

Hettinger County Commission proceedings

APPROVED MEETING OF HETTINGER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS August 6, 2025

Chairman Tom Geerts called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with roll call of commissioners with Todd Lutz and Devan Laufer attending. Elliott Finck, Road Supervisor, was in attendance.

Laufer motioned to approve the minutes from the July meeting, seconded by Lutz. All in favor, motion carried. Lutz motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Laufer. All in favor, motion carried.

Each of the commissioners reported on their other boards or committees they are on.

Laufer made a motion to approve the following vouchers, Lutz seconding the motion. Roll Call vote, all voted aye. Motion carried. These bills are included below:

16532 AT&T Mobility \$694.64;16540 Brosz Engineering, Inc. \$9,970.00; 16541 Butler Machinery Co. \$155.47; 16542 City of Mott \$209.25; 16543 Commercial Bank of Mott \$302.00; 16544 Consolidated \$1,007.27; 16545 Corey Warner \$3,598.15; 16546 Dakota Dust-Tex \$187.35; 16547 Devin Hibberd \$590.00; 16548 Eido Printing \$402.00; 16549 Elder Care \$20,000.00; 16550 Evanson Jensen Funeral Home \$180.00; 16551 Fitterer Sales \$20,449.01; 16552 Frieze Auto Parts, Inc. \$380.84; 16553 Great Plains Tower Services \$500.00; 16554 GS Publishing \$434.60; 16555 Heather Fischer \$16.63; 16556 HR Collaborative \$100.00; 16557 Jeri Schmidt \$10.00; 16558 Knopik Pit Management, LLC \$24,905.00; 16559 M.D.U. \$1,392.39; 16560 Marco \$176.49; 16561 Mott Equity Exchange \$606.62; 16562 NDACO Resources Group \$3,346.06; 16563 ND-PHIT \$360.00; 16564 NDSU Extension Service \$7,346.42; 16565 North Dakota One Call \$3.00; 16566 Northwest Tire Inc. \$171.05; 16567 Office of The Adjutant General \$11,331.74; 16568 RDO Equipment Co \$3,020.21; 16569 Sign Solutions \$625.50; 16570 Slope Electric Coop \$146.86; 16571 Softchoice Corporation \$319.96; 16572 Southwest Diesel & Repair \$1,822.81; 16573 Southwest Water Authority \$57.91; 16574 Stephanie Hibberd \$74.50; 16575 Stutsman County Auditor's Office \$200.00; 16576 SW District Health Unit \$6,500.00; 16577 SW Multi-Co. Correction Center \$1,150.00; 16578 SW Transportation Services \$4,000.00; 16579 Team Laboratory Chemical, LLC. \$1,025.50; 16580 Tom Geerts \$88.20; 16581 Tyler Technologies, Inc. \$6,841.37; 16582 Western Dakota Energy Association \$1,500.00; 16583 Axon Enterprise, Inc. \$16,057.76; 16584 Cenex Fleet Fueling \$1,524.92; 16585 Electronic Communications Inc \$135.00; 16586 The Hub Convenience Stores \$652.85; 16587 Top Line Engine & Repair \$1,885.75; 16588 Tracy Kruger \$185.46; 16589 West River Health Services \$98.00.

Two recommendations for variance approvals from the zoning board were received: 1) a variance to place a 76'x16' trailer house within the 200' required set back in the following location: In the N ½ 25-135-97 and 2) a variance request for tree planting of which will be within the 200' required set back in the following location: In the NE4 15-133-93 – the SE corner along 79th Ave SW along 92nd Ave SW. Lutz motioned to approve, seconded by Laufer. All in favor, motion carried.

Offices met with the commissioners to give their monthly reports. This included the Tax Director, Register of Deeds/ Clerk of Court, Emergency, Sheriff and the Road Department.

Kyle DeMark, Emergency Manager, mentioned that the Radio Tower inspection was completed and recommended keeping the tower and continue using as is until the SIRN system is utilized in the next year or two. All the emergency services were contacted.

Jessica Buer & Andrea Bowman, representing Roosevelt-Custer Regional Council and as JDA Director met with the council to discuss Explore Hettinger County web pages on the County website. Tracy Kruger, who has been working with our website also attended at this time. After discussion, Lutz motioned to approve the JDA web page expansion on the county website, seconded by Laufer. All in favor, motion carried.

Eric Urness, Brosz Engineering, submitted to the board the bridge priority listing and map for the board to review prior to submitting to the state for the Bridge Flex funding.

The Slope County Commissioner via conference call, discussed a road that is in both counties. This road leads into the west side of the city of New England. They were wondering if our county would be interested in submitting a multi-jurisdictional grant with Slope County being the contact county. Laufer motioned to approve, seconded by Lutz. All in favor, motion carried.

Per last legislature session, the county and other taxing entities must have a policy in place for public comment at their meetings. Laufer motioned to approve the following resolution: HETTINGER COUNTY POLICY REGARDING PUBLIC COMMENT AT REGULAR MEETINGS: WHEREAS, as a North Dakota political subdivision, the Hettinger County and its Board of County Commissioners (the "Board") are subject to North Dakota's open meetings requirements under Chapter 44-04 of the North Dakota Century Code. WHEREAS, during the 2025 Legislative Session, the North Dakota Legislature approved SB 2180, a bill that includes a new public meeting requirement in Chapter 44-04 for cities, counties, townships, school Boards, park Boards, and water resource Boards (the "Public Entities"). WHEREAS, under SB 2180, at every regularly scheduled meeting, the Public Entities must include an opportunity for members of the public to provide comments. WHEREAS, SB 2180 requires the Public Entities to implement policies that include rules for public comments, including time limits for public speakers, total meeting time limitations for public comment, rules regarding permissible topics, and rules of decorum. NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this RESOLUTION OF POLICY represents the Board's official policy regarding public comments at regular board meetings as mandated under SB 2180. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board's policy under this RESOLUTION OF POLICY ensures the public's right to speak at a regular meeting and ensures the public comment process is orderly, efficient, and respectful. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approves the following policy regarding public comments at the Board's meetings, under SB 2180: 1. The Board will include a public comment agenda item as the first non-procedural agenda item at all regular meetings of the Board. a. "Regular" meetings include the Board's regularly scheduled monthly meetings, as approved by the Board and filed with the Hettinger County Auditor, all as required under N.D. Cent. Code § 44-04-20(3). 2. Each person interested in providing public comments at a meeting must submit a speaker card, in person or via email, to the County Auditor, as clerk of the Board of County Commissioners, prior to the meeting being called to order that includes: a. the person's name;

b. the person's address; and c. an agenda item from the current meeting agenda or the previous meeting agenda that the person seeks to address. 1. If a speaker card does not include all three items above, the person is disqualified and the person may not speak at the meeting. 2. The Board will afford each person three minutes to provide comments. The Board will notify each speaker when the three minutes have expired and the speaker will promptly conclude. 3. To ensure orderly and efficient meetings, the Board will limit the public comment agenda item to a total of thirty minutes, regardless of how many people have submitted speaker cards. 4. The Board will call on each person who has properly submitted a completed speaker card to present public comments, in the order of submission. 5 All comments must: a. address the agenda item identified on the speaker card, from the current meeting agenda or the previous meeting agenda; and b. be pertinent to the Board. 6. Comments may not: a. be defamatory, abusive, harassing, or unlawful; b. include information that is exempt or confidential under North Dakota open records or open meetings law; or c. interfere with the orderly conduct of the Board's meeting. 7. Speakers may not yield their allotted time to another person. 8. Anyone unable or unwilling to speak in-person may submit written comments to the County Auditor, as clerk of the Board of County Commissioners, prior to the meeting; the written comments must include the person's name and address and must be pertinent to an agenda item from the current meeting agenda or the previous meeting agenda. If a person submits written comments to the County Auditor at least twenty-four hours prior to the Board's meeting, the Auditor will circulate and distribute the comments to the Commissioners prior to the meeting and the Board will address and discuss the comments at the meeting. If a person submits written comments to the County Auditor less than twenty-four hours prior to a meeting, the Board will not address or discuss the comments at that meeting and the County Auditor will circulate and distribute the comments to the Commissioners after the meeting. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this RESOLUTION OF POLICY supersedes any of the Board's previous policies or practices regarding public comments at the Board's meetings. Lutz seconded the motion. Roll Call – Laufer "aye"; Lutz "aye"; Geerts "aye" motion carried. An increase of cost for the new condensate pump was received due to tariff, and Lutz motioned to approve the order, seconded by Laufer. All in favor, motion carried. New (non-public safety) employees are now to be put on Defined Contribution Plan for the counties NDPERS retirement plan. Lutz motioned to approve the plan with the counties contribution to match the plans max contribution to make it more in line with what the current employees have in the Defined Benefit Plan, seconded by Laufer. All in favor, motion carried. The commissioners reviewed the 2026 Preliminary Budget. Laufer motioned to approve with adjusting to the three percent cap, seconded by Lutz. All in favor, motion carried. The final budget hearing will be at 1:00 p.m. at the next commissioners meeting. With no further information to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m. Attest Jeri G. Schmidt, AUDITOR Tom Geerts, CHAIRMAN

HEFTY SEED IS HIRING A SALES AGRONOMIST

A rewarding position in agronomy combined with first-rate outdoor recreation and a friendly community is waiting for you in central North Dakota. Hefty Seed is hiring a sales agronomist in Hurdsville, ND. In an area that boasts some of the region’s best hunting and fishing, the right candidate will be able to enjoy acreage for hunting and many beautiful lakes nearby. Some great housing options are also available. We are looking to invest in individuals who will be a great fit with our established, yet growing team of agronomists. This position includes top pay and benefits. If you are looking to work in an enjoyable environment while providing top notch service to our valued customers, we invite you to send your resume and cover letter to chad.weckerly@heftyseed.com or call Chad at 701-793-7382. We look forward to working with you.

CLASSIFIED ADS

HELP WANTED

HARVEST HELP WANTED Schumacher Farms, Drayton. Sugar Beets: truck drivers; Potatoes: truck drivers, warehouse workers. Very Competitive Wages! Call: John at 701-520-0028; Grant at 701-520-3771.

SERVICES FOR HIRE

PEST CONTROL: PROTECT YOUR HOME from pests safely and affordably. Roaches, Bed Bugs, Rodent, Termite, Spiders and other pests. Locally owned and affordable. Call for service or an inspection today! 833-406-0253. Have zip code of property ready when calling!

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

N.D. FARMLAND values surge upward. Are you selling or renting? Pifer's Auction and Farm Land Management. Bob Pifer 701-371-8538. Kevin Pifer 701-238-5810. Free valuation.

HARVEST ACRES WANTED

Porter Harvesting, a third-generation crew is looking to add harvest-ing acres. We run three 7250s, two carts and four Peterbilt trucks. Please call Joe 620-897-7555.

MISCELLANEOUS

New and used PALLET RACKING 36-inch, 42-inch, 48-inch uprights and wire decking 8-9-10-11-12-14' beams. Large part cabinets various sizes. Bismarck. Call 701-202-9831.

NEED NEW FLOORING? Call today to schedule a FREE in-home estimate on carpeting and flooring. Call today! 1-833-641-6785.

WE BUY VINTAGE GUITARS! Looking for 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins/Banjos. Call 1-833-641-7066.

YOU CAN PLACE a 25-word classified ad like this one in every North Dakota newspaper for only \$160. It's easy. Contact this newspaper for details.

HAVE A NEWS RELEASE or other information that needs to reach all North Dakota newspapers? North Dakota Newspaper Association can help! One call does it all. 701-223-6397.

LOOKING FOR THE most complete listing of North Dakota Media? North Dakota Media Guide. Call 701-223-6397, North Dakota Newspaper Association.

NORTH DAKOTA STOCKMEN'S ASSOCIATION NOTICE OF BRAND RENEWAL

North Dakota livestock brands will expire on Jan. 1, 2026, in accordance with North Dakota Century Code 4.1-73-12. Present brand owners have the right to rerecord their brands. If a brand is allowed to expire, ownership interest of the brand will be lost and the brand may no longer be used. In August, a renewal notice for each recording was mailed to the address on file in the brand recording office. If you have not received your notice or have questions about renewing a brand, contact the North Dakota Stockmen's Association at (701) 223-2522 or visit www.ndstockmen.org.

Leave Your Legacy in North Dakota

Contact the professionals at NDCF for a free, confidential conversation about your options as you plan your estate. www.NDCF.net | 701-222-8349



NORTH DAKOTA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Youth deer season opens

Friday, Sept. 19, at noon CT signals the start of a nine-and-a-half-day deer hunting season for licensed youth hunters. The youth license is valid during the youth deer season that closes Sept. 28, and the regular deer gun season running from Nov. 7-23.

After opening day, hunting hours are a half-hour before sunrise to a half-hour after sunset. Orange clothing is required for youth hunters and mentors.

Each young deer hunter must be under direct supervision of an adult. The adult is prohibited from carrying a firearm or bow while accompanying the youth hunter in the

field during the youth season.

Youth, military waterfowl weekend
Introduce a youngster to duck hunting during North Dakota's two-day youth waterfowl season Sept. 20-21. In addition, the special veteran and active military personnel waterfowl season is set for the same weekend.

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department has a Virtual Duck Hunting Mentor webpage with all the basics, including license requirements, regulations, gear recommendations and tips for finding a place to hunt.

Legally licensed resident and nonresident youth waterfowl hunters 15 and younger, and veterans and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty (other than for training), may hunt ducks, geese, coots and

mergansers statewide. All waterfowl hunters must possess a waterfowl habitat restoration electronic stamp. Resident and qualifying nonresident youth waterfowl hunters must possess a general game and habitat license.

Veterans and members of the Armed Forces must possess a resident hunting license, which includes a general game and habitat license and a small game license. Hunters 16 and older must also possess a federal waterfowl stamp, and youth 12 and older need to have passed a certified hunter education course.

In addition, all hunters must be Harvest Information Program certified. Hunters who do not HIP certify when they buy a North Dakota license can add it by visiting the state Game and Fish Department website at gf.nd.gov.