

Douglas County Commissioner Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2025

PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT The Board of County Commissioners met at the Douglas County Courthouse in Armour, SD at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 16, 2025. Members present were Dan Koedam, Marlin Maas, Lori Sparks, Jerod Star and Jim Werkmeister. Auditor Phyllis Barker was also present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A motion was made by Maas and seconded by Koedam to adopt the agenda. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Star and seconded by Koedam to enter executive session at 9:06 a.m. pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1). All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried. Chairperson Sparks declared the meeting back to open session at 9:28 a.m. with no action taken.

OTHER BUSINESS

Deric Denning, Attorney with Morgan Theeler, met with the Board for discussion. No action was taken.

2026 BUDGET

The following changes were made since the publication of the 2026 Provisional Budget: Veterans Service Officer expenditures increased by \$1,000.00 for a total budget of \$10,000.00. Sheriff's Department Expenditures increased by \$63,000 for a total budget of \$493,050.00.

The final growth percentage for the County came in above what was estimated in the Provisional Budget, resulting in the following changes:

General Fund Cash Applied increased to \$636,116 and the General Fund Property Taxes levies increased to \$2,181,168.00.

The Road and Bridge Fund Cash Applied decreased to \$72,347 and the Property taxes levies increased to \$945,706.00.

A motion was made by Werkmeister and seconded by Koedam to approve the changes to the 2026 Budget and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 2025-07
ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL BUDGET

WHEREAS, (7-21-5 THRU 13) SDCL provides that the Board of County Commissioners shall each year prepare a Provisional Budget of all contemplated expenditures and revenues of the County and all the institutions and agencies for such fiscal year and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners did prepare a Provisional Budget and cause same to be published by law, and

WHEREAS, due and legal notice has been given to the meeting of the Board of County Commissioners for the consideration of such Provisional Budget and all changes, eliminations and additions have been made thereto,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that such provisional budget as amended and all its purposes, schedules, appropriations, amounts, estimates and all matters therein set forth, SHALL BE APPROVED AND ADOPTED AS THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURES FOR Douglas County, South Dakota and all its institutions and agencies for calendar year beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026 and the same is hereby approved and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of Douglas County, South Dakota, this the 16th

day of September, 2025. The Annual Budget so adopted is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the office of the County Auditor, Douglas County, South Dakota. The accompanying taxes are levied by Douglas County for the year January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026.

GENERAL FUND: \$2,181,168.00 at 2.768 per \$1,000 of Valuation.

ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND: \$945,706.00 at 1.200 per \$1,000 of Valuation.

Total taxes Levied by County: \$3,126,874.00 at 3.968 per \$1,000 of Valuation.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Douglas County, South Dakota
Lori Sparks, Chairperson
Jerod Star, Commissioner
Dan Koedam, Commissioner
Jim Werkmeister, Commissioner
Marlin Maas, Commissioner

ATTEST: Phyllis Barker, County Auditor

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Brad Ellwanger, Highway Superintendent, and Callie Nichols, Assistant Highway Superintendent, met with the Board to provide an update on their department.

A motion was made by Maas seconded by Star to approve the approach application submitted by Red Sparks for the purpose of widening an existing approach on 284th St. in Independence township. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

A motion was made by Star and seconded by Werkmeister to increase Tucker Hawley's wage to \$24.00 per hour after the completion of his sixth month probation effective with October payroll. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

A motion was made by Koedam and seconded by Maas to hire Jefferson Grosz as a part-time/ as needed snow removal employee for the winter months at a rate of \$25.00 per hour. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Maas and seconded by Werkmeister to enter executive session at 10:45 a.m. pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1). All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried. Chairperson Sparks declared the meeting back to open session at 11:30 a.m.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter from Kone Elevators was reviewed by the Board stating that the price of elevator maintenance will increase by \$50.86 effective in October 2025. No formal action was necessary.

PLAT APPROVAL

A motion was made by Werkmeister and seconded by Star authorizing the Chairperson to sign the Plat of Bietz Tract 2 in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 10, T 98 N, R 62 W of the 5th P.M., Douglas County, South Dakota. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

FEES REPORT (August 2025)
Register of Deeds Fees: \$3,922.00
Clerk of Courts Fees: \$2,948.33

AUDITORS ACCOUNT WITH THE COUNTY TREASURER: August 2025

Checking Accounts	\$1,5034.38
Cash on Hand.....	\$500.00
Petty Cash.....	\$400.00
Un-deposited receipts.....	\$22,684.73
Preferred Checking	\$3,198,595.00
Certificate of Deposits	\$100,000.00
Total	\$3,323,214.11

FUND BALANCE

General Fund	\$2,253,907.11
Special Revenue Funds	\$875,297.66
Tax Increment District Fund.....	\$5,625.20
Trust and Agency Funds	\$188,384.14
Total	\$3,323,214.11

CLAIMS

The following claims were approved for payment:

GENERAL FUND

Agland Coop 262.10 gas; Armour Chronicle 368.64 publishing; City of Armour 138.00 utilities; Axon Enterprises 17,509.77 equipment; Phyllis Barker 284.46 travel; Buhl's Dry Cleaners 153.50 supplies; Cardmember Services 1732.70 prof fees/supplies/repairs; Charles Mix Co. Sheriff's Office 1080.00 prof fees; Corsica Globe 368.64 publishing; Corsica Hardware 22488.88 repairs; Darrington Water 16.00 supplies; Douglas Electric 579.33 utilities; AT&T Mobility 33.26 utilities; Kim Huenber 28.00 travel; Hughes Co. Finance Office 115.00 jail fees; Kimberly Klein 233.74 travel; Carolyn Lau 242.40 travel; Marlin Maas 241.00 travel; McLeod's Office Supply 350.17 supplies; Microfilm Imaging Systems 100.00 rental fees; Midwest Concrete 4595.00 repairs; Nextraq 46.00 utilities; Northwestern Energy 1549.52 utilities; Nutrien Ag Solutions 360.00 supplies; Office Products Center 519.20 supplies; Randall Community Water Dist. 136.80 utilities; Select Service Center 200.00 repairs; Jerod Star 58.00 travel; TEAM Laboratory Chemical Corp. 387.86 supplies; Two-Trees Technologies 1730.25 prof fees; Van Brothers 65.96 utilities; Wilson's Hardware 85.74 supplies; Nathan Wunder 6327.15 repairs.

ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND

Agland Coop 8004.30 diesel; City of Armour 63.00 utilities; C&B Operations 45.08 repairs; Cardmember Services 84.96 prof fees; Douglas County Electric 74.24 utilities; ECONO Signs 1000.01 repairs; Fousek Truck Service 2004.90 repairs/supplies; Gregory Co. Highway Dept. 91.20 repairs; Midwest Concrete 4595.00 repairs; Nextraq 132.65 utilities; Northwestern Energy 41.04 utilities; Office Products Center 56.00 supplies; SD Dept. of Transportation 7306.26 bridge inspections; Two-Trees Technologies 249.45 prof fees; Vogt's Repair 65.96 supplies; Wilson's Hardware 73.51 supplies.

E911 FUND

Midstate Communications 440.11 E911 System; Santel Communications 30.00 E911 System.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND

Two-Trees Technologies 153.15 prof fees.

MODERNIZATION AND PRESERVATION FUND

Microfilm Imaging Systems 237.50 rental fees.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:10 p.m. a motion was made by Werkmeister and seconded by Star to adjourn until the next meeting to be held at 9:00 a.m. on October 7, 2025. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

SIGNED: _____

Lori Sparks, Chairperson
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST: _____

Phyllis Barker, Auditor