

BOARD MEETING AS POSTED

BECKER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DATE: TUESDAY, August 18, 2026 at 8:15 am

LOCATION: Board Room, Courthouse

1. Meeting was brought to order by Chair Jepson. Commissioners in attendance: Jepson, Hansen, Meyer, Vareberg and Nelson, County Administrator Carrie Smith and minute taker Peggy Martin.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda/Minutes:

1. Agenda – Motion and second to approve the agenda (Meyer, Hansen) carried.
2. Minutes – Motion and second to approve minutes of August 4, 2026 with the requested changes (Meyer, Nelson) carried.

Consent Agenda

1. Motion and second to approve and accept the following Consent Agenda Items:
Auditor-Treasurer: Regular Claims, Auditor Warrants and Claims over 90 Days, Resolution 08-26-2G – Gambling Permit – LPA Baseball @ Roadhouse, Human Services: Regular Claims, Public Health, & Transit, Assessor: Abatements in the amount of \$1,504, Land Use: NRM: Approve Fall 2026 Timber Auction Packet, Award 2026 Bud Capping Bid to Thomas Forestry in the amount of \$13,110 (Meyer, Hansen) carried.

Commissioners:

1. Open Forum:
 - Matt Smith – Road Easement.
2. Reports and Correspondence: Reports were provided on the following meetings:
 - Commissioner Hansen – Election Canvass.
 - Commissioner Nelson – Election Canvass, Sheriff, NRM, Benefits.
 - Commissioner Meyer – LCSC, Sheriff, Dancing Sky, Historical Society, Partnership4Health.
 - Commissioner Vareberg – NRM, Human Services, Safety.
 - Commissioner Jepson – Human Services, Benefits.
3. Appointments.
 - None.

Land Use/NRM: presented by Steve Skoog and Mitch Lundeen.

1. Public/Private Easement Policy Discussion.
 - Bring back to the board a fee schedule and options for policy.

County Administrator: presented by Carrie Smith.

1. Report.
 - Jim Gottenborg, long time custodian passed away.
 - Mary is hosting the next Department Head/Commissioner Luncheon after the 2nd meeting in September.
 - Denial letter from Verizon for Bad Medicine cell tower was received.
 - 1st union negotiation has been scheduled.
 - Looking at systems for data requests.
 - Michelle Fischbach will be in Hawley on Friday at 2:00 pm.
 - Work Session at 8:30 am on August 24.
2. Blighted Properties Update.
 - Brandy Lake – Started seeing some improvement but it has regressed.
 - Spruce Grove – No progress or very little progress. Current civil and criminal case.
 - Acorn Lake – Process just starting.
 - Rock Lake – No progress. Sent to the County Attorney.
 - Ottertail River – Hopefully it will resolve itself.
3. Motion and second to approve Resolution 08-26-2B – Transferring Payroll functions from the Auditor-Treasurer Department to the Human Resources Department (Meyer, Nelson) carried.

Human Resources: presented by Teaira Christen.

1. Motion and second to approve Resolution 08-26-2A – Personnel Request – Part-Time to Full-Time Communications Officer (Nelson, Meyer) carried.
2. Motion and second to approve Resolution 08-26-2C – Life and long Term Disability Insurance recommendation with Lincoln Financial for the next 3 years (Nelson, Meyer) carried.
3. Motion and second to approve Resolution 08-26-2D – Dental Insurance Benefit Change to include the chosen option in the resolution (Meyer, Nelson) carried.
4. Motion by Hansen to approve Resolution 08-26-2E – Healthiest You Benefit. No second, motion dies. Bring option to union negotiations.
5. Motion and second to approve Resolution 08-26-2F – Split Medical/HSA/Cash in Lieu between 1st and 2nd Payroll effective December 1, 2026 (Hansen, Meyer) carried.

Sheriff: presented by Todd Glander and Jake Karasch.

1. Motion and second to approve the Disposal Request of a Jail Transport Vehicle at the sheriff's discretion to dispose of by public auction or vender credit (Meyer, Nelson) carried.
2. Motion and second to approve the Renewal Request of VESTA Agreement in the amount of \$162,755.36 for a 5-year contract paid through Minnesota E911 Funding (Meyer, Nelson) carried.

Being no further business, Board Chair Jepson adjourned the meeting at 10:48 am.

<u>/s/</u>	Carrie Smith	<u>/s/</u>	Erica Jepson
	Carrie Smith		Erica Jepson
	County Administrator		Board Chair