

The following are "unofficial minutes" subject to change at the next meeting.

BOARD OF PEMBINA COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS

www.pembinacountynd.gov

August 5, 2025

9:00 AM

Board of Pembina County Commissioners met in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Courthouse.

Chairperson Otto called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Roll call: Patrick Hardy, Scot Becker, Blaine Papenfuss, Darin Otto, Andrew Cull. A quorum was declared.

Also, in attendance were: Zelda Hartje, Kathy Stremick, Samantha Weeks, IT/GIS Director; Samantha Diemert, Emergency Manager/Weed Officer; Rachel Ramsay, Public Health Director; Terry Meidinger, Sheriff; Lisa Keney, Tax Director; Marcus Ramsay, Chief Deputy; Missy Morden, Clerk/Recorder; Devin Johnson, Highway Superintendent; Kelly Brown, Travis Brown, Stuart Symington.

Motion made by Andrew Cull and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to approve the agenda as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Scot Becker to approve the July 15, 2025 meeting minutes. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion by Patrick Hardy and seconded by Andrew Cull to approve and have Chairman Otto sign the certificate of local matches for project BRC-0099(015) for bridge inspections. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Andrew Cull and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to approve and have Chairman Otto sign the resolution for project numbers CERP-3404(060) AND CERP-3411(064). All voting in favor, motion carried.

Kelly and Travis Brown addressed the commission regarding a bridge in Neche Township that was closed this spring and they don't have access to a field. Devin Johnson stated KLJ is looking into it to find out who originally designed it so they know what the hydraulics and plans are on it. They are coming in through a neighboring field and it is a lot longer route. He stated when they go in to harvest, it will be a problem with their 40-foot headers. Kelly stated it is on the Rosebud Coulee. Devin stated a Texas Crossing is the best solution. He stated they will replicate it when they get the

information on the original bridge. The bridge will need to be taken out and a Texas Crossing installed. Devin will work with KLJ to get it done as soon as possible.

Devin presented a culvert request for the City of Neche on the south end of Main Avenue in Neche, ND. The hydraulic memo is calling for one 48-inch culvert. Motion by Andrew Cull and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to approve the request for a one 48-inch culvert. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Devin gave an update on the Beaulieu/Akra structure. They will be starting next Monday. Key Contracting is looking for a house to rent and a staging area for them to start the 17 bridge repair projects. He stated the paving project will be starting approximately August 21st.

Garret Fontaine, States Attorney, gave an update on the Open Meeting Policy. This is regarding Bill 2180 that went into effect August 1, 2025. He read the entire resolution he drafted. Discussion followed. Motion by Andrew Cull and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to have the public comment section at the beginning of the regular meetings and adopt the Public Comment Resolution as presented. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Kathy Stremick addressed the commission on the township road and irrigation pivot issue. States Attorney Fontaine stated he reviewed century code and Attorney General's opinions regarding county commission powers and duties. He stated he will be extending his review of this issue. He stated it is looking as though this is a civil issue and the commission does not have the power to decide on this issue, but will not be giving a final answer on it today. He will come back with a firm answer at the next meeting. Kathy stated she received a copy of the township map that Lamoure Township submitted as the roads they maintained from the auditor's office and the road in question is not shown as maintained by the township. She stated she gave a copy of the map to Mr. Fontaine. She stated she spoke with a supervisor from LaMoure Township and they stated no money has been put into maintaining that road. Mr. Fontaine stated again he will continue research on whether the commission has the authority to make a decision on this issue and will address it at the next meeting.

The commission reviewed a request for a letter of support from the Rolette County Historical Society. Discussion followed. Motion by Patrick Hardy and seconded Blaine Papenfuss to approve and sign a letter of support. Discussion followed. Patrick Hardy rescinded his motion. Motion by Andrew Cull and seconded by Scot Becker to table it until the next meeting to get more information on the project. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Fontaine presented the revision of the Public Comment Resolution with it stating the public comment section would take place at the beginning of the regular meetings and gave it to Chairman Otto and Auditor Gapp for signature.

There will now be a 16-minute public comment section open starting at 10:17 AM.
There were no public comments. The public comment section was closed at 10:33 AM.

The Commission reviewed the July payroll and claims. Motion made by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Scot Becker to approve the consent agenda as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Blaine Papenfuss to adjourn the meeting. All voting in favor; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:39 AM.