

Base Retention & Investment Committee
Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Welcome from Mayor Bochenski

Civic Leaders – *Barry Wilfahrt*

Attended Air Power Forum in January in Washington DC

Heard from Gen. Wilsbach while in DC. Heard that Air Force will be commander driven. From Base Commanders to pilots in cockpits.

Air Force is still striving for 80% readiness.

Small Drone incursion is a real issue that needs to be dealt with.

Opportunity to host B21 bombers in the future is still on the table.

Had a conversation with GFAFB
Point Defense Battle Lab is a 1st priority.
Air Force operations involve Space operations

Military Affairs Committee – *Tim Haddock*

The State of the Base address will be March 31, 2026.

February 18th, there will be a veteran's job fair

Grand Forks County – *Gracie Lian*

Received an update on the Compatible Use Study from Casey Bartholomew of Matrix Design Group.

The HIVE is getting a lot of questions from the industry.

General Atomics – work on TRMC is accelerating. There is a growing need for more space.

Northrup Grumman – Have a handshake agreement regarding Range Hawks for 4 more aircraft. Working on Counter UAS Systems. Looking at added another hanger.

University of North Dakota – *Scott Snyder, Mark Askelson*

Doing a lot of work around the Point Defense Battle Lab

GF Public Schools – Dr. Terry Brenner

Twining school construction on base will get started this spring.

Valley Middle School opened in January.

State of North Dakota – Sen. Barta, Sen. Meyer, Erin Roesler, Mary Christy

Vantis' radar is close to approval from the FAA.

Received various updates from the Special Session of the ND Legislature.

Keeping a close eye on state revenues and it's impacts on future state budgets.

Economic Development – Keith Lund

Continuing to receive interest from both industry and individuals from the 2025 UAS Summit.

Working to have summer camps at the Career Impact Academy.

Federal Delegation –Randy Richards Sadie Hanson

Sen. Cramer has several meetings with the U.S. Air Force in the coming days.

Rep. Fedorchak spent the month of January doing in district meetings.

Base Consultants – Dave Deptula

Looking forward to hosting representatives from Grand Forks at the Pentagon in March.

City of Grand Forks – Todd Feland, Mayor Bochenski

Continuing to work with United Airlines on potential flights in and out of GFK.

Construction continues on the Altru Sports Complex. Council approved the bid package for Phase II on February 2nd. Will see how the bids come back in March.

Housing needs is a concern for City officials. City Council President, Dana Sande, is looking to lead a housing study to dive into the issue deeper.

*The 2026 UAS Summit has been confirmed for October 13-14.

Next Meeting

April 1, 2026

8:00 am

The Hive Executive Board Room