



## MEETING OF THE BISMARCK-BURLEIGH COMMISSIONS COMMITTEE

6/2/2026 - MINUTES

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Mayor Schmitz called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. Those present included Bismarck City Administrator Jason Tomanek, Bismarck City Mayor Mike Schmitz, and Burleigh County Commissioner Steve Bakken. Burleigh County Auditor Mark Splonskowski was absent.

2. [Public Comment](#)

No public comment was received.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

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

4. Burleigh County Emergency Management Building Lease Agreement

The Committee discussed the Burleigh County Emergency Management Building Lease Agreement, focusing on the complexities involving the joint lease shared by the City of Bismarck, Burleigh County, and the City of Mandan. State's Attorney Julie Lawyer reported receiving updated information, including reference to a 2004 Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) that outlines the budget split to be 65% to Bismarck and 35% to Burleigh County. Discussion continued from the last meeting on property ownership, including items that were purchased through federal grants under Burleigh county, and how the property will be divided as Burleigh County Emergency Management vacates the building. Attorney Lawyer noted that the lease agreement makes all parties jointly and severally liable. This raises concerns about potential financial obligations when Burleigh County exits the agreement. Attorney Lawyer and City Attorney Julie Mees will review the JPA and discuss the terms that are unclear at this time. Staff will work together to clarify responsibilities and propose recommendations prior to the July Committee meeting, calling for a special meeting if necessary. It was the consensus of the group to resolve the matter promptly due to the upcoming budget process and Burleigh County Emergency Management's imminent move-out from leased space.

5. 2027 Budget

A. Public Health

The Public Health budget request for 2027 reflects a minor increase of less than 1% overall, resulting in roughly a \$4,000 rise in Burleigh County's share. Burleigh County noted that the 25% contribution of the total Public Health budget will remain unchanged for 2027.

B. Burleigh/Morton Detention Center

The budget for the Burleigh/Morton Detention Center was not available for review but is expected to be available in the next few days. Burleigh County staff will forward the information to City staff.

C. City/County 1st Floor Lease Agreement

Burleigh County intends to continue its lease at the City/County Building through the end of 2027. City staff indicated the current rental rate would not change for 2027.

D. Burleigh County Courthouse Lease Agreement

Burleigh County staff indicated the current rental rate for the Municipal Courtroom would not change for 2027.

E. IT Services Agreement

Mary Senger indicated that she worked with City IT Director Tandra Kraft on a contract that will be amended to reflect a reduction in Burleigh County devices on the network.

6. Other Business

- A. Commissioner Bakken offered information on the primary election on June 9, 2026.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:21 PM.