

Wells County Commissioner's Meeting Minutes

November 4, 2025

The November 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, Verla Albrecht, Ivy Brye, Lucas Buerkley, Lydia Gessele, Brenda Klein, Brittany Long, Wells McGiffert, Caitlyn Roemmich, Annette Sprague, Paul White, Daniel Stutlien, and Neil Nelson of the Herald-Press.

SB (M), DM (S) to approve the minutes from the October Meeting. Unanimously carried.

DM (M), BM (S) to approve the minutes from the Special October Meeting. Unanimously carried.

Employee timesheets were reviewed by the commissioners.

SB (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, also noting \$408,781.95 was transferred out of the MM October 3rd to cover payroll, bills, and payments to political subs. BM (M), DM (S) to approve the Balance Sheet. Unanimously carried.

SB (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.

The only correspondence received this month was the letter and accompanying book from NACo highlighting the organization's 90th anniversary.

Commission Portfolios were discussed.

Under the new Public Comments portion of the meeting, there was no one requesting to address the Commission.

WC VSO, Amy Dale, addressed the Commission to discuss how she is receiving payment for mandatory VSO training previously approved by the Commission. Dale would prefer a reimbursement as opposed to placing it in her paycheck. Dale requested the WC Commission begin looking for someone else to perform the tasks of VSO in WC. The position will be opened and a replacement sought.

Caitlyn Roemmich, Verla Albrecht, Brittany Long, and Brenda Klein of WC District Health spoke with the Commission regarding the District's roles, duties and responsibilities, and discussed the financial hardships currently being incurred by District Health due to the loss of several federal grants in 2025. Roemmich took the Commission through the finer details of their financials. At this point, the agency only has the financial resources to get through the current calendar year. This information, along with additional requested information, will be evaluated enabling the Commission to determine how they can assist at the December meeting.

WC Road Foreman, Brent Keller, met with the Commission to discuss matters of his Dept. Keller discussed challenges to some of the counties roads due to harvest and wildlife issues. The Dept. will make every effort to address these matters, as well as some spots on WC #71 prior to freeze-up. The crew will be tearing down the barn on the WC Fairgrounds in the near future in cooperation with the Fair Board and the Historical Society. Keller requested the purchase of a

new/used trailer for the Dept. to be able to move equipment around WC. Keller suggested the possibility of selling the back-up blade to offset the cost. The Commission will take both request under consideration.

Jason Mayfield of Wold Engineering sat with the Commission to discuss the now completed Hamberg Slough area. Mayfield also discussed project funding available for anything wildlife/recreation related. A few possibilities were shared, but the possibility of attaching future work on Old #52 was a consensus top choice for the Commission.

Wells McGiffert, Lucas Buerkley, and Paul White of PRC Wind shared with the Commission a progress update on the status of the wind project. Surveyors will be wrapping up field work before winter. Permitting process will begin with the townships, which in WC is just Valhalla Township at this point. Road agreements will then be a next step.

SB (M), DM (S) to grant Friday, December 26th, off to the WCEG to celebrate Christmas. Unanimously carried.

WC Auditor, Daniel Stutlien, shared fiscal education information with the Commission, this month focusing on the rearrangement and changed bucket sizes for Prairie Dog funds going forward. The Municipal, County and Township buckets shrunk by \$70M, but were both moved forward in the rotation in the schedule. Also shared was information regarding the potential impacts to political subs regarding the arrival of tax revenue due to the increased PRC. Stutlien also shared the Tax Levy Sheet for WC for the '25 taxing season.

WC received estimates to replace the roof on the KTL Building, as well as tuckpointing estimates for Festival Hall and the WC Courthouse. The roofing estimate on the KTL is \$97,500 from Teves Construction. The FH tuckpointing project estimate is \$90,300, with foundational work of the building an additional \$89,340. Lastly, the tuckpointing, washing, and sealing of the Courthouse is \$76,935, all of which were from Aberdeen Masonry, Inc. Due to the amount of these projects, Stutlien recommended these should be prioritized and done over the next 2-3 years and this may fit well with the proposed long-term planning. It is the consensus of the Commission to tackle this priority list come December.

The Commission shared insights and information from the recently completed NDACo State Convention.

A resignation from Tyler Rispa, Chief Sheriff's Deputy, was read. SB (M), BM (S) to approve the resignation and thank Rispa for his time with the Dept. Unanimously carried.

No cities or townships were present to dispute the sales prices established in October by the Commission for the foreclosure sale scheduled for Tuesday, November 18th, at 10:00 AM in the WC Auditor's Office.

WC Auditor Daniel Stutlien shared a document created to guide the Commission through a long-term planning process to clarify the fiscal direction and challenges of WC. The Commission were asked for their input to the document before the process begins. The plan remains to begin this process this fall and complete it by Spring '26. The Commission will respond to the questions in the planning guide and those responses will be reviewed in December. Afterward, Stutlien distributed a 2026 ND Election & Candidate Filing Information, a '26 WC Commission meeting calendar, a '26 WC payroll calendar.

The next WC Departments meeting will be held Thursday, November 20th, in conjunction with Open Enrollment. The entire WCEG will be required to attend.

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

The next Six-County Meeting will be held in December in Emmons Co.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:23 AM.

The following Fees and Receipts were approved and ordered filed:

Clerk of Court	\$	280.00
Recorder	\$	0.00
Sheriff	\$	457.50
Misc.	\$	41,858.69

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

#Direct Deposit	Payroll, General (1000)	\$	100,760.56
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, Road (2001)	\$	45,371.88
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, 911 (2003)	\$	1,308.55
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, County Agent (2005)	\$	3,194.47
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, Social Welfare (2007)	\$	68,215.46
#ACH BC/BS	Insurance	\$	60,126.77
#ACH NDPERS	Retirement	\$	33,877.27

Nov. 25 GENERAL

Wells County Treasurer	\$426.41 Central Supplies
ODP Business Solutions, LLC	\$85.33 Central Supplies
Pitney Bowes	\$114.75 Postage Meter Rent
Wells County Treasurer	\$358.21 Telephone
NDTC	\$677.34 Telephone
Fessenden City	\$495.46 Countywide Utilities
Otter Tail	\$1,097.85 Countywide Utilities
Wells County Treasurer	\$140.90 Bank Charges
Wells County Treasurer	\$648.40 Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
Tracys Market	\$4.35 Janitor Supplies
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$13.77 Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
BW Electric	\$109.57 Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
Dakota Dust-Tex	\$214.76 Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
Benson County Farmers Press	\$70.00 Legal Publications
Herald Press	\$399.58 Legal Publications
Wells County Treasurer	\$354.65 Safety Supplies
Wells County Treasurer	\$326.56 Technology
NDACo Resources Group	\$183.00 Technology
Advanced Business Methods	\$50.66 Technology
NDTC	\$100.75 Technology
ITD	\$1,496.60 Technology
Wells County Treasurer	\$198.00 Travel/Mileage
Wells County Treasurer	\$99.00 Travel/Mileage
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Daniel Stutlien	\$546.00 Travel/Mileage
Alexa LaPlant	\$250.00 Recorder Health Ins.
ND State Treasurer	\$70.00 Marriage Licenses
Wells County Treasurer	\$220.00 Travel/Mileage
Carrie Krause	\$176.00 Travel/Mileage
Andrew Marquart	\$576.00 Civil Commit; Indig. Council
Wells County Treasurer	\$1,143.59 Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Brandjord Chevrolet	\$504.52 Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$418.97 Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Kotaco Fuel & Propane	\$35.88 Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Lautt's Auto Body & Towing	\$40.00 Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Kella Norby	\$170.80 Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
EnviroTech	\$4,500.00 Storage Container-Sheriff
Hertz Funeral Homes, Inc.	\$450.00 Travel/Mileage
Wells County Treasurer	\$114.21 Telephone
NDTC	\$57.86 Telephone
Tammy Roehrich	\$98.00 Travel/Mileage
Otter Tail	\$45.89 Utilities
Wells County Treasurer	\$345.00 Travel/Mileage
Amy Dale	\$152.60 Travel/Mileage
Fessenden City	\$321.59 Festival Hall/Fair Utilities
Otter Tail	\$669.51 Festival Hall/Fair Utilities
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	\$19,166.32

HB 1066

Knife River Materials	\$39,686.01 HB 1066
Wold Engineering	\$2,381.16 HB 1066
KLJ Engineering, LLC	\$29,005.16 HB 1066
Gowan Construction	\$4,038.79 HB 1066-Chips
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	\$75,111.12

JAIL & TRANSPORTATION

HACTC	\$240.64 Jail & Transport Medication
HACTC	\$9,880.00 Jail & Transport Prison Board
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	\$10,120.64

CO. AGENT

Leaf	\$519.00 Copier Lease & Maint.
NDTC	\$123.20 Telephone
Ciera Kotaska	\$292.10 Travel/Mileage
Otter Tail	\$43.70 Utilities
NDSU-Ag Budget Office	\$6,041.67 Share of County Agent
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	\$7,019.67

SOCIAL SERVICES

Wells County Treasurer	\$126.79 Fuel/Foster Care
Patriot Fuels	\$45.12 Fuel/Foster Care

Alicia Lamm	\$92.04 Meals/Foster Care
Wells County Treasurer	\$40.96 Office Materials
Wells County Treasurer	\$109.14 Fuel/Child Protect. Serv.
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$26.01 Fuel/Child Protect. Serv.
Wells County Treasurer	\$100.00 Child Protect./Safety Perm.
Transcript Publishing	\$294.00 Advertising
Lango LLC	\$149.66 Contracted Services
Wells County Health District	\$30.00 Client Support
Wells County Treasurer	\$76.26 Family Social Worker/Fuel
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$157.13 Family Social Worker/Fuel
CenDak Cooperative-New Rockford	\$75.48 Family Social Worker/Fuel
Wells County Treasurer	\$13.54 Meals/Foster Care
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$122.94 In Home Care/Fuel
Little Mart	\$80.80 In Home Care/Fuel
Patriot Fuels	\$262.64 In Home Care/Fuel
Bessette Motors, Inc.	\$78.43 Vehicles
OK Tire	\$868.50 Vehicles
Wells County Treasurer	\$181.30 Contracted Services
Leaf	\$244.00 Contracted Services
4th Corporation	\$140.00 Contracted Services
Advanced Business Methods	\$353.19 Contracted Services
Patriot Fuels	\$147.54 Fuel
CenDak Cooperative-New Rockford	\$38.00 Fuel
Wells County Treasurer	\$1,578.67 Office Equipment/Furniture
Wells County Treasurer	\$434.83 Telephone
Dakota Central	\$171.47 Telephone
NDTC	\$589.21 Telephone
Central City H20+	\$179.00 Zone Admin Support/Misc
Evans Funeral Home	\$2,250.00 BA Burial Account
NDACo Resources Group	\$1,080.00 Zone Admin Support/IT Other
ITD	\$133.17 Zone Admin Support/IT Other
Wells County Treasurer	\$81.71 Zone Admin Supp./Office Materials
JB Vending LLC	\$122.89 Zone Admin Supp./Office Materials
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	\$10,474.42

WEED CONTROL

Donna Rau	\$220.87 Salary - Employee
Foster County Independent	\$266.00 Advertising
Transcript Publishing	\$266.00 Advertising
Elite Spraying	\$25,031.25 Chemical Spraying
Norway Lake Township	\$500.00 Noxious Weed/Leafy Spurge/Cost Sharing
Delger Township	\$500.00 Noxious Weed/Leafy Spurge/Cost Sharing
Germantown Township	\$500.00 Noxious Weed/Leafy Spurge/Cost Sharing
Rusland Township	\$500.00 Noxious Weed/Leafy Spurge/Cost Sharing
Forward Township	\$500.00 Noxious Weed/Leafy Spurge/Cost Sharing
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	\$28,284.12

HWY TAX

Weigelt Refrigeration	\$135.00 Building Upkeep
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$6,248.10 Fuel
Harvey Oil Co.	\$3,792.00 Fuel
Wells County Treasurer	\$762.30 Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Power Plan	\$1,982.67 Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Butler Machinery	\$26,780.65 Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Swanston Equipment	\$2,270.97 Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Gooseneck Implement	\$984.54 Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Patzer Truck Repair	\$253.07 Machinery Repairs & Supplies
General Trading	\$617.18 Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Wells County Treasurer	\$621.59 Supplies
Linde Gas & Equipment	\$149.74 Supplies
Lemer's ACE & Rental	\$294.91 Supplies
NDTC	\$145.72 Telephone
Wells County Treasurer	\$109.41 Travel/Mileage
Gary Kaul	\$67.20 Travel/Mileage
Doug Mertz	\$121.80 Travel/Mileage
Harvey City	\$64.20 Utilities
Fessenden City	\$155.49 Utilities
Otter Tail	\$341.64 Utilities
Northern Plains Electric	\$9.49 Utilities
Cathay City	\$95.00 Utilities
Central Plains Water	\$175.50 Utilities
Swanston Equipment	\$3,200.00 Equip. rental or leasing
	<hr/> \$49,378.17

24-7

Wells County Treasurer	\$95.85 Pharm Chem
Office Of Attorney General	\$240.00 Scram Fees
Redwood Toxicology Laboratory	\$46.04 Screenings
	<hr/> \$381.89

\$199,936.35

Approved:



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

Attest:



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