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

BOARD OF PEMBINA COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS

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September 15, 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, Andrew Cull. A quorum was declared.

Also, in attendance were: Zelda Hartje, Missy Morden, Clerk/Recorder; Cory Mortensen, Interim Sheriff; Lisa Keney, Tax Director; Knute Gjovik, Chief Deputy; Devin Johnson, Highway Superintendent; Jeff Daley, KLJ Engineering.

Motion made by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Darin Otto to approve the agenda with the changes of approval of September 1st, 2026 meeting minutes and removal of water board update. 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 Andrew Cull and seconded by Scot Becker to approve the September 1st, 2026 meeting minutes. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Discussion on NDSECC request regarding the SIRN equipment. Motion by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Darin Otto to approve the request. Commissioner Becker stated he would like more information regarding this request as he's been contacted by a couple of first responders. He is not sure if this request is related to their concerns. Discussion followed. Commissioner Papenfuss rescinded his motion and Darin Otto rescinded his second. Motion by Andrew Cull and seconded by Darin Otto to have Sam Diemert and Sam Weeks to come and present the information at the next meeting. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Discussion on Samantha Weeks' request to purchase her old cell phone. Motion by Andrew Cull and seconded by Scot Becker to allow Sam to purchase the old phone at the middle price of $196.88. All voting in favor, motion carried.

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

Rachel Ramsay arrived at the meeting at 9:30 am.

Devin Johnson presented a drainage permit application from Bob Olson to clean silt from the ditch along County 3 in Midland Township, Sections 6 and 7. Motion by Darin Otto and seconded by Scot Becker to approve the permit. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Devin then presented a drainage permit application from Travis Brown to clean out the ditch along County 1 in Section 3 of Bathgate township. Motion by Andrew Cull and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to approve the permit. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Jeff Daley of KLJ Engineering gave updates to ongoing projects. He stated the Pembina County 3 box culvert by Hensel is done and waiting for the DOT inspection. He stated the two in-slope improvement projects in Leroy and along County 55 are also completed.

He stated the deck pour was done on the Pembina County 12 bridge last Thursday and Swingen will then be doing some work behind abutments and putting in drain tile.

There has been no change in the structure rehab projects.

The Pembina County 12 rock pier project north of Leroy preconstruction meeting was just held last week. They are planning to start in the next two weeks depending on weather.

Mr. Daley then gave an update on the Pembina County Highway 44 project. The last pour was done last week. They are working on hand pours this week. KLJ did send a letter out to them about the $3,300.00 per day LD for the substantial completion date which was September 14th. He then presented pay estimate 7 in the amount of $1,342,786.69. Motion by Darin Otto and seconded by Scot Becker to approve and have the chairman sign the pay estimate. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Daley gave an update on using railcars as bridges. They had a meeting with the DOT and are waiting to hear back from them regarding load ratings, etc. They do have one in the western part of the state. Devin has contacted the supplier to discuss the requirements on the condition of the railcars.

The budget hearing was held at 10:00 AM. Those in attendance were: Zelda Hartje, Missy Morden, Clerk/Recorder; Cory Mortensen, Interim Sheriff; Lisa Keney, Tax Director; Knute Gjovik, Chief Deputy and Rachel Ramsay, Public Health Director. Copies of the budget were handed out and made available to anyone wanting one. The floor was opened to the public. There were no public comments. Discussion on the mill levy being increased only 0.33 mills overall from last year. Discussion on funding to the Red River Regional Council being taken out of the general fund levy and being added to the JDA levy. Discussion on the new JDA director, Kristi Kasprick and her start date. She has already started. Motion by Darin Otto and seconded by Scot Becker to approve the final budget as presented. Roll call: Patrick Hardy, yes; Scot Becker, yes; Blaine Papenfuss, yes, Darin Otto, yes; Andrew Cull, yes. Motion carried.

Commission reviewed the August financial report and claims. Motion made by Darin Otto and 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 10:08 AM.