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BOARD OF PEMBINA COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS

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July 21, 2026

9:00 AM

The Board of Pembina County Commissioners met in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Courthouse. Chairperson Hardy 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, Cory Mortensen, Interim Sheriff; Knute Gjovik, Chief Deputy; Kelly Cluchie, Maintenance; Devin Johnson, Highway Superintendent; Brian Thompson; Jeff Daley, KLJ Engineering; Garret Fontaine, States Attorney.

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

The public comment portion was started at 9:02 AM.

The public comment portion was closed at 9:18 AM.

Motion made by Darin Otto and seconded by Scot Becker to approve the July 7th, 2026 meeting minutes. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Scot Becker to approve the raffle permit application for Svold Community Hall. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Discussion of a quote received from Stones for a state radio tower equipment relocation. It is on the old Crystal elevator but Columbia Grain is cutting power to the building so it will need to be relocated. The equipment will all have to be replaced. It has not been decided if Columbia Grain will allow it to be on a different building or a silo, but will need to be relocated. Stones and Columbia Grain are working together to make a final decision. Motion by Darin Otto to take funds from the emergency fund to replace and move the tower for up to a cost of \$40,000.00 and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Kelly Cluchie and Cory Mortensen discussed the automatic door locks for the law enforcement center on holidays. Mr. Austin came up from Bismarck and ran through the

process with Cory and Knute and set it up so they have access to the system now and can make sure the doors are automatically locked on holidays. Cory stated they can program all the holidays in for the entire year.

Devin Johnson discussed the millings that are on Helm's lot in Drayton from the Highway 44 project. Ron asked how long they are going to be there. Devin stated he has gotten some interest in them. He is asking the commission to put a price on them so the county can get sell them. Devin stated it would be too expensive for the county to try and bring them back here. Brian Thompson stated he is interested in purchasing the mills. He stated he would do the loading and hauling himself. Discussion followed on pricing. Motion by Scot Becker and seconded by Darin Otto to sell the mills for \$5.00 per yard. Discussion followed on who would load and haul it at that price. It would be on the purchaser to load and haul. Devin stated when we buy it, the price is approximately \$6.00 per yard. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Jeff Daley gave an update on sites 10 and 11 of the 17-structure rehab project. The piling repair materials were delivered and those sites were completed. Three sites were left to complete as of yesterday and they plan on completing them all by the end of this week or early next week depending on weather. The bridge inspectors from the DOT will then come out and reinspect for load ratings so they can be reopened as soon as possible. The inspectors are in the area right now and he is hoping they can get them done while still in the area as they come from out of state.

He then gave an update on the PC County 12 bridge. He stated the project was started last week. They have the bypass in now and will take the structure down this week.

The two in-slope improvement projects with Gowen Construction on County 12 by Leroy and on County 55 by Neche were started yesterday and they are moving forward with traffic control being put up and putting erosion control down so they can start stripping top soil. They will start at the 55 site and will be going between the 2 projects at the same time and are looking to complete them by end of August.

The County 3 box culvert preconstruction meeting with Gladen Construction was held last week and work will start August 7th and they are looking for a completion by August 29th depending on weather. This project is west of Hensel.

Jeff then gave an update on the County Road 44 project. They have started replacing geogrid and aggregate yesterday trying to get done down to the south end railroad crossing. KLJ requested an updated schedule to see where they're at with timelines. He will then be meeting with American Crystal to make plans for pre-pile timelines. They are looking to start paving next week. They are planning to bring in two pavers to get as much done as possible.

Mr. Daley then presented the third pay estimate for review in the amount of \$638,000.00 for the County Road 44 project. Motion by Darin Otto and seconded by Scot Becker to have chairman Hardy sign the third pay estimate. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Devin stated he received a call from Ted Zaharia regarding the rail cars for the bridge in Bathgate to see if that option was still being considered. The cost was approximately \$34,000.00 for two cars delivered. Discussion followed. Commission Cull stated he feels it should be pursued. KLJ will start looking into what the next steps are.

States Attorney Fontaine presented a deed he received from Tracy Laaveg, a Park River attorney, regarding parcels just north of John Deere owned by Jerry and Jane Widme. They received an updated survey showing a prior deed had title issues. There is a tiny strip approximately 1/10 of an acre from where Highway 5 was moved in 1953 and that tiny strip is technically still in the county's name and was missed in error when the last deed was filed. He stated the deed prepared is to correct title issues to give the Widme's that strip. He stated it is a quit claim deed. The county isn't supplying any warranties of clear title, nor is there any cost. Motion by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Scot Becker to approve and sign the quit claim deed. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Commission reviewed the June financial report and claims. Motion made by Andrew Cull 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 10:15 AM.

