

McLean County Commission Proceedings September minutes

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

The second regular September meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairperson Curt Olson. Present were Commissioners Olson, Steve Cottingham, and Steve Lee. Also present were Auditor Beth A. Knutson; Deputy Auditor Lynda Snyder; Road Superintendent Jim Grey; Falkirk Mining Representative Adam Ourada; and Michael Leingang.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 2, 2026. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey reported that milling is starting next Monday while graveling and mowing continue to go well even with being short staffed. Discussion followed.

Grey stated the renovated oil distributor was received from Swanston Equipment last week and truck route signs requested by the City of Turtle Lake have arrived and will be installed tomorrow. Discussion followed.

Grey requested permission to purchase a grapple fork for the skid steer in the amount of $2,000. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the purchase as requested. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey presented a boring request from RTC Networks to bore 1 ¼" HDPE conduit and 24 fiber optic cables to provide communication services to Tim Elsinger at 1444 25th Ave NW. Discussion followed. This request and a map with locations for the boring are on file with the McLean County Highway Department.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to approve the boring permit as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried. Discussion followed.

Grey stated that he continues to have problems at the Spring Creek Cabin site where speed bumps were installed this summer. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to approve a Special Event Permit for Painted Woods Recreation, Inc. to hold an event at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center on September 16, 2026. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Chairperson Olson recessed at 8:52 a.m.

Chairperson Olson reconvened at 8:55 a.m.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to approve the 2027 Commission Meeting Schedule calendar. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to reappoint Ashley Woolley as the 2026 ND State Fair Delegate. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson stated that all election inspectors will be returning and presented the resolution below appointing them for the General Election.

Resolution Appointing Election Inspectors

November 3, 2026 General Election

McLean County, ND

Whereas, Currently, under state law (NDCC 16.1-05-01), the Board of County Commissioners, in cooperation with the county auditor, shall appoint the inspectors of the election for all polling locations as well as for the absentee board within McLean County by 40 days preceding the election.

Whereas, each election board must be comprised of at least one election inspector per polling location and absentee board within the county. The election inspector supervises the conduct of the election and ensures that all election workers are performing their duties. Additionally, the inspector and judges verify the results of the election and return the election results and associated ballots to the county auditor at the close of polls on election day.

Whereas, The McLean County Auditor is committed to providing a positive voting experience to all voters within McLean County while simultaneously upholding the security and integrity of elections. The attached list of election inspectors ensures McLean County's success for the upcoming election.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved, that the McLean County Commission approves the list below as election inspectors and approves the county auditor to fill any vacancies that may exist for the November 3, 2026 General Election.

Inspector Polling Location

Delores White White Shield Regular Precinct

Chelsey Brandt Washburn Vote Center

Leah Odden Garrison

Lesli Fiedler Turtle Lake

Peggy Wollmuth Absentee Board

Dated this 15th day of September, 2026, at Washburn, North Dakota.

ATTEST:

Curt Olson, Chairperson Beth A. Knutson

McLean County Commission McLean County Auditor

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to approve the resolution as presented. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Chairman Olson opened a public hearing at 9:00 a.m. for temporary road closure and Ourada presented the resolution below. Discussion followed.

Resolution of

McLean County Commission

Whereas, The Falkirk Mining Company ("Falkirk") has petitioned the Board of County Commissioners of McLean County, North Dakota ("Commission") to temporarily close the following described section line road that interferes



with surface coal mining operations pursuant to the provisions of Chapters 38-01-07.1 and 38-01-07.2 of the North Dakota Century Code:

a. The county road located in the W2 of Section 32 and the SE4NW4 of Section 32, Township 145 North, Range 83 West

Whereas, a public hearing was held upon the Petition of Falkirk before the Commission on the 15th day of September, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. CDT, in the Courthouse in the City of Washburn, North Dakota, and the Commission having heard and considered all of the testimony and evidence presented.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Commission does hereby find, conclude, and determine as follows:

1. That the Commission has jurisdiction over the subject matter of the Petition and the section line roads involved therein.

2. That the Notice of Hearing on said Petition was duly served and published as required by law.

3. That the temporary closing of said section line roads is necessary due to the fact that said section line road interferes with Falkirk's conduct of surface coal mining operations.

4. That the temporary closing of said section line roads does not deprive adjacent landowners access to their property.

5. That a public benefit exists in temporarily closing said section line road and that the interests of public and the affected landowners will be protected.

Be it further resolved, based on the foregoing, that the Commission hereby determines and orders as follows:

1. That the following section line road be temporarily closed until such time as Falkirk's surface coal mining operations which affect the use of said section line road by the general public are completed:

a. The county road located in the W2 of Section 32 and the SE4NW4 of Section 32, Township 145 North, Range 83 West

2. That Falkirk provide farmers access to their lands for farming purposes during the time that said section line road is temporarily closed.

3. That within a reasonable period of time after completion of surface coal mining operations Falkirk shall restore said section line road to as good a condition as existed prior to the temporary closing to the extent required by the Commission.

4. That Falkirk inform the Commission when the restoration of said section line road is completed, at which time Falkirk shall tender said section line road to the Commission for acceptance for general public use.

5. That the Commission may at any time exercise its rights to monitor the continued need for the temporary closing of said section line road and may request Falkirk to show cause why said section line road should not be reopened if surface coal mining operations in the vicinity thereof have been completed.

6. That this Resolution, the Petition involved therein, the Affidavits of Service and the Affidavits of Publication of Notice of Hearing be filed with the McLean County Auditor.

Dated this 15th day of September, 2026.

Attest: McLean County Commission
Beth Knutson, County Auditor

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the resolution as presented with the relocated road being in place for approximately three years. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the following vouchers as well as the P-Card and additional payroll vouchers presented for payment:

A detailed list of the P-Card and additional payroll vouchers presented for payment are available for public inspection anytime during regular business hours in the McLean County Auditor's Office.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Olson, Cottingham, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson presented copies of the 2027 McLean County budget below to the Commission and stated there are no changes from the prior budgeted numbers presented. Discussion followed.

The final budget for McLean County for the calendar year beginning January 1 to December 31, 2027, is available for public inspection anytime during regular business hours in the McLean County Auditor's Office.

Dated this 15th day of September, 2026, at Washburn, North Dakota.

/S/ Beth A Knutson
Beth A Knutson
McLean County Auditor

Leingang stated he was present with questions on three items in the budget; County Motor Pool, States Attorney, and Benefits. Discussion followed and Knutson went over each line item with Leingang and the Commission.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the McLean County 2027 budget as presented. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:48 a.m. The commission minutes and agenda can be found on the county website at https://www.mcleancountynd.gov.

Curt Olson, Chairperson
Lynda Snyder, Deputy Auditor
(Oct. 29, 2026)