Douglas County Commissioner Meeting Minutes
July 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, July 7, 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. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A motion was made by Koedam 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 Koedam and seconded by Maas to approve the minutes from the June 4th and 16th meeting minutes. 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. Sheriff Lau, Deputy Sheriff Powers, and the States Attorney were also present. 17 constituents were present to express their concerns in regard Sheriff Lau's decision to terminate Deputy Joshua Knodel. Ben Lau questioned the consulting agreement between Phyllis Barker and the County. Comments and concerns were heard by the Board. No action was taken.

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT
Chris Lau, Sheriff, met with the board to update them on her department. The new sheriff 's vehicle updates were discussed with the board. Sheriff Lau also introduced Part-time Deputy Eli Kuhlman to the board.

2027 BUDGET REQUESTS
Dr. Tom Stanage, Lewis and Clark Behavioral Health Center, met with the board to present their 2027 budget allotment request in the amount of $6896.00, This is a 3% increase from last year. Discussion was held with no action taken at this time.

Jackie Horton with Court Appointed Special Advocates met with the board to present their 2027 budget allotment request in the amount of $500.00. Discussion was held with no action taken at this time.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
Brad Ellwanger, Highway Superintendent, and Callie Nichols, Assistant Highway Superintendent, met with the Board to provide an update on their department. Ellwanger presented the board with a quote from Road Guy to seal the courthouse parking lot for $10800.00. Ellwanger explained that another option would be to do 2-inch overlay at an estimated cost of $25000.00. Discussion was held. Motion was made by Werkmeister and seconded by Star to put the 2in overlay on the courthouse parking lot for estimated cost of $25,000.00 to be paid out of the 2026 budget. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

Ellwanger presented the board with 4 Right-of-Way applications from Douglas Electric Cooperative as follows:
1. Application for telecommunication facilities on 273rd st in Sec 1, T99N, R66W, Douglas County,

South Dakota.
2. Application for telecommunication facilities on 383rd Ave in Sec 16, T099N, R065W, Douglas County, South Dakota.
3. Application for telecommunication facilities on 379th Ave in Sec 2, T099n, R066W, Douglas County, South Dakota.
4. Application for telecommunication facilities on 379th Ave in Sec 35, T100N, 066W, Douglas County, South Dakota.
Motion was made by Koedam and seconded by Maas authorizing Chairperson to sign the above-mentioned Right-of-Way applications. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

Ellwanger presented the board with Tractor lease quotes from Titan Machinery for a three-year lease at the rate of $24,173.12 or a four- year lease at a rate of $22,617.77. Discussion was held. Board agreed to wait for quotes from other vendors before acting.

Ellwanger presented the board with 2027 application for Bridge Improvement Grant. Structure #22-211-160. Motion was made by Star and seconded by Werkmeister to approve the submission of the application for preliminary engineering and to introduce the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2026-07

2026 Bridge Improvement Grant Program Resolution Authorizing Submission of Applications

WHEREAS Douglas County wishes to submit an application for consideration of award for the Bridge Improvement Grant and/or local Federal Bridge Programs:

STRUCTURE NUMBER AND LOCATION:
Str. No 22-211-160: 5.9 miles west of Delmont, SD on 284th St. over Choteau Creek

and WHEREAS, Douglas County certifies that the project are listed in the county's Five-Year County Highway and Bridge Improvement Plan;
and WHEREAS, Douglas County agrees to pay the 20% match on the Bridge Improvement Grant funds and 100% of ineligible expenses;
and WHEREAS, Douglas County hereby authorizes the Bridge Improvement Grant application(s) and any required funding commitments.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:
That the South Dakota Department of Transportation be and hereby is requested to accept the attached Bridge Improvement Grant application.

Voting yes: Werkmeister, Maas, Star, Koedam and Sparks. Voting no: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

Dated at Armour, SD, this day of 7th day of July 2026.

Signed: ________________________
Lori Sparks, Chairperson

Attest: ______________________
Melissa Bowers, Deputy Auditor

Ellwanger discussed County Road 13-1 complaints and presented the board with a quote to repair culverts submitted by Subsurface Inc. Motion was made by Maas and seconded by Werkmeister to piggyback off Brookings County "PVC Lining 2026 Contract" to line three culverts on County Road 13-1 for a total of $87,920.00. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

AUDITOR

Phyllis Barker, Auditor, met with the board to discuss the 2027 provisional budget and expiring Capital Outlay resolutions. Discussion was held with no action taken at this time.

AUTOMATIC BUDGET SUPPLEMENT

A motion was made by Koedam and seconded by Werkmeister to adopt an automatic supplemental budget pursuant to SDCL 7-21-32.1 for reimbursements for unanticipated expenditures:

Expenditure: Election Equipment: 101-120-435: $14,615.00
Election Supplies: 101-120-426: $899.42

Means of Finance: Assigned-HAVA: 101-0-331.21: $15,514.42

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

A motion made was made by Koedam and seconded by Maas to approve the vacation and sick leave pay out for Melissa Bowers effective with July payroll. All present voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

Auditor-elect Bowers spoke with the board regarding the governor runoff election canvass. The Board agreed to meet on July 30th at 4:15 p.m. to Canvass the votes from the runoff election.

OTHER BUSINESS

A quote from Vandenhoek Construction was presented to the board for the purpose of removing and replacing existing concrete and laying concrete around the exterior of the new bath house. Motion was made by Maas and seconded by Star to approve the quote from Vandenhoek Construction in the amount of $ 2,110.97. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

A bid from Forte for an upgrade to the Douglas County Courtroom sound system was reviewed by the board. The First Circuit Court is requesting this upgrade, therefore UJS has agreed to reimburse the county for up to 10,000 for the project and has authorized the county to utilize law library funds for the remainder of the expense. Motion was made by Maas and seconded by Werkmeister to approve the quote from Forte in the amount of 16,277.67. This motion is contingent upon UJS's 10,000 reimbursement and 6,277.67 authorized to be paid out of county held law library funds. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

A recommendation for maintenance submitted by Kone Inc was reviewed by the board. Motion was made by Star and seconded by Werkmeister, upon recommendation of the head custodian, to approve maintenance on the elevator in the amount of $3,754.05 and authorize the chairperson to sign the agreement. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

A statement of extension to the Joint Cooperative Agreement with Planning and Development District III for 2027 was reviewed by the board. Motion was made by Koedam and seconded by Star authorizing the Chairperson to sign the continued agreement with PDDIII for 2027 in the amount of $13,118.00. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
A motion was made by Koedam and seconded by Werkmeister to enter executive session at 12:05 p.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 12:38 with no action taken.

Commissioner Maas exited the meeting at 12:41.

A motion was made by Koedam, seconded by Werkmeister to dissolve the Planning and Zoning Secretary position effective 7/25/26. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
A motion was made by Werkmeister and seconded by Star to enter executive session at 12:42 p.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 12:53 with the following action taken:

A Motion made by Star and seconded by Werkmeister to Hire Elijah Kuhlman to the position of full time Deputy Sheriff at a rate of $50,000.00 annually with an increase after the completion of a six-month probation. Kuhlman's first day will be July 26, 2026, contingent upon his acceptance. All present voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
A motion was made by Koedam and seconded by Werkmeister to enter executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (4) at 1:00 p.m. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried. Chairperson Sparks declared the meeting back to open session at 1:35 p.m. with the following action taken:
Motion was made by Star and seconded by Werkmeister to transition E-911 dispatch services from Charles Mix County to Davison County. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

CLAIMS
The following claims were approved for payment:

GENERAL FUND
June Payroll: Commissioners 7,698.08 Auditor 11,230.93 Treasurer 12,823.68 States Attorney 4,590.45 Courthouse Janitor 9,495.15 Equalization 7,011.11 Register of Deeds 10,036.81 Sheriff 29,215.55 Coroner 0.00 Welfare 141.98 Ambulance 4,834.30 Extension 4,120.22 Weed & Pest 2,968.98 Drainage 504.75 Planning and Zoning 467.18 Park 1,420.62 Reliance Standard Life Insurance 657.14; Agland Coop 406.97 repairs/gas; Amazon Capital Services 1,967.21 repairs/supplies; Armour Chronicle 413.27 publishing; Armour City 210.00 utilities; Axon Enterprise 8,413.95 professional fee/equipment; Buhls Drycleaners 184.00 Supplies; Cardmember Services 7,729.45 conference/supplies; Charles Mix County Sheriff Office 720.00 prof fees; Corporate Payment Systems 2,256.22 Gas; Corsica Globe 488.27 publishing; Dakota Embalming 60.00 prof fees; Darrington Water 16.00 supplies; Deans Auto Body 172.00 repairs; Douglas Electric Coop 747.23 utilities; Election Systems/Software 1,859.86 supplies; Evident 19.00 supplies; First Net AT&T 518.26 utilities; Keith Goehring 309.88 mental health board; Goldenwest 599.93 utilities; Graham Tire 685.96 repairs; Krulls Market 98.23 supplies; Legacy Building Supply 2,734.90 rep/supplies; Microfilm Imaging Systems 100.00 rental fees; Northwestern Energy 1,744.64 utilities; Office Products 106.00 supplies; Scott Powers 83.11 uniform allowance; Ramkota Hotel 112.00 conference; Select Service Center 461.55 repairs; Jerod Star 286.16 mileage; Roxanne Steburg 209.04 conference; Two-Trees Technologies 1,830.15 prof fees; USPS 106.00 prof fee; Van

Brothers 275.00 utilities; Wilson Hardware 175.36 supplies.

ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND
June Payroll: 41,115.62; Agland Coop 5863.95 prof fee/fuel/DEF; Armour Chronicle 412.50 publishing; Armour City 136.00 utilities; Cardmember Services 403.51 minor equipment; Commercial Asphalt 5623.20 chip seal; Corporate Payment Systems 469.90 gas; Corsica Globe 120.00 publishing; Douglas Electric Coop 79.66 utilities; First Net AT&T 81.08 utilities; Goldenwest 222.78 utilities; Grosz Gravel and Sand 292.50 gravel; Meyerink Farm Service 96.45 repairs; Nextraq 132.65 utilities; Northwestern 14.63 utilities; SDPAA 400.57 insurance; Stan Houston Equipment 250.00 rentals; Two-Trees Technologies 275.76 prof fees; Wilson Hardware 65.22 supplies.

E911 FUND
June Payroll 28.06; Goldenwest 200.00 E911 system; Midstate Communications 440.111 E911 system; Santel Communications 60.00 E911 system.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND
June Payroll: 2,528.19; First Net AT&T 32.48; Two-Way Solutions 150.69 prof fees; Two-Trees Technologies 150.69 prof fees.

MODERNIZATION AND PRESERVATION FUND
Microfilm Imaging Systems 247.50 rental fees.

ADJOURNMENT
A motion was made by Koedam and seconded by Star to adjourn the meeting at 1:36 p.m. until the next meeting scheduled for July 17, 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: ___________________________
Melissa Bowers, Deputy Auditor