

The following are "unofficial minutes" subject to change at the next meeting.

BOARD OF PEMBINA COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS

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March 17, 2026

9:00 AM

Board of Pembina County Commissioners met in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Courthouse.

Chairperson Hardy called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Roll call: Patrick Hardy, Scot Becker, Blaine Papenfuss, Darin Otto, Andrew Cull. A quorum was declared.

Also, in attendance were: Zelda Hartje.

Motion made by Darin Otto and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to approve the agenda with the addition of Kelly Cluchie's outside employment. All voting in favor; motion carried.

The public comment portion was started at 9:02 AM.

The public comment portion was closed at 9:18 AM.

Motion made by Scot Becker and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to approve the March 3rd, 2026 meeting minutes. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Darin Otto to award the low bid for project BRC-BRJ-3400(051) to Gladen Construction Inc. and authorize Chairman Hardy to sign the resolution for \$704,086.50 for the Hensel box culvert replacement. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Scot Becker to move the date to get something placed on the agenda to the Wednesday before the commission meeting with a noon cutoff time. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Andrew Cull and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to approve Kelly Cluchie's outside employment of assistant baseball coach. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Zelda Hartje, Administrator of the Pembina County Museum, requested a letter of support from the commission for the funding of the Winters Harvest Education Center. She stated by 2024 the site had 14 buildings, a community orchard and the Veteran's

Memorial. She stated the museum complex was intended to highlight the region's agricultural heritage. She stated the focus expanded significantly when Loren and Lynette Winter of Fullerton, North Dakota approached the society about donating Loren's combine collection. He was offering 13 restored field ready combines ranging in models from the 50's and 60's. He was told they didn't have the space. He then offered to give the museum a building to store them in. The board approved it and the Winter's Harvest Building was constructed. It now houses all of his combines and several other pieces of harvest equipment. Loren and Lynette then shared another vision of having an education center telling a broader story of how human civilization has advanced alongside our ability to feed ourselves through agricultural mechanization. In essence, it would present the story of wheat from planting to harvest across the centuries. With that vision, the concept of the Winter's Harvest Education Center was born. This facility will include classroom space, advanced multimedia capabilities, an area for community gatherings and events accommodating up to 150 people and a research library of agricultural resources. Lynette Winters also plans to develop a curriculum. The curriculum would allow the center to partner with public schools, homeschool families, 4H clubs, FFA chapters, and other groups in Pembina County and beyond. Zelda handed out formal request letters to each commissioner and the auditor from the Pembina County Historical Society. Zelda stated this has been in the works for approximately three years. Motion by Andrew Cull and seconded by Darin Otto to approve and sign a letter of support. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Commission reviewed the February financial report and claims. Motion made Blaine Papenfuss and by Scot Becker to approve the consent agenda as presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Blaine Papenfuss to adjourn the meeting. All voting in favor; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 AM.