

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
JANUARY 6, 2026 9:00 A.M.**

Chairman Adam Smith called the meeting to order. Commissioners Robert Schmeling and Rory Farstveet were present for the meeting along with Gary Howard with the Golden Valley County News.

Commissioner Schmeling moved to accept the agenda as presented and Commissioner Farstveet seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Farstveet moved to approve the December regular and special meeting minutes and Commissioner Schmeling seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Schmeling moved to approve the current vouchers for payment and Commissioner Farstveet seconded. Roll call vote-Farstveet-aye, Schmeling-aye, Smith-aye. Motion carried.

Current business brought forward to the Board:

- Commissioner Schmeling moved to appoint the following annual appointments for 2026: Commissioner Farstveet to the Roosevelt Custer Board, Commissioner Smith to the Community Action Board, Commissioner Schmeling to the GVC Zoning Board, Commissioner Farstveet to the Airport Board, Commissioner Smith to the Library Board, Commissioner Farstveet to the Human Services Board, and Commissioner Schmeling to the SW Correctional Center Board and Commissioner Farstveet seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- The following resolutions were reviewed and approved as listed below:

RESOLUTION 2026-1

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS, CLERKS, CUSTODIAN, & ROAD FOREMAN

STATES ATTORNEY
ASSISTANT STATES ATTORNEY
TAX & ZONING DIRECTOR
CUSTODIAN
ROAD FOREMAN
VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER
CORONER
CAFETERIA PLAN ADMINISTRATOR
SAFETY RISK MANAGER
ENGINEER
DES DIRECTOR

CHRISTINA WENKO
STEPHEN FETCH
CARLA BEELER
DAVE HELSPER
PETER WIRTZFELD
JESSICA MCCLELLAN
JOHN FOSTER
TAMRA SPERRY
CASSANDRA SZUDERA
SELECTED PER PROJECT
RACHEL KEOHANE

ALL ELECTED OFFICIALS SHALL APPOINT THEIR DEPUTIES AND/OR CLERKS AND ARE SUBJECT TO LIMITATIONS OF THE FISCAL BUDGET APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

COMMISSIONER FARSTVEET

MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2026-1;

COMMISSIONER SCHMELING SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION 2026-2

PUBLIC NOTICE OF REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING DATES TO BE HELD IN THE COMMISSIONERS ROOM OF THE GOLDEN VALLEY COUNTY COURTHOUSE AT BEACH, ND, AND THE HOUR OF BEGINNING OF MEETINGS

WHEREAS, UNDER PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 11-11-05 N.D.C.C., THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SHALL DETERMINE THE DATES FOR REGULAR COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS FOR THE YEAR 2026,

AND WHEREAS, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SHALL OBSERVE DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME DURING THOSE MONTHS DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME IS OBSERVED AND MOUNTAIN STANDARD TIME DURING THOSE MONTHS MOUNTAIN STANDARD TIME IS USED,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS SHALL BEGIN AT 9:00 A.M. ON THE FOLLOWING DATES AND MAY BE ADJOURNED FROM TIME TO TIME IF NECESSARY:

JANUARY 6	MAY 5	SEPTEMBER 1
FEBRUARY 3	JUNE 2	OCTOBER 6
MARCH 12	JULY 7	NOVEMBER 10-Election year
APRIL 7	AUGUST 4	DECEMBER 1

IN THE EVENT OF A SPECIAL SESSION CALLED EITHER BY THE COUNTY AUDITOR OR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, THE PERSON CALLING THE MEETING SHALL NOTIFY THE NEWS MEDIA ACCORDING TO THE PROVISION OF CHAPTER 11-11-05 OF THE N.D.C.C.

COMMISSIONER SCHMELING MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2026-2;
COMMISSIONER FARSTVEET SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION 2026-3

ESTABLISHMENT OF DAYS THE COURTHOUSE IS CLOSED DUE TO HOLIDAYS

WHEREAS, UNDER PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 1-03-01 OF THE N.D.C.C. AND BY ACTIONS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO DECLARE DAYS THE COURTHOUSE WILL BE CLOSED,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COURTHOUSE WILL BE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF THE FOLLOWING:

JANUARY 1	NEW YEAR DAY	NOVEMBER 11	VETERAN'S DAY
JANUARY 19	MARTIN LUTHER KING	NOVEMBER 26	THANKSGIVING
FEBRUARY 16	PRESIDENTS' DAY	NOVEMBER 27	THANKSGIVING
APRIL 3	GOOD FRIDAY	DECEMBER 24	CHRISTMAS EVE
MAY 25	MEMORIAL DAY	DECEMBER 25	CHRISTMAS
JUNE 19	JUNETEENTH	DECEMBER 31	NEW YEARS EVE
JULY 3	INDEPENDENCE DAY		(CLOSE AT NOON)
SEPTEMBER 7	LABOR DAY	JANUARY 1, 2026	NEW YEARS DAY

COURTHOUSE CLOSINGS WILL ALSO BE OBSERVED UPON ACTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S.A. AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF N.D.

COMMISSIONER FARSTVEET MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2026-3;
COMMISSIONER SCHMELING SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION 2026-4

BUSINESS HOURS OF COURTHOUSE OFFICES

WHEREAS, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL DETERMINE THE HOURS THE COURTHOUSE OFFICES WILL BE OPEN,
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COURTHOUSE OFFICES WILL BE OPEN MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY, 8:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M. AND 12:30 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M., FRIDAY 8:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M. WITH THE EXCEPTIONS OF HOLIDAYS.

THEREFORE, IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT IN THE EVENT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER THE COUNTY WILL FOLLOW THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CLOSURE SCHEDULE.

COMMISSIONER FARSTVEET MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2026-4;
COMMISSIONER SCHMELING SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION 2026-5

REIMBURSEMENT FOR MILEAGE, MEALS AND LODGING

WHEREAS, COUNTY EMPLOYEES MAY INCUR EXPENSES FOR MILEAGE, MEALS, AND LODGING IN THE PERFORMANCE OF CARRYING OUT THE DUTIES REQUIRED BY THE COUNTY,

AND WHEREAS, IF COUNTY EMPLOYEES OBTAIN PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO INCUR SUCH EXPENSE, THE COUNTY AUDITOR, UPON BEING PRESENTED WITH DOCUMENTED EVIDENCE AND IS

SATISFIED WITH AUDIT OF EXPENSES, MAY APPROVE PAYMENT BETWEEN REGULARLY SCHEDULED COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNTY ALLOW REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES INCURRED ACCORDING TO CHAPTER 11-10-15, 11-15-12, AND 54-06-09 OF N.D.C.C. AS FOLLOWS:

IN-STATE TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT RATES:

MEALS: BREAKFAST – \$9.00; LUNCH – \$14.00; DINNER – \$22.00

BREAKFAST – TRAVEL MUST BEGIN BY 7:00 AM

LUNCH – 12:00 PM: MUST BE IN TRAVEL 1 HOUR BEFORE AND AT LEAST 1 HOUR AFTER (MUST BE IN TRAVEL BY 11:00 AM AND AFTER 1:00 PM)

DINNER – 6:00 PM: MUST BE IN TRAVEL 1 HOUR BEFORE AND AT LEAST 1 HOUR AFTER (MUST BE IN TRAVEL BY 5:00 PM AND AFTER 7:00 PM)

LODGING RATE: \$110.00

PERSONAL VEHICLE MILEAGE RATE: \$0.725

COMMISSIONER SCHMELING MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2026-5;
COMMISSIONER FARSTVEET SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION 2026-6

EXPEDITION OF BUSINESS

WHEREAS, IT APPEARS THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNTY WILL BE EXPEDITED BY AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY TREASURER, UPON AUDIT OF THE COUNTY AUDITOR, TO PAY CERTAIN MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS, SUCH AS POSTAGE, FREIGHT, UTILITIES, (GAS, ELECTRICITY, WATER, & TELEPHONE), BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF NORTH DAKOTA EMPLOYEE PREMIUMS, REFUND ORDERS, REGULAR EMPLOYEE PAYROLL, AND APPORTIONMENTS.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNTY TREASURER BE ALLOWED TO PAY SUCH CLAIMS.

COMMISSIONER FARSTVEET MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2026-6;
COMMISSIONER SCHMELING SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION 2026-7

LISTING OF DEPOSITORY BANKS

WHEREAS, IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE COUNTY TREASURER TO DEPOSIT MONIES FROM TIME TO TIME,

AND WHEREAS, IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE COUNTY TREASURER TO DRAW UPON THE DEPOSITS,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE FOLLOWING BANKS BE NAMED FOR DEPOSITORY FUNDS;

FIRST STATE BANK OF GOLVA, GOLVA & BEACH, ND

CUSTODIAL FUNDS,
CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT,
CHECKING ACCT. OF REFUND
ORDERS, CHECKING ACCOUNT
FOR COUNTY BUSINESS
DEPOSITORY FOR WITHHOLD-
ING FUNDS, CERTIFICATES
OF DEPOSITS, CHECKING
ACCT. FOR COUNTY BUSINESS
SAVINGS ACCOUNT
CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT
CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

BMO, BEACH, ND

WESTERN COOP CREDIT UNION, BEACH, ND
STOCKMAN'S BANK, WIBAUX, MT
BELL BANK, FARGO, ND

COMMISSIONER SCHMELING MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2026-7;
COMMISSIONER FARSTVEET SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION 2026-8

PLEDGE OF SECURITIES

WHEREAS, IT IS NECESSARY TO HAVE PLEDGE OF SECURITIES,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE FOLLOWING PLEDGES BE ACCEPTED AT 110%

BMO, BEACH, ND	\$3,643,032.85
FIRST STATE BANK OF GOLVA, GOLVA & BEACH, ND	\$18,114,538.00
BELL BANK, FARGO, ND	\$350,000.00

COMMISSIONER FARSTVEET MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2026-8;
COMMISSIONER SCHMELING SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION 2026-9

COUNTY TREASURER TO INVEST AND REINVEST FUNDS

WHEREAS, COUNTY FUNDS MAY BE INVESTED IN CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT OR US TREASURY NOTES TO DRAW INTEREST,

AND WHEREAS, THESE FUNDS MATURE FROM TIME TO TIME,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNTY TREASURER BE AUTHORIZED TO INVEST FUNDS AND REINVEST UPON MATURITY OF CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT. ALL CD'S THAT ARE REDEEMED OR REINVESTED SHALL REQUIRE THE SIGNATURE OF BOTH THE COUNTY TREASURER AND COUNTY AUDITOR.

COMMISSIONER SCHMELING MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2026-9;
COMMISSIONER FARSTVEET SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION 2026-10

POSTING AND PUBLISHING LEGAL NOTICES

WHEREAS, IT IS NECESSARY TO PUBLISH LEGAL NOTICES IN THE OFFICIAL COUNTY NEWSPAPER,

AND WHEREAS, THE PUBLIC HAS EXPRESSED THE "GOLDEN VALLEY NEWS" BE THE OFFICIAL PAPER,

AND WHEREAS, FROM TIME TO TIME LEGAL NOTICES ARE TO BE POSTED IN THE COURTHOUSE,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE "GOLDEN VALLEY NEWS" BE DECLARED THE OFFICIAL COUNTY NEWSPAPER FOR THE YEAR 2026 AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE LOBBY OF THE COURTHOUSE BE DECLARED THE LOCATION FOR POSTING LEGAL NOTICES.

COMMISSIONER FARSTVEET MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2026-10;
COMMISSIONER SCHMELING SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION 2026-11

SALARIES OF ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

WHEREAS, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SHALL SET FORTH SALARIES OF COUNTY OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES,

AND WHEREAS, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HAVE ADOPTED A BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2026,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE FOLLOWING MAXIMUM SALARIES BE SET EITHER ON AN ANNUAL OR AN HOURLY BASIS:

AUDITOR/HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER	\$74,275.07
TREASURER	53,503.47
DEPUTY AUDITOR/DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT/RECORDER/RISK MANAGER/WEBSITE ADMIN.	26.45/HOUR
CLERK OF COURT/RECORDER/MAGISTRATE	57,085.03
TAX/ZONING DIRECTOR/GIS	50,385.70
COUNTY AGENT (COUNTY SHARE 50%)	32,228.00
COUNTY AGENT SECRETARY	23.29/HOUR
D.E.S. COORDINATOR	18,243.24
SHERIFF	79,345.02
DEPUTY SHERIFF	64,775.52
DEPUTY SHERIFF	71,253.48
CHIEF DEPUTY SHERIFF	78,378.84
OFFICE DEPUTY	27.34/HOUR
CUSTODIAN	21.22/HOUR
ROAD FOREMAN	80,489.68
ROAD CREW (2)	28.99/HOUR
ROAD CREW (1)	27.32/HOUR
ROAD CREW (2)	30.56/HOUR
ROAD CREW (1)	33.17/HOUR
WEED CONTROL OFFICER	73,096.05
COMMISSIONERS (3)	19,235.00
CAFETERIA PLAN ADMINISTRATOR	1,473.93
COUNTY CORONER	5,472.88
VETERAN'S SERVICE OFFICER-contracted with Stark County	10,000.00
911 COORDINATOR/OFFICE FLOATER	19.12/HOUR
LIBRARIAN	28.25/HOUR
ZONING BOARD MEMBERS & SECRETARY	45.00/MEETING

COMMISSIONER SCHMELING MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2026-11;
 COMMISSIONER FARSTVEET SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED.

- The Board agreed to hold the Annual Township meeting in conjunction with the regular February 3, 2026 meeting at 1 pm.
- Commissioner Schmeling moved to approve payroll for January on January 16, 2026 and for February on February 13, 2026 due to the normal payroll dates falling on a Holiday and Commissioner Farstveet seconded. Roll call vote-Farstveet-aye, Schmeling-aye, Smith-aye. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Schmeling moved to reappoint Sue Marman to another 3 year term to the Library Board and Commissioner Farstveet seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Farstveet moved to appoint Cody Ueckert to the Fair Board and Commissioner Schmeling seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- Discussion was held on installing an ac/heater unit in the Public Health Nurse Office. Custodian Helsper with get a quote on what it would cost to install a unit in that office.
- County Auditor Sperry reminded the Board to get their campaign finance and statement of interest into her office by the January 31, 2026 deadline
- The Board reviewed the agreement with Mackoff Kellogg Kirby & Kloster, P.C. for 2026 legal services with Christina Wenko as the States Attorney. There is no change in the rate of \$6,000/month from 2025. Commissioner Schmeling moved to sign the agreement and Commissioner Farstveet seconded. Roll call vote-Farstveet-aye, Schmeling-aye, Smith-aye. Motion carried.

Road Foreman Pete Wirtzfeld and Gayle Cox with Brosz Engineering met with the Board. Cox gave the Board an update on the Garner bridge fencing corrections. Flex funding approvals should be announced this month. Wirtzfeld updated that Board on some equipment getting repairs. Other various road topics were discussed.

Commissioner Schmeling moved to adjourn and Commissioner Farstveet seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 10:52 A.M.

The following vouchers were audited and approved for the month of January 2026:

Direct

Deposit	Golden Valley County Employees	January Payroll	\$73,761.52
-86587	NDPERS		\$1,000.00
-86588	NDPERS		\$20,482.34
-86594	MT Dept of Revenue		\$186.00
-86595	NDPHIT		\$32,205.03
-86596	IRS		\$28,021.11
-99640	ND State Treasurer		\$7,596.09
-99641	Pitney Bowes		\$500.00
-99642	ND Tax Commissioner		\$568.53
-99643	ND State Treasurer		\$38.34
87138	Mackoff Kellogg Kirby & Kloster	Legal Fees	\$6,000.00
87139	Vision West ND Inc	Membership	\$200.00
87140	ND County Commissioner Assoc.	Dues	\$1,151.00
87141	ND 911 Association	Membership	\$100.00
87142	National Association of Counties	Dues	\$450.00
87143	Tyler Technologies	Contract	\$6,118.03
87144	ND Association of Counties	Dues	\$19,556.69
87145	Armor Interactive	Contract	\$1,195.00
87146	ND County Auditors/Treasurers Assoc	Dues	\$400.00
87147	Stark County	Contract	\$10,000.00
87148	ND Department of Water Resources	Bowman Radar	\$2,000.00

87149	Nd Association of County Engineers	Dues	\$485.00
87150	City of Beach	Rent	\$1,500.00
87151	Dak Insurance	Insurance	\$51,429.00
87152	Noll Construction	Contract	\$2,755.00
87153	Prairie Lumber Beach	Supplies	\$240.34
87154	Dakota Dust-Tex	Floor Care	\$28.01
87155	Fireside Office Solutions	Copy Services	\$47.45
87156	Stryker Sale LLC	Supplies	\$348.00
87157	Cloud 5 Solutions, LLC	Subscriptions	\$97.20
87158	SW Multi-County Correction Center	Prisoner Care	\$2,975.00
87159	City of Beach	Water & Garbage	\$441.24
87160-87183	Collections Submitted		\$14,022.89
87184	O 5 Motors	Repairs	\$405.10
87185	MDU	Electricity & Gas	\$5,403.57
87186	NDCISA	Membership	\$100.00
87187	RTC Networks	Internet & Phone	\$1,447.21
87188	Office of Attorney General	24/7 Charges	\$990.00
87189	Mark Egan	Reimbursement	\$46.53
87190	AT&T	Cell Phone	\$116.65
87191-87199	January Payroll		\$22,685.90
87200-87202	January Liabilities		\$2,884.22
87203	Cenex Fleet Fueling	Fuel	\$1,257.98
87204-87232	Collections Submitted		\$667,277.85
87233	Verizon	Cell Phone	\$367.84
87234	AmericInn	NDSU Extension	\$450.00

ATTEST

 Tamra Sperry, County Auditor

 Adam Smith, Chairman, County Commissioners

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
FEBRUARY 3, 2026 9:00 A.M.**

Chairman Adam Smith called the meeting to order. Commissioners Robert Schmeling and Rory Farstveet were present for the meeting along with Gary Howard with the Golden Valley County News.

Commissioner Schmeling moved to accept the agenda as presented and Commissioner Farstveet seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Farstveet moved to approve the January 2026 regular meeting minutes and Commissioner Schmeling seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Schmeling moved to approve the current vouchers for payment and Commissioner Farstveet seconded. Roll call vote-Farstveet-aye, Schmeling-aye, Smith-aye. Motion carried.

Current business brought forward to the Board:

- The regular March meeting will be held March 12.
- The Annual Park Board meeting will be held in conjunction with the regular March 12th meeting at 10:30 A.M.
- Commissioner Farstveet approved the following Treasurer’s bi-annual report and Commissioner Schmeling seconded. Roll call vote-Farstveet-aye, Schmeling-aye, Smith-aye. Motion carried.

**GOLDEN VALLEY COUNTY TREASURER
Beach, North Dakota**

Ledger balance for period 7-1-25 through 12-31-25

BALANCE 7-1-2025	\$21,481,853.92	JULY PAYMENTS	\$1,388,701.20
JULY COLLECTIONS	\$212,533.53	AUG. PAYMENTS	\$382,099.03
AUG. COLLECTIONS	\$270,594.21	SEPT. PAYMENTS	\$340,802.34
SEPT. COLLECTIONS	\$212,844.09	OCT. PAYMENTS	\$354,471.38
OCT. COLLECTIONS	\$263,442.87	NOV. PAYMENTS	\$792,931.02
NOV. COLLECTIONS	\$196,634.50	DEC. PAYMENTS	\$1,673,984.48
DEC. COLLECTIONS	\$1,748,158.63	BALANCE 12-31-2025	\$19,453,072.30

BALANCE 12-31-2025	\$19,453,072.30	FIRST STATE BANK	\$11,898,559.03
		WESTERN COOP.CU SA	\$226,524.49
		BMO	\$535,787.68
		TREASURER ACCT.	\$1,407.10
		LIBR. CD & SAVINGS	\$51,261.98
		CLK OF CRT ACCT	\$4,584.00
		CERT. OF DEPOSITS	\$6,729,944.31
		CASH ITEMS	\$0.00

	CHECKS & DRAFTS	\$0.00
	CASH ON HAND	\$5,003.71
BALANCE 12-31-2025		\$19,453,072.30

GOLDEN VALLEY COUNTY TREASURER

- County Auditor Sperry will be out of the office from February 24th through March 3rd.

Cheryl Planert met with the Board. Planert presented the Board with information on the launch of The Beach Village which helps older adults support one another as they navigate the challenges and opportunities of aging. Planert is requesting the Board to help spread the word and is not asking for financial assistance.

DES Rachel Keohane and Sheriff Dey Muckle met with the Board to review the current burn ban. Commissioner Schmeling moved to approve and sign the burn ban after the edits are made to the document as discussed and Commissioner Farstveet seconded. Roll call vote-Farstveet-aye, Schmeling-aye, Smith-aye. Motion carried. Edited document below.

2026 FIRE EMERGENCY & BURN RESTRICTIONS DECLARATION
Golden Valley County, North Dakota

WHEREAS, Golden Valley County North Dakota has and is expected to continue to endure periods of dry conditions with significant vegetative fuels available; and
WHEREAS, all available resources remain committed to protecting life and property; and
WHEREAS, Golden Valley County has either sustained or been threatened with rural fires in the past and the local Emergency Management Office has been in consultation with local fire departments; and
WHEREAS, the impact of fires could threaten the health, well-being, and safety of the citizens in Golden Valley County; and
WHEREAS, the cost of response, inordinate equipment wear/tear and fire damages may be beyond available Golden Valley County resources; and
WHEREAS, Golden Valley County wishes to regulate activities within the County which pose a potential hazard for such loss, should the present weather conditions continue.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Golden Valley County Commissioners declare a Fire Emergency and Burn Restrictions effective when the North Dakota Rangeland Fire Danger Rating is in the **High, Very High or Extreme Rating and/or a Red Flag Warning** has been issued for Golden Valley County, North Dakota, effective immediately until rescinded. **Any prior Fire Emergency and Burn Restrictions issued by Golden Valley County are rescinded and replaced by this declaration.**

No Burning When Activity Matches Below	
<i>Burning is Prohibited if the Fire Index is in Extreme Category as Issued by NWS (ND Administrative Code – Title 33.1 Article 15 Chapter 4)</i>	
Low	No Restrictions. Call your local Fire Chief before burning. (Phone numbers listed below).
Moderate	No Restrictions. Call your local Fire Chief before burning. (Phone numbers listed below).
High	Campfires not within a ring, ignition of fireworks (aerial and ground), non-vesteled household garbage/all pits, controlled burns (i.e., wood piles, tumbleweeds, tree piles, etc.), crop and agricultural land burning.
Very High	Campfires, ignition of fireworks (aerial and ground), garbage/pits, controlled burns (i.e., wood piles, tumbleweeds, tree piles, etc.), crop and agricultural land burning and unnecessary off-road

	motorized travel (excluding agricultural purposes, but must have a 2A or greater fire extinguisher on hand at all times).
Extreme	Campfires, ignition of fireworks (aerial and ground), ash producing grills, garbage/pits, controlled burns (i.e., wood piles, tumbleweeds, tree piles, etc.), crop and agricultural land burning and unnecessary off-road motorized travel (anything other than paved or maintained, excluding agricultural purposes, but must have a 2A or greater fire extinguisher on hand at all times).
Red Flag Warning	All Aforementioned Burning is PROHIBITED Under a RED FLAG WARNING

Please contact your local Fire Chief before burning of any kind.
 Beach: Dan Buchholz 872-6662 Golva: Danny Noll 872-6130 and Sentinel Butte: Mike Van Horn 872-6715

The Daily Fire Danger Rating is available at the following website: <https://ndresponse.gov>

**THE PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF THIS BURN RESTRICTION IS A CLASS B MISDEMEANOR
 (NDCC 37.17.1-10.1: MAXIMUM SENTENCE OF 30 DAYS IN JAIL AND A \$1,500.00 FINE).**

DATED at Beach, North Dakota this 3rd day of February, 2026

 Adam Smith, Board Chairman
 Golden Valley County Commission

 Tamra Sperry
 Golden Valley County Auditor

The first reading on the Model Amendment Floodplain Management Ordinance was read. There was no public input. Commissioner Schmeling moved to approve the 1st reading of the Amendment and Commissioner Farstveet seconded. Roll call vote-Farstveet-aye, Schmeling-aye, Smith-aye. Motion carried.

Road Foreman Pete Wirtzfeld and Andrew Krebs with KLJ and Gayle Cox and Daniel Duppong with Brosz Engineering met with the Board. Krebs is waiting on the final paperwork on the County Road 5 project to finalize the final pay estimate for payment. The Zimdars bridge was approved for flex funding for Prairie Dog Grant subject to funding availability. Cox is also waiting for final paperwork on Garner Bridge project to finalize the final pay estimate. Cox is working with States Attorney Wenko to finalize the Master Service Agreement with Brosz Engineering. Various other road topics were discussed.

Commissioner Schmeling moved to adjourn and Commissioner Farstveet seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 11:48 A.M

1 PM was the advertised time for Annual/County Township Meeting. Commissioners Rory Farstveet, Adam Smith and Robert Schmeling along with Weed Control Officer Mark Egan and Road Foreman Pete Wirtzfeld and Tax Director Carla Beeler and Gary Howard with the Golden Valley News and Kelly Harju with The Dickinson Press were present for the meeting.

Chairman Smith welcomed the group and thanked them for coming to the Annual County/Township Meeting. 14 Township officers from 8 of the 10 Townships were present for the meeting.

Tax Director Carla Beeler presented the Township Boards with the equalization schedule and if they need to reschedule to please come and coordinate with her to find a date and time that works for them.

Road Foreman Pete Wirtzfeld gave the group information on County custom rates, which are remaining the same as last year, and culvert policy and projects that were completed in 2025 and projects planned for 2026.

Weed Control Officer Mark Egan updated the group on the previous spray season and the upcoming spray season. The rates for spraying for 2026 will be the same as last year. Discussion was also held on LAP funding and availability.

County Auditor Sperry discussed SB 2012 and HB 1176 with the Townships and what is needed to comply with the new requirements.

Commissioner Schmeling moved to adjourn and Commissioner Farstveet seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Smith declared the Annual Township/County meeting adjourned at 1:45 P.M.

The following vouchers were audited and approved for the month of February 2026:

Direct

Deposit	Golden Valley County Employees	February Payroll	\$67,086.06
-86561	NDPERS		\$18,466.13
-86562	NDPERS		\$1,150.00
-86563	MT Dept of Treasurer		\$190.00
-86564	IRS		\$25,214.72
-86565	NDPHIT		\$34,606.50
-99638	JP Morgan		\$2,214.41
-99639	ND State Treasurer		\$2,015.80
87235	Mackoff Kellogg Kirby & Kloster	Legal Fees	\$6,000.00
87236	Armor Interactive	Contract	\$1,195.00
87237	Mid-State Organized Crime Inf	Membership	\$100.00
87238	Information Technology Dept	Data Processing	\$1,147.35
87239	ND County Recorder's Association	Dues	\$500.00
87240	Farmers Union Oil	Fuel & Supplies	\$4,017.14
87241	GV County Treasurer	Rent	\$840.00
87242	ND State Radio Communications	LETS & Co 911 Fees	\$9,593.12
87243	NDSU Extension	Salary	\$8,107.62
87244	Motorola Solutions	Subscription	\$9,115.75
87245	Code 4 Services Inc	Supplies	\$1,385.45
87246	ND One Call	Locate	\$1.50
87247	Pitney Bowes Global Financial	Meter Lease	\$441.99

87248	Tamra Sperry	Reimbursement	\$81.43
87249	Total Safety	Inspections	\$690.45
87250	SW Multi-County Correction Center	Membership	\$6,076.00
87251	Newvision Security	Contract	\$600.00
87252	Idemia Identity & Security	Subscription	\$3,722.00
87253	ND Dept of Environmental Quality	Inspections	\$105.00
87254	NDEMA	Membership	\$50.00
	ND Sheriff's & Deputies		
87255	Association	Membership	\$400.00
87256	Noll Construction, LLC	Contract	\$942.50
87257	GS Publishing LLC	Publishing	\$438.95
87258	Boss Inc	Supplies	\$205.85
87259	KLJ Engineering LLC	Rd & Bridge	\$1,267.40
87260	Steve Raisler	Veteran Service	\$473.00
87261	Rohan Hardware	Supplies	\$81.93
		D&A Test &	
87262	ND Association of Counties	Membership	\$1,037.90
87263	SW Narcotics Task Force	Membership	\$16,315.00
87264	Rachel Keohane	Travel	\$102.45
87265	Dakota Dust-Tex	Floor Care	\$120.34
87266	Colonial Research	Supplies	\$613.51
87267	Prairie Lumber Beach	Supplies	\$14.00
87268	Tescher Fencing	Contract	\$4,166.32
87269	US Postal Service	Rent	\$126.00
87270	Warne Chemical	Parts	\$1,457.12
87271-			
87299	Collections Submitted		\$225,114.63
87300	Little Missouri Catering	NDSU	\$1,540.00
87301	City of Beach	Water & Garbage	\$463.03
87302	CattleFax	NDSU	\$3,242.00
87303-			
87307	Ag Improvement Disbursements		\$1,673.00
	Bismarck Hotel & Conference		
87308	Center	Lodging	\$327.00
87309	MDU	Electricity & Gas	\$4,679.48
87310	Farmers Union Oil	Fuel	\$91.39
87311	Warne Chemical & Equipment	Parts	\$32.39
87312	RTC Networks	Internet & Phone	\$1,442.38
87313	PharmChem	24/7	\$63.90
87314	McCall's Quilting	Subscription	\$49.95

87315	LibraryWorld	Software	\$540.00
87316-			
87324	February Payroll		\$21,056.98
87320	Void		Void
87325-			
87327	Payroll Liabilities		\$2,833.46
87328	February Payroll		\$2,064.99
87329	Mark Egan	Reimbursement	\$46.53
87330	AT&T Mobility	Cell Phone	\$116.65
87331	Cenex Fleet Fueling	Fuel	\$1,208.83
87332	Verizon	Cell Phone	\$367.80
87333	Rohan Hardware	Supplies	\$24.35

ATTEST

Tamra Sperry, County Auditor

Adam Smith, Chairman, County Commissioners

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
FEBRUARY 17, 2026 9:00 A.M.**

Location: *Billings County Commission Room*

Buffalo Gap Road Discussion – Billings County & Golden Valley County

The special joint meeting of the Billings County Board of County Commissioners and the Golden Valley County Board of County Commissioners was called to order at **9:02 AM**. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Chairman Rodne noted that the meeting was recorded and that public comment would be taken at the podium.

Commissioners in attendance: Dean Rodne, James Haag, Steven Klym from Billings County. Adam Smith, Robert Schmeling, Rory Farstveet from Golden Valley County.
Others in attendance: Marcia Kessel, Gayle Cox, Billy Doerr, Olie Golberg, Andrew Krebs, Mark Lund, Lori Elliott, Rachel Daniels, Bret Morton, Tamra Sperry, Dave Jensen, Juliana Hammerstrom, Misty Hays, Pat Redmond, Stacey Swanson, Dean Wyckoff, Pete Wirtzfeld, Golden Valley County States Attorney Christina Wenko and Billings County States Attorney Jared Gietzen.

Buffalo Gap Road – Joint County Discussion

Commissioners reviewed the need for a public-land route connecting Buffalo Gap to Knutson Creek Road and extending north into Billings County. Maps were distributed. The purpose of the meeting was to determine feasibility, discuss potential routes, and identify next steps.

Commissioners and Golden Valley County Road Superintendent Pete Wirtzfield summarized their joint site visit, noting that the proposed alignment appears feasible, Engineering review is required to confirm crossings, drainage, and topography.

Misty Hayes from the US Forest Service reported that they would be willing to work with the counties on this project and that there are no known conflicts, pending the survey being completed and reviewed. Knutson Creek Road is currently under a Schedule B agreement; counties may seek Schedule A or easement transfer to allow improvements.

Commissioners discussed federal funding versus county funding. Federal funding can be very slow. Budget amendments will be required and engineering cost estimates must be obtained before further decisions.

Golden Valley County State's Attorney Christina Wenko advised that the first formal step is a joint agreement on selecting an engineering firm. An RFP or coordinated selection process will be required. Compliance with Forest Service easement and environmental requirements must be built into the engineering scope.

Billings County – Commissioner Haag moved to move forward with the Buffalo Gap Road project and place a joint Request for Proposal for engineering services and Commissioner Klym seconded. Roll call vote-Haag-aye, Klym-aye, Rodne-aye. Motion carried.

Golden Valley County – Commissioner Schmeling moved to move forward with the Buffalo Gap Road project and place a joint Request for Proposal for engineering services and Commissioner Farstveet seconded. Roll call vote-Farstveet-aye, Schmeling-aye, Smith-aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Klym moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Haag seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Rodne declared the meeting adjourned at 11:48 A.M

Commissioner Farstveet moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Schmeling seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 11:48 A.M.

ATTEST

Tamra Sperry, County Auditor

Adam Smith, Chairman, County Commissioners