

Douglas County Commissioner Meeting Minutes  
June 16, 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, June 16, 2026. Members present were Dan Koedam, Marlin Maas, Lori Sparks, Jerod Star and Jim Werkmeister. Auditor Phyllis Barker was also present as well as Melissa Bowers, Auditor-Elect, and States Attorney Rachel Mairose. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A motion was made by Werkmeister and seconded by Maas to adopt the amended agenda. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The meeting temporarily moved to the Community Room for the public comment portion of the meeting. 14 constituents were present to express their concerns in regard Sheriff Lau's decision to terminate Deputy Joshua Knodel. Comments and concerns were heard by the Board. No action was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Werkmeister and seconded by Koedam to approve the minutes from the May 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

STATES ATTORNEY

Rachel Mairose, States Attorney, met with the Board to provide an update on her department. Mairose would like appoint Steve Cotton as a Deputy States Attorney to oversee her department during her maternity leave. A motion was made by Star and seconded by Werkmeister to pay Steve Cotton at the Court Appointed Attorney rate of \$122.00 per hour as needed during Mairose's leave. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Werkmeister and seconded by Koedam to enter executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1) at 9:40 a.m. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried. At 11:09 a.m., Chairperson Sparks declared the meeting back to open session with no action taken.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

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

A motion was made by Star and seconded by Werkmeister to approve the approach permit submitted by Chuck Greenaway for the purpose of widening an existing approach in the SE4 of section 2, T98N, R64W. All approach work will be at the expense of the landowner. All present voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

Motion was made by Star and seconded by Koedam to approve two Applications for Occupancy of Right-of-Way of County Highways, submitted by Douglas Electric, for telecommunication facilities occupancy of 273<sup>rd</sup> St. located in Section 3 & also in section 6, T99N, R65W for the purpose of installing URD and removing overhead lines. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

Ellwanger presented a work proposal from Brosz Engineering for hydraulic analysis and preparation of replacement plans at the following locations:

Site 1: Structure No. 22-213-030 located approximately 2 miles north and 6.3 miles east of Corsica on 271<sup>st</sup> St.

Site 2: Located approximately 3.3 miles north and 8 miles west of Parkston, on 402<sup>nd</sup> Ave.

Site 3: Located approximately 5.2 miles north and 8 miles west of Parkston on 402<sup>nd</sup> Ave.

A motion was made by Maas and Seconded by Star authorizing the Chairperson to sign the above-mentioned work order proposal from Brosz Engineering for a total fee not to exceed \$27,400.00. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

A motion was made Maas and seconded by Werkmeister to purchase a Road Runner road maintainer from Jet Plain, for a total of \$30,000.00. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the option of combining the Weed and Pest Board duties with the Highway Department. More information will be gathered before any action is taken.

Nichols presented information on Bridge No. 22-211-160. A motion was made by Star and seconded by Koedam to introduce the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2026-06  
BRIDGE IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM  
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 5 YEAR COUNTY PLAN AMENDMENTS

WHEREAS, Douglas County wishes to amend their previously approved 5 Year County Plan for the Bridge Improvement Grant Program:

Addition of structure #22-211-160. Location: 5.9 miles west of Delmont, SD on 284<sup>th</sup> Street.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the South Dakota Department of Transportation be and hereby is requested to accept the Amended 5 Year County Highway and Bridge Improvement Plan, previously approved on August 18, 2025.

All members vote in favor of this action; motion carried.

Dated 16th day of June 2026.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lori Sparks, Chairperson  
Douglas County Commission

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phyllis Barker, Auditor

PLAT APPROVAL

A motion was made by Star and seconded by Maas authorizing the Chairperson to sign the Plat of Tract 1 and Tract 2 of G & L Kids Addition, in the Southeast Quarter of Section 25, T 98 N, R 62 W of the 5<sup>th</sup> P.M., Dougals County, South Dakota. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

A quote for new counter tops for the 4-H Building was reviewed by the Board as prepared by the

Custodian. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Star and seconded by Koedam authorizing the replacement of the counter tops in the 4-H Building for a total cost of \$584.95. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

#### 2026 POST-ELECTION AUDIT RESULTS

Phyllis Barker, Auditor, presented the results of the Post-Election Audit for the June 2, 2026, Primary Election. In accordance with SDCL 12-17B-20, the United States Senator race and County Auditor race from the Corsica Vote Center were audited on June 11th, by an appointed five-person post-election auditing board. After manually counting the races, the results of the races all matched the election night tabulator count and county canvas with 100% accuracy.

#### DAKOTA TRAILS GOLF COURSE

Commissioner Star relayed a request from the Dakota Trails Golf Course Board requesting permission to light fireworks on July 10<sup>th</sup> for the American Legion Golf Tournament. A motion was made Star and seconded by Maas authorizing Dakota Trails Golf Course to light fireworks for the American Legion Golf Tournament to be held on July 10<sup>th</sup>; contingent upon weather conditions and having a fire truck on scene. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 12:12 p.m., a motion was made by Star and seconded by Koedam to enter executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1). All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried. Chairperson Sparks exited the meeting at 12:55 p.m.; Vice-Chair Werkmeister took control of the meeting. At 1:07 p.m., Vice-Chairman Werkmeister declared the meeting back to open session with the following actions taken:

A motion was made by Koedam, seconded by Maas, to accept the resignation of Phyllis Barker from the position of Douglas County Auditor, effective July 24, 2026, and to approve the compensation adjustments necessary to reflect her change in employment status for the month of July. With Star abstaining, all members present voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

A motion was made by Star, seconded by Koedam to appoint Auditor-Elect, Melissa Bowers, to the position of Douglas County Auditor effective July 24, 2026. Bowers will be reimbursed at the following rates, effective with July payroll: Auditor: \$55,000.00 annually, Commissioner Assistant: \$2,000.00 annually, and Welfare Director: \$500.00 annually. Bowers will be subject to review after the completion of a 6-month probation. All present voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

A motion was made by Maas and seconded by Koedam to hire Yaquelin Hawley to the full-time position of Deputy Auditor at a rate of \$20.00 per hour, with a review after the completion of a six-month probationary period. Motion contingent upon Hawley's acceptance of the offer. All present voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

A motion was made by Koedam and seconded by Maas authorizing the Vice-Chairman to sign the Transition and Consulting Agreement between Phyllis Barker and Douglas County from August 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, at a rate of \$1,500.00 per month to provide advisory and transition assistance to the Auditor's Office. With Star abstaining, all others voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

A motion was made by Star and seconded Koedam to compensate Joshua Knodel in the amount of \$2,041.65, representing one-half of his monthly salary for June payroll, upon his separation from County employment. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

FEES REPORT (May 2026)

Register of Deeds Fees: \$5,366.50

Clerk of Courts Fees: \$3,338.66

AUDITORS ACCOUNT WITH THE COUNTY TREASURER: May 2026

Checking Accounts .....	\$1,613.33
Cash on Hand.....	\$500.00
Petty Cash.....	\$400.00
Un-deposited receipts.....	\$11,978.39
Money Market Investments.....	\$3,908,437.00
Certificate of Deposits .....	\$400,000.00
Total .....	\$4,322,928.72

FUND BALANCE

General Fund .....	\$2,902,008.19
Special Revenue Funds .....	\$1,116,656.56
Tax Increment District Fund.....	\$0.00
Trust and Agency Funds .....	\$304,263.97
Total .....	\$4,322,928.72

CLAIMS

April and May Tax Apportionments were reviewed by the Board.

The following claims were approved for payment:

GENERAL FUND

May Payroll: Commissioners 7761.64 Auditor 10,724.94 Treasurer 12,341.34 States Attorney 4,590.45 Courthouse Janitor 8326.99 Equalization 6486.54 Register of Deeds 9816.97 Sheriff 30,870.44 Coroner 405.58 Welfare 154.01 Ambulance 4,069.36 Extension 3586.80 Weed & Pest 2266.56 Drainage 431.42 Planning and Zoning 996.78 Park 1420.63; Reliance Standard Life Insurance 696.14  
Agland Co-op 599.30 gas/repairs; Asure Operations 708.00 prof fees; Axon Enterprises 5008.78 equip.; Marjo BaanHofman 80.44 election; Phyllis Barker 48.18 travel; Maria Bazan 76.03 election; Buhl's Dry Cleaning 153.50 supplies; Central Square Technologies 3179.00 prof fees; City of Corsica 75.00 election; Corsica Hardware 280.69 supplies/maint.; Darrington Water 32.00 supplies; Davison County Sheriff's Office 945.00 jail fees; Susan DeBoer 76.06 election; SD Department of Health 315.00 prof fees; Douglas Electric 465.99 utilities; Dianne Feenstra 86.28 election; Jessica Goehring 322.51 travel; Steve Johnson 690.00 maint.; Krull's Market 46.35 supplies; Lincoln County Auditor 189.73 prof fees; Office Products Center 26.40 supplies; Ramsey County 1806.00 prof fees; River Valley Forensic Services 600.00 prof fees; SDAAO 500.00 conference; Stamp Fulfillment Services 971.05 supplies; Two-Trees Technologies 8910.01 equip; Tanya Urquieta 60.00 election; USPS 1090.00 supplies; VFW Post 6897 35.00 supplies; Wilson Hardware 27.97 supplies.

ROAD AND BRIDGE

May Payroll: 37,270.15; Douglas Electric 78.24 utilities; Brad Ellwanger 277.43 supplies; Fousek Truck Service 109.08 supplies; Jet Plain 30,000.00 equipment; Meyerink Farm Service 49.39 supplies; Northwestern Energy 300.32 utilities; Two-Trees Technologies 2970.00 equipment; Vogt's Repair 63.00 supplies; WW Tire Service 422.00 supplies.

E911 FUND

May Payroll: 28.30; Santel Communications 30.00 prof fees.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND

May Payroll: 2,528.20.

ADJOURNMENT

At 1:18 p.m. a motion was made by Star and seconded by Maas to adjourn until the next meeting to be held at 9:00 a.m. on July 7, 2026. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Werkmeister, Vice- Chairperson  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phyllis Barker, Auditor