Official Proceedings of the Stutsman County Commission— August 19, 2025

At 9:30 a.m., Chairman Taylor called the regular meeting of the Stutsman County Commission to order. Ben Tompkins, Mike Hansen, Amanda Hastings, Chad Wolsky, and Levi Taylor answered the roll call.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

There were no public comments.

Taylor requested a change for item thirteen on the agenda, to change the dollar amount from $4,100 to $4,500. A motion to approve the agenda with the proposed change was made by Wolsky, seconded by Tompkins. Unanimous aye vote. Motion carried.

Tyler Perleberg, Zoning Administrator, requested a decision on the amendment to the high voltage transmission lines ordinance that was discussed at the public hearing. The Planning and Zoning Board unanimously approved the changes to the ordinance and recommended approval from the commission. A motion to adopt the recommendation of the planning and zoning board as written was made by Hastings, seconded by Taylor.

Victor Schock, Director of Public Utilities, Public Service Commission, attended via telephone. Schock spoke about North Dakota Century Code 49-22, and House Bill 1258. The current state setback is 500 ft. HB1258 states the permit for construction supersedes and preempts any local zoning ordinances and recommendations. In his ten years with the PSC, he has never seen approval of more than 500 ft.

Todd Langston, Ottertail Power Company, stated that there are some areas in the currently proposed project that are closer than 700 ft., but that they could accommodate if they had to.

Roll call vote on Hastings's motion to adopt the recommendation of the planning and zoning board was taken. Tompkins: nay, Hansen: nay, Hastings: aye, Wolsky: nay, and Taylor: aye. Motion failed.

A motion to change the setback to 800 feet was made by Tompkins, seconded by Wolsky. Roll call vote: Hansen: nay, Hastings: nay, Wolsky: aye, Taylor: nay, and Tompkins: aye. Motion failed.

A motion to change the setback to 1,000 feet was made by Wolsky, seconded by Tompkins. Roll call vote: Hastings: aye, Wolsky: aye, Taylor: aye, Tompkins: aye, and Hansen nay. Motion carried.

Jessica Moser, Emergency Manager, presented a request for approval of the emergency declaration for the August 8, 2025 storm, so that if the state issues an emergency declaration the county would be covered. A motion to approve the emergency declaration was made by Tompkins, seconded by Taylor. Roll call vote: Wolsky, Taylor, Tompkins, Hansen, and Hastings voted aye. Motion carried.

The commissioners presented committee and board monthly updates. Taylor gave updates from the park portfolio meeting including a memorial for Jerry Bergquist, continued work on the agreement for Spiritwood Resort, and an update on the playground equipment. Jessica Alonge, Auditor/COO, stated that the pedestrian and safety signs near Hondo's will be installed this week.

Taylor will be working with Sheriff Kaiser on an MOU for the emergency trailer that Central Valley Health may need to haul so they can get a smaller vehicle.

Wolsky and Hansen have been working with the road department on making the gravelling process more efficient. Hansen stated that there are two new invasive weed species that have been found in Stutsman County.

Hastings presented an update on the JSDC board and their upcoming projects. The library board has been working on dissolution, and she gave an update on their programs that are available through the library for adults and children.

Mark Attleson, Maintenance Supervisor, presented a request to have seven heat pumps installed, and to purchase one new heat pump. A motion to approve the replacement of the seven heat pumps and purchase a new one up to $63,590 was made by Hastings, seconded by Tompkins. Roll call vote: Taylor, Tompkins, Hansen, Hastings, Wolsky, and Taylor voted aye. Motion carried.

Attleson also needs to install a door at the Memorial Building, per the IRS, to keep files in a secure location. The door must be key card access only. This project is not budgeted. A motion to approve the request not to exceed $12,000 was made by Tompkins, seconded by Hansen. Roll call vote: Tompkins, Hansen, Hastings, Wolsky, and Taylor voted aye. Motion carried.

Josh Smaage, IT Director, gave a preview of GIS services that are currently available to the public on the county website.

Shannon Davis, Human Resource Director, presented changes and requested approval for the 2026 NDPHIT renewal. The increase in premiums for 2026 is 7.26%. A motion to renew the contract for 2026 as presented was made by Hansen, seconded by Tompkins. Roll call vote: Hansen, Hastings, Wolsky, Taylor, and Tompkins voted aye. Motion carried.

Jesse Christianson, Highway Superintendent, requested to award the County Road 68 emergency grade raise to Scherbenske's who had the low bid of $1,385,462.85. A motion to award the bid to Scherbenske's was made by Hastings, seconded by Wolsky. Roll call vote: Hastings, Wolsky, Taylor, Tompkins, and Hansen voted aye. Motion carried.

Taylor presented a map of Peterson Township and a petition from the landowners in Peterson Township requesting improvement of ¼ mile of section line. The request is for the county to gravel ¼ mile of the section line in order for landowners to access their property since County Road 39 is closed. Christianson informed the board he does not agree with the county improving the section line. A motion to distribute up to $4,500 in gravel and improvements of the ¼ mile section line was made by Taylor, seconded by Hastings. Roll call vote: Wolsky, Taylor, Tompkins, Hansen, and Hastings voted aye. Motion carried.

At 10:41 a.m. the commission recessed for the Park Board meeting.

At 10:42 a.m., Chairman Taylor called the Stutsman County Park Board meeting to order. Ben Tompkins, Mike Hansen, Amanda Hastings, Chad Wolsky, Levi Taylor, and Henry Steinberger answered roll. Merri Mooridian was absent.

Alonge presented an addition to agenda item six, to add discussion on a dock the was destroyed in the June storm.

There were no public comments.

A motion to approve the agenda to include the addition was made by Wolksy, seconded by Tompkins. Unanimous aye vote. Motion carried.

Dylan Kleinjan, Park Superintendent, presented a request to purchase a 6x14 utility trailer in the amount of $2,799 to haul the mower. The one previously used was destroyed in the storm. A request was made by the board to obtain quotes for a larger trailer for discussion at the September 2 meeting.

Kleinjan also received a quote from Service Master for cleaning Lakeside Bathhouse from April to September. The quote came in at $1,392/month. The park portfolio will look into options for cleaning.

Taylor requested a committee member change for the park master plan committee. Wolsky will be replace Taylor on the committee to free up some of Taylor's schedule.

Alonge presented an update on the Spiritwood concessionaire permit. The park portfolio met with the potential new permittees and Fritz Fremgen, State's Attorney. A permit discussion and negotiation will be held on August 21 for that purpose.

Alonge presented updates for the current park projects. The playground safety surface has been ordered; and the pedestrian signs will be installed this week by Newman Signs. The bathhouse is in progress, and Karl Bergh, Project Manager, is working on septic and drain field permits. The walking path is complete, as well as the vault toilet. Bright stickers have been printed to inform law enforcement of campers who have exceeded their fourteen day stay at any county campground.

A public dock by Hondo's was destroyed by the storm and needs to be pulled out. Alonge will check on the insurance coverage of the damaged dock. The dock will need replacement and their could be a cost-share agreement with ND G& F or a grant application made to Garrison Diversion for the new dock. A motion to allow Alonge, Kleinjan, and Bergh to work on the Garrison Diversion grant, which would be due by August 31, for a replacement dock was made by Hastings, seconded by Tompkins. Unanimous aye vote. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the mid-month bills was made by Hastings, seconded by Tompkins. Alonge informed the commission that the amount of sand purchased for the public beach was over the approved budget by $67.40 and is included in the bill listing.

A motion to amend the previous motion for the sand purchase from $7,500 to $7,567 67.40 was made by Wolsky, seconded by Tompkins. Roll call vote: Taylor, Steinberger, Tompkins, Hansen, Hastings, and Wolsky voted aye. The amended sand motion was withdrawn since a motion to approve the bills was currently open for discussion.

Roll was taken on the motion to approve the mid-month bills that was made by Hastings, seconded by Tompkins. Roll call vote: Steinberger, Tompkins, Hansen, Hastings, Wolsky, and Taylor voted aye. Motion carried.

	County Park Fund		18921	INTERSTATE ENGINEERING	$1,951.28
18906	DAKOTA CENTRAL TELECOMM	$69.90	18943	NORTHERN PLAINS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE	$1,182.10
18908	DAKOTA VALLEY ELECTRIC	$9.00	18955	SCHERBENSKE INC.	$7,567.40
18912	FARMERS UNION OIL CO-CENEX	$125.00	18960	TRAUT WELLS	$69.00

At 11:11 a.m., a motion to adjourn the park board meeting was made by Tompkins, seconded by Hansen. Unanimous aye vote. Motion carried.

At 11:11 the commission meeting was called back to order.

A motion to amend the beach sand purchase that was approved at the June 17, 2025, meeting from $7,500 to $7,567.40 was made by Tompkins, seconded by Wolsky. Roll call vote: Tompkins, Hansen, Hastings, Wolsky, and Taylor voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the mid-month bills and taxable meals was made by Hastings, seconded by Tompkins. Roll call vote: Hansen, Hastings, Wolsky, Taylor, and Tompkins voted aye. Motion carried.

	General Revenue Fund				
18885	9TH AVENUE HOTEL PARTNERS LLC	$396.00	18907	DAKOTA CENTRAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS	$6,901.50
18888	APPLICANTPRO HOLDINGS, LLC	$486.00	18911	FARGO FREIGHTLINER	$743.95
18889	BALCO UNIFORM CO INC	$45.30	18913	FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT DIVISION	$549.22
18890	BOB BARKER CO	$724.98		HARRINGTON, LEVI	$154.00
18895	CANINE TACTICAL OPERATIONS & CONSULTING	$1,200.00	18917	HIGH PLAINS WATER	$56.00
18896	CDW GOVERNMENT INC	$551.70	18918	I3G MEDIA JMST	$990.00
18898	CENTRAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS INC	$143.08	18919	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT	$295.45
18899	CENTURYLINK	$1,607.84	18921	INTERSTATE ENGINEERING	$14,267.75
18901	COLE PAPERS INC	$838.27	18924	JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	$117.42
18902	COLUMN SOFTWARE PBC	$1,043.14	18925	KOTACO	$2,285.75
18905	DACOTAH PAPER CO	$523.80		KRAMLICH MICHAEL	$378.00
18909	DR DAWN'S PET STOP LLC	$115.47	18933	MAC'S INC	$34.97
18914	FORUM COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY	$517.00	18936	MORRIS SEALCOAT & TRUCKING INC	$597,757.71
18915	GALLS, LLC	$62.98	18938	NAPA AUTO PARTS	$135.81
18916	GUN & REEL SPORTS INC	$109.97	18941	NEWMAN SIGNS	$2,084.26
18919	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT	$1,461.05	18943	NORTHERN PLAINS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE	$62.00
18920	INNOVATIVE OFFICE SOLUTIONS, LLC	$622.84	18944	NORTHWEST TIRE INC	$297.87
18922	JAMESTOWN CITY BALER	$59.00	18946	OTTER TAIL POWER CO	$536.16
18923	JAMESTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	$14,526.77	18948	POWER PLAN	$222.40
18926	KRUEGER,NANCY	$204.75	18953	ROUGHRIDER SIGNS & DESIGNS	$30.00
18928	LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES	$75.00		SCHWARTZ,DAVID	$42.00
18929	LAVERTY, CUTTER L	$23.59		SCHWARTZ,DAVID	$192.50
18930	LAWN TECH OUTDOOR SERVICES	$300.35		SNYDER, ANDREW	$277.20
18931	LES SCHWAB GROUP HOLDINGS, LLC	$107.98	18959	TITAN MACHINERY	$130.35
18932	LLOYDS MOTORS	$98.88		TOWE, JEREMY W	$120.40
18934	MARQUART,ANDREW S	$927.00	18962	TRUE NORTH STEEL	$63,091.20
18935	MDU	$81.86	18965	VESTIS	$303.57
18939	NAPA AUTO PARTS-SHERIFF	$15.42	18966	WALLWORK INC, WW	$518.86
18943	NORTHERN PLAINS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE	$199.00		WANZEK, JOHN	$44.80
18946	OTTER TAIL POWER CO	$10,243.32		**Emergency**	
18947	PHARMCHEM INC	$351.45	18891	BORDER STATES PAVING INC	$14,251.05
	QUADIENT FINANCE USA, INC. - AUD	$2,000.00	18921	INTERSTATE ENGINEERING	$11,501.75
18949	QUILL CORPORATION	$74.99		**Weed Control Fund**	
18950	RADISSON INN BISMARCK	$410.00	18887	AGTERRA TECHNOLOGIES, INC.	$105.00
18951	RAMADA BISMARCK HOTEL	$693.00	18944	NORTHWEST TIRE INC	$39.29
18952	RECORD KEEPERS	$105.50	18956	STUTSMAN CO ROAD DEPT	$101.30

18954	SANFORD.	$2,428.38		**Veterans Service Fund**	
	SCHAFFER,DIANNE	$60.00	18899	CENTURYLINK	$22.75
18957	SUMMIT FOOD SERVICE, LLC	$11,815.69		**County Agent Fund**	
18958	THOMSON REUTERS	$504.01	18906	DAKOTA CENTRAL TELECOMM	$292.58
	Vision Zero Coordinator		18920	INNOVATIVE OFFICE SOLUTIONS, LLC	$175.38
	CARLBLOM, JOSEPH	$35.41		**Human Service Zone Human Service Fund Total**	$2,498.26
	E 911 Phone System Fund			**Flexible Transportation Fund**	
18906	DAKOTA CENTRAL TELECOMM	$219.12	18921	INTERSTATE ENGINEERING	$7,476.35
18919	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT	$5,051.75		**Commissary Fund**	
18937	MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS INC	$44,372.00	18963	TURNKEY CORRECTIONS	$69.00
	County Roads Fund			**Drug Program Fund Total**	$628.71
18893	BUFFALO CITY DIESEL	$133.77		**Road & Bridge Building Fund**	
18894	BUTLER MACHINERY CO	$2,639.24	18942	NORTHERN PLAINS ELECTRIC	$9,893.81
18900	CLEVELAND CITY WATER & SEWER	$115.00	18961	TRAUTMAN,MICHAEL	$40,000.00
18904	CREATIVE ENERGY	$4,799.69		**Bond Fund**	
18906	DAKOTA CENTRAL TELECOMM	$128.68	18903	COMPUTERSHARE CORPORATE TRUST	$338,581.26

At 11:12 a motion to adjourn was made by Hastings, seconded by Tompkins. Unanimous aye vote. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Jessica Alonge
Auditor/COO

Levi Taylor
Commission Chairman

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At 8:30 a.m., Chairman Taylor called the public comment hearing for the review of proposed zoning ordinance amendments to order. Ben Tompkins, Mike Hansen, Amanda Hastings, Chad Wolsky, and Levi Taylor were in attendance.

Tyler Perleberg, Zoning Administrator, gave some background on the proposal from the Planning and Zoning Board regarding transmission lines. The amended zoning ordinance removed oil and gas transmission lines and focused on high voltage transmission lines in excess of 115 kilovolts and at least one mile long. The setbacks have been changed from 2,600 feet from any inhabited rural residence to 1,200 feet. The proposed amendment will be a conditional use within all zoning districts. Perleberg stated the amendment also includes some clean up language to the permitted use of communication towers within the agricultural and industrial district, which removes the word "lines" and replaces it with "structures". The Planning and Zoning Board approved the changes, and recommended approval from the Commission. Perleberg stated that a single party can waive the setback if they desire, through the variance process. Corwin and Homer Townships have adopted their own setback of 2,640 feet.

Taylor presented the procedures for public comment. Each speaker must go to podium, sign in with their name and address, state their name and the comment period will be limited to two minutes. The comment must pertain to the purpose of the meeting.

First, Taylor opened the floor for public comment in favor of the proposed amendment. There were no public comments offered.

Next, Taylor opened the floor for public comments in opposition of the proposed zoning amendments.

Leon Westerhausen, Corwin Township, is requesting the Commission support the Townships in their decision of 2,640 feet. He feels that 1,200 feet will change the development of farmyards. He believes 2,640 feet is a reasonable distance for the people who reside in the affected areas now and in the future.

Steve Schwarzrock, Homer Township, also spoke in opposition. He lives within 800 feet of where the proposed line will run. Schwarzrock is concerned with how the lines will affect his cellular and satellite television service.

Larry Burkle, Homer Township, also recommends a 2,640 feet setback to protect the people living in the area from the noise, and the view of the power lines. He is also concerned about being able to aerial spray fields with powerlines in the way.

At 8:47 a.m., Taylor closed the public comments.

Taylor stated that the setback of 1,200 feet would be from the center of the inhabited residence. His main component to the 1,200-foot setback is that he wanted to be somewhere near the current Public Service Commission setback of 500 feet but still protect the residents of Stutsman County.

Hastings has received comments from residents that are in favor of the zoning ordinance, but do not attend the public comment meetings to express these feelings because they do not want to be talked badly about in their communities.

At 9:30 a.m., during the regular commission meeting, a member of the PSC will be calling in to answer questions.

At 8:51 a.m., the public hearing meeting for the zoning ordinance was adjourned.

ATTEST:

Jessica Alonge Auditor/COO	Levi Taylor Commission Chairman