

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE RED LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 12, 2025

Pursuant to adjournment of its last meeting, the Red Lake County Board of Commissioners duly met in regular session at the Courthouse in Red Lake Falls, MN on August 12, 2025, at 10:00 am.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Flage called the meeting to order. Commissioners present were Chuck Flage, Al Remick, Eric Mickelson, Tony Gerardy and Andy Moran. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Gerardy moved, seconded by Commissioner Remick, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda with the following additions:

- CAR 114 Ruts
- Recorder Certificate of Compliance

## **CITY OF PLUMMER**

Jim Duchamp, Mayor for the City of Plummer met with the board regarding the cost of millings on a recent bill. The Board discussed a billing adjustment with the city regarding excavation and the delivery of millings following a city project. The original bill included both hauling charges and a per-ton price for millings. After reviewing industry norms and considering the ongoing cooperative work between the County and municipalities (e.g., snow removal assistance), it was proposed to reduce the milling price from \$15 per ton (approximately \$24 per yard) to \$15 per yard. Commissioner Moran moved to approve the sale of millings to municipalities at \$15 per yard, Commissioner Gerardy seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

## **HIGHWAY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Board reviewed the Highway Department's striping contract under the District 2 Highway Safety Improvement Program. While the program covers white edge lines, yellow centerline striping was omitted from Hubbard County's bid package. To address this, the Highway Department sought separate quotes, with the low bid received from 3D Specialties for \$12,011.32. Commissioner Gerardy made a motion to approve the maintenance striping contract with 3D Specialties, Commissioner Mickelson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board discussed a concern raised by a local resident regarding ruts and drainage issues caused by mowing near his property, where dirt had previously been hauled in. Options considered included acquiring free or low-cost material for the County to place and grade with its own equipment or paying the landowner for the work to be completed externally. After discussion, the Board agreed it would be most cost-effective to use available County staff and equipment to fix the damage. Commissioner Mickelson made a motion to proceed with the County completing the work, Commissioner Gerardy seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

## **HR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Board reviewed options for Paid Family Medical Leave (PFML) coverage. Initially, Hartford provided a high quote, leading the County to consider MetLife. However, through further negotiation by the broker, Hartford presented a more competitive proposal with a guaranteed two-year rate, alignment with the state plan, and compatibility with the County's existing Hartford Life Insurance policy. Board members noted Hartford's positive track record and the advantage of keeping benefits streamlined with one provider. Following discussion, Commissioner Remick motioned to proceed with Hartford for PFML.

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coverage, contingent on a final review of an upcoming webinar, and Commissioner Mickelson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board also reviewed long-term disability insurance options, noting that Hartford matched the County's existing Sun Life plan and offered a two-year rate guarantee. This option aligns with Paid Family Medical Leave by providing a 90-day waiting period, ensuring coverage begins after PFML ends. The Board agreed this change would simplify benefits in administration while maintaining competitive rates. Commissioner Moran motioned to move to Hartford for long-term disability coverage, Commissioner Gerardy seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

### ENVIRONMENTAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Auditor Kelsey Gervais presented a Solid Waste Hauler License application on behalf of Kurt Casavan, Waste Masters DBA Les's Sanitation, for the operation of solid waste collection and transportation services within Red Lake County. Commissioner Gerardy moved, seconded by Commissioner Remick, to approve the license with an expiration date of December 31, 2025. Gervais also reported that the MPCA has not responded to the letter sent in July regarding the closure of landfill sites, and the board directed her to follow up with the MPCA to determine the cause of the delay.

### MINUTES

Commissioner Gerardy moved, seconded by Commissioner Moran, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the meeting on July 22, 2025.

### EXPENDITURES

Commissioner Mickelson moved, seconded by Commissioner Moran, and carried unanimously to approve the following expenditures for the period.

<b><u>Vendor</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
Geo-Comm Corporation	\$ 10,653.14
Minnesota Department of Transportation	\$ 4,954.25
North Central International LLC	\$ 21,482.38
Bonnie Pahlen	\$ 8,765.37
RJ Zavoral & Sons	\$130,682.57
Ryan's Backhoe Service	\$ 14,021.02
True North Surveys, P.A.	\$ 47,750.00
Tyler Technologies, Inc.	\$ 4,831.07
Vatthauer Farm Supply	\$ 29,283.93
28 Payments less than \$2,000	<u>\$ 12,471.52</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$284,895.25</b>

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Remick – Personnel Committee, Tri-County Corrections

Mickelson – Inter County Community Council

Gerardy – Red Lake County Soil and Water, Land Erosion Landowner Meeting

Moran – Personnel Committee, Tri-County Corrections, Land Erosion Landowner Meeting

Flage – Pennington & Red Lake County Public Health & Home Care,

Northwest Regional Development Commission

### AUDITOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Auditor Gervais presented the 2026 Extension Budget as recommended by the Red Lake County Extension Committee, noting an overall increase of 4.7 percent. Commissioner Mickelson moved, seconded by Commissioner Gerardy, to approve the budget in the amount of \$114,338. Gervais also presented a quote from AFRAN requesting the installation of two 220 GFCI breakers at Huot Park. Following discussion, the board agreed the County would cover half of the installation cost, with AFRAN responsible for the remaining half. In addition, Gervais reported that Joyce Paquin, Red Lake County Recorder and Registrar of Titles, is in compliance with Minnesota Statute 357.182, subdivisions 3 through 7, as required by state law.

### ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Gerardy, seconded by Commissioner Mickelson, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 12:40 p.m. The next regular meeting of the board is scheduled for Tuesday, August 26, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kelsey Gervais, County Auditor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chuck Flage, Chairman  
Board of Commissioner