

MINUTES OF EDDY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

EDDY COUNTY COURTHOUSE

July 7, 2026, 8:00A.M.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chairperson Dave Gehrtz. Present were Commissioner James F. Allmaras, Commissioner Glenda Collier, State's Attorney Ashley Lies, Auditor Bobbie Indergaard, and Dalton Keay with the New Rockford Transcript.

Chairperson Dave Gehrtz began the meeting by leading the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner James F. Allmaras made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Attorney Fees to New Business. Commissioner Glenda Collier seconded the motion, all were in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Glenda Collier made a motion to approve the June 2, 2026 Regular Meeting and June 4, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes. Commissioner James F. Allmaras seconded the motion, all were in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Glenda Collier made a motion to approve the May and June Monthly Statement from the Treasurer's Office and the June 2026 Financials and Expenditures and Revenue Budgets. Commissioner James F. Allmaras seconded the motion, all were in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner James F. Allmaras made a motion to approve the November 2025 and the following June 2026 bills. Commissioner Glenda Collier seconded the motion. Roll Call vote: Dave Gehrtz Yes vote, James F. Allmaras Yes vote, and Glenda Collier Yes vote. Motion carried.

JUNE BILLS

6/9/2026	1939	NELSON AUTO CENTER	45,930.00
6/9/2026	1940	NEW ROCKFORD COMMUNITY AMBULANCE	285.69
6/9/2026	1941	MCHENRY AMBULANCE	60.57
6/9/2026	1942	TWO RIVERS AMBULANCE	533.34
6/9/2026	1943	GARRISON DIVERSION CONSERVANCY DISTRICT	393.01
6/9/2026	1944	NEW ROCKFORD-SHEYENNE SCHOOL DISTRICT #2	12,249.93
6/9/2026	1945	EDDY COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT	1,383.28
6/9/2026	1946	MIDKOTA SCHOOL DISTRICT #7	2,726.91
6/9/2026	1947	WARWICK SCHOOL DISTRICT #29	127.41
6/9/2026	1948	DAKOTA PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1	13.04
6/9/2026	1949	PARADISE TOWNSHIP	359.15
6/9/2026	1950	CHERRY LAKE TOWNSHIP	304.00
6/9/2026	1951	COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP	655.95
6/9/2026	1952	PLEASANT PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP	329.64
6/9/2026	1953	SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP	453.30
6/9/2026	1954	ROSEFIELD TOWNSHIP	847.03
6/9/2026	1955	COLVIN TOWNSHIP	364.08
6/9/2026	1956	LAKE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP	373.92
6/9/2026	1957	TIFFANY TOWNSHIP	281.18
6/9/2026	1958	SHELDON TOWNSHIP	250.92

6/9/2026	1959	NEW ROCKFORD TOWNSHIP	610.08
6/9/2026	1960	MUNSTER TOWNSHIP	701.50
6/9/2026	1961	FREEBORN TOWNSHIP	381.59
6/9/2026	1962	EDDY TOWNSHIP	240.65
6/9/2026	1963	HILLSDALE TOWNSHIP	226.32
6/9/2026	1964	BUSH TOWNSHIP	319.80
6/9/2026	1965	GATES TOWNSHIP	439.12
6/9/2026	1966	GRANDFIELD TOWNSHIP	355.02
6/9/2026	1967	TOLNA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT	69.53
6/9/2026	1968	WARWICK FIRE DISTRICT	51.97
6/9/2026	1969	NEW ROCKFORD RURAL FIRE DISTRICT	172.96
6/9/2026	1970	HISTORICAL SOCIETY	36.21
6/9/2026	1971	EDDY COUNTY WATER RESOURCE	367.18
6/9/2026	1972	EDDY COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING	289.97
6/9/2026	1973	CITY OF SHEYENNE	1,025.33
6/9/2026	1974	NEW ROCKFORD CITY PARK DISTRICT	2,672.07
6/9/2026	1975	CITY OF NEW ROCKFORD	29,672.94
6/15/2026	1976	ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS	5,125.11
6/15/2026	1977	BANK FORWARD	3,260.85
6/15/2026	1978	BRADY, MARTZ & ASSOCIATES, P.C.	10,500.00
6/15/2026	1979	BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	374.82
6/15/2026	1980	CARRINGTON MOTOR	308.00
6/15/2026	1981	CASH & CARRY LUMBER ASSOC., LLC	6.79
6/15/2026	1982	CENDAK COOPERATIVE	11,660.66
6/15/2026	1983	CENDAK COOPERATIVE	12,210.69
6/15/2026	1984	CENEX FLEETCARD	879.10
6/15/2026	1985	CITY OF SHEYENNE	110.10
6/15/2026	1986	COAST TO COAST SOLUTIONS	93.25
6/15/2026	1987	COLUMN SOFTWARE PBC	273.60
6/15/2026	1988	DO IT BEST	43.78
6/15/2026	1989	DONNA YOUNG	39.15
6/15/2026	1990	ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE	883.10
6/15/2026	1991	FLOWER SCENT-R	63.00
6/15/2026	1992	HALEY AUTO REPAIR LLC	3,155.00
6/15/2026	1993	LAKE REGION LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER	2,889.16
6/15/2026	1994	LAKE REGION LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER	2,700.00
6/15/2026	1995	LEAF	271.19
6/15/2026	1996	LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT, INC.	256.33
6/15/2026	1997	LINDERMAN CONSTRUCTION	2,100.00
6/15/2026	1998	MEEHAN MACHINE	98.91
6/15/2026	1999	NAPA AUTO PARTS - NR	81.76
6/15/2026	2000	NDAAO	50.00
6/15/2026	2001	NEW ROCKFORD UTILITY SERVICES	339.96
6/15/2026	2002	NODAK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE	67.59
6/15/2026	2003	NORTH DAKOTA TELEPHONE COMPANY	884.71
6/15/2026	2004	NORTHERN PLAINS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE	274.00
6/15/2026	2005	OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL - 1250	155.00
6/15/2026	2006	OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY	1,490.21

6/15/2026	2007	PITNEY BOWES BANK INC PURCHASE POWER	500.00
6/15/2026	2008	PRO FORMS	255.44
6/15/2026	2009	QUILL LLC	66.67
6/15/2026	2010	ROCKIN FITNESS	600.00
6/15/2026	2011	STEINS, INC.	13.78
6/15/2026	2012	THE MEDICINE SHOPPE	65.21
6/15/2026	2013	TRANSCRIPT PUBLISHING	1,025.45
6/15/2026	2014	UNDERGROUND VAULTS & STORAGE	225.60
6/15/2026	2015	WARREN IMPLEMENT INC.	19.25
6/26/2026	2016	ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS	36.00
6/26/2026	2017	AMY PERLEBERG	320.00
6/26/2026	2018	AT&T MOBILITY	630.02
6/26/2026	2019	BILL SMITH	40.00
6/26/2026	2020	CENDAK COOPERATIVE	4,181.35
6/26/2026	2021	CENEX FLEETCARD	429.04
6/26/2026	2022	CENTRAL PLAINS WATER DISTRICT	59.90
6/26/2026	2023	CITY OF NEW ROCKFORD	756.00
6/26/2026	2024	COREY LONGNECKER	40.00
6/26/2026	2025	DAVID FITE	250.00
6/26/2026	2026	DONNA YOUNG	95.29
6/26/2026	2027	*** VOID *** ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	2,639.16
6/26/2026	2028	ELITE SPRAYING	70.00
6/26/2026	2029	EVERSPRING SUITES	220.00
6/26/2026	2030	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT	1,380.35
6/26/2026	2031	INSURE FORWARD	13,244.00
6/26/2026	2032	JAMES LUDWIG	300.00
6/26/2026	2033	JERRY SCHUSTER	40.00
6/26/2026	2034	LAKE REGION SHEET METAL CORP	1,323.15
6/26/2026	2035	LEON HOYT	1,450.00
6/26/2026	2036	MESSNER GRAVEL LLC	590.00
6/26/2026	2037	MIKE SCHAEFER	40.00
6/26/2026	2038	MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO	285.19
6/26/2026	2039	NDACS	50.00
6/26/2026	2040	QUILL LLC	38.56
6/26/2026	2041	RDO EQUIPMENT CO	2,190.40
6/26/2026	2042	ROUGH RIDER INDUSTRIES	451.92
6/26/2026	2043	SHAUNA LABER	352.00
6/26/2026	2044	TIFFANY HARR	276.74
6/26/2026	2045	ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	2,639.16
6/29/2026	2046	AFLAC	145.21
6/29/2026	2047	AFLAC	516.50
6/29/2026	2048	AMERITAS	162.53
6/29/2026	2049	COLONIAL LIFE	461.25
6/29/2026	2050	ELECTRONIC FEDERAL TAX PAYMENT	25,427.21
6/29/2026	2051	ND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEMS	1,139.00
6/29/2026	2052	ND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEMS	34,466.68
6/29/2026	2053	ND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEMS	17,536.00

6/29/2026	2054	HEARTLAND LAW OFFICE, P.C.	9,748.47
REPORT TOTALS			<u>\$290,353.73</u>
PAYROLL			\$81,746.47
TOTAL			<u><u>\$372,100.20</u></u>

Public Comments: No Public Comments.

Commissioner James F. Allmaras provided an update on Lake Region Public Health personnel issues. Denton Heisler was reinstated, temporarily on probation, until the next meeting held July 20, 2026.

Eddy County Employee BBQ will be held at the Eddy County Shop on July 15, 2026. Eddy County Commissioners cover all expenses. City of New Rockford and City of Sheyenne were invited with both city commissions paying expenses for their employees that attend.

Sandra Shively with the North Central Planning Council introduced Ann Pollard. She is the career coach for Exploration Classroom, which is one of the funding requests. Budget is based on population per county and project includes six counties. Presently the project is in all the schools of each county. When the grant application came out, economic development offices and North Dakota Region 3 developed this program with the intent to expose students to careers that our in our region. Hoping to keep them here or entice them to return. Grant has expired to purchase equipment. Total budget request is \$72,859, for an interactive van. Request to Eddy County is \$5,666.01 to be shared equally with New Rockford Area Betterment Corporation. The request to the commission would be \$2,833 to support spring 2027 and fall 2027 schedule. The van has 6 VR headsets allowing students to watch videos on agronomy, dental hygiene and assisting, diesel technology, and veterinarian. North Central Planning Council is a host to the small business development center. SBA is funded by getting matched through the bank of North Dakota and then local match. Anything received through the SBA award, must be matched dollar for dollar. The lead center is located at UND and the grant goes through UND. With the bank of North Dakota funds, less match is requested from each match provider. Eddy County has been a match provider with North Central Planning Council for 16 years. Last year's request was \$1,665. This year's request would be \$790 to continue the with the 2026 SBDC program in region 3. Last item was the mill request. Each regional council received local funding for an EDA grant, a three-year partnership planning grant, which helps fund operations and economic development activities in six counties. NCPC requested a half a mill, which will be approved at budget review. Commissioner Glenda Collier made a motion to approve the \$790 for the SBDC. Commissioner James F. Allmaras seconded the motion, all were in favor. Motion carried. Commissioner Glenda Collier made a motion to approve the \$2833 for the van. Commissioner James F. Allmaras seconded the motion, all were in favor. Motion carried.

Norris Kjos with Eddy County Transit System addressed his concerns. He always thought the buses were owned by Eddy County, now he believes they are owned by Devil's Lake Senior Center. He feels they could pull our buses at any time. He has contacted, Foster County, Benson County, and Valley City. He feels there are more options available for Eddy County residence in regards to meals and transit services by looking at resources elsewhere. Clarification needs to be researched on who owns the van and bus, and transportation needs for our county. Glenda agreed to reach out to Devils Lake Senior Center.

Tim Becker questioned townships taking zoning back and where does the legal side lay when taken back. Tim is concerned that once townships take zoning back, then the legal side of everything lies with the township, and townships can't afford it. He doesn't feel that townships understand the legality that they will have to bear the costs. The wrong people are out there talking to townships with false information. Ashley has referred townships to Jamie Tennison, Township Attorney. Ashley will also reach out to NDIRF on clarification or if they can send out information to the townships.

Andrew Presnell, City Auditor asked the commissioners to split the cost of a new AC unit for the Eddy-New Rockford Library. Total cost is \$6100, half would be \$3050. James F. Allmaras made a motion pay half the cost of the AC unit and labor. Commissioner Glenda Collier seconded the motion. Roll Call vote: Dave Gehrtz Yes vote, James F. Allmaras Yes vote, and Glenda Collier Yes vote. Motion carried.

Julie Shrock, VSO reviewed her budget. She informed the board that Ramsey, Nelson, Benson, and Sheridan County do not have a VSO, making transportation limited. She is working with 52 active veterans getting medical records and medical care to prepare for the claim process. She also assisted with the veteran's 4th of July parade float. Giving an office update, she's had a few veteran concerns regarding office comfort, hours, and location. A lot of issues are handled over the phone, comfort is allowed by being more mobile when working with the veterans.

Lisa Thompson, Emergency Manager, also reviewed her budget. Updated on Text My Gov, switch over is going well and about 1600 phone numbers were pulled in. 911 Coordinator, Tia Davis is helping where she can, but Lisa expressed the urgency of filling the position. 911 building AC was serviced. Numerous grants have been looked at, but seem to fall under Homeland Security for security or terrorism. 2025 Homeland Security Grant awarded to replace locks on doors, no disbursement to date. 2026 Homeland Security Grant applying for locks again if no movement on the 2025, also gave information to the Sheriff as it's leaning towards law enforcement, border protection, and immigration. Hazard Mitigation Plan, Wells County is not willing to do a joint plan again. If grant money doesn't flow through for multi-hazard mitigation, that plan is going cost us roughly \$25,000, could be 2027, 2028, or 2029. This item was included in her budget. Lisa updated on the apartment fire over the 4th of July. 15 people were displaced, she spent 3 days assisting the Fire Chief and City Superintendent as we don't have enough resources to cover these events. EM duties are being converted to 911 duties, taking up her time where needed elsewhere. Continuing to discuss her budget, she added on Flood Plain of \$3000 to cover her additional duties.

Todd Webber, Road Superintendent advised on bid tabs for Brantford Road. Requesting a motion to proceed with Close Construction to start on the contractual part of it: Interstate Engineering to get the contracts and notice to proceed, and contract awarded. Commissioner Glenda Collier made a motion to proceed with Close Construction for the Brantford Road. Commissioner James F. Allmaras seconded the motion. Roll Call vote: Dave Gehrtz Yes vote, James F. Allmaras Yes vote, and Glenda Collier Yes vote. Motion carried. Todd discussed the rent on the Hamar Shop. The least negotiating he can get is a \$1000 a month with the Andersons, that would be from October 2025 to October 2026. He requested a contract to be written up and payment processed. We own the building, Todd suggested a year-to-year contract, as we do have other options. Todd needs to state a completion date for the Klumph Bridge. The manufacturer of the box culverts is giving us November 15th, 2026 as a completion date to pour of the boxes. Mike May's, Interstate Engineering, suggestion was to put a 2027 completion data on it, Todd's thinking is September 2027 to ensure safety.

District Court/Juvenile and New Rockford Rural Fire budgets were presented and reviewed.

Conversation regarding the NDIRF handicap bathrooms value replacement. Insurance came in with a year built of 1924, per Glenda should be 2014 or 2015. It had an insured value of \$67,200 for replacement. Glenda requested input if that's enough. Cost to rebuild was originally \$33,000 2 years ago. Glenda will visit with Bruce at Cash and Carry to determine a neutral party cost of replacement based on square footage, etc. The address has also been updated for insurance purposes.

Roof bid will have to go into the paper for 2 weeks. We have 1 bid for total replacement, the party is not interested in a partial repair. Bobbie would like clarification of what kind of replacement request we are asking for. Is it three different information points: a bid to repair, a bid to replace shingles with kind of a quotation of a 50 year, and the bid of the gutters. It was agreed that Bobbie and Ashley would work together to prepare an ad for the paper to include a separate bid to replace shingles and a bid for gutters.

Pledge of Securities were presented and discussed. Tabled until next month to discuss with Becki Schumacher, Treasurer.

Dave Gehrtz discussed attorney fees for charges of litigations against the county. To date, Larry Danduran, \$33,552.25. David Fight, \$16,562.60. Jesse Schuster, \$3,957.46, for a total of those three individuals at \$54,072.31. We also have Patrick Waters that was hired to help us at \$9,748.47. Additional fees to come yet, we have \$3,500 to \$4,500 that Walter's will be invoicing us. We were just served papers again by Mr. Fite and Mr. Schuster, also not included in this total yet. We have spent \$63,000 defending ourselves. Requesting to have this in paper, he wants the public to see what is transpiring. Sitting on the law enforcement center board in Devil's Lake, Dave stated they have NDIRF and have had two lawsuits, causing the premium to go up 20%.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:09 A.M. The next regular meeting will be August 4, 2026, at 8:00 A.M.

APPROVED BY EDDY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

By: /s/ Dave Gehrtz Date: 9-1-26

Chairman, Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST

By: /s/ Bobbie Indergaard Date: 9-1-26

Auditor