

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, with Bill Carlblom, Mike Schwehr, Vicky Lovell, Pete Paulson, and Shawn Olauson. Chairman Bill Carlblom called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m., roll call was taken, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the agenda was reviewed.

Vicky Lovell made a motion to approve the agenda; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting "aye".

Planning & Zoning

A subdivision application was submitted by Justin Thornton for one lot on five acres and requesting to be rezoned from agricultural to residential to build a shop and house. The subdivision will be Thornton Acres Subdivision. The lot will be in Valley Township 3-140-58. Vicky Lovell moved to approve the subdivision; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting "aye". A setback variance application was presented for Terry Metzger to build a storage shed 42' from the center of the subdivision road located in Ashtabula Township 22-142-58 on Lot 4 Block 2 of Jewett's Beach 2nd Subdivision. Shawn Olauson moved to approve the setback variance; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting yes. A variance setback application was presented for James Noeske to plant trees located in Ashtabula Township 32-142-58 on Lot 9 and out lot A within the 50' requirement. Mike Schwehr moved to approve the application; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously with all members voting yes. A variance setback was presented for Otter Tail Power Company to reroute an overhead electric transmission line out of a slough to an accessible location along County Road #11 along 107th Avenue Southeast, south of Rogers, North Dakota. The proposed area is approximately 3.5 miles. The proposed centerline would be 40' from the section line/centerline of the road to accommodate farming practices. Shawn Olauson moved to approve the setback variance; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting yes. Building permits were reviewed.

Sheriff's Office

A single band base Station Radio from Midstates Wireless has an estimated cost of \$5,842.20. The cost of a new antenna will be \$1,239.41. The total would be \$7,081.61. A motion was made by Vicky Lovell for approval of the Base Station Radio and antennae at a cost of \$7,081.61; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with all members voting yes. New speakers will also be needed. No quote was received at this time.

Environmental Services

Martin Mechanical presented a progress report on the installation of the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning system. Phase two has started. Phase two will start in the basement and work up. Also, work will start on the west side of the courthouse for the generator.

Auditor's Office

Shawn Olauson moved to approve June 2nd, 2026, minutes as presented. Pete Paulson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting "aye". We will look into moving forward with the Bank of North Dakota for Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning funding.

Corrections

The Food Service Agreement with Summit Food Service was presented. The current price will increase by 5%, adjusting the current price of \$1.89 to \$1.98 with the base increasing from \$158.550 to \$166.478. The current contract is valid for another year. No action was taken at this time. Jeremy will research the county taking on food services. A contract service agreement for performing services for the Security Automation System installed by Accurate Controls Incorporated was presented. Jeremy is recommending the Online and Phone Support Plan. A motion was made by Mike Schwehr to agree to a Three-year Agreement contract online and phone support service plan service. Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. The motion carried out unanimously with all members voting yes. A Correctional Officer job application was received from an applicant with extensive experience. His references were checked. He would like to be in the \$25.00 - \$26.00 range per hour. Pete Paulson made a motion to approve a starting wage of \$25.00 per hour for this applicant; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting yes.

Tax Equalization

The Vanguard Contract is up for renewal. Lock the rate in for next five years. A motion was made by Pete Paulson to agree to the five-year contract with the amount of \$ 54,250.00. Which will be paid annually. Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. The motion carried out unanimously with all members voting yes.

Commission Discussion

Pete reported meetings last week. Shawn went to Economic Development, discussing the possibility of two new companies. Museums had a great turnout for World War II opening, with over 100 people attending. Vicky went to the Housing Authority meeting. They have been doing some repairs. She also attended South Central Regional Council meeting and reported what has been happening in the district. Bill reported the Veterans appreciated the cake.

With no further business, Shawn Olauson made a motion, seconded by Pete Paulson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously, with all members voting "aye" and the meeting was adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

Bill Carblom, Chairman
Barnes County Commission

Julie Mindt
Barnes County Auditor