PROCEEDINGS OF THE RED LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 13, 2026

Pursuant to adjournment of its last meeting, the Red Lake County Board of Commissioners met in the Courthouse in Red Lake Falls, MN on August 13, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. Members present: Al Remick, Chuck Flage, Tony Gerardy and Andy Moran. Members absent: Eric Mickelson

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Remick, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Vice Chairman asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Hearing none Commissioner Gerardy motioned to approve the agenda as presented with Commissioner Flage offering a second. Motion Carried

Kelsey Gervais, County Auditor, administered the Oath of Office to appointed Red Lake County Attorney Alex Dillabough. A copy of the oath was recorded and filed in the Recorder's Office.

Megan Lysford, Northwest Regional Library Director, met with the Board to request a 3% increase in the County's 2027 apportionment. Lysford cited increased material costs, including the closure of a primary book vendor, in support of the request. Commissioner Flage moved, seconded by Commissioner Moran, to approve the 3% increase in the library's apportionment. The motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Mitch Bernstein met with the Board to request approval to hire an additional part-time dispatcher to increase flexibility and reduce overtime costs. Commissioner Gerardy moved to approve the request with a starting wage of $24.35 per hour. Commissioner Moran seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Tanya Waldo, District Manager of the Red Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District, presented the 2027 Proposed Budget and provided project updates. Following discussion, Commissioner Gerardy moved to approve the proposed budget, which included a 3% increase. Commissioner Flage seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Kurt Casavan, Environmentalist, met with the Board to express significant concerns regarding the DNR's continued issuance of permits for irrigation pivots, particularly in light of previous warnings from the DNR regarding water depletion and the designation of the county's aquifer as an area of concern. Casavan will contact the DNR and request that a representative attend a future Board meeting to discuss these concerns.

Taylor Amiot, County Engineer, presented the Board with MnDOT Agreement No. 1061837, which provides for the use of County State Aid Highway No. 12 and County State Aid Highway No. 1 as a detour route during construction to be performed upon, along, and adjacent to Trunk Highway No. 92, two miles east of Trunk Highway No. 32, under State Project No. 6304-15. Commissioner Moran moved to approve the agreement, seconded by Commissioner Gerardy. The motion carried unanimously. Amiot also presented **Resolution 08-01-2026** to accept payment in the amount of $1,095.03 for the use of the detour. Commissioner Flage moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Gerardy. The motion carried unanimously.

Amiot provided the Board with an updated Culvert Policy outlining new and existing approaches for County Aid and State Aid Roads. After discussion, Commissioner Gerardy moved to approve the updated policy, contingent upon legal review, with Commissioner Moran seconding the motion. A copy of the updated policy is available at the Highway Department and on the County's website.

Amiot also provided the Board with an update on required repairs to the department's pickup trucks, as well as potential equipment purchases that are not currently included in the department's budget. The Board discussed the anticipated repair and equipment needs and the potential costs associated with these items.

Commissioner Flage, seconded by Commissioner Moran, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the meeting on July 28, 2026.

Commissioner Gerardy moved, seconded by Commissioner Flage, and carried unanimously to approve the following expenditures for the period:

Vendor	**Amount**
Davidson Construction	$600,421.85
H&L Mesabi	$ 8,498.00
Heppner Consulting Inc	$ 45,407.32
North Central international LLC	$ 3,366.17
Red Lake County Co-op	$ 5,324.79
Ryan's Backhoe Service	$ 2,700.00
Stones Mobile Radio Inc	$ 5,111.54
26 Payments less than $2000	$ 12,569.55
TOTAL	**$683,399.22**

COMMITTEE REPORTS
Flage – None
Gerardy – Red Lake County Soil and Water
Moran – Tri-County Community Corrections
Remick – Alluma, Tri-County Community Corrections, Red Lake County Affordable Housing

Auditor Kelsey Gervais presented five quotes for a 3-ton mini-split heat pump system for the courtroom. Commissioner Moran moved to accept the quote from Adams Heating & Cooling in the amount of $10,117, seconded by Commissioner Gerardy. The motion carried.

Gervais also presented two quotes for the electrical portion of the mini-split installation. Commissioner Gerardy moved to accept the quote from Sparkey Electric, Inc. in the amount of $1,225, seconded by Commissioner Flage. The motion carried, with Commissioner Remick abstaining.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gerardy, seconded by Commissioner Flage, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 12:12 p.m. The next regular meeting of the board is scheduled for Tuesday, August 25, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Attest:_____
Kelsey Gervais, County Auditor

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Eric Mickelson, Chairman
Board of Commissioner