

Douglas County Commissioner Meeting Minutes  
April 7, 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 7, 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 Werkmeister and seconded by Star to adopt the agenda. 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 update them on their department. Health cards for CDL holders were discussed with no action needed at this time.

Ellwanger presented work order proposal from Brosz Engineering for Engineering on a bridge on 284<sup>th</sup> St. Discussion was held regarding the BIG grant and other repair options with no action taken at this time.

Ellwanger explained the process and cost for asphalt milling and lay-back. Discussion was held. A motion made by Star and seconded by Koedam to adopt the Harding Co. Road Construction Machinery Bid from Loiseau Construction for milling/reclaiming equipment rental with operator to complete asphalt milling and lay-back on one mile of 520-3 (half mile east and half mile west of 281 in Armour). All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

AMBULANCE

Nicole Neugebauer and Shelly Menning, County Ambulance Directors, met with the Board to request On-Call pay for EMTs, EMRs and Drivers. The initial proposal would increase the ambulance payroll budget by an estimated \$140,000. Discussion was held with no action taken at this time.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT III

Lori Cowman, PDDIII Director, met with the Board to provide an annual update on the services PDDIII has provided to Douglas County residents and businesses over the last year. Discussion was held with no action taken.

DIRECTOR OF EQUALIZATION OFFICE

Jessica Goehring, Director of Equalization, met with the Board to request approval to attend the Difficult Assessments Workshop sponsored by District 3 in Winner on May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made by Maas and seconded by Star authorizing Goehring to attend the workshop and to reimburse milage and meals. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Koedam and seconded by Werkmeister to enter executive session at 10:41 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 10:45 a.m. with the following action taken: Motion was made by Werkmeister and seconded by Koedam to accept the resignation of Chief Deputy Scott Powers, due to retirement, effective May 25, 2026. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Chris Lau, Sheriff, met with the Board to update them on her department. Discussion on various items was held with no action necessary.

PLAT APPROVAL

A motion was made by Maas and seconded by Star authorizing the Chairperson to sign the Plat of Lots 1 and 2 in Tract 3 of Hertz Addition, in the W 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of Section 12, T98N, R64W, of the 5th P.M., Douglas County, SD. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

LAND WATER & CONSERVATION FUND GRANT

A motion was made by Werkmeister and seconded by Maas to introduce the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2026-05

WHEREAS, the United States of America and the State of South Dakota have authorized the making of grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to public bodies to aid in financing the acquisition and/or construction of specific public outdoor recreation projects:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That Chairperson Lori Sparks is hereby authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of Douglas County with the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, through the State of South Dakota, Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Division of Parks and Recreation, for an LWCF grant to aid in financing the Douglas County Recreation Area Playground Improvements for Douglas County, South Dakota and its Environs.

1: That Phyllis Barker, County Auditor, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the above-mentioned federal and/or state agencies may reasonably request in connection with the application which is hereby authorized to be filed.

2: That Douglas County shall provide a minimum of 50% of the total cost of the project; and will assume all responsibility in the operation and maintenance of the project upon completion of construction, for the reasonable life expectancy of the facility.

Certification of Recording Officer

The undersigned duly qualified and acting County Auditor of Douglas County does hereby certify: That the attached Resolution is a true and correct copy of the Resolution, authorizing the filing of application with the National Park Service as regularly adopted at a legally convened meeting of Douglas County duly held on the 7th day of April, 2026, and further that such Resolution has been fully recorded in the journal of proceedings and records in my office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 7th day of April 2026.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Lori Sparks, Chairperson  
Douglas County Board of Commissioners

Recording Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Phyllis Barker, County Auditor

#### ARMOUR VFW

A motion was made by Koedam and seconded by Star authorizing Douglas County to be the pass-through agency for the Armour VFW to obtain the Armour Community Foundation grant to repair the flagpoles on the Courthouse grounds. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

#### DOUGLAS ELECTRIC

A motion was made by Star and seconded by Koedam authorizing Douglas County to be the pass-through agency for Douglas County Electric to apply for BRIC Grant funding. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

#### FEES REPORT (February 2026)

Register of Deeds Fees: \$2,163.00

Clerk of Courts Fees: \$3,650.83

#### CLAIMS

The following claims were approved for payment:

#### GENERAL FUND

March Payroll: Commissioners 7759.93 Auditor 10,657.75 Treasurer 12,148.98 States Attorney 10,114.40 Courthouse Janitor 7460.72 Equalization 6207.53 Register of Deeds 9639.92 Sheriff 29,986.28 Coroner 0.00 Welfare 154.01 Ambulance 1,874.79 Extension 3805.17 Weed & Pest 2523.04 Drainage 431.42 Planning and Zoning 1232.62 Park 0.00 Reliance Standard Life Insurance 693.71; All Nations Interpreters 105.00 prof fees; Amazon Capital Services 1385.34 supplies; Armour Dray 60.00 utilities; Bankwest 22.95 supplies; Corporate Payment Systems 1674.23 gas; AT&T Mobility 435.37 utilities; Goldenwest 642.80 utilities; Johnson Controls 462.78 supplies; MOCIC 100.00 dues; Midwest Fire & Safety 280.00 maint; Nextraq 46.00 utilities; Northwestern Energy 3042.21 utilities; Office Products Center 43.69 supplies; The Parkston Advance 78.75 publishing; Kelvin Prien 63.89 W&P meeting; Randall Comm. Water Dist. 87.50 utilities; SD Dept. of Public Safety 160.00 maint.; SDAAO 300.00 conference; Select Service Center 7317.52 repairs; Tessiers 260.05 repairs; Two Way Solutions 9.99 supplies; Two-Trees Technologies 1945.15 prof fees; Tyler Technologies 475.94 prof fees.

#### ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND

March Payroll: 31,386.30; Corporate Payment Systems 297.50 gas; Brad Ellwanger 628.65 supply reimb./ travel; AT&T Mobility 81.08 utilities; Goldenwest 225.39 utilities; Midwest Fire & Safety 251.50 maint.; Nextraq 132.65 utilities; Northwestern Energy 426.76 utilities; SD Dept. of Transportation 435.79 prof fees; Transource Truck & Equip. 820.63 repairs; Two-Trees Technologies 245.76 prof fees; Vogt's Repair 1140.14 repairs/ supplies; Wilson's Hardware 26.97 supplies.

#### E911 FUND

March Payroll: 28.47; Goldenwest 200.00 E911 Services; Midstate Communications 440.11 E911 Services.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND

March Payroll: 2830.42; Pat Harrington 78.11 travel; Two Trees Technologies 150.69 prof fees.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:40 a.m. a motion was made by Koedam and seconded by Star to adjourn until the next meeting to be held at 9:00 a.m. on April 14, 2026. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

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

Lori Sparks, Chairperson  
Board of County Commissioners

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

Phyllis Barker, Auditor