

Wells County Commissioner's Meeting Minutes

July 7, 2026

The July meeting was called to order by Chairman Dockter at 8:00 AM. Present at the meeting were Stan Buxa, Dennis Dockter, Bryan Lutt, Danny Maxwell, Brian Miller, Lydia Gessele, Tammy Roehrich, Larry Skiftun, Neil Nelson of the H-P, and Daniel Stutlien.

Added to the agenda was an update on the Hurdsfield Drain as well as the WC Fair.

SB (M), BL (S) to approve the minutes from the June Equalization Meeting. Unanimously carried.

SB (M), BM (S) to approve the minutes from the June Meeting. Unanimously carried.

SB (M), DM (S) to approve the minutes from the '26 Primary Election Canvassing Meeting minutes. Unanimously carried.

BL (M), BM (S) to approve the minutes from the June Townships Meetings held June 24th-25th. Unanimously carried.

BM (M), DM (S) to approve the bills as presented. Unanimously carried.

The current WC Balance Sheet was reviewed and discussed. Also, the Auditor shared current county investments as well as Commission controlled WC funds. BL (M), BM (S) to approve the Balance Sheet. Unanimously carried.

DM (M), BL (S) to approve Laura Muscha, Treasurer, and Daniel Stutlien, Auditor, to purchase or cash out CD's and investments on behalf of WC. Unanimously carried.

Pledged Securities for all WC bank accounts were reviewed by the Commission. It was the consensus of the Commission the securities were adequate to cover the county's current deposits.

Correspondence received this month included Flickertail Wind10-Year Plan, the Greater Ramsey Water District's Water Quality Report, and a request to join the Upper Sheyenne River Joint Water Resource Board citing the benefits of membership.

Regarding Commission appointments for the Wells County Soils Committee, Jon Tebelius was recommended for appointment representing District #7. SB (M), BL (S) to approve Tebelius' appointment. Unanimously carried. Vacancies remain in Districts #2 & #9.

Commission Portfolios were discussed.

Under the Public Comments portion of the meeting, no one was signed up to address the Commission.

WC Road Foreman, Brent Keller, addressed the Commission telephonically. Keller discussed ongoing projects in WC. All blades are out on their routes. A discussion was held regarding blading in Chaseley Township and whether WC will be providing services going forward. It was suggested that Chaseley Township be invited to the August Commission meeting to clear this matter up.

Logan Berg of KLJ spoke with the Commission regarding the bridge replacement project north of Fessenden on WC #1. Pile driving is nearly complete and this was more difficult than

anticipated due to obstructions, but the project is currently on schedule for a mid-September completion. Berg also shared data for the Prairie Dog Fund.

Planning & Zoning Director Jana Mogren presented a CUP application from LTS Telecommunications Services to install fiberoptic within conduit in Manfred, Oshkosh and St. Anna Township. SB (M), BM (S) to approve the request. Unanimously carried.

WC Auditor Daniel Stutlien shared information on the recently completed Primary Election in WC. Overall, 1,071 WC voters participated in the election and the approved final results were shared. Overall, the conducting of the election couldn't have gone better locally earning a well-deserved thank you for the local poll workers.

WC Auditor Daniel Stutlien brought back two energy saving lighting proposals for both the Courthouse, including the garage, and Festival Hall. These are both 50% grant funded and the payback on the Courthouse would be app. 30 months. The payback on FH would be longer as it is not utilized regularly. Stutlien still does not have a proposal in hand for the KTL Building. The consensus of the Commission was to table this until all three proposals are in hand.

Stutlien informed the Commission the NDCCA Nominating Committee is anticipating open director positions on the NDCCA Board of Directors. If interested in serving, please inform the Auditor by or before Friday, July 24th. The names of all interested commissioners will be forwarded to the Nominating Committee.

The Commission discussed their takeaways from the recently held Township meetings from late June. The needs of each of the areas were discussed. There was seemingly interest in multiple areas for a presentation on road grooming and a demonstration could be scheduled and township officials invited to observe.

WC Auditor Daniel Stutlien informed the Commission he has most of the budget requests back from offices, agencies, and boards under WC Govt. Stutlien requested preliminary input from the Commission in developing the '27 County Budget. The Commission requested proposals for 3% & 4% which will be brought back in August.

Larry Skiftun spoke with the Commission regarding the Hurdsfield Drain area. Nature has taken control due to the removal of a Roller Dike which kept the West side of Hurdsfield Lake higher than the East. Years ago, multiple dikes were constructed without consent or compliance. Recently, an order was issued stating these dikes needed to be permitted or removed; hence one was removed changing the nature of the water drainage in this area. The remaining dikes are deemed inconsequential with the removal of one dike.

Regarding the WC Fair, questions were asked regarding potential liability for Fair events. Discussion was held and advice was provided regarding potential liability from an accident during an event. Unfortunately, that advice was not followed. More precautions will need to be taken for events at future fairs.

The next Six-County Meeting will be held in McIntosh County in September (TBA).

The next regular meeting of the WC Commission will be held Tuesday, August 4th, at 8:00 AM in the KTL Building.

The next WC Departments meeting will be held Thursday, August 20th, at 9:00 AM at the KTL Building.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:27 AM.

The following Fees and Receipts were approved and ordered filed:

Clerk of Court	\$	315.00
Recorder	\$	4,660.40
Sheriff	\$	246.00
Misc.	\$	85,238.80

On motion, the following bills were ordered paid: (*Gross wages, when listed*)

#Direct Deposit	Payroll, General (1000)	\$	92,260.06
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, Road (2001)	\$	57,085.62
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, 911 (2003)	\$	1,351.39
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, County Agent (2005)	\$	3,326.21
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, Social Welfare (2007)	\$	77,850.81
#ACH BC/BS	Insurance	\$	71,942.46
#ACH NDPERS	Retirement	\$	33,261.33

Jul-26 General

Dakota Mailing	\$109.18	Postage
NDTC	\$1,022.55	Telephone
Wells County Treasurer	\$358.17	Telephone
Central City H20+	\$120.00	Countywide Utilities
Fessenden City	\$455.45	Countywide Utilities
Otter Tail	\$1,664.14	Countywide Utilities
Wells County Treasurer	\$125.80	Book Account
Dakota Dust-Tex	\$1,195.06	Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$1,322.40	Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
Schmaltz's Greenhouse	\$1,089.44	Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
Cheryl F. Ryan	\$476.00	Elections
Delvin Hansen	\$470.20	Elections
Elizabeth Huseth	\$470.20	Elections
ES & S	\$69.22	Elections
Herald Press	\$1,610.37	Elections
Jacqueline Bauerle	\$287.30	Elections
Jennifer Hagemeister	\$413.50	Elections
Judy Keller	\$399.00	Elections
Krysten McKinven	\$446.85	Elections
Linda Schander	\$476.00	Elections
Lisa Weckerly	\$458.45	Elections
Loretta Buchwitz	\$470.20	Elections
Lydia R. Gessele	\$489.78	Elections
Pamela Seibold	\$476.00	Elections
Roxane Fike	\$425.10	Elections
Sheila R Wiesz	\$265.55	Elections
Vanessa Anderson	\$475.28	Elections
Vondell Stutlien	\$425.10	Elections
Herald Press	\$483.48	Legal Publications
Frey Insurance	\$11,824.00	ND Insurance Reserve Fund

South Central Dakota Regional Council	\$9,685.00	RC & D & NDAC
AED Everywhere	\$255.93	Safety Supplies
Advanced Business Methods	\$4,328.65	Technology
ITD	\$1,469.95	Technology
NDACo Resources Group	\$2,488.10	Technology
NDTC	\$100.66	Technology
Eddy County Treasurer	\$6,569.37	Countywide Misc.
Foster County Treasurer	\$6,292.39	Countywide Misc.
Wells County Health District	\$60,486.83	Countywide Misc.
Aberdeen Masonry Inc.	\$65,300.00	FH & Fairground Maint.
Danny Maxwell	\$351.63	Travel/Mileage
Brian Miller	\$201.55	Travel/Mileage
Stan Buxa	\$152.25	Travel/Mileage
Dennis Dockter	\$449.50	Travel/Mileage
Bryan Lauth	\$445.88	Travel/Mileage
Daniel Stutlien	\$250.00	Auditor Health Ins.
Daniel Stutlien	\$379.18	Travel/Mileage
ND State Treasurer	\$175.00	Marriage Licenses
Carrie Krause	\$327.00	Travel/Mileage
Wells County Treasurer	\$330.00	Travel/Mileage
Wells County Treasurer	\$141.55	Dues/Registration Fees
Wells County Treasurer	\$93.95	Dues/Registration Fees
Psychological Resources	\$250.00	Screening Tests
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$270.56	Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Kotaco Fuel & Propane	\$145.02	Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Kreiter Autoworks, Inc.	\$490.56	Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Little Mart	\$284.96	Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Northwest Tire Inc	\$532.26	Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Wells County Treasurer	\$865.93	Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Wells County Treasurer	\$64.95	Misc.
Hertz Funeral Homes, Inc.	\$1,900.00	Travel/Mileage
Wells County Treasurer	\$114.15	Telephone
Otter Tail	\$75.74	Utilities
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$684.00	Fuel
Wells County Treasurer	\$39.92	FH Supplies
Fessenden City	\$498.01	Festival Hall/Fair Utilities
Otter Tail	\$772.03	Festival Hall/Fair Utilities
	<u>\$195,636.23</u>	

HB1066

KLJ Engineering, LLC	\$3,478.51	HB 1066
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Co. Agent

Leaf	\$235.91	Copier Lease & Maint.
Ciera Kotaska	\$392.95	Travel/Mileage
Otter Tail	\$72.13	Utilities
	<u>\$700.99</u>	

HSZ

Alicia Lamm	\$64.50	Client Support
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$66.09	Fuel/Foster Care
Wells County Treasurer	\$229.71	Fuel/Foster Care
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$1,063.95	Vehicles
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$86.28	Fuel/Child Protect. Serv.
Wells County Treasurer	\$128.57	Fuel/Child Protect. Serv.
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$97.73	Vehicles
Patriot Fuels	\$521.07	Family Social Worker/Fuel
Wells County Treasurer	\$56.99	Client Support
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$440.09	In Home Care/Fuel
Patriot Fuels	\$110.68	In Home Care/Fuel
Opdahl Body Shop	\$75.00	Vehicles
Patriot Fuels	\$10.00	Vehicles
4th Corporation	\$70.00	Contracted Services
Advanced Business Methods	\$452.72	Contracted Services
Leaf	\$312.00	Contracted Services
Pitney Bowes Global Financial Services	\$81.90	Contracted Services
Wells County Treasurer	\$473.65	Contracted Services
Wells County Treasurer	\$99.00	Postage
Dakota Central	\$173.25	Telephone
NDTC	\$549.70	Telephone
Wells County Treasurer	\$395.30	Telephone
Central City H2O+	\$60.00	Zone Admin Support/Misc
Hertz Funeral Homes, Inc.	\$3,500.00	BA Burial Account
ITD	\$131.22	Zone Admin Support/IT Other
NDACo Resources Group	\$960.00	Zone Admin Support/IT Other
ND Human Service Zone Directors Assn.	\$500.00	Subscriptions & Memberships
	<u>\$10,709.40</u>	

Weed Control

Dale Schmitz	\$254.36	Salary - Board Meeting
Danny Maxwell	\$162.63	Salary - Board Meeting
Kelly Muscha	\$218.87	Salary - Board Meeting
Kyle Alfstad	\$164.66	Salary - Board Meeting
Donna Rau	\$220.87	Salary - Employee
Sykeston Elevator, LLC	\$38,262.00	Township Chemical
The Arthur Companies	\$625.00	Township Chemical
US Treasury	\$322.50	WC/Withholding
	<u>\$40,230.89</u>	

HWY Tax

Mid-Dakota Lumber	\$14.40	Building Upkeep
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$889.20	Fuel
Kotaco Fuel & Propane	\$10,651.40	Fuel
Butler Machinery	\$2,655.40	Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Central Dakota Enterprises, Inc.	\$3,051.85	Machinery Repairs & Supplies

Gooseneck Implement	\$13.83	Machinery Repairs & Supplies
High Plains Equipment	\$442.09	Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Lautt's Auto Body & Towing	\$371.55	Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Lemer's ACE & Rental	\$65.97	Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Patzer Truck Repair	\$222.11	Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$459.63	Supplies
Linde Gas & Equipment	\$160.15	Supplies
Wells County Treasurer	\$1,229.67	Supplies
NDTC	\$65.65	Telephone
Wells County Treasurer	\$128.34	Travel/Mileage
Cathay City	\$95.00	Utilities
Central Plains Water	\$177.19	Utilities
Double M Sanitation	\$375.00	Utilities
Fessenden City	\$256.14	Utilities
Harvey City	\$65.20	Utilities
Northern Plains Electric	\$340.11	Utilities
Otter Tail	\$334.31	Utilities
Sykeston City	\$49.00	Utilities
Verendrye Electric	\$541.87	Utilities
Central Dakota Family Physicians	\$140.00	Misc.
ND Assn. of Counties	\$63.00	Drug testing-employee
	<u>\$22,858.06</u>	

Preservation

PRIA	\$60.00	Dues/Registration Fees
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24/7

Office Of Attorney General	\$155.00	Sweat Patch Analysis
Redwood Toxicology Laboratory	\$80.23	Sweat Patch Analysis
	<u>\$235.23</u>	

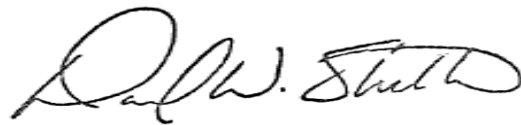
\$273,909.31

Approved:



**Dennis T. Dockter,
Wells County Commission Chairman**

Attest:



**Daniel W. Stutlien,
Wells County Auditor**