

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
RICE COUNTY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Commissioner's Room / Government Services Building
Tuesday, February 3, 2026, 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 must be filled out to discuss any of the items. Public comments will be limited to (3) minutes for each person, subject to the discretion of the County Board Chairperson)

II. FACILITIES: Chris Kluge

- A. Chris Kluge presented what's taking place in the facilities department. The Northfield Satellite office reception area is now complete. They have added a card reader to the doors. The Government Services Building is complete. The Courthouse Key Project will start soon. A brief review of the remodeled area for the Community Corrections office and the lower 911 Dispatch offices was discussed. The upper level of the Community Corrections is still waiting for the doors and frames to arrive so it can complete that project. They are a little behind, but the project is coming in under budget. All painting in the upper level has been completed. Lower-Level Dispatch — Metcon is doing the project, and it's right on schedule. Cabinets are to be installed this week, and electricity will go out for bids on Thursday. The project is to be completed by mid-April. The conservation building will have repairs done in two weeks. Roof replacement will start after all repairs have been made. An elevator discussion took place between the Government Services Building and the old Law Enforcement Center Building. The elevators are not up to code. They are given up to 5 years to get them up to code. This will allow time for finding funding. The Courthouse Chimney had two boiler pipes fail. They are looking into a better solution to fix this problem at the least cost. The Commissioners requested that a 911 staff tour be scheduled.

III. HIGHWAY: Dennis Luebbe

- A. The Highway 20 project was brought back before the Commissioners to decide which direction Dennis Luebbe and his department should take, based on the 10-year transportation plan being approved at an upcoming Board meeting. All commissioners approved combining the projects. However, it was requested that the trail project be pushed back a year to provide a deeper dive into the trail's policy. There is a lot more work that needs to be done, and it looks like this will be brought back to the Commissioners at a later date.

Public Comment:

Francis Haan, a Rice County resident, is a landowner on County Road 20 and opposes putting on the trail.

Mick Canedy, Rice County resident, opposes the trail.

Ingrid Coun, a Rice County resident, opposes the trail due to the ditch and the amount of land it would take.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Charlie Peters, to adjourn the meeting.

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