Douglas County Commissioner Meeting Minutes
October 20, 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, October 20, 2026. Members present were Dan Koedam, Marlin Maas, Lori Sparks and Jim Werkmeister. Jerod Star was absent. Auditor Melissa Bowers was also present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A motion was made by Maas and seconded by Werkmeister to adopt the amended agenda. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

DRAINAGE

A motion was made by Koedam and seconded by Werkmeister to recess as the Board of County Commissioners and convene as the Douglas County Drainage Board. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

Callie Nichols , Drainage Administrator and Bryce Gillen of Gridline Field Tile met with the Board to discuss 5 drainage applications; one submitted by Zita Bialas for underground drain tile in the NE ¼ of Section 8-NW ¼ & W1/2 of NE ¼ Section 9 (#783) & SW ¼ of Section 4-99-62; one submitted by Floyd Muntefering for underground drain tile in the W2 NW4 Section 4-99-62 (#785); one submitted by Shannon Buenning for underground drain tile in the W ½ of SE ¼ Section 8-99-62; one submitted by Delila Fink for underground drain tile in the NE ¼ of Section 8-NW ¼ & W1/2 of NE ¼ Section 9 & SW ¼ of Section 4-99-62; and one submitted by Carl Buenning for underground drainage tile in the E ½ Section 8-99-62. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Maas and seconded by Koedam to approve the applications submitted by Zita Bialas, Floyd Muntefering, Shannon Buenning, Delila Fink, and Carl Buenning. All present voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

A motion was made by Koedam and seconded by Maas to adjourn as the Douglas County Drainage Board and re-convene at the Board of Douglas County Commissioners. All present voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Callie Nichols, Assistant Highway Superintendent, met with the Board to update them on her department. The Board advised Nichols to get fuel bids for 2027. Discussion was held. No action taken at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Koedam and seconded by Werkmeister to enter executive session pursuant to 1-25-2 (1) at 09:22 a.m. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried. Chairperson Sparks declared the meeting back to open session at 09:27 a.m. with no action taken.

UJS GRANT

Phillip Lane, Deputy Sheriff, met with the board to provide them with more information about the Unified Judicial Grant. Jess Guthmiller, Clerk of Courts, was also present. Lane presented options to turn audio off on the cameras. Sparks stated there should be a logbook for maintenance and logins to make changes. Discussion was held. The Board suggested moving forward with the installation and consult with Clerk of Courts for Court Room, Judge's Chambers and her office to ensure codified laws are followed.

SHERIFF

Chris Lau, Sheriff met with the Board to update them on her department.

A motion was made by Werkmeister and seconded by Maas to hire Cydney Baas as part-time Deputy Sheriff at the part-time rate of $26.27/hr as needed starting October 20th, 2026. All present voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

Lau informed the Board that Keaton Johnson declined the offer for full-time deputy.

A motion was made by Koedam and seconded by Maas, upon the recommendation of Sheriff Lau, and contingent upon his acceptance, to hire Landen Kroger as full-time Deputy Sheriff at rate of $50,000.00 annually effective October 20th, 2026. Kroger will be subject to review after the completion of six-month probation and a signed contract prior to attending the Law Enforcement Academy. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

A motion was made by Werkmeister and seconded by Maas, to approve Lau to hire part-time deputies as needed due to staffing shortages in her department, subject to commission approval. All present voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

AUDITOR

Melissa Bowers, Auditor met with the board to update them on her department. Bowers informed the Board that Douglas County will be hosting the Southeast Central District meeting on November 18th at 1:00 p.m. No action needed.

EXTENSION

Kim Klein, Extension met with the board to discuss the 4H recognition event to be held on November 7th at 6 p.m. Klein stated in previous years the County has given Beef Bucks to the 4H volunteers in appreciation of their dedication to the program at this event. The board authorized Klein to purchase $450.00 worth of beef bucks to distribute amongst the 4-H volunteers for their service.

WEED AND PEST

Kim Klein, Weed and Pest Secretary, met with the board to update them on the Weed and Pest department and informed them that Jeff Grosz has been spraying and getting equipment ready for winter. No action needed at this time.

AMBULANCE

A motion was made by Koedam and seconded by Werkmeister to add Leroy Blom to the driver list for Corsica Ambulance. All present voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

CAMPGROUND

A motion was made by Maas and seconded by Koedam to close the Douglas County Recreation Area for the season on October 24th, 2026. All present voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

FEES REPORT: (September 2026)
Register of Deeds Fees: $5422.00
Clerk of Courts Fees: $1228.82

CLAIMS

The following claims were approved for payment:

GENERAL FUND
Agland Coop 272.04 gas/supplies; Armour Chronicle 75.25 publishing; Armour Dray 60.00 utilities; Bob's Farm Service 100.00 supplies; Buhl's Dry Cleaners 246.00 maintenance; Charles Mix County 2062.50 prof fees; Charles Mix County Sheriff Office 450.00 prof fees; Corsica Globe 75.27 publishing; Steve Cotton 1072.20 prof fees; Darrington Water 24.00 supplies; Davision County 945.00 prof fees; Douglas Electric 452.38 utilities; Election Systems/Software 1746.72 supplies; Forum Communication Company 163.00 prof fee; Steve Johnson 1327.00 utilities; Kimberly Klein 28.73 supplies; Kone Inc 1309.41 maintenance; Marlin Maas 332.88 milage; Office Products 75.94 supplies; Scott Powers 137.04 milage; Regalia Manufacturing 616.03 supplies; SDSU Extension 4H Programs 170.00 prof fees; State Treasurer 41.14 unclaimed property; Two Trees Technologies 4157.77 computer/prof fees; Vogt's Repair 100.18 repairs; Wilson Hardware 83.68 Supplies.

ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND
Armour Dray 120.00 utilities; C&B Operations 180.36 supplies; Corsica Hardware 27.98 supplies; Douglas Electric 72.38 utilities; Fousek Truck Service 988.10 supplies/tires; Graham Tire 5343.84 tires; Kimball Midwest 158.28 supplies; Krull's Market 6.79 supplies; Northwestern Energy 233.02 utilities; Titan Machinery 3697.48 repairs; Transource Truck & Equipment 2279.89 repairs; True North Steel 32696.82 culverts; Two Trees Technologies 275.76 prof fees.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND
Two Trees Technologies 150.69 prof fees.

E911 FUND
Charles Mix County 27707.37 E911 service.

MEADOW VALLY DITCH BOARD
Marlin Maas 25.00 mtg; Dillon Munneke 25.00 mtg; Larry Vanzee 25.00 mtg; Steven Veenstra 25.00 mtg.

ADJOURNMENT
At 11:05 a.m. a motion was made by Koedam and seconded by Werkmeister to adjourn until the next meeting to be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 5, 2026. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

SIGNED: _____
Lori Sparks, Chairperson
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST: _____
Melissa Bowers, Auditor