

Wells County Commissioner's Meeting Minutes March 4, 2026

The March meeting was called to order by Chairman Dockter at 8:01 AM. Present at the meeting were Stan Buxa, Dennis Dockter, Bryan Lutt, Danny Maxwell, Brian Miller, Lydia Gessele, and Daniel Stutlien.

The Chaseley Road was added to the Agenda.

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

Employee timesheets were reviewed by the commissioners.

DM (*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.

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.

The only correspondence received this month was regarding the Annual Court Facilities Improvement Grant and 2026-28 Fishing Proclamation for North Dakota.

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 bridge replacement and road re-route project North & East of Fessenden. Keller also shared information on upcoming spring work, shop inspections, and road restrictions. Regarding the Chaseley Road, is there a possibility to make an effort to get more clay mixed in with the gravel to improve the composition of the road? The Dept. will experiment on a 2 mile stretch this spring.

Jason Mayfield of Wold Engineering joined the Commission meeting telephonically. Mayfield updated the Commission on a scoping change with the township project to eliminate a bridge and re-route 47th Ave. NE. Mayfield will return in April with the hope of getting started as soon thereafter as is possible. Mayfield also suggested getting the bridge removal taken care of simultaneously if funding is available. This project includes both construction and engineering fees. SB (*M*), DM (*S*) to approve Wold Engineering for the road re-route. Unanimously carried.

WC States Attorney, Oliver Bromke, met with the Commission to share that a case is headed for the Supreme Court and regarding upcoming trials. Bromke also presented the idea of going back to the people to make the position of States Attorney a Commission-appointed position. Bromke also took questions regarding physical capability of performing work duties.

Jana Mogren of the Tax Director's Office continued a conversation with the Commission regarding Assessor Fees. There has been no township feedback, positive or negative, from when this was presented at the WC TOA meeting. The current Assessors Fees haven't changed since 2015. SB (*M*), BM (*S*) to approve \$600/township, as well as for the cities of Hamberg and

Cathay, with other cities paying \$3.00/parcel based on 2026 taxable year, with on-site inspections increased to \$15/parcel. Unanimously carried. This will be reviewed annually. Mogren also presented a proposal from Sidwell for Wells County land use and soil layer updates throughout the county. BM (M), DM (S) to approve Sidwell's proposal for \$21,475. Unanimously carried. Mogren shared the anticipated taxable valuation of WC for '26, not including centrally assessed properties, to be just over \$44M. This will be a decline from '25.

In accordance with NDCC Section 27-05.2-02, regarding Clerk of Court funding, SB (M), DM (S) to continue the funding agreement (.50 FTE's) with the Supreme Court for the 2027-29 biennium. Unanimously carried.

WC Auditor Daniel Stutlien visited with the Commission regarding Election '26. Regarding election workers, Stutlien informed the Commission that all workers obtained by WC are returning for both the primary and general elections in '26, and are only waiting on the political party appointments. Stutlien recommended an hourly wage of \$19.00 for election workers. DM (M), BM (S) to approve the recommendation of \$19.00/hr. for election workers in both the primary and general elections. Unanimously carried.

A flood plain permit request was considered for the bridge replacement project along WC #1 North Fessenden. SB (M), BM (S) to approve the permit. Unanimously carried.

The Commission discussed the recently held WC TOA meeting. The Commission would like to return to meeting with the Townships this Summer to keep lines of communications open. Further information can be shared on township budgeting and required paperwork during those meetings.

The resignation of WC Deputy Auditor, Renae Heintz, was shared. Heintz will be stepping away 4/3/26, although she has agreed to assist in the Auditor's Office on a part time basis for the next several months. SB (M), BL (S) to approve the request expressing the Commission's appreciation to Heintz for more than 34 years of outstanding service to WC. Unanimously carried.

The Commission discussed placing language to raise the Road Dept. mills from 14 to 25 on the ballot in June. The Road Dept. has been operating at a loss for years, and is reaching a point where if the mills are not raised, cuts in service will likely become a reality. BM (M), DM (S) to approve the language as presented. Unanimously carried.

The Commission continued discussions towards completion of the long-term planning project. SB (M), DM (S) to approve the document as developed and presented. Unanimously carried.

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 Tuesday, April 7th, at 8:00 AM in the KTL Building.

The next WC Departments meeting will be held Thursday, April 16th, at 1:00 PM.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:09 AM.

The following Fees and Receipts were approved and ordered filed:

Clerk of Court	\$	275.00
Recorder	\$	3,758.70
Sheriff	\$	902.50

Misc. \$ 24,704.24

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

#Direct Deposit	Payroll, General (1000)	\$ 98,018.77
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, Road (2001)	\$ 43,833.09
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, 911 (2003)	\$ 1,351.39
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, County Agent (2005)	\$ 3,312.21
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, Social Welfare (2007)	\$ 65,117.07
#ACH BC/BS	Insurance	\$ 66,639.30
#ACH NDPERS	Retirement	\$ 32,831.98

Mar-26 General

Wells County Treasurer	\$39.99	Central Supplies
Wells County Treasurer	\$31.06	Postage
Pitney Bowes	\$412.60	Postage Meter Rent
Wells County Treasurer	\$358.25	Telephone
NDTC	\$715.03	Telephone
Otter Tail	\$2,634.78	Countywide Utilities
Fessenden City	\$421.96	Countywide Utilities
Wells County Treasurer	\$126.10	Bank Charges
Weigelt Refrigeration	\$90.00	KTL Maintenance
Teves Construction	\$50,000.00	KTL Maintenance
TK Elevator	\$18,145.70	Courthouse Maintenance
Kelby Houchin	\$500.00	Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$30.63	Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
Herald Press	\$1,141.48	Legal Publications
Advanced Business Methods	\$7,697.99	Technology
ITD	\$1,480.60	Technology
NDTC	\$100.70	Technology
Renaë Heintz	\$250.00	Auditor Health Ins. Ded.
Jana Mogren	\$255.93	Travel/Mileage
Janelle Pepple	\$250.00	Sheriff Dept. Health Ins.
Herald Press	\$153.00	Office Supplies
Wells County Treasurer	\$935.72	Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$141.71	Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Uniform Center	\$382.98	Uniforms
Charles D Nyhus, MD	\$1,800.00	Viewal
Wells County Treasurer	\$114.19	Telephone
NDTC	\$58.91	Telephone
Otter Tail	\$50.79	Utilities
Wells County Treasurer	\$495.00	Travel/Mileage
Dakota Steedsman	\$511.60	Travel/Mileage
Wells County Fair Assn.	\$69,132.45	Fair-1.5 Mills
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$1,334.40	Fuel
Otter Tail	\$754.83	Festival Hall/Fair Utilities
Fessenden City	\$320.35	Festival Hall/Fair Utilities
	<u>\$160,868.73</u>	

HB 1066

Wold Engineering	\$49,173.75	HB 1066
KLJ Engineering, LLC	\$1,682.88	HB 1066
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	\$50,856.63	

Jail & Trans

HACTC	\$1,363.80	Jail & Transport Medication
Stutsman County Correction Center	\$3,100.00	Jail & Transport Prison Board
HACTC	\$2,900.00	Jail & Transport Prison Board
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	\$7,363.80	

Co. Agent

Leaf	\$235.91	Copier Lease & Maint.
NDTC	\$121.43	Telephone
Otter Tail	\$48.38	Utilities
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	\$405.72	

Social Services

Alicia Lamm	\$250.00	Foster Care Health Ins.
Wells County Treasurer	\$60.00	Fuel/Foster Care
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$30.01	Fuel/Foster Care
Alicia Lamm	\$12.48	Meals/Foster Care
Wells County Treasurer	\$151.87	Dues/Reg Fees/Child Protect. Serv.
Wells County Treasurer	\$70.48	Fuel/Child Protect. Serv.
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$48.44	Fuel/Child Protect. Serv.
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$17.39	Vehicles
Kimberly D Goettle	\$250.00	Parent Aid Health Ins.
Wells County Treasurer	\$70.17	Contracted Services
Patriot Fuels	\$259.08	Family Social Worker/Fuel
Wells County Treasurer	\$13.76	Meals/Foster Care
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$355.34	In Home Care/Fuel
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$142.91	Vehicles
Kreiter Autoworks, Inc.	\$387.26	Vehicles
Wells County Treasurer	\$198.96	Contracted Services
Advanced Business Methods	\$452.72	Contracted Services
NDACo Resources Group	\$12,795.84	Contracted Services
4th Corporation	\$140.00	Contracted Services
Leaf	\$312.00	Contracted Services
Wells County Treasurer	\$110.36	Office Equipment/Furniture
Wells County Treasurer	\$434.94	Telephone
Dakota Central	\$172.22	Telephone
NDTC	\$574.17	Telephone
Central City H20+	\$185.00	Zone Admin Support/Misc
NDACo Resources Group	\$1,920.00	Zone Admin Support/IT Other
ITD	\$117.88	Zone Admin Support/IT Other
Wells County Treasurer	\$50.22	Zone Admin Supp./Office Materials
Herald Press	\$55.00	Subscriptions & Memberships
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\$19,638.50

Weed Control

Donna Rau \$220.87 Salary - Employee

Highway Tax

Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$5,917.12	Fuel
Wells County Treasurer	\$258.72	Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Lautt's Auto Body & Towing	\$34.36	Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Meehan Machine	\$63.88	Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Wells County Treasurer	\$1,768.91	Supplies-Tool Boxes
Linde Gas & Equipment	\$166.62	Supplies
Lemer's ACE & Rental	\$143.90	Supplies
NDTC	\$145.58	Telephone
Wells County Treasurer	\$88.20	Travel/Mileage
Doug Mertz	\$35.53	Travel/Mileage
Harvey City	\$64.20	Utilities
Wells County Treasurer	\$621.27	Utilities
Otter Tail	\$639.56	Utilities
Sykeston City	\$49.00	Utilities
Northern Plains Electric	\$481.71	Utilities
Central Plains Water	\$201.82	Utilities
Fessenden City	\$255.20	Utilities
Keller Plumbing & Heating, LLC	\$1,419.24	Repairs/Harvey Shop Furnace

\$12,354.82

24-7

Office Of Attorney General \$112.00 Scram Fees

Co. Agency

NDSU \$80.00 Office Supplies

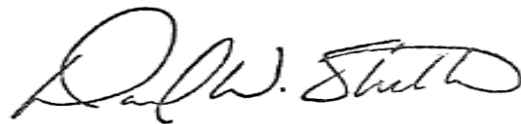
\$251,901.07

Approved:



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

Attest:



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