

Douglas County Commissioner Meeting Minutes
April 21, 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, April 21, 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 amended agenda. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Koedam and seconded by Maas to approve the minutes from the March 3rd and 17th meeting minutes. 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. Larry Wold Sr. was also present. A motion was made by Koedam and seconded by Maas to approve the Application for Occupancy on the Right of Way of County Highways submitted by Douglas Electric for the installation of a metering site for Randall Community Water District located in Section 16, T99N, R66W in Douglas County. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

Ellwanger informed the Board that the state will hold the bid letting on July 29th for Bridge #22-143-120.

Wold Sr. spoke with the Board again regarding the dust on his road. Discussion was held. The Board informed Mr. Wold that he could apply for a dust control permit through the county, with the full cost being his responsibility. No action was taken.

SHERIFF

Chris Lau, Sheriff, met with the Board to discuss her department. A motion was made by Koedam and seconded by Werkmeister to enter executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1) at 9:34 a.m. All members voted in favor of this action, motion carried. Chairperson Sparks declared the meeting back to open session at 9:45 a.m. with the following action taken:

A motion was made by Werkmeister and seconded by Star to rescind the motion (made May 7, 2026) accepting Scott Powers resignation, as Powers has agreed to remain employed with the County until a later date. All members voted in favor of this action, motion carried.

A motion was made by Star and seconded by Maas to hire Elijah Kuhlman as a part-time deputy Sheriff at a rate of \$26.27 effective immediately, upon his acceptance of the offer. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

STATES ATTORNEY OFFICE

Rachel Mairose, Deputy States Attorney, met with Board to discuss the imposition of SB 96 with no action taken at this time. Carolyn Lau, Treasurer, met with the Board along with Mairose to discuss a tax deed property with a federal lien in place. Discussion was held. The Board instructed the Treasurer to proceed with the tax deed process on the property.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW STATES ATTORNEY

A motion was made by Star and seconded by Werkmeister to appoint Rachel Maisrose to the office

of Douglas County States Attorney effective May 1, 2026, at an annual rate of \$42,000.00. Mairose will fill the remainder of the current term set to expire January 1, 2028. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

ABATEMENT

Phyllis Barker, Auditor, presented an application for abatement to the Board and explained that the need for abatement is due to a clerical error during the tax deed process. A motion was made by Maas and seconded by Werkmeister authorizing the Auditor to abate the taxes payable 2026 on Record #2696 in the amount of \$676.10. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

PARK

An email from Lisa Hatzenbeller was read requesting that the Board open the campground early to coincide with the opening of Dakota Trails Golf Course. Roxane Wentz, Park Caretaker, informed the Board that she intends to have the campground open by April 27, 2026. The Board will review the verbiage within the camping lease to accommodate this change in the future. Wentz stated that she will be deep cleaning the bath house and painting with Kilz paint in preparation for the camping season. The option of adding ventilation fans to the facilities was also discussed. New lighting and shower curtains will be ordered for each bathroom.

Chairperson Sparks exited the meeting at 10:55 a.m. Vice-Chairman Werkmeister facilitated the remainder of the meeting.

FEES REPORT

Register of Deeds fees (March): \$6,695.00

Clerk of Courts fees (March): \$2,528.81

AUDITORS ACCOUNT WITH THE COUNTY TREASURER: March 2026

Checking Accounts	\$1138.54
Cash on Hand.....	\$500.00
Petty Cash.....	\$400.00
Un-deposited receipts.....	\$72,960.43
Preferred Checking (Savings)	\$3,294,201.00
Certificate of Deposits	\$400,000.00
Total	\$3,769,199.97

FUND BALANCE

General Fund	\$2,321,725.11
Special Revenue Funds	\$734,453.09
Tax Increment District Fund.....	\$7,566.38
Trust and Agency Funds	\$705,455.39
Total	\$3,769,199.97

CLAIMS

March Tax Apportionments were reviewed by the Board.

The following claims were approved for payment:

GENERAL FUND

Agland Co-op 83.91 maint; Armour Chronicle 1092.21 publishing; City of Armour 146.00 utilities; Armour Dray 320.00 utilities; Buhl's Dry Cleaning 153.50 supplies; Cardmember Services 377.81 prof fees/supplies; Charles Mix Co. 2062.50 VSO 1st Qtr.; Charles Mix Co. Sheriff's Office 360.00 jail fees; Corsica Globe 1002.21 publishing; Darrington Water 32.00 supplies; Davison Co. Sheriff's Office 210.00 jail fees; SD Dept. of Health 50.00 prof fees; Douglas Electric 93.50 utilities; Keith Goehring 5686.60 CAA fees; H&H Electric 942.71 supplies; Bradley Kerner 924.00 CAA Fees; Kimberly Klein 704.86 travel; KNOWiNK 14,615.00 poll pads; Kone Inc. 1227.18 repairs; Krull's Market 20.46 supplies; Legacy Building Supply 1300.00 supplies; McLeod's 299.90 supplies; Microfilm Imaging Systems 242.00 prof fees/rental fees; Office Products Center 349.21 supplies; SDACC 1731.00 CLERP; SDACO 600.00 workshop; Sun Gold Sports 48.00 conf; Wilsons Hardware 83.92 supplies.

ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND

Agland Co-op 5771.75 fuel/propane; Armour Chronicle 480.00 publishing; City of Armour 144.00 utilities; Armour Dray 95.00 utilities; C&B Operations 2393.39 supplies; Douglas Electric 81.31 utilities; Econo Signs 227.23 repairs; Fousek Truck Service 142.50 supplies; Jeff Grosz 79.00 repairs; Northwestern Energy 412.31 utilities; Pheasantland Industries 1366.00 stop signs; Platinum Chemicals 452.00 supplies; Star Mfg. Co. 34.00 repairs; Subsurface Inc. 39,600.00 culvert repair; Transource Truck & Equip. 175.95 repairs; Vogt's Repair 684.77 supplies/repairs; WW Tire Service 3575.90 supplies.

E911 FUND

Charles Mix County 26,778.36 E911 services; Santel Communications 30.00 prof fees.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND

Armour Chronicle 100.00 publishing; AT&T Mobility 32.48 utilities.

MODERNIZATION AND PRESERVATION FUND

Microfilm Imaging Systems 237.50 rental fees.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Koedam and seconded by Maas to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m. until the next regular meeting scheduled for May 5, 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

