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

BOARD OF PEMBINA COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS

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October 27, 2026

9:00 AM

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. Absent: Andrew Cull. A quorum was declared.

Also, in attendance were: Zelda Hartje, Lisa Keney, Tax Director; Cory Mortensen, Interim Sheriff; Knute Gjovik, Chief Deputy; Garret Fontaine, States Attorney; Devin Johnson, Highway Superintendent; Jeff Daley, KLJ Engineering.

Motion made by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Scot Becker to approve the agenda with the addition of Operation Green Light for Veteran's. States Attorney Fontaine addressed the commission and asked that outside employment for himself be added as well. Commissioner Papenfuss amended his motion to include Mr. Fontaine's request. All voting in favor, motion carried.

The public comment section of the meeting started at 9:02 AM.

The public comment section of the meeting closed at 9:18 AM.

Motion made by Darin Otto and seconded by Scot Becker to approve the October 20, 2026 meeting minutes. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion by Darin Otto and seconded by Scot Becker to appoint Ted Juhl and Rick Hannesson to the water board. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Cory Mortensen and Knute Gjovik asked about getting credit cards for all the patrol cars because it is difficult to charge gas anywhere for them when they are far from Cavalier. They have people who will be attending training in Minot and Bismarck coming up soon. They make long trips for transports as well, and are having to pay for gas personally while on duty and then request reimbursements. Mr. Gjovik stated Walsh County does have cards for all of their patrol cars. Mr. Mortensen stated they used to be able to charge in Fargo and Bismarck but those stations do not have charge accounts anymore. Motion by Darin Otto and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to allow credit cards for all

patrol vehicles. Roll call: Pat Hardy, yes; Scot Becker, yes; Blaine Papenfuss, yes; Darin Otto, yes. Motion carried.

Lisa Keney, Tax Director, presented the Sidwell Contract for approval using the remaining balance of $30,828.00 of ARPA funds which have been designated for Sidwell and the additional amount $4,702.00 will come out of the tax equalization budget. Ms. Keney stated she did have the states' attorney review the contract. Motion by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Scot Becker to approve the Sidwell Contract with the use of the remaining ARPA funds designated and the rest from her budget. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Discussion on Operation Green Light for Veterans. All county buildings will have green lights from November 4th through the 11th. Motion by Scot Becker and seconded by Darin Otto to approve Operation Green Light for the county. All voting in favor, motion carried.

States Attorney Fontaine addressed the commission on outside employment to assist the Walsh County states attorney's office. Stewart Askew, the Interim States Attorney reached out and asked for Mr. Fontaine's assistance. Mr. Fontaine stated that at one time, Pembina County was in a similar situation, and the Walsh County commission allowed the Walsh County Prosecutor to come and assist Pembina County. Mr. Fontaine asked the commission for permission to reach out and offer help as it pertains to criminal matters. He would not be involved with any county business for them. Mr. Fontaine stated he also discussed it with the sheriff and chief deputy to make sure they had no issue with it. He then stated he is elected to serve Pembina County. The policy dictates his obligation first and foremost is to this county. He said the policy states outside employment cannot impact employment with the county. He feels in some capacity he can help with some criminal matters in Walsh County and it would be for only the months of November and December. Mr. Fontaine stated many times there are conflicts of interest within counties and they assist each other in those situations. Commissioner Papenfuss stated he feels it would be a good thing to help them out as they helped us out in the past. Mr. Fontaine again stated Pembina County is his priority and would scale back if at any time he felt it was affecting his Pembina County work. Motion by Scot Becker and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to allow Mr. Fontaine to assist Walsh County. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Garret Fontaine, States Attorney, presented his findings regarding flex time. He stated the commission has three options. Mr. Fontaine listed those three options. Discussion followed on the options. Motion by Darin Otto and seconded by Scot Becker to have Mr. Fontaine explore the issue more fully and put it back on the next agenda. Discussion followed. Commissioner Otto made an amendment to his motion to have Mr. Fontaine also check into neighboring counties policies. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Devin presented a culvert request from Ron Symington. Mr. Symington's cost would be $8,073.60. If the county did cost share, Mr. Symington's cost would be $3229.45. Devin stated we already have the culverts on hand. Motion by Blaine Papenfuss to cost share 60/40 with Mr. Symington and approve the culvert request and seconded by Darin Otto. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Devin then stated he reached out on the LED stop signs and rumble strips for Highway 12 and 66. He received one quote from 3D Specialties for $10,500.00 for rumble strips. He is still waiting on prices for the LED signs. They will mini-mac and chip seal it. If they can't get it fog sealed this year, the commission would like to wait on the rumble strips.

Mr. Daley stated they are still working on the County 12 bridge guard rail. As soon as that is done, Gowan will come in to remove the temporary bypass. The striping is done. There will be seeding and mulching to be done as well.

He stated on the rock pier project sheet piling and embankment work on the southwest side of the bridge will be done next week.

Sites 10 and 12 are done on the structure rehab projects. The NDDOT inspector stated they were okay with pictures of the piling repairs done for the final analysis to get the bridge reopened. The pile repair still needs to be done on Site 9 which is east of St. Thomas. There are still two bridges up north that need to be done between Pembina and Neche where they have to modify some beams. The completion date for all this work is December 30th.

Pembina County 44 subcontractor will be on site to do as much grading as they can. The erosion control guys were also on site. The lighting will be working fulltime next week. All these things will depend on the weather and the completion date is November 30. Mr. Daley then presented a pay estimate in the amount of $852,101.54 for approval. Motion by Darin Otto and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to approve and have chairman Hardy sign the pay estimate. All voting in favor, motion carried. Discussion followed on the turn lanes on the highway 44 project.

The Commission reviewed the October payroll and claims. Motion made by Darin Otto and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss 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 10:30 AM.