

RENVILLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2025

JUNE 3, 2025

Board convened at 9:00 a.m. Present: Chairman Andy Gates, Commissioner Rick Haman and Commissioner Jamee Hansen. Vicky Gates, Kristy Titus, Victoria Klingbeil-Trout and Danielle Petersen were also present.

State's Attorney Seymour Jordan met with the Board to discuss the process to change the Auditor position and the Recorder/Clerk of Court position from elected to appointed.

RESOLUTION-2025-13

**PRELIMINARY RESOLUTION TO APPOINT RENVILLE COUNTY AUDITOR AND
RECORDER/CLERK OF COURT:**

Introduced by Commission Member Hansen,

Who moved for its adoption on the 3rd day of June, 2025:

Be it resolved by the Renville County Commission, to-wit:

WHEREAS The Renville County Commission wants to redesignate the elective county offices of Auditor and Recorder/Clerk of Court as appointive and

WHEREAS NDCC 11-10.2-02(1) provides the board of county commissioners may by resolution adopt a preliminary resolution incorporating a proposed plan for redesignating an elective county office as appointive, subject to the right of referendum and

WHEREAS The job duties are quite extensive for each office and

WHEREAS It is in the best interest of the citizens of Renville County that each office is held by a qualified individual and THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED That the plan is for the offices of Auditor and Recorder/Clerk of Court to become appointive on January 1, 2026, and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED That the duties, functions, qualifications and training, and method of determining compensation of each office shall not change from what is now in place, and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED That each office shall be subject to all other employment laws and Renville County policies as other appointive offices, and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED That appointment of each office, shall be made by the Renville County Commission, and BE IT FURTHER

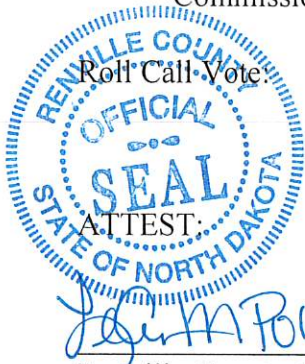
RESOLVED That the number of support staff for each office shall not change as

a result of this resolution.

Commissioner Haman seconded the motion for adoption.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: 3; Nays: 0; and Absent: 0



Renville County Auditor

APPROVED:

Chairman, Renville County Commission

Plan to appoint the Renville County Auditor and Renville County Recorder/Clerk of Court

Analysis:

There are a number of concerns the Renville County Commission has regarding the positions that are elected. First and foremost, anyone who is eighteen years old and has been living in Renville County for 30 days can run for either the Auditor's position or the Recorder/Clerk of Court's position. This is very concerning to the Renville County Commission as the Auditor handles millions of dollars each year and has a number of other duties as required by the North Dakota Century Code. Additionally, there have been a number of instances where an unqualified individual is elected and puts the county in very difficult financial situations including but not limited to requiring the county to hire additional staff like a certified public accountant if the auditor is not capable of managing the finances of a county or advising the commissioners that there are more funds available than truly are available. The clerk of court's position is also essential to justice in the county and based upon recent decisions from the North Dakota Supreme Court certain cases demand certain individuals to be seen before a judge in a short amount of time. Lastly, another issue with elected people is that short of having them removed by office either through a petition of the citizens or from the North Dakota Governor's Office, a county is essentially stuck with the elected official till their term is up. This is concerning for two (2) main reasons. First, any elected official can burden the county financially and there is virtually nothing the county can do about this. This has been addressed by the North Dakota Supreme Court a number of times in different situations throughout the years in counties in North Dakota. Second, the Commissioners have very little control over the elected officials and their staff should issues arise regarding their conduct. This is important as well as the conduct of an elected official and/or their staff can create legal liability for the county that the county could be responsible for financially, through creating a hostile work environment or many other scenarios. With appointed officials being county employees, these issues would not arise as the county could reprimand them and/or terminate their employment to ensure the tax payers dollars are used most efficiently and limit the legal risk to the counties.

The Plan:

Under NDCC §11-10.2-02, Renville County desires to take advantage of the law allowing the appointment of both the Auditor position and the Recorder/Clerk of Court's position. This plan will ensure both offices are good stewards of each respective office, the duties to the public and that the most qualified person is in that position, versus the most popular. Renville County

certainly respects every American's right to vote and to give their input as to who should hold these essential roles. The citizens of Renville County would still be able to do so as they would still have the right to speak to their commissioners and/or contact Renville County with their issues and concerns with individuals that work for Renville County. Renville County receives many comments from the citizens for both appointed and hired employees currently and each concern is taken seriously and addressed. All of the benefits each position currently has will not change including but not limited to salary, retirement and health insurance.

As required by the North Dakota Century Code, Renville County will hold a public meeting to receive input from the citizens of Renville County as everyone that works for Renville County works for the public. If you do not wish to attend the public meeting and/or do not wish to attend the public meeting, but would still like to give input, please email or mail your concerns and/or comments to the Renville County Auditor, PO Box 68, Mohall, ND 58761-0068; 701-756-6301 and email: lpollman@nd.gov

It is important to understand that simply because Renville County has passed the preliminary resolution to appoint these two (2) positions, it does not mean that this will happen, merely that this could happen. Renville County is still required to pass a final resolution within two (2) years of passing the preliminary hearing in order for this to actually happen and even if Renville County does pass the final resolution, the citizens can still override Renville County through a petition. Renville County has given this a lot of thought and is simply exploring its options. Renville County values the input from their citizens and welcomes any questions, comments or concerns you might have.

The preliminary resolution and the plan will be published twice in the official newspaper of the County. A public meeting will be held July 16, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Renville County Courthouse in Mohall.

The Board received a letter from Brandon Reidman concerning the behavior and leadership practices of a County department head. He states the behavior is damaging staff morale, disrupting workflow and undermining the values the county should stand for. The department head was not specifically named in the letter, but Danielle Petersen was present and stated she would like to talk to Mr. Reidman concerning the letter. The Board will discuss the issue with Julie Vetter, County HR.

Moved by Comm. Haman, second by Comm. Hansen that the minutes of May 2025 be approved as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote of aye.

Correspondence addressed to the Board's attention was reviewed and discussed. Travel requests were approved as presented.

Moved by Comm. Hansen, second by Comm. Haman to remove and discard item #2293, a small refrigerator from inventory. The item no longer works. Motion carried by unanimous vote of aye.

At 10:00 a.m. the meeting was opened for equalization purposes. Tax Director Gabe Titus met with the Board to discuss and review the townships' and cities' valuations. Gabe noted that the valuations have been approved by the respective township boards and city councils. Moved by Comm. Hansen, second by Comm. Haman to approve the equalization report as presented for the 2025 tax year. Motion carried by unanimous vote of aye.

Sean Mattern, Road Supervisor, met with the Board. They are removing load restrictions today from County roads. They are mowing and sweeping bridges. The new motorgrader has been delivered.

RESOLUTION-2025-14

Resolution Allowing Claims & Ordering Payment Thereof

Whereas, the County Auditor has audited and the Departments have approved the following claims against the County of Renville and have certified that such claims are properly payable by said County, and that the said County Auditor has verified such claims to be paid and has satisfied herself that such bills and claims are proper charges against the County of Renville;

Now therefore, be it resolved by the County Commissioners of the County of Renville, North Dakota, that the following bills and claims be and thereby are, ordered paid.

<u>Payee</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Amount</u>
AT&T	Monthly Charges	63.24
Butler Machinery	Compressor/Elements	2,930.50
Butler Machinery	Motor Grader	243,330.42
Cenex Fleet Fueling	Gas/Sheriff	3,098.02
Circle Sanitation	Monthly Sanitation	140.00
Domestic Violence Center	2025 DVCC Support	20,000.00
Farden Construction	Gravel	22,333.80
First District Health Unit	2 nd Qtr/Mill Levy	16,738.25
Bethany Gates	Mileage	408.80
City of Glenburn	Water/Sewer/Sanitation	55.60
Great Plains Directory	2025 Plat Books	476.00
Hefty Seed Company	Septic Service MRP	2,000.00
John Deere Financial	Hydraulic Oil/ Oil Filters	398.89
Mitch's Window Cleaning	Clean Windows/Cthse	375.00
Mohall Chamber of Commerce	2025 Dues	100.00
NDACo Resource Group	Cat5e Cables/WSI Assessment	200.90
NDACo	Workers Comp Premium	928.53
O'Keeffe Oil	Diesel Fuel	6,177.79
Otter Tail Power Company	Electricity	88.46
Powerplan	Belt/Windshield	2,426.67
Prairie Engineering	Mechanical Design/Heating System	1,256.00
ProForms	Shipping	40.01
Quadient Leasing	Postage Meter Lease	254.94
SRT Communications	Monthly Charges	1,288.84
Sidwell Company	1 Year GIS Mapping Service	8,430.00
Gabriel Titus	Mileage	449.00
Upper Souris Water District	Water	274.80
UpSkill HR	May/HR Consulting	925.00
Visa	Travel/Keyboard/Office Supplies	3,073.61
WEX Health	Medical Spending Admin Fee	70.00
Wold Engineering	MRP Road	46,029.69

Be it further resolved, that the County Auditor be, and she hereby is authorized and

directed to draw warrants for the above claims from the respective funds, and that the County Auditor be, and she hereby is, authorized to execute and deliver such warrants.

The above and foregoing resolution was offered at a regular meeting of the County Commissioners held on June 3, 2025 by Commissioner Haman who moved its adoption, was seconded by Commissioner Hansen and adopted by a unanimous vote of aye.





LeAnn M. Pollman, County Auditor


Andy Gates, Board Chairman

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

JUNE 17, 2025

Board convened at 9:00 a.m. Present: Chairman Andy Gates, Commissioner Rick Haman and Commissioner Jamee Hansen.

Sean Mattern, Road Supervisor, met with the Board. They will start mowing the top cut along County roadways on Monday, July 7. The Sherwood Shop is in need of a furnace. Sean will talk to Shawn Nett and get an estimate for a new furnace. He also discussed replacing his work truck. The Board asked him to gather estimates for a new one.

Jason Mayfield, Wold Engineering, discussed the Countywide Safety project with the Board. The bid for the project came in higher than expected. The NDDOT has increased the portion they will pay for the project from \$1,150,000.00 to \$1,650,000.00 to help cover the cost of the project. The County's portion is estimated at \$400,000.00 for construction and \$150,000.00 for construction engineering costs. The County funds will be paid out of the "Prairie Dog" fund. The project should start in September 2025.

Jason will reapply to the Flexible Transportation Grant Fund for the Grano east/west widening project and will see if the County has any bridge projects that could qualify for the grant funding.

County Sheriff Roger Hutchinson discussed his proposed 2026 budget, patrol vehicles and staffing.

Introduced by Commissioner Hansen,

Who moved for its adoption on the 17th day of June, 2025:

RESOLUTION 2025-15
RESOLUTION OF POLICY
REGARDING PUBLIC COMMENT REQUIREMENTS AT REQUIRED MEETING

WHEREAS, Renville County (the "County") is a North Dakota County and political subdivision under Chapters 11-01 of the North Dakota Century Code.

WHEREAS, as a North Dakota political subdivision, the County is subject to North Dakota's open meetings requirements under Chapter 44-04 of the North Dakota Century Code.

WHEREAS, during the 2025 Legislative Session, the North Dakota Legislature approved SB 2180, a bill that includes a new public meeting requirement in Chapter 44-04 for cities, counties, townships, school districts, park district, and water resource districts (the "Public Entities").

WHEREAS, under SB 2180, at every regularly scheduled meeting, the Public Entities must include an opportunity for members of the public to provide comments.

WHEREAS, SB 2180 directs the Public Entities to implement policies that include rules for public comments, including time limits for public speakers, total meeting time limitations for public comment, rules regarding permissible topics, and rules of decorum.

WHEREAS, the County must comply with SB 2180 and approves this RESOLUTION OF POLICY in compliance with the public comment policy requirements under SB 2180.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this RESOLUTION OF POLICY represents the County's official policy regarding public comments at regular board meetings as mandated under SB 2180.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County's policy under this RESOLUTION OF POLICY ensures the public's right to speak at a regular meeting and ensures the public comment process is orderly, efficient, and respectful.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County approves the following policy regarding public comments at the County's meetings, under SB 2180:

1. The County will include a public comment agenda item as the first non-procedural agenda item at all regular meetings of the County.
 - a. "Regular" meetings include the County's regularly scheduled monthly meetings, as approved by the County and filed with the Renville County Auditor, all as required under N.D. Cent. Code § 44-04-20(3).
2. Each person interested in providing public comments at a meeting must submit a speaker card, in person or via email, to the County's Secretary prior to the meeting being called to order that includes:
 - a. the person's name;
 - b. the person's address; and
 - c. an agenda item from the current meeting agenda or the previous meeting agenda that the person seeks to address.
3. If a speaker card does not include all three items above, the person is disqualified and the person may not speak at the meeting.
4. The County will afford each person three minutes to provide comments. The County will

notify each speaker when the three minutes have expired and the speaker will promptly conclude.


5. To ensure orderly and efficient meetings, the County will limit the public comment agenda item to a total of thirty minutes, regardless of how many people have submitted speaker cards.
6. The County will call on each person who has properly submitted a completed speaker card to present public comments, in the order of submission.
7. All comments must:
 - a. address the agenda item identified on the speaker card, from the current meeting agenda or the previous meeting agenda; and
 - b. be pertinent to the County.
8. Comments may not:
 - a. be defamatory, abusive, harassing, or unlawful;
 - b. include information that is exempt or confidential under North Dakota open records or open meetings law; or
 - c. interfere with the orderly conduct of the County's meeting.
9. Speakers may not yield their allotted time to another person.
10. Anyone unable or unwilling to speak in-person may submit written comments to the County's Secretary prior to the meeting; the written comments must include the person's name and address and must be pertinent to an agenda item from the current meeting agenda or the previous meeting agenda. If a person submits written comments to the County's Secretary at least twenty-four hours prior to the County's meeting, the Secretary will circulate and distribute the comments to the County's Board of Managers prior to the meeting and the County will address and discuss the comments at the meeting. If a person submits written comments to the County's Secretary less than twenty-four hours prior to a meeting, the County will not address or discuss the comments at that meeting and the Secretary will circulate and distribute the comments to the County's Board of Managers after the meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this RESOLUTION OF POLICY supersedes any of the County's previous policies or practices regarding public comments at the County's meetings.


Date Approved: June 17, 2025

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: 3; Nays: 0; and Absent: 0

RENVILLE COUNTY


Andy Gates, Chairman

ATTEST:


LeAnn M. Pollman
County Auditor

Correspondence addressed to the Board's attention was reviewed and discussed. May payroll was approved as presented.

Moved by Comm. Hansen, second by Comm. Haman to replace 13 desktop computers. They will be ordered through NRG. Motion carried by unanimous vote of aye.

RESOLUTION-2025-16

Resolution Allowing Claims & Ordering Payment Thereof

Whereas, the County Auditor has audited and the Departments have approved the following claims against the County of Renville and have certified that such claims are properly payable by said County, and that the said County Auditor has verified such claims to be paid and has satisfied herself that such bills and claims are proper charges against the County of Renville;

Now therefore, be it resolved by the County Commissioners of the County of Renville, North Dakota, that the following bills and claims be and thereby are, ordered paid.

<u>Payee</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Amount</u>
701 Plumbing & Heating	Demo Radiators	24,055.60
Enerbase	Oil Change	84.99
Envision	Gas/Paint/Bulbs	1,469.20
ESRI	GIS Online Creator	700.00
Gaffaney's	Quarterly Copies	240.17
Heisler Auto	Towing/AC Recharge	1,126.94
Information Technology Dept	WAN/Office 365/NetMotion	1,237.10
Jack & Jill Groceries	Soda/Cleaning Supplies	51.49
Renae Johnson	Mileage	53.20
Warren Lee	Cat 6 Cabling/Final Payment	23,366.01
Mohall City	Water	124.76
Montana Dakota Utilities	Electricity	3,783.07
NDACO Resource Group	Datto Alto/Monitor	774.16
ND Assoc Co Supt Schools	2025 Dues	50.00
Prairie Bistro	Flowers Cthse/MRP	616.97
Quadient Finance	May Postage	520.00
Rath & Mehrer	2024 Audit	16,000.00
Renville County Farmer	Comm/Equal Notice	474.51
Renville County Treasurer	2 Plat Books/Weed Dept	136.00
Richardson Ag	Gas/Dandelion Spray	357.90
Sherwood City	Water/Sanitation	90.24
Turtle Mountain Communications	Jun/Dispatch Line	55.70
Tyler Technologies	Zebra Label Printer	215.51
USPS	Post Office Box Fee/#68/#487	308.00
Verizon Wireless	Monthly Charges	523.69
Waste Management	Sanitation	322.71

Be it further resolved, that the County Auditor be, and she hereby is authorized and directed to draw warrants for the above claims from the respective funds, and that the County Auditor be, and she hereby is, authorized to execute and deliver such warrants.

The above and foregoing resolution was offered at a regular meeting of the County Commissioners held on June 17, 2025 by Commissioner Haman who moved its adoption, was seconded by Commissioner Hansen and adopted by a unanimous vote of aye.




Andy Gates, Board Chairman

Attest:


LeAnn M. Pollman, County Auditor

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Board ordered the following bills paid for the month of June 2025:

Check Listing

Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount
146422	06/04/2025	AT & T MOBILITY	\$63.24
146423	06/04/2025	BUTLER MACHINERY	\$243,330.42
146424	06/04/2025	Cenex Fleetcard	\$3,098.02
146425	06/04/2025	CIRCLE SANITATION INC	\$140.00
146426	06/04/2025	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CC	\$20,000.00
146427	06/04/2025	FARDEN CONSTRUCTION INC	\$22,333.80
146428	06/04/2025	FIRST DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT	\$16,738.25
146429	06/04/2025	FORUM COMMUNICATIONS CO	\$64.00
146430	06/04/2025	GATES, BETHANY	\$408.80
146431	06/04/2025	GLENBURN CITY	\$55.60
146432	06/04/2025	Great Plains Directory Service	\$476.00
146433	06/04/2025	HEFTY SEED	\$2,000.00
146434	06/04/2025	JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	\$398.89
146435	06/04/2025	MITCH'S WINDOW CLEANING	\$375.00
146437	06/04/2025	ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES	\$928.53
146438	06/04/2025	NDACO RESOURCES GROUP INC	\$200.90
146441	06/04/2025	O'KEEFE OIL COMPANY	\$6,177.79
146442	06/04/2025	OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY	\$88.46
146443	06/04/2025	POWERPLAN	\$2,426.67
146444	06/04/2025	PRAIRIE ENGINEERING P.C.	\$1,256.00
146445	06/04/2025	Pro Forms	\$40.01
146446	06/04/2025	QUADIENT LEASING USA INC	\$254.94
146447	06/04/2025	SCHMIDT, CHAD	\$71.57
146448	06/04/2025	SIDWELL COMPANY	\$8,430.00
146449	06/04/2025	Souris River Telephone	\$1,288.84
146450	06/04/2025	TITUS, GABRIEL	\$449.00
146451	06/04/2025	UPPER SOURIS WATER DISTRICT	\$274.80
146452	06/04/2025	VETTER, JULIE	\$925.00
146453	06/04/2025	VISA	\$3,073.61
146454	06/04/2025	WEX HEALTH	\$70.00
146455	06/04/2025	WOLD ENGINEERING	\$46,029.69
146456	06/09/2025	BUTLER MACHINERY	\$2,930.50
146457	06/18/2025	701 PLUMBING & HEATING LLC	\$24,055.60
146459	06/18/2025	ENERBASE COOP	\$84.99
146460	06/18/2025	ENVISION COOPERATIVE	\$1,469.20
146461	06/18/2025	ESRI	\$700.00
146462	06/18/2025	GAFFANEY'S OF MINOT INC	\$240.17
146463	06/18/2025	GARTNER'S JACK & JILL	\$849.98
146464	06/18/2025	HEISLER AUTO	\$2,059.45

146466	06/18/2025	HEISLER, MITCH	\$250.00
146468	06/18/2025	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	\$1,237.10
146469	06/18/2025	JACK & JILL GROCERIES	\$51.49
146470	06/18/2025	Johnson, Renae	\$53.20
146471	06/18/2025	LEE, WARREN	\$23,366.01
146472	06/18/2025	MOHALL CITY	\$124.76
146473	06/18/2025	Montana-Dakota Utilities	\$3,783.07
146474	06/18/2025	ND ASSOC OF CO SUPT	\$50.00
146475	06/18/2025	NDACO RESOURCES GROUP INC	\$774.16
146476	06/18/2025	PRAIRIE BISTRO AND GARDENS	\$616.97
146477	06/18/2025	QUADIENT FINANCE USA	\$520.00
146478	06/18/2025	RATH AND MEHRER PC	\$16,000.00
146479	06/18/2025	Renville County Farmer	\$474.51
146480	06/18/2025	Renville County Treasurer	\$136.00
146481	06/18/2025	RICHARDSON AG INC	\$357.90
146482	06/18/2025	SHERWOOD CITY	\$90.24
146484	06/18/2025	Turtle Mountain Communication	\$55.70
146485	06/18/2025	TYLER TECHNOLOGIES INC	\$215.51
146486	06/18/2025	US POSTAL SERVICE	\$308.00
146487	06/18/2025	VERIZON WIRELESS	\$523.69
146488	06/18/2025	WASTE MANAGEMENT OF ND	\$322.71
146489	06/18/2025	WITTEMAN, TOM	\$250.00

Payroll \$154,331.56
Weed Department \$ 3,847.00

Expenditures, by fund, approved by the Board for the month of June, 2025: General, \$216,010.22; Road & Bridge, \$346,946.17; Highway Tax, \$47,692.80; Capital Improvements, \$66.74; Emergency, \$25,311.60; 9-1-1, \$1,285.20; Veteran Service, \$1,112.60; County Agent, \$5,915.12; Weed Control, \$4,201.57; Sheriff Reserve, \$7,430.50.

Details of the bills are on file in the Auditor's office.



RENVILLE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Andy Gates, Board Chairman

Attest:

LeAnn M. Pollman, County Auditor