

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
RICE COUNTY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Commissioner's Room / Government Services Building
Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 8:30 AM**

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(At each Committee of the Whole Work Session meeting, the floor will be open to solicit public comments on items on the agenda after they are presented. A Comment Card will need to be filled out in order to speak about any of the items. Public comments will be limited to (3) minutes for each person, subject to the discretion of the County Board Chairperson) Gerry was the chair.

II. PROPERTY TAX & ELECTIONS: Denise Anderson

A. Circle Lake, Rice County, Annual Report to the County Board for 2025 and outlook into 2026

III. ASSESSOR'S OFFICE: Joshua Schoen

A. Josh Schoen gave updates regarding the Assessor's office.

IV. ADULT SERVICES: Megan Thomas

A. Megan Thomas gave a brief overview of updates in the Adult Services Department.

V. PUBLIC HEALTH/NURSING: Deb Purfeerst

A. Rice County Safe Roads Coalition-TZD updates presentation

B. Public Health Updates for 2025 Community Health Assessment Community Meeting and Improvement Planning.

VI. HIGHWAY: Dennis Luebbe

A. Highway updates on Construction Projects. County Road 50, they ran into some issues with pocket sylts. County Road 78 ran into some bedrock that they will have to have excavated. Richmond Bridge funding came in. The County Road 11 slope fix project. The bids came in higher than they wanted. Need to reevaluate and come back. The County Road 20 Menards/Dundas project has run into a few challenges with transmission line issues, alignment pushes into wetlands, and soils. Need to investigate the cost differences. Highway funding time, needing new funding for more projects. County Rd 46 needs one layer of asphalt, minor ditch grading, and should be completed by mid-October. The fuel grid project is looking to be something that will be pushed into early spring 2026.

Parks involving Shager Park, ADA Improvements, and Trailhead signs are going up at three different parks. The MNDOT crew is putting up signage to identify parks. A Regional Park application was done for a survey for Cannon River Wilderness Park. The Attorney's Office is updating park rules.

VII. FINANCE: Paula O'Connell

A. Preliminary Levy Discussion with the Rice County Commissioners. Final approval will be in December at the last meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Steve Underdahl, to adjourn the meeting.

RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None