

MINUTES OF EDDY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

EDDY COUNTY COURTHOUSE

August 4, 2026, 8:00 A.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 removal of "Ashley update on publication from NDIRF as to Township Comprehensive Plans" and the addition of "District Health Update" in its place. Commissioner Glenda Collier seconded the motion, all were in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Glenda Collier made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from July 7, 2026 (with a correction to the spelling of "date" not "data"), Special Meeting minutes from June 26, 2026 and July 13, 2026 and Special Hearing Minutes from July 2, 2026. Commissioner James F. Allmaras seconded the motion, all were in favor. Motion carried.

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

Commissioner Glenda Collier made a motion to approve the following July 2026 bills. 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.

JULY BILLS

CITY OF NEW ROCKFORD	42,189.91
TWO RIVERS AMBULANCE	1,997.12
MCHENRY AMBULANCE	1.83
NEW ROCKFORD COMMUNITY AMBULANCE	16.50
STATE TREASURER	482.59
GARRISON DIVERSION CONSERVANCY DISTRICT	542.92
NEW ROCKFORD-SHEYENNE SCHOOL DISTRICT #2	31,244.26
EDDY COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT	555.00
MIDKOTA SCHOOL DISTRICT #7	2,250.76
WARWICK SCHOOL DISTRICT #29	754.04
DAKOTA PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1	1,637.66
PARADISE TOWNSHIP	745.53
CHERRY LAKE TOWNSHIP	199.05
COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP	367.60
PLEASANT PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP	442.93
SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP	443.32
ROSEFIELD TOWNSHIP	436.67
COLVIN TOWNSHIP	712.85

LAKE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP	345.29
TIFFANY TOWNSHIP	256.14
NEW ROCKFORD TOWNSHIP	1,321.73
MUNSTER TOWNSHIP	437.12
FREEBORN TOWNSHIP	428.78
HILLSDALE TOWNSHIP	368.10
BUSH TOWNSHIP	316.40
GATES TOWNSHIP	462.09
NEW ROCKFORD RURAL FIRE DISTRICT	264.23
GRANDFIELD TOWNSHIP	304.25
TOLNA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT	129.21
WARWICK FIRE DISTRICT	37.32
HISTORICAL SOCIETY	83.51
EDDY COUNTY WATER RESOURCE	1,081.60
EDDY COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING	668.00
CITY OF SHEYENNE	3,207.78
NEW ROCKFORD CITY PARK DISTRICT	7,401.77
MCHENRY AMBULANCE	51.96
EDDY TOWNSHIP	235.93
SHELDON TOWNSHIP	211.49
ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS	36.00
AT&T MOBILITY	630.38
CASH & CARRY LUMBER ASSOC., LLC	1,916.02
CENDAK COOPERATIVE	4,797.43
CENDAK COOPERATIVE	1,340.55
CENDAK COOPERATIVE	1,713.81
CENTRAL CITY H2O+	108.00
CITY OF SHEYENNE	110.10
DAKOTA DUST-TEX, INC.	172.65
DO IT BEST	35.98
HALEY AUTO REPAIR LLC	1,225.00
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT	1,027.35
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT	319.75
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT	1,027.35
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT	319.75
LAKE REGION DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT	19,622.75
LAKE REGION LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER	300.88
LEAF	151.54
LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT, INC.	259.02
LINDERMAN CONSTRUCTION	2,100.00
MEEHAN MACHINE	567.08
NAPA AUTO PARTS - NR	144.58
ND DEPT OF TRUST LANDS	250.00
NEW ROCKFORD UTILITY SERVICES	349.92
NORTH DAKOTA TELEPHONE COMPANY	762.13
NORTHERN PLAINS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE	282.00
OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL - 1250	150.00
OK TIRE STORE AND SERVICE	120.00

OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY	289.97
PITNEY BOWES BANK INC PURCHASE POWER	500.00
QUILL LLC	193.79
RANDY'S BODY SHOP	387.81
ROCKIN FITNESS	600.00
TEXT MY GOV, INC.	3,375.00
TRANSCRIPT PUBLISHING	1,709.42
TRANSCRIPT PUBLISHING	196.00
WARREN IMPLEMENT INC.	21.00
STATE TREASURER	147.01
ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS	636.74
AFLAC	145.21
AFLAC	580.75
ALAN'S FURNACE SERVICE, INC	214.00
AMAZON CORPORATE	241.59
ASHLEY LIES	540.00
BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	27.75
CASH & CARRY LUMBER ASSOC., LLC	31.50
CENDAK COOPERATIVE	3,890.78
CENEX FLEETCARD	648.34
CENTRAL PLAINS WATER DISTRICT	143.42
CJ SCHMALTZ	200.00
CK CONSTRUCTION, LLC	49,000.00
COLE PAPERS INC	1,074.73
COLONIAL LIFE	461.25
DAUENHAUER DIESEL REPAIR	660.00
DONNA YOUNG	143.75
ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	2,123.14
ELECTRONIC FEDERAL TAX PAYMENT	25,415.76
ELI ALFSTAD	200.00
EVAN TWEDT	152.50
HEARTLAND LAW OFFICE, P.C.	6,125.00
IAN GILLEY	111.90
INTERSTATE ENGINEERING	2,746.90
JAMES RIVER AG	9,908.75
JOB SERVICE ND	257.48
KENNY THOMPSON	91.60
LAKE REGION DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT	2,281.10
LEAF	104.50
LEON HOYT	550.00
LISA THOMPSON	58.00
LUCAS WALTER	77.70
MESSNER GRAVEL LLC	2,065.00
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO	214.53
NCZ EXPRESS INC	9,100.00
ND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEMS	34,466.68
ND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEMS	17,559.86
ND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEMS	1,139.00

NEECIE SWART	200.00
NODAK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE	72.88
OAKLEY BRAZIL	200.00
OFFICE OF STATE TAX COMMISSIONER	946.52
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL - EMERGENCY SERVICE	120.00
OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY	903.68
PITNEY BOWES BANK INC PURCHASE POWER	454.73
PITNEY BOWES BANK INC PURCHASE POWER	557.18
ROCKFORD PLUMBING & HEATING	1,266.90
SHAUNA LABER	94.50
STUART RICHTER	80.00
TEAM LAB	2,020.00
THOMAS ALLMARAS	2,250.00
BANK FORWARD	82.30
BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	119.40
CLOSE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC.	750.00
DO IT BEST	144.02
NAPA AUTO PARTS - NR	15.99
NORTH DAKOTA TELEPHONE COMPANY	96.01

REPORT TOTALS	\$ 333,656.58
PAYROLL	\$ 82,465.29
TOTAL	\$ 416,121.87

Public Comments: No Public Comments.

Commissioner Glenda Collier updated the commissioners on insurance coverage for the fairground bathrooms. Currently, the bathroom has a replacement insurance value of less than \$70,000. After speaking with Bruce at the Lumber Yard, he estimated a total replacement value of the bathroom would be closer to \$100,000. It was requested that the Auditor speak with Janine at Insure Forward to increase our coverage.

Commissioner Glenda Collier updated the commissioners on the Eddy County Transit. At the previous meeting, it was questioned why the vehicle was being titled in their name this year, not in Eddy County's name as years past. Collier informed the commissioners that Devils Lake actually pays for the buses so it is correct to have them titled in their name. She also updated the Commissioners that if we switched transport to Valley City, Devils Lake would then not provide meals to Eddy County. Finally, she updated the commissioners that starting September 1st, the bus will only run for transport on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays due to shortage in drivers. Commissioners agreed they would like to see this topic on all future agendas to continue the discussion on addressing these issues.

Commissioner James F. Allmaras provided an update on Lake Region Public Health personnel issues. Denton Heisler resigned, but agreed to stay until January 2027 or until a replacement is found, whichever comes sooner. Allmaras also informed the commissioners that the Director of Nursing also resigned, but that they already had three good applicants for her replacement.

Susie Sharp came in to provide her annual report for the Library. She updated the commissioners on things like books on hand, books check out, patrons added, the types of books on hand, the Libby app, and the success of the Summer Reading Program. She thanked the commissioners for paying half of the bill to replace the one broken air conditioning unit in the Library. She also informed the commissioners that they found a water leak in the basement, but were able to find the cause and cap the pipe so there would be no future issues. She updated the commissioners that she was invited to a library conference in Reno, NV from August 31, 2026 to September 4, 2026 and was excited to attend. Finally, she asked the commissioners to approve Nancy Ritzke to the open position on the Library Board. Commissioner Glenda Collier made a motion to approve Ritzke. Commissioner James F. Allmaras seconded the motion, all were in favor. Motion carried.

Emergency Manager, Lisa Thompson, provided the commissioners with an update on the EMS 911 Conversion and the TextMyGov App. She said the Federal Signal/ Siren activation is going as planned. She did say, however, that the repeater for the pagers needs to be replaced and there is an estimated cost of \$18,000 to wrap up the entire conversion process. Commissioner James F. Allmaras made a motion to allow Thompson to spend up to \$18,000 to finish the conversion process. Commissioner Glenda Collier seconded the motion, all were in favor. Motion carried. Thompson updated the commissioners on grants; she said the 2025 grants to replace the Courthouse door locks was still not funded, but that she reapplied in 2026 for the grants which were more focused on preventing terrorism. She also said she applied for three other grants to hopefully get a locking alarm system on the tower building, to put fencing around it, and to put up bollards to prevent someone from knocking down the tower. Finally, Thompson presented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from State Radio to the commissioners for their consideration. Commissioner Glenda Collier made a motion to execute the MOU. Commissioner James F. Allmaras seconded the motion, all were in favor. Motion carried.

Eddy County Fair Association Vice-President, Whitney Twedt, came to the commission to request funding of \$10,000 to support the Fair next year. She provided an update on this year's first annual Fair, funds received already, proposals for fundraising, and plans for improving next year's Fair. She also informed the commission that they are still working on fundraising for building the new barn they previously approached the commission about.

Preliminary budgets were presented by the following: Merita Aldayel from the Eddy County Museum; Michelle Gilley from the Eddy County Extension Officer; Denton Heisler from the Lake Region District Health Unit; Donna Young from the Eddy County Weed Board; Todd Weber from the Road Department; Sheriff Paul Lies from the Sheriff's Office; Tiffany Harr from the Clerk of Court and Recorder's offices and as the Public Information Officer; Auditor Bobbie Indergaard from the Auditor's Office; Treasurer Becki Schumacher from the Treasurer's Office; Tax Director Kristy O'Connor from the Tax Director's Office; and State's Attorney Ashley Lies from the State's Attorney's Office. Auditor Indergaard also presented the Preliminary budgets for the airport, capital projects, the commissioners, Warsing Dam, the Senior Citizen's Center, other general funds, the Water Resource Board, Two River's Ambulance, the Soil Conservation District, and the Garrison Diversion. The majority of departments reported that there was

little change other than their increase in wages and cost of living increases. No major increases were reported. Commissioners inquired if one mill was mandatory for the Garrison Diversion; State's Attorney Lies said she would provide an update to the commissioners at the next regular meeting.

Commissioners stated they would like to review the Preliminary budgets again before the Budget Hearing. Commissioners also discussed the budget item for commissioners on health insurance. They agreed that with the current financial position of the County and the 3% cap, health insurance should not be offered to the commissioners any more. State's Attorney Lies indicated she would check if there was anything in the Employee Policy about them receiving health insurance. A Special Meeting was set for Tuesday, August 18, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. for another Preliminary budget review and an update from State's Attorney Lies on the health insurance issue.

Commissioner Glenda Collier made a motion to add Auditor Bobbie Indergaard as an authorized representative to the online banking with Bank Forward. Commissioner James F. Allmaras seconded the motion, all were in favor. Motion carried. State's Attorney Lies will provide appropriate documentation to Bank Forward to facilitate this change immediately.

Commissioners reviewed the contract with Close Construction for the Brantford Road project. Commissioner Glenda Collier made a motion to execute the agreement as presented. Commissioner James F. Allmaras seconded the motion, all were in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioners set the Public Budget Hearing date for their regular meeting on October 6, 2026, with the hearing to be opened at 8:30 a.m.

Commissioners discussed the bids received for the Courthouse roof replacement. There was a drastic difference in the bid prices received and it was unclear if one of the bids was planning on using 50 year shingles as set out in the request for bids. The commissioners expressed interest in extending the deadline to see if they could receive more bids. Commissioner Glenda Collier made a motion to re-open the bidding if possible for the shortest time possible. Commissioner James F. Allmaras seconded the motion, all were in favor. Motion carried. State's Attorney Lies stated she would research this as soon as possible and re-advertise if allowed by law.

Commissioners discussed recent vandalism at the Warsing Dam Park with consideration of adding security cameras in the Park. Concerns were had with the lack of Wi-Fi at the Park or using game cameras for the risk of theft. State's Attorney Lies said she would talk to the Sheriff about options and patrolling. For now, signs will be put up warning guests that the Park is under surveillance.

Commissioner Glenda Collier made a motion to approve special liquor permits for Hanson's Bar, LLC for weddings on September 5, 2026 and October 10, 2026. Commissioner James F. Allmaras seconded the motion, all were in favor. Motion carried.

Chairperson Dave Gehrtz provided the commissioners with an update on the interviews he conducted with applicants for the 911 Coordinator position. He stated how impressed he was with the qualifications and knowledge of the applicants, but that for this position he thought Tia Davis was the best fit. Chairperson Dave Gehrtz made a motion to offer the position to Davis at the rate of \$200 per month. Commissioner Glenda Collier seconded the motion, all were in favor. Motion carried. State's Attorney Lies said she would send an offer letter to Davis and a letter to the other applicant stating the County

would still be interested in having her work with the County, but possibly in a different capacity, due to her incredible credentials.

Auditor Bobbie Indergaard provided an update to the commissioners on her Deputy Auditor. Currently, the Deputy Auditor position is budgeted for eight hours per week, but is being utilized significantly more than that in the Auditor's Office and also flowing into the Treasurer's Office. Discussion was had on fair compensation for this work. Commissioner James F. Allmaras made a motion to pay the Deputy Auditor \$1,100 per month for August to December 2026. Commissioner Glenda Collier seconded the motion, all were in favor. Motion carried.

Chairperson Dave Gehrtz recognized a comment made by a resident about the recent Eddy County Employee Picnic that it must have been paid for by the wind tower project. Chairperson Gehrtz reminded everyone that ever since the Picnics were started approximately eight years ago, they have exclusively been paid for by the commissioners out of their own pockets; never has the County paid for any part of these events. The commissioners then divided up their expenses with each other.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:36 A.M. The next regular meeting will be September 1, 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