

McLean County Commission Proceedings

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

The second regular January meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairperson Curt Olson. Present were Commissioners Olson, Steve Cottingham, and Steve Lee. Also present were Auditor Beth A. Knutson; Deputy Auditor Lynda Snyder; Road Superintendent Jim Grey; Patrol Lieutenant Cody Meadows; and Jon Martin and Mike Rivinius of Wold Engineering.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the minutes of the meetings held on December 30, 2025 and January 6, 2026, as submitted. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey presented the McLean County Road Policy to the commission. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to approve the Road Policy as presented. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey requested approval to advertise for bids for gravel crushing and equipment rental with bid openings set for February 18, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to advertise for Item No. 1 below. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to advertise for the Item No. 2 below. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Lee, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

NOTICE OF CALL FOR BIDS

The Board of Commissioners, McLean County, North Dakota, will open sealed bids in the following categories in their office in the Courthouse at Washburn, North Dakota on Wednesday, February 18, 2026.

ITEM NO. 1 -- 9:00 A.M.

Road gravel delivered on highways or in stockpiles. In the case of crushed gravel, bids will be for gravel crushed to 3/4" and measured on a ton and ton-mile basis. Successful bidder or bidders must supply a \$5000.00 performance bond after award of gravel crushing and must be available to perform work within 30 days of notice from Highway Superintendent.

ITEM NO. 2 -- 9:15 A.M.

The rental of machinery suitable for construction and/or maintenance of county highways and bridges. Bids to be submitted on an hourly or yardage basis with bidder furnishing operator, repairs, fuel, oil, insurance and all other incidentals.

Bids to be addressed to the McLean County Auditor and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope, either "BIDS FOR GRAVEL" or "BIDS FOR RENTAL OF EQUIPMENT".

The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities or technicalities and to accept the bid or bids which appear in the best interest of McLean County.

Bid forms may be obtained by writing to the McLean County Highway Office (PO Box 1108) or the McLean County Auditor (PO Box 1108), Washburn, ND 58577.

Dated this 21st day of January, 2026.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Beth A. Knutson, County Auditor

Grey presented an update on department operations reporting that work continues in the shop, cleaning and preparing for spring work. Discussion followed.

Grey also stated that the 2015 Mack plow truck has been delivered and is in good working condition with all the accessories needed. Discussion followed. He went on to say that an additional plow truck has been located in St. Cloud at Northstar Truck Sales. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to authorize purchase of another plow truck with a price not to exceed \$110,000. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Martin and Rivinius of Wold Engineering presented McLean County's Project Grant Summary. The Agriculture Infrastructure and Bridge Flex Funding grants were not approved. Project CP-2800(026) which includes flex funding for countywide paving and SRF funding for paving the Strawberry Lake Road are still pending. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to approve the plans and specifications of Project FXS-2841(053) PCN 24361 Structure Replacement on County Road 13 northwest of Garrison and to advertise for bids with the bid opening on March 17, 2026, at 8:45 a.m. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to approve the plans and specifications of Project CP-2800(026) Countywide Mill and Overlay and advertise for bids with the bid opening on March 17, 2026, at 9:45 a.m. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Grey stated that improvements will be made to County Road 20 leading to the Methodist Cemetery south of Mercer. He explained that the improvement will allow for proper drainage of the road and will be completed as soon as the weather allows. Discussion followed.

Meadows presented a quote from Axon Enterprises, Inc. to replace 24 tasers in the amount of \$126,230.40 with payments spread over 60 months. He stated the current tasers being used by the department are being phased out. Discussion followed.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to approve entering into the contract with Axon Enterprise, Inc as presented. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson stated that a meeting was held with representatives from Rainbow Energy and States Attorney Ladd Erickson to discuss the loan approved by Bank of North Dakota. Discussion followed.

Knutson stated that due to software limitations the county is not able to use \$0.725 as the standard mileage rate reimbursement. She requested approval to use \$0.73 as the 2026 standard mileage reimbursement.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to approve using \$0.73 as the standard mileage reimbursement for 2026. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson presented the Fish Cleaning Station Maintenance and Management Agreement with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department in the amount of \$5,000.00. Discussion followed.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to approve the agreement as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Knutson stated she is required to report the 2025 year-ending balances for Unorganized Townships and has prepared this report.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Cottingham, to approve the report stating the financial balances for Unorganized Townships as presented. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Lee, Cottingham, and Olson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Cottingham, seconded by Lee, to approve the following vouchers for payment as well as the invoice presented for Wold Engineering in the amount of \$1,500.00:

A detailed list of checks is available for public inspection anytime during regular business hours in the McLean County Auditor's Office.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Cottingham, Olson, and Lee. Nay: None. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:28 a.m. The commission minutes and agenda can be found on the county website at <https://www.mcleancountynd.gov>.

Curt Olson, Chairperson

Lynda Snyder, Deputy Auditor