

DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETING MINUTES

March 17, 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, March 17, 2026. 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 Koedam to adopt the agenda. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Pat Harrington, Emergency Manager, met with the Board to provide an update. Discussion was held with no action taken.

DELMONT LEASE

A motion was made by Star and seconded by Maas authorizing the Chairperson to sign the annual lease agreement between Douglas County and the Town of Delmont for 2026 for the use of the County shed located in Delmont at an annual rate of \$1200.00. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

VOTE CENTERS FOR ELECTION DAY VOTING

Phyllis Barker, Auditor met with the Board to discuss polling places for all future elections. Barker explained that Douglas County currently conducts elections using a traditional precinct-based polling system, where voters are required to vote at their assigned precinct location.

After reviewing election costs, staffing challenges, and the current precinct boundaries, Auditor Barker proposed that Douglas County transition to a vote center model. Under this model, any registered voter in Douglas County may vote at any designated vote center location located within the County. Electronic Poll Books will be connected in real time to prevent duplicate voting and will assist in voters being given a ballot in their correct district. The number of polling places will be reduced, but locations will be strategically selected to maximize accessibility and convenience for most county residents.

Transitioning to vote centers will reduce costs, lower staffing demands, and decrease ballot waste. This model allows Douglas County to administer secure elections more efficiently while maintaining full compliance with South Dakota election law.

Additionally, the electronic poll pads required for the vote center model will be funded through Help America Vote Act (HAVA) federal funding, resulting in no additional burden to the County's general fund. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Maas seconded by Werkmeister to introduce the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2026-04

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING USE OF VOTING CENTERS

WHEREAS, as per SDCL 12-14-17, the Douglas County Board of County Commissioners may authorize the use of vote centers in lieu of precinct polling places, provided that the election is conducted in conformance with all applicable election laws and rules.

WHEREAS, Douglas County, in its entirety, will be considered one precinct while utilizing two vote centers for the Primary Election to be held on June 2, 2026, and the General Election to be held on November 3, 2026.

WHEREAS, the use of vote centers will make voting more accessible for registered voters in Douglas County as they will be able to vote at any one of the vote center locations throughout the county.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Douglas County Commission declares all of Douglas County to be one voting precinct for the June 2, 2026, Primary Election & the November 3, 2026, General Election and designates the following locations as vote centers within the precinct:

- 1. Douglas County 4-H Building (Located in Armour)
- 2. Corsica Community Building (Located in Corsica)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Douglas County Auditor’s Office will be used as an absentee vote center to process absentee ballots on Election Day.

Voting ‘aye’: Star, Koedam, Werkmeister, Maas and Sparks. Voting ‘nay’: none. Motion carried.

Dated this 17th day of March 2026.

SIGNED: _____
 Lori Sparks, Chairperson
 Douglas County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST: _____
 Phyllis Barker, Douglas County Auditor

A motion was made by Koedam and seconded by Werkmeister to approve the quote from KNOWiNK for six Poll Pads and three years of license and maintenance fees for a total of \$16,815.00. This expense will be fully reimbursed through Help America Vote Act Funds. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

2026 ANNUAL REPORT

Auditor Barker notified the Board that the 2025 Annual Report has been completed, filed with the Department of Legislative Audit, and published in the official newspapers.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Star and seconded by Werkmeister to enter executive session at 10:03 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 10:33 a.m. with no action taken.

PARK

Roxane Wentz, Park Caretaker, met with the Board to discuss the upcoming season. It was decided to leave the seasonal camping rate the same for 2026. A motion was made by Maas and seconded by Star to increase the Park Caretaker wage by \$500 for a total of \$5,000 annually for the season. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

AUDITORS ACCOUNT WITH THE COUNTY TREASURER: February 2026

Checking Accounts	\$1205.77
Cash on Hand.....	\$500.00
Petty Cash.....	\$400.00
Un-deposited receipts.....	\$19,630.51

Preferred Checking (Savings)	\$3,086,568.00
Certificate of Deposits	\$400,000.00
Total	\$3,508,304.28

FUND BALANCE

General Fund	\$2,222,457.07
Special Revenue Funds	\$664,997.74
Tax Increment District Fund.....	\$0.00
Trust and Agency Funds	\$620,849.47
Total	\$3,508,304.28

CLAIMS

February Tax Apportionments were reviewed by the Board.

The following claims were approved for payment:

GENERAL FUND

Agland Coop 713.29 supplies/ propane; Armour Chronicle 150.54 publishing; Buhl’s Dry Cleaners 153.50 supplies; Cardmember Services 1398.77 supplies/ prof. fees; Charles Mix. Co. Sheriff’s Office 720.00 jail fees; Corsica Globe 150.54 publishing; Corsica Hardware 32.96 supplies; Darrington Water 32.00 supplies; DCMH 100.00 prof. fees; SD Dept. of Health 50.00 prof. fees; Douglas Electric Coop 88.50 utilities; H&H Electric 347.20 repairs; Pamela Hein 941.59 CAA Fees; Michael Maas 67.74 prof. fees; Marshall & Swift/Boeckh LLC. 707.65 supplies; Office Products Center 136.73 supplies; The Radar Shop 105.00 minor equip.; Two-Trees Technologies 1725.15 prof. fees; Wilson’s Hardware 30.53 supplies.

ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND

Agland Coop 970.50 propane; Corsica Hardware 17.98 supplies; Douglas Electric Coop 75.49 utilities; Fleet Pride 141.14 repairs; Fousek Truck Service 182.62 repairs/ supplies; Michael Redd 455.94 repairs; Kimball Midwest 1588.47 supplies; Nick Wright 4000.00 equipment; Northwestern Energy 46.61 utilities; RDO Equipment 6766.51 repairs; Stan Houston Equipment 1009.00 repairs; Star Mfg. 201.53 repairs; Titan Machinery 56.00 supplies; Wilson’s Hardware 86.25 supplies.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Koedam and seconded by Maas to adjourn the meeting at 11:12 a.m. until the next regular meeting scheduled for April 7, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. All present voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

SIGNED: _____
Lori Sparks, Chairperson
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST: _____
Phyllis Barker, Auditor