PROCEEDINGS OF THE RED LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 22, 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 September 22, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. Members present: Al Remick, Chuck Flage, Tony Gerardy, Andy Moran and Eric Mickelson. Members absent: None.

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

The Chairman asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Human Resources Director Angie Lundeen requested the addition of Donated Leave. Motion by Commissioner Remick, seconded by Commissioner Moran, to approve the agenda with the addition as presented. Motion carried.

Taylor Amiot, County Engineer, requested board approval of the Certificate of Final Acceptance for the Plummer Project (SAP 063-624-001, SAP 063-652-006, and SAP 063-594-003), confirming completion of the project and authorizing final payment. Motion by Commissioner Gerardy, seconded by Commissioner Flage, to approve the certificate. Motion carried. Amiot also provided personnel and project updates, including ongoing road construction, remaining project punch-list items, and planned asphalt repairs. The board discussed rising fuel costs and the possibility of reducing road blading from four days to three days per week to control expenses. No decision was made, and the board will continue to monitor fuel costs and road maintenance needs.

Girma Feyissa of MnDOT and Tim Burkhardt and Mike Kondziolka of Alliant Engineering, Inc., presented an overview of the Red Lake County Road Safety Plan update. The presenters explained the proactive approach to identifying roadway safety risks using crash data and roadway characteristics, with a focus on reducing fatal and serious injury crashes. Lane departure crashes, curves, and intersections were identified as key areas of concern. The updated plan will prioritize locations for safety improvements and recommend potential countermeasures and cost estimates. The plan will also help the County pursue Highway Safety Improvement Program funding, which generally provides 90% federal funding with a 10% local match, with opportunities for 100% funding on certain multi-county or district-wide projects.

Commissioner Flage moved, seconded by Commissioner Gerardy, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the meeting on September 8, 2026.

Human Resources Director Angie Lundeen requested preliminary approval to solicit donated leave for an employee with an FMLA request due to a family member's serious health condition, pending confirmation of Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) eligibility. The Board discussed the donated leave process and applicable limits. Commissioner Moran motioned to approve the request contingent upon PFML status with Commissioner Gerardy offering a second.

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

Vendor	**Amount**
Eide Bailly LLP	$ 5,695.84
Election Systems & Software Inc.	$ 4,494.44
Red Lake County Co-op	$ 2,828.54
Stantec Consulting Services Inc.	$ 5,426.40
TrueNorth Steel, Inc.	$ 2,511.01

16 Payments less than $2000	$ 7,472.03
TOTAL	**$27,428.26**

COMMITTEE REPORTS
Remick – Northwest Regional Emergency Radio Board, Tri-County Corrections
Flage – Transportation Advisory Council, Northwest Regional Transportation Coordination Council, Pennington and Red Lake Public Health and Home Care
Gerardy – Red Lake County Soil and Water
Moran – Tri-County Corrections, Red Lake Watershed District 1 Watershed 1 Plan Advisory Board
Mickelson – None

Auditor Kelsey Gervais presented the Board with worksheets outlining the proposed 2027 County budget and levy options. It was noted that the preliminary levy cannot be increased when the final levy is adopted; however, the budget may be adjusted as needed before final adoption in December 2026. Following discussion, the Board agreed to a $642,400 increase, noting that a significant portion of the increase is attributable to wages, including new hires and replacement of retiring employees, increased fuel and supply costs, and reduced County revenue. Motion by Commissioner Gerardy, seconded by Commissioner Moran, to approve the resolution establishing the proposed 2027 levy increase of 13.69% and approving the County budget as presented. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Red Lake County Board of Commissioners have reviewed the 2027 budgets submitted by the various departments; and
WHERAS, the proposed levies have been reduced by the amount to be received from the State of Minnesota for the following: County Program Aid - $611,804
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the proposed budgets for 2027 are approved and that the following proposed levies be adopted:

	Levy Before CPA	CPA*	Net Levy After CPA
Revenue	3,996,614	411,154	3,585,460
Road and Bridge	1,431,272	147,242	1,284,030
Welfare	519,157	53,408	465,749
Totals	5,947,043	611,804	5,335,239

Gervais informed the Board that the annual Truth in Taxation meeting must be scheduled and held in person between November 25 and December 28. The Board set the meeting for Thursday, December 10, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Courthouse Courtroom.

Gervais requested Board approval of a revision to the 2026 Meal and Expense Reimbursement Policy to reflect the increase in the IRS mileage reimbursement rate for employees and officials using personal vehicles for County business from 72.5 to 76.0 cents per mile, effective July 1, 2026. Following discussion, Commissioner Flage made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Remick, to approve the revised policy. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Remick, seconded by Commissioner Moran, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m. The next regular meeting of the board is scheduled for Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Attest:_____
Kelsey Gervais, County Auditor

_____
Eric Mickelson, Chairman
Board of Commissioner