel/Mileage
Wells County Treasurer	\$113.85 Telephone
NDTC	\$59.40 Telephone
Otter Tail	\$54.78 Utilities
Robert Martin	\$216.22 Salary - Board Meeting
Warren Strand	\$138.52 Salary - Board Meeting
Faye Schimelfenig	\$174.92 Salary - Board Meeting

Chad W. Ziegler
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden
Otter Tail
Fessenden City

\$139.95 Salary - Board Meeting
\$730.30 Festival Hall/Fair Supplies-LP
\$511.99 Festival Hall/Fair Utilities
\$316.41 Festival Hall/Fair Utilities

\$218,915.75

HB 1066

Wold Engineering
KLJ Engineering, LLC

\$79,104.68 HB 1066
\$4,776.18 HB 1066

\$83,880.86

Jail & Transportation

HACTC
ND Dept. of Corrections & Rehab
HACTC

\$139.92 Jail & Transport Medication
\$150.00 Jail & Transport Prison Board
\$7,790.00 Jail & Transport Prison Board

\$8,079.92

Co. Agent

Leaf
Wells County Treasurer
ODP Business Solutions, LLC
NDTC
Otter Tail

\$190.00 Copier Lease & Maint.
\$150.24 Office Supplies
\$69.84 Office Supplies
\$124.58 Telephone
\$52.17 Utilities

\$586.83

Social Services

Wells County Treasurer
CenDak Cooperative-New Rockford
Wells County Treasurer
Alicia Lamm
Wells County Treasurer
Wells County Treasurer
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden
Wells County Treasurer
Wells County Treasurer
Wells County Treasurer
Wells County Treasurer
Patriot Fuels
Little Mart
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden
CenDak Cooperative-New Rockford
Becky Dockter
B & B Service and Repair LLC
Bessette Motors, Inc.
OK Tire
Transcript Publishing
Herald Press
Foster County Independent
Wells County Treasurer

\$173.61 Fuel/Foster Care
\$41.00 Fuel/Foster Care
\$55.83 Meals/Foster Care
\$48.24 Meals/Foster Care
\$157.43 Fuel/Child Protect. Serv.
\$114.28 Family Social Worker/Fuel
\$162.08 Family Social Worker/Fuel
\$10.00 Vehicles
\$14.03 Meals/Foster Care
\$232.03 Family Soc. Worker/Safety Perm.
\$56.99 Client Support
\$221.26 In Home Care/Fuel
\$80.75 In Home Care/Fuel
\$199.69 In Home Care/Fuel
\$30.61 In Home Care/Fuel
\$101.50 In Home Care - Travel/Mileage
\$279.08 Vehicles
\$392.28 Vehicles
\$35.00 Vehicles
\$252.00 Zone Admin Support/Advert.
\$470.00 Zone Admin Support/Advert.
\$532.00 Zone Admin Support/Advert.
\$100.00 Contracted Services

Pitney Bowes Global Financial Services L	\$81.90 Contracted Services
Leaf	\$312.00 Contracted Services
Advanced Business Methods	\$685.31 Contracted Services
4th Corporation	\$140.00 Contracted Services
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$7.24 Fuel
Wells County Treasurer	\$94.00 Postage
Wells County Treasurer	\$639.48 Telephone
NDTC	\$549.43 Telephone
Dakota Central	\$171.31 Telephone
Central City H2O+	\$97.50 Zone Admin Support/Misc
Duchscherer Supply	\$21.76 Zone Admin Support/Misc
ND Dept. of Health & Human Services	\$304,571.32 Return of Excess Direct Costs
NDACo Resources Group	\$1,020.00 Zone Admin Support/IT Other
ITD	\$96.71 Zone Admin Support/IT Other
Wells County Treasurer	\$54.99 Zone Admin Supp./Office Materials
Herald Press	\$49.00 Subscriptions & Memberships
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	\$312,351.64

Weed Control

Dale Schmitz	\$166.23 Salary - Board Meeting
Danny Maxwell	\$161.90 Salary - Board Meeting
Kyle Alfstad	\$243.25 Salary - Board Meeting
Kelly Muscha	\$216.11 Salary - Board Meeting
Donna Rau	\$220.87 Salary - Employee
US Treasury	\$307.97 WC/Withholding
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	\$1,316.33

Hwy Tax

True North Steel	\$51,123.00 Culverts & Bridges
ND Dept. of Environmental Quality	\$1,350.00 Tank Registration Fees
Harvey Oil Co.	\$4,731.84 Fuel
Kotaco Fuel & Propane	\$2,644.45 Fuel
Gooseneck Implement	\$825.00 Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Butler Machinery	\$7,328.92 Machinery Repairs & Supplies
NAPA-Harvey	\$78.99 Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Wells County Treasurer	\$139.97 Supplies
TSC	\$61.98 Supplies
Lerner's ACE & Rental	\$8.99 Supplies
Linde Gas & Equipment	\$145.90 Supplies
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$2,672.31 Supplies-Propane
NDTC	\$145.34 Telephone
Double M Sanitation	\$350.00 Utilities
Verendrye Electric	\$98.88 Utilities
Wells County Treasurer	\$132.24 Utilities
Sykeston City	\$49.00 Utilities
Otter Tail	\$379.15 Utilities
Central Plains Water	\$174.02 Utilities
Fessenden City	\$152.41 Utilities

Northern Plains Electric
Cathay City
Susag Sand & Gravel
ND Assn. of Counties

\$1,449.46 Utilities
\$190.00 Utilities
\$118.83 Road Materials
\$63.00 Drug testing-employee

\$74,413.68

Preservation

PRIA

\$60.00 Dues/Registration Fees

24-7

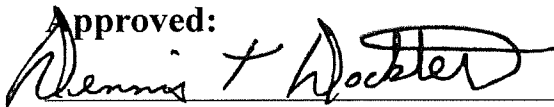
Wells County Treasurer
Office of Attorney General

\$63.90 Pharm Chem
\$240.00 Scram Fees

\$303.90


\$699,908.91

Approved:



Dennis T. Dockter,
Wells County Commission Chairman

Attest:



Daniel W. Stutlien,
Wells County Auditor