

Wells County Commissioner's Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2026

The June meeting was called to order by Chairman Dockter at 8:34 AM. Present at the meeting were Stan Buxa, Dennis Dockter, Bryan Lutt, Danny Maxwell, Brian Miller, Tim Buchwitz, David Clough, Lydia Gessele, Philip Hoff, Brent Keller, Richard Lies, Doug Mertz, Fred Richter, Leann Schafer, Larry Skiftun, Doug Zink, and Daniel Stutlien.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Chairman Dockter called for a moment of silence for Andy Givens, former Deputy Sheriff for WC, who passed away earlier in the week.

Added to the agenda was a review of the recently held Hurdsfield City Council meeting. Jana Mogren, while still at the meeting, discussed her visit with the Council regarding the use of the CAMA system in assessing property, which would get all properties in WC utilizing the same system for valuation. Last month, it was the consensus of the Commission to strongly encourage the use of the Computer Aided Mass Appraisal (CAMA) system by all assessors in WC to determine assessed property values.

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

DM (M), BM (S) to approve the minutes from the May Special Meeting held May 22nd. Unanimously carried.

Employee timesheets were reviewed by the commissioners.

SB (M), DM (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), SB (S) to approve the Balance Sheet. Unanimously carried.

SB (M), DM (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 received this month included the 2025-26 Deer Hunting Proclamation, as well as another Purdue Pharma bankruptcy management information form from the ongoing opioid settlement.

Commission Portfolios were discussed.

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

WC Road Foreman, Brent Keller, sat with the Commission to discuss matters of his Dept. Keller briefly discussed the upcoming bridge project north of Fessenden on WC #1. The project is slated to be completed by 9/19/26, and a detour will be required. Keller also discussed haul roads for the mill & overlay on US 52 set to begin. WC is not willing to waive weight restrictions on county roads. Keller also noted ongoing work for the Road Dept. Keller requested chip sealing on the west 10 miles of WC #5 and the Heimdal Road. The Commission concurred this should be completed this year. A new department employee begin work this week.

Richard Lies of Fairville Township addressed the Commission regarding reclaiming some of the dirt excavated from the ditch south of Bremen to build a berm to keep water from entering his

field. During the excavation earlier this spring, the dirt has been spread in the county right-of-way. The Commission denied the request since the dirt has already been spread. Lies returned with the land easement for the road to suggest he plans to take the amount of dirt needed to complete a berm, and will re-level the area when he is done.

Philip Hoff of Progress Township spoke with the Commission regarding a township road (5th St. SE) 1 mile from the Kidder Co. line in south central WC. High water levels have been a problem for several years. Rip rap has been added to keep the road from being washed away, and Hoff feels like they have gotten grief for trying to save the road while, at the same time, making accessing the water area for sportsman nearly impossible. Hoff asked if this a county matter or a township matter? The consensus of the Commission is this is a township matter.

Bryan Tykwinski of KLJ met telephonically with the Commission to provide an update for the bridge replacement on WC #1 north of Fessenden. Regarding the contract submitted to the State, BL (M), BM (S) to approve the CE contract contingent on the State's approval. Unanimously carried.

The Commission was informed of the upcoming biennial audit of WC's finances scheduled to take place June 22nd & 23rd. Rath & Meher will be conducting the audit once again.

WC Auditor Daniel Stutlien shared information with the Commission regarding the upcoming June Primary Election. L&A Testing, conducted May 16th, demonstrated all machines working as they should. Worker training was conducted Tuesday, May 26th, at which times the machines were tested again without error. 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 election 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.

WC Auditor Daniel Stutlien presented two energy saving lighting proposals for both the Courthouse, including the garage, and Festival Hall. These are both 50% grant funded and the payback on the Courthouse would be app. 30 months. The payback on FH would be longer as it is not utilized regularly. Stutlien requested the Commission contemplate this for a month, giving him more time to research as well, and consider a potential July approval.

The WC Historical Society, along with the WC Fair Board, came seeking the Commission's approval to transfer the Sheriff's Building at the WC Fairgrounds to the Historical Society. SB (M), BL (S) to approve the transfer of the building. Unanimously carried. The Fair Board also requested a temporary fence/barrier be installed at the Fairgrounds for use during the Fair. But, the Road Dept. does not have the man hours to commit to this request.

A raffle permit from the WC Fair Board was considered by the Commission. DM (M), BM (S) to approve the raffle permit request. Unanimously carried. #WC2026003

WC Auditor Daniel Stutlien shared the schedule for the Commission's upcoming meetings with all 36 townships. Road maintenance, budgeting and levies, township concerns and ideas, zoning and permits, and general information remain the meeting topics.

The next Six-County Meeting will be held in McIntosh County in September (TBA).

The next regular meeting of the WC Commission will be held Tuesday, July 7th, at 8:00 AM in the KTL Building.

The next WC Departments meeting will be held Thursday, June 18th, at 2:30 PM at the KTL Building.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:04 AM.

The following Fees and Receipts were approved and ordered filed:

Clerk of Court	\$	303.00
Recorder	\$	7,563.70
Sheriff	\$	1,092.25
Misc.	\$	60,339.77

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

#Direct Deposit	Payroll, General (1000)	\$	90,112.50
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, Road (2001)	\$	44,951.43
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, 911 (2003)	\$	1,351.39
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, County Agent (2005)	\$	3,312.21
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, Social Welfare (2007)	\$	69,352.53
#ACH BC/BS	Insurance	\$	70,877.50
#ACH NDPERS	Retirement	\$	31,495.71

Jun-26 General

ND Envelope Company	\$280.35
Pitney Bowes	\$39.00
NDTC	\$1,773.10
Fessenden City	\$430.30
Otter Tail	\$2,057.51
Elite Spraying	\$190.00
ES & S	\$7,025.36
Rosas Pizza	\$160.50
Storey Kenworthy / Matt Parrott	\$212.54
Herald Press	\$438.79
Frey Insurance	\$59,104.00
Dell Marketing LP	\$638.84
ITD	\$1,480.60
NDACo Resources Group	\$3,861.06
NDTC	\$100.67
BW Electric	\$241.09
Daniel Stutlien	\$81.93
NDSAA	\$400.00
ND State Treasurer	\$70.00
Carla Johnson	\$178.35
WSI	\$250.00
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$473.60
Kotaco Fuel & Propane	\$328.03
Kreiter Autoworks, Inc.	\$699.97
Little Mart	\$136.85
Ward Hilger	\$76.73
NDTC	\$61.88

Otter Tail	\$105.05
Fessenden City	\$326.11
Otter Tail	<u>\$736.93</u>
	\$81,959.14

HB1066

KLJ Engineering, LLC	\$2,379.89
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Jail & Trans

HACTC	\$200.00
Stutsman County Correction Center	<u>\$200.00</u>
	\$400.00

Co. Agent

Leaf	\$235.91
NDSU	\$50.00
NDTC	\$127.68
Ciera Kotaska	\$89.18
Connie Loen	\$63.80
Otter Tail	<u>\$100.04</u>
	\$666.61

HSZ

Alicia Lamm	\$250.00
NDACo Resources Group	\$4,738.66
Patriot Fuels	\$322.70
Elayna Konschak	\$217.50
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$536.04
Little Mart	\$58.00
Patriot Fuels	\$214.81
Vicky Calheim	\$40.00
4th Corporation	\$105.00
Advanced Business Methods	\$252.95
Leaf	\$312.00
Dakota Central	\$171.05
NDTC	\$542.82
Frey Insurance	\$9,789.00
NDACo Resources Group	\$2,369.33
Central City H2O+	\$156.00
ITD	\$142.39
NDACo Resources Group	<u>\$960.00</u>
	\$21,178.25

Weed Control

Donna Rau	\$220.87
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Herald Press	\$64.80
Postmaster	<u>\$499.58</u>
	\$785.25

HWY Tax

Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$11,915.60
Harvey Oil Co.	\$3,859.87
Auto Value Carrington	\$278.95
Butler Machinery	\$7,085.20
Lemer's ACE & Rental	\$577.78
Linde Gas & Equipment	\$164.39
NDTC	\$71.65
Doug Mertz	\$42.05
Robert Schafer	\$33.35
Cathay City	\$95.00
Central Plains Water	\$175.73
Fessenden City	\$254.96
Northern Plains Electric	\$886.08
Otter Tail	\$380.16
Sykeston City	\$49.00
Verendrye Electric	\$400.35
Opdahl Enterprise	\$4,500.00
Schimelfenig Construction	\$13,050.00
Dean Johnson	<u>\$7,532.00</u>
	\$51,352.12

24/7

Office Of Attorney General	\$155.00
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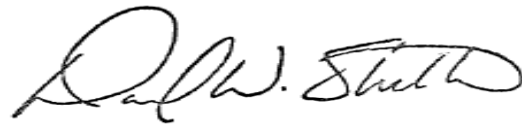
\$158,876.26

Approved:



Dennis T. Dockter,
Wells County Commission Chairman

Attest:



Daniel W. Stutlien,
Wells County Auditor