

BOARD MEETING AS POSTED
BECKER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DATE: TUESDAY, January 6, 2026 at 8:15 am
LOCATION: Board Room, Courthouse

Call the Board Business Meeting to Order: Board Chair Meyer

1. Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Recognition of Commissioner Meyer by Commissioner Jepson for his service as 2025 Board Chair.

Election of Board Chair for 2026

1. Commissioner Meyer nominated Commissioner Jepson.
2. Motion to elect Erica Jepson Board Chair (Meyer) carried.

New Board Chair calls for Nominations for Vice Chair 2026

1. Commissioner Meyer nominated Commissioner Hansen.
2. Motion and second to elect Phil Hansen Vice Chair (Meyer, Jepson) carried.

2026 Committee Assignments

1. Motion and second to approve 2026 Committee Assignments with changes (Meyer, Nelson) carried.
2. Motion and second to approve 2026 AMC Appointments (Meyer, Nelson) carried.
3. Motion and second to not have per diems for the TNT Hearing and Township Meetings, to pay per diem for the Road Tour and work session per diem will be determined at the time the meeting is scheduled (Meyer, Nelson) carried.

Regular Business

1. Agenda Confirmation – Motion and second to approve agenda with the removal of the museum discussion and update the purchase of Sheriff squad cars from five (5) to two (2) as three (3) squads were previously authorized (Meyer, Hansen) carried.
2. Minutes – Moved and seconded to approve minutes of December 16, 2025 with the requested changes (Nelson, Meyer) carried.
3. Motion and second to approve and accept the following Consent Agenda Items – Auditor-Treasurer: Regular Claims, Auditor Warrants and Claims over 90 Days,

Resolution 01-26-1A – 2026 Publication Bids, Resolution 01-26-1B – Charitable Gambling for Lake Park Baseball at Roadhouse in Cormorant Twp, Resolution 01-26-1C – Bank Designation, Resolution 01-26-1D – Debt Service, Human Services: Regular Claims, Public Health, & Transit, Highway: Resolution 01-26-1E – Annual Advertising – Highway Construction Projects, Land Use: NRM/Parks & Rec – 2026 NRM Annual Business Bid Solicitation Items/Timber Sales, Tree Seedling Production Quote, Sheriff: Emergency Management Performance Grant, Off Highway Vehicle Grant Contract Agreement (Nelson, Hansen) carried.

Commissioners:

1. Open Forum.
 - None.
2. Reports and Correspondence: Reports were provided on the following meetings:
 - Commissioner Hansen – PRWD, PLMSWA, Environmental.
 - Commissioner Meyer – DAC, Sheriff.
 - Commissioner Nelson – Sheriff, NRM, Lakeland Mental Health.
 - Commissioner Vareberg – Environmental, NRM.
 - Commissioner Jepson – Joint Governance.
3. Appointments:
 - Check with Department Heads to see what committees have terms set to expire.

County Administrator: presented by Carrie Smith.

1. Minnesota Power for the Maple River to Cuyuna 345 kV Transmission Line Project Update: presented by Drew Janke.
 - Anticipated in-service in 2033.
2. Minnesota Red River Valley Development Association: presented by Bruce Hein.
 - 14 Counties in NW Minnesota since 1914.
 - Becker County was a founding member and active ever since.
 - Organization in community involvement in rural leadership.
3. 245th Ave Discussion: presented by Mike Engum and Detroit Twp Members.
 - Removal of the gate was first brought to the board in June.
 - 20 + people have access.
 - Bring back to the next board meeting.
4. Report.
 - Additional AED Units have been purchased.

- Final Paycom Rollout is underway.
- Discussions on Safety Trainings, Blight Properties and CUP Compliance.
- Strategic Planning Work Session – January 13 at 9:00 am.

5. Motion and second to approve Resolution 01-26-1F – Setting of Minimum Salary for Elected Officials (Hansen, Nelson) carried.

Land Use: presented by Steve Skoog and Mitch Lundein.

1. NRM/Parks & Rec
 - Motion and second to approve the Dunton Locks Renovation Estimate of \$16,300 from AAA Construction and authorize the County Administrator to make change orders (Hansen, Meyer) carried.
 - Motion and second to approve the Purchase Request of a Tractor and Boom Mower from RDO Equipment up to \$240,000 (Meyer, Hansen) carried.
2. Environmental Services
 - Motion and second to purchase a Walking Floor Trailer from North American Trail Sales in the amount of \$119,425 (Hansen, Vareberg) carried.
 - Motion and second to approve the Purchase Request of a Diagnostic Scan Tool up to \$14,000 (Hansen, Vareberg) carried.

Sheriff: presented by Todd Glander.

1. Motion and second to approve the purchase of two (2) Squad Cars in the amount of \$92,791.88 (Nelson, Meyer) carried.

Motion and second to go into closed session at 11:06 am for Attorney Client Privilege pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.05 Subd. 3(b) regarding Susan Syvertson Becker County Recorder vs County Board of Commissioners of Becker County File No. 03-CV-25-2187 (Jepson, Meyer) carried.

Motion and second to come out of closed session at 11:32 am (Hansen, Meyer) carried.

Motion and second to go into closed session at 11:33 am for Attorney Client Privilege pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.05 Subd. 3(b) regarding 245th Ave (Meyer, Nelson) carried.

Motion and second to come out of closed session at 12:06 pm (Nelson, Meyer) carried.

Being no further business, Chair Jepson adjourned the meeting at 12:06 pm.

/s/ Carrie Smith
Carrie Smith
County Administrator

/s/ Erica Jepson
Erica Jepson
Board Chair