Official Proceedings of the Stutsman County Commission Special Meeting— September 30, 2025

At 8:30 a.m., Chairman Taylor called the special meeting of the Stutsman County Commission to order. Ben Tompkins, Mike Hansen, Amanda Hastings, Chad Wolsky (via telephone) and Levi Taylor answered roll call.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

No public comments were presented.

Hastings made a motion to approve agenda, seconded by Tompkins. Motion carried.

Jessica Alonge, Auditor/COO, presented the minutes from the July 30, 2025, special joint meeting with the Water Resource Board. The minutes were reviewed by the water board, and one change was made. A motion to approve was made by Hastings, seconded by Hansen. Motion carried.

The Vision Zero Coordinator grant period is from October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. This is included in the budget and is 100% funded by the ND Association of Counties through the ND Highway Patrol via the Federal Highway Administration. Tompkins made the motion to enter into contract, seconded by Hastings. Roll call vote: Tompkins, Hansen, Hastings, Wolsky and Taylor voted aye. Motion carried.

Alonge presented changes to the 2026 budget, as discussed at the September 16 meeting. The lowboy trailer capital purchase for the road department previously budgeted at $250,000 purchase was lowered to $160,000. The transfer coming from the highway fund was adjusted to reflect the decrease.

The salary line items for the Weed Board were adjusted to reflect the year-to-date actuals. There was a request to increase the travel budget from $4,000 to $7,000, which has been reduced to $4,000 since the weed board has not spent above the budgeted amount in prior years. The mill levy was reduced due to the changes.

All interest revenue line items for both the anticipated 2025 revenue and 2026 budget were reviewed and increased. Interest has been calculated conservatively, at approximately 3.2%.

Changes were made to several pages in the capital budget to include additional notes which make it easier when projecting costs and future projects.

After reviewing anticipated emergency projects for both 2025 and 2026, the emergency fund was reduced from 4 mills to 3.27, the weed control levy was reduced from 3.24 to 3.18, and the general fund was reduced from 44 to 43.67 mills.

Alonge stated that the total mill levy is 79.85 or $11,183,353 which is $63,000 below our cap of $11,246,585.

Wolsky requested the trailer purchased be reduced even further, from $160,000 to $100,000. Wolsky questioned the cubicle purchase for 2026. Alonge stated there is one open position at this time, and if the reclassification is approved, an additional staff member would be added and there is not enough space to house the staff. However, removal of the purchase would reduce the general fund levy to 43.36. If the cost

of the trailer was taken down to $100,000, Alonge stated that it would not decrease the mill levy; it would only adjust the amount of transfer between departments.

Taylor suggested going from 4 mills to 3 mills for the library levy and possibly increasing to 4 mills eventually. Hastings stated that it should not drop below 4 mills, or the county will not be able to catch up enough to create their own library system in the event of a dissolution. If the county does not wish to offer library services, the question would have to be asked as a ballot measure next year. If it failed, the county would be required to operate a library by March 1, 2027.

Taylor would like to see the Water Resource Board receive more money however they have not requested a higher levy.

The budget hearing is scheduled for October 7, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. The regular park board and Commission meetings will begin at 3:30 p.m. instead of 8:30 a.m. on October 7.

At 9:13 a.m., a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Hastings, seconded by Tompkins. Motion carried.

At 9:30 a.m., Chairman Taylor called the special meeting of the Stutsman County Park Board to order. Ben Tompkins, Mike Hansen, Amanda Hastings, Chad Wolsky (via telephone), Levi Taylor, Merri Mooridian (via telephone), and Henry Steinberger (via telephone) answered the roll call.

No public comment was presented.

Hastings made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Tompkins. Motion carried

Jessica Alonge, Auditor/COO, presented updates to the Bruxz Enterprises, LLC permit for Spiritwood Lake. Fritz Fremgren, State's Attorney, sent a revised consent to pledge permit to the Brooks's bank and attorney. It was accepted, with a few changes, late last week. Fremgen accepted the final draft submitted by the bank. The permit start date os October 1, 2025. Hastings made a motion to approve, seconded by Tompkins. Alonge stated she had sent the certificate of insurance to the county insurance agent. The recommendation was that the $2,000,000 coverage be listed as an umbrella, rather than aggregate coverage, with the county listed as additional insured. Mooridian requested the insurance agent's recommendation be included in the permit. Hastings amended her motion to add the umbrella language to the insurance portion of the permit, and Tompkins amended his second. Roll call vote: Tompkins, Hansen, Hastings, Wolsky, Taylor, Mooridian, and Steinberger voted aye. Motion carried.

At 9:42 a.m. Hastings made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Tompkins. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Jessica Alonge	Levi Taylor
Auditor/COO	Commission Chairman