



MEETING OF THE BISMARCK-BURLEIGH COMMISSIONS COMMITTEE

4/7/2026 - MINUTES

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Mayor Schmitz called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. Those present included Bismarck City Administrator Jason Tomanek, Bismarck City Mayor Mike Schmitz, Burleigh County Auditor Mark Splonskowski. Burleigh County Commissioner Steve Bakken attended the meeting via Teams.

2. [Public Comment](#)

No public comment was received.

3. Consider approval of minutes

Auditor Splonskowski moved to approve the minutes as presented and Commissioner Bakken seconded. Upon a roll call vote, all voted aye. M/C.

4. Update on Provident Building Renovation Project

Mary Senger, Burleigh County Emergency Manager, reported that the renovations at the Provident Building are on schedule, and that the County will need to continue the first floor lease and IT contract for one more year through December 2027. The estimated project completion date is the end of 2027.

5. Public Health 2027 Budget Discussion

Mayor Schmitz opened discussion of the Public Health budget for 2027. Commissioner Bakken indicated that he did not foresee a change in the County's contribution of 25% for 2027, but noted that he could not speak for the Burleigh County Commission. Renae Moch, Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health Director, indicated that she is able to proceed with budget preparations knowing the percent the County will be contributing.

6. Burleigh County Emergency Management Building Lease Agreement

Mary Senger, Burleigh County Emergency Manager, explained to the Committee that Burleigh County Emergency Management plans to leave the DCN facility and move to the Provident Building as floors are finished with construction. Ms. Senger indicated that the County intends to leave all equipment and technology that is not portable, but take portable furnishings to the new County EOC.

Gary Stockert, City of Bismarck Emergency Manager, presented information that he coordinated securing the Homeland Security grant funds that were used to purchase the portable items such as chairs, tables, and whiteboards, that the County intends to remove from the facility. Mr. Stockert provided documentation that explained his involvement, and asserts that referring to the items as County property is misleading. Mr. Stockert explained that Debbie LaCombe, the North Dakota State Grant Manager, had set up the pass-through grant through a previously established Burleigh County grant, rather than create a new record exclusively for the City of Bismarck. This decision resulted in an inaccurate representation of which organization originally performed the work to procure the items needed to establish the shared Emergency Operations Center space.

Ms. LaCombe let the Committee know the federal rules for equipment purchased with grant funds and explained that ownership can be transferred between government entities.

Auditor Splonskowski suggested exploring ways the City and County could negotiate a trade agreement for items both sides agree were County purchases.

Commissioner Bakken noted that the initial meeting with Administrator Tomanek was to begin negotiation and the intent would be to find an agreeable solution for both sides. Commissioner Bakken noted that the attorneys from both the City and the County need to meet to negotiate on how to divide the items.

Administrator Tomanek explained that the item was added to the agenda so that transparency could be maintained between the City and County on the topic.

Mayor Schmitz raised concerns about removing portable equipment that the current facility still needs to operate and emphasized following the legal requirements tied to the grants. Mayor Schmitz recommended finding a balanced solution between the City and County.

The general consensus of the group is to have the City and County attorneys engage in discussion to find a resolution.

7. Other Business

Commissioner Bakken let the Committee know that Burleigh County is discussing issues related to UTV use causing damage on public and private property throughout the County. The County is working on a long-term resolution with the State of North Dakota and a private riding club to develop a formal trail system funded by the State. He would like to start discussions with the City as some of the trails would need connections through or near City limits, and would like to work with the City to determine suitable routes.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:26 PM.