

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE CITY COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF DEVILS LAKE, ND
JULY 28, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Devils Lake City Commission was held on July 28, 2026, with the following members present: President Moe and Commissioners Hach and Pierce. Commissioner Uhlenkamp and Knowski were absent.

MEETING ITEMS

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) 2027 Budget
 - a. Property Tax Levy Calculations

The City Auditor gave an update on how the mill levy dollars are calculated and what the amount we can levy for 2027 budget is. He said that the property tax cap levy is 3%, which would leave the max dollars levied at \$2,252,466, which is a mill rate of 88.67 if the max dollars are levied.

- b. Cost of Living Adjustment

The City Auditor said that at the last meeting we had a 3% placeholder for cost of living, but it has been changed to 4% as a placeholder.

- c. Airport

The City Auditor said that the airport is looking to get 2.5 mills in 2027 instead of 2.2 mills. 2.2 mills would be \$55,885 and 2.5 mills would be \$63,508. Commissioner Pierce said that the mill was agreed upon when the fire department took over ARFF. Dennis Olson, Chairman, said that this was agreed, but they also agreed on a \$20,000 deduction on the lease for the city shops. It was mentioned that the County is hoping to stay where it currently is, but if it does increase, we can estimate \$3,000. The City Auditor said that he believes the state airline tax could still increase, but the airport authority would like to keep it at \$13,000. On the expense side, health insurance is budgeted with a 10% increase, with the hope that it will not come in this high.

Dennis said that the Airport is in the position right now where Federal dollars are lagging, so they have been asked to pay the bill for a project that they have going on. The amount would be around \$134,000. He said that they have the funds available to do this and they will apply for reimbursement from the state, who would reimburse 50%. They also purchased a fire truck from South Dakota that is in the process of being renewed, which will cost roughly \$60,000 and they will apply for reimbursement for that from the state as well.

d. Library

The City Auditor said that the library gets a 3% increase on the mill dollars instead of a certain number of mills. The library is unsure what the County is going to do this year, so budgeted is a 1.5% increase.

On the expense side, the healthcare is reduced due to staffing levels, but it does include a 10% increase.

Shawna, the Library Director, said that they need a full roof replacement. They have received one estimate and that came in at around \$65,000. It was recommended that this be completed before winter, but it will need to be replaced this year or next year.

e. Economic Development/JDA/Growth Fund

The City Auditor said that economic development budget is standard and consistent year after year. The only concern is constantly running in a deficit, and the fund balance is starting to get low.

The City Auditor said that the Jobs Development Authority will stay at 2 mills for 2027, with most of the dollars going to Forward Devils Lake.

The City Auditor said that the Growth Fund is mainly sales tax driven and there could be some flexibility if needed.

3) 2027 Budget Meeting and Public Hearing Schedule

The City Auditor said that the meeting on Monday can start early, either 4 or 4:30, to go through general fund. There will be a special meeting on August 5th at noon to go through the enterprise funds. If preliminary is not approved on August 5th, there will be a special meeting held on Friday, August 7th for approval.

4) Authorize 2026 Collection Toto RFP

Commissioner Hach made a motion to approve the 2026 collection tote RFP. Commissioner Pierce seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously on a roll call vote.

ROB JOHNSON
INTERIM CITY AUDITOR/CITY ASSESSOR

JIM MOE
PRESIDENT OF CITY COMMISSION