

**Douglas County Commissioner Meeting Minutes**  
**February 3, 2026**

**PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT** The Board of County Commissioners met at the Douglas County Courthouse in Armour, SD at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 3, 2026. The 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 Star and seconded by Werkmeister to adopt the agenda. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Werkmeister and seconded by Koedam to approve the minutes from the January 6<sup>th</sup> and January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes with minor corrections. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

**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 Star and seconded by Werkmeister to accept Tucker Hawley's resignation effective February 10, 2026, and to authorize the Highway Superintendent to advertise for one full-time Highway Maintenance employee. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

**Bridge Inspections**

A motion was made by Maas and seconded by Koedam to introduce the following resolution. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.:.

**RESOLUTION #2026-03**

**BRIDGE REINSPECTION PROGRAM RESOLUTION FOR USE WITH SDDOT RETAINER CONTRACTS**

WHEREAS, 23 CFR 650 Subpart C, requires initial inspection of all bridges and reinspection at intervals not to exceed two years with the exception of reinforced concrete box culverts that meet specific criteria. These culverts are reinspected at intervals not to exceed four years.

THEREFORE, Douglas County is desirous of participating in the Bridge Inspection Program.

The County requests SDDOT to hire Brosz Engineering for the inspection work. SDDOT will secure federal approvals, make payments to the Consulting Engineer for inspection services rendered, and bill the County for 20% of the cost. The County will be responsible for the required 20% matching funds.

Dated this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February 2026, at Armour, South Dakota.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lori Sparks  
Chairperson, Douglas County Board of Commissioners

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phyllis Barker, County Auditor

**SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

Chris Lau, Sheriff, met with the Board to present a quote for a 2026 Ford Interceptor patrol vehicle. A motion was made by Werkmeister and seconded by Star authorizing the purchase of a 2026 Ford Interceptor off the state bid for \$43,571.00. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

#### **STATES ATTORNEY**

Rachel Mairose, Deputy States Attorney, met with the Board to provide feedback on the proposed Personnel Policy updates. Discussion was held with no action taken at this time.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Star and seconded by Werkmeister to enter executive session at 10:18 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 10:26 a.m. with no action taken.

#### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Pat Harrington, Emergency Manager, met with the Board to present a draft of the updated Local Emergency Operations Plan. Discussion was held with no action needed at this time.

#### **DIRECTOR OF EQUALIZATION**

Jessica Goehring, Director of Equalization, met with the Board.

A motion was made by Maas and seconded by Werkmeister to enter executive session at 10:53 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 10:59 a.m. with no action taken.

#### **AUDITOR**

Phyllis Barker, Auditor, presented a letter from the SD Secretary of State regarding the allotment of additional HAVA (Help America Vote Act) Funds to aid in the purchase of election equipment. Discussion was held with no action taken at this time.

Barker asked if the Board would like to pursue the Land Water Conservation Fund grant again for the purchase of playground equipment at the Douglas Co. Recreation Area. The Board instructed Barker to apply for the grant again in 2026.

#### **DAKOTA TRAILS GOLF COURSE LEASE AGREEMENT**

A motion was made by Maas and seconded by Koedam authorizing the Chairperson to sign the renewed Lease agreement between Douglas County and Dakota Trails Golf Course, with an annual rental rate of \$1,000.00 to be paid by April 1, 2026. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

A motion was made by Star and seconded by Maas authorizing the purchase of a new washing machine for custodial purposes from TV and Appliance in Corsica for \$559.00. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

#### **CLAIMS**

The following claims were approved for payment:

#### **GENERAL FUND**

January Payroll: Commissioners 7759.22 Auditor 10,981.36 Treasurer 12,344.40 States Attorney 10,114.43 Courthouse Janitor 8388.88 Equalization 6544.01 Register of Deeds 9981.84 Sheriff 31,942.19 Coroner 0.00 Welfare 154.01 Ambulance 2898.53 Extension 3944.82 Weed & Pest 1673.90 Drainage 431.42 Planning and Zoning 476.99 Park 0.00 Reliance Standard Life Insurance

729.01

Amazon Capital Services 1332.84 supplies/equip; Armour Chronicle 799.77 publishing; Cardmember Services 632.64 prof fees/ supplies; Charles Mix Co. 3423.75 VSO 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> qtr; Corsica Globe 799.77 publishing; AT&T Mobility 435.09 utilities; Goldenwest 624.55 utilities; Lucy Lewno 109.75 prof fees; McLoed's Office Supply 97.98 supplies; Microfilm Imaging Systems 100.00 rental fees; Nextraq 46.00 utilities; Northwestern Energy 3969.22 utilities; Office Products Center 370.96 supplies; Randall Community Water District 84.00 utilities; SDACO 150.00 prof fees; SDAE4-HP 120.00 travel; SDSU Extension 45.00 prof fees; Two-Trees Technologies 1663.00 prof fees; US Bank 1417.93 gas; Wilson's Hardware 250.62 supplies.

#### ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND

January Payroll: 42,477.70; Armour Chronicle 67.26 publishing; Corsica Globe 67.26 publishing; Corsica Hardware 242.95 supplies; DCMH 50.00 prof fees; Econo Signs 559.94 signs; Brad Ellwanger 284.68 supply reimb.; AT&T Mobility 81.08 utilities; Goldenwest 217.63 utilities; H&H Electric 15.04 supplies; Nextraq 132.65 utilities; Northwestern Energy 550.37 utilities; Office Products Center 67.19 supplies; RDO Equipment 2104.08 repairs; SD DOT 4939.54 prof fees/supplies; Stan Houston Equip. 1009.00 repairs; Transource Truck & Equip. 574.44 repairs; Two-Trees Technologies 249.45 prof fees; U.S Bank 279.01 gas; Wilson's True Value 104.94 supplies.

#### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND

January Payroll: 2528.13; AT&T Mobility 32.48 utilities; Two Trees Technologies 153.15 prof fees.

#### E911 FUND

January Payroll: 28.16; Goldenwest 200.00 E911 Services; Midstate Communications 440.11 E911 Services; Santel Communications 30.00 E911 Services.

#### MODERNIZATION AND PRESERVATION FUND

Microfilm Imaging Systems 237.50 rental fees.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 11:46 a.m. a motion was made by Star and seconded by Koedam to adjourn until the next meeting to be held at 9:00 a.m. on February 17, 2026. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

Lori Sparks, Chairperson  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Phyllis Barker, Auditor