Douglas County Commissioner Meeting Minutes
September 22, 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, September 22, 2026. Members present were Dan Koedam, Marlin Maas, Lori Sparks, Jerod Star and Jim Werkmeister. Auditor Melissa Bowers was also present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A motion was made by Maas and seconded by Koedam to adopt the agenda. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

2027 ANNUAL BUDGET
The following changes were made since the publication of the 2027 Provisional Budget:

The final growth percentage for the County came in above what was estimated in the Provisional Budget, resulting in the following changes:
General Fund Cash Applied decreased to $323,086 and the General Fund Property Taxes levies increased to $2,259,370.00.
The Road and Bridge Fund Cash Applied decreased to $149,794 and the Property taxes levies increased to $979,406.00.

A motion was made by Werkmeister and seconded by Star to approve the changes to the 2027 Budget and to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 2026-08
ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL BUDGET

WHEREAS, (7-21-5 THRU 13) SDCL provides that the Board of County Commissioners shall each year prepare a Provisional Budget of all contemplated expenditures and revenues of the County and all the institutions and agencies for such fiscal year and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners did prepare a Provisional Budget and cause same to be published by law, and

WHEREAS, due and legal notice has been given to the meeting of the Board of County Commissioners for the consideration of such Provisional Budget and all changes, eliminations and additions have been made thereto,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that such provisional budget as amended and all its purposes, schedules, appropriations, amounts, estimates and all matters therein set forth, SHALL BE APPROVED AND ADOPTED AS THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURES FOR Douglas County, South Dakota and all its institutions and agencies for calendar year beginning January 1, 2027 and ending December 31, 2027 and the same is hereby approved and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of Douglas County, South Dakota, this the 22ND day of September, 2026. The Annual Budget so adopted is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the office of the County Auditor, Douglas County, South Dakota. The accompanying taxes are levied by Douglas County for the year January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2027.

GENERAL FUND: $2,259,370.00 at 2.736 per $1,000 of Valuation.

ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND: $979,406.00 at 1.186 per $1,000 of Valuation.

Total taxes Levied by County: $3,238,776.00 at 3.922 per $1,000 of Valuation.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Douglas County, South Dakota
Lori Sparks, Chairperson
Jerod Star, Commissioner
Dan Koedam, Commissioner
Jim Werkmeister, Commissioner
Marlin Maas, Commissioner

ATTEST: Melissa Bowers, County Auditor

EMERGENCY MANAGER
Pat Harrington, Emergency Manager, met with the board to introduce a proclamation requesting October as Douglas County First Responder month. A motion was made by Werkmeister and seconded by Koedam declaring October First Responder Month in Douglas County. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

Proclamation

Douglas County First Responders' Appreciation Month

WHEREAS, first responders in Douglas County, including firefighters, law enforcement, EMT's, paramedics and 911 dispatchers, dedicate their lives to protecting and serving the residents of Douglas County; and

WHEREAS, these brave men and women are often the first to arrive at the scene of emergencies, severe weather events, vehicle accidents, and other life-threatening incidents and;

WHEREAS, first responders face dangerous situations daily, including fires, medical emergencies, severe weather events, vehicle accidents, and other life-threatening incidents and;

WHEREAS, many of Douglas County's first responders are volunteers who sacrifice their personaI time and make tremendous commitments to serve their community without expectation of recognition or reward; and

WHEREAS, the mentaI and physical demands placed upon first responders require ongoing support, training, and resources to ensure they can effectively protect our community; and

WHEREAS, Douglas County residents depend on first responders 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and their service is essentiaI to the safety, security, and well-being of all who live, work, and visit Douglas County; and

WHEREAS, National First Responders Day is recognized annually on October 28th, providing an opportunity for communities nationwide to honor these everyday heroes; and

WHEREAS, acts of appreciation and recognition from the community provide first responders with encouragement and demonstrate that their sacrifices do not go unnoticed;

NOW THEREFORE, BE lT RESOLVED that the Douglas County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim the month of October as DOUGLAS COUNTY FIRST RESPONDERS' APPRECIATION MONTH; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOVLED, that the Board of County Commissioners of Douglas County calls upon all residents, business, organizations, and officials of Douglas County to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and expressions of gratitude to honor the courage, dedication and selfless service of our first responders.

Dated this 22nd day of September 2026

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Douglas County, South Dakota
Lori Sparks, Chairperson
Martin Maas, Commissioner
Jerod Star, Commissioner
Jim Werkmeister, Commissioner
Dan Koedam, Commissioner

ATTEST: Melissa Bowers, County Auditor

Harrington presented a quote from Two Trees Technologies for a new computer for his office. The Board requested a couple more quotes. No action taken at this time.
The final Hazardous Mitigation Meeting will be held on October 6th at 10:00 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
At 9:26 a.m. a motion was made by Star and seconded by Werkmeister to enter executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1). All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried. At 9:44 Chairperson Sparks declared the meeting back in open session with no action taken at this time.

UNIFIED JUDICIAL SYSTEM GRANT
Phillip Lane, Deputy Sheriff, met with the Board to update them on the Unified Judicial System (UJS) Grant he applied for to update safety equipment in the Courthouse. Deputy Lane explained it is a 75/25 grant, Lane estimated that the County's funding obligation toward the grant would be $5000.00. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Maas and seconded by Star to accept the UJS Grant. With Werkmeister abstaining, 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. Cal Spaans and Anthony Spaans, County Residents were also present. The Spaans expressed concerns about the plans for the bridge replacement on 271st St. & 402nd Ave (3 Sites). Eric Prunty from Brosz Engineering was also present. Discussion was held. No action taken at this time.

BID LETTING
At the advertised time of 10:00 a.m., the following bids were opened for CMP Installation on 271st St & 402nd St. (3 Sites).

BIDS:
Berens Excavating Po Box 1083, Platte SD 57369
First Rate Excavate, Inc. 1509 E. 39th St., N. Sioux Falls SD 57104
Alliance Construction Po Box 88136 Sioux Falls, SD 57109
Vanderpol Dragline, Inc. 1001 Hot Rod Road Mitchell, SD 57301
Halbur Construction, LLC. 1196 111th St Hadley, MN 56151
Brock Contracting Po Box 88601 Sioux Falls, SD 57109

Midwest Constructors, LLC. 522 S. Flynn St. North Sioux City, SD 57049
David Vanderpol Construction Company 37730 273rd St. Harrison SD 57344-5011

Eric Prunty, Brosz Engineering, stated he would review bids and come back October 6th with his recommendation. No action taken at this time pursuant to SDCL 5-18A-5 (7).

At the advertised time 10:00 a.m., the 5-Year Plan meeting was held. The Board reviewed the 5-year plan as presented. A motion was made by Werkmeister and seconded by Maas authorizing the Chairperson to sign the Certification of the 5-Year Plan. All members voted in favor of this action; Motion carried.

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT
Elijah Kuhlman, Deputy Sheriff met with the Board to inform them of his resignation effective October 1, 2026. Kuhlman stated he would turn in a written resignation to the Sheriff at a later date. No action taken at this time.
Chris Lau, Sheriff met with board to update the Board on her department. Discussion was held with no action taken at this time.

EXIT INTERVIEW
Scott Powers, former Chief Deputy Sheriff, met with the Board for his Exit Interview. Powers that Sheriff Lau has yet to contact him, despite multiple attempts to arrange a meeting to deliver his letter of resignation to her, therefore, Powers presented his letter of resignation with an effective date of September 8, 2026, to the Board. Discussion was held with no action taken at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
A motion was made by Koedam and seconded by Werkmeister to enter executive session at 11:35 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 12:48 p.m. No action taken at this time.

TREASURER
Carolyn Lau, Treasurer met with the Board to update them on her department. Lau provided an update on a tax deed being held in her office with federal liens against the property. Discussion was held. No action taken at this time.

AUDITOR
Melissa Bowers, Auditor met with the Board. A motion was made by Maas and seconded by Werkmeister to pay out Scott Powers' sick leave and vacation with September payroll. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

PLAT APPROVAL
Motion was made by Koedam and seconded by Maas authorizing Chairperson Sparks to sign the Plat of Spaans Tracts 2 and 3 in the NW ¼ of Section 20, T99N, R63W of the 5th P.M., Valley Twp, Douglas County, South Dakota. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
A motion was made by Maas and seconded by Star to approve the minutes of the August 4th and 18th minutes. All voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Auditor Bowers submitted a request on behalf of Kim Klein, 4-H Extension Director, for authorization to have a 4-H float in the Corsica and Armour School homecoming parades. A motion was made by Star and seconded by Werkmeister to approve Douglas County 4-H program to have a float for the homecoming parades with a limit of $150.00 for all expenses. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

FEES REPORT (August 2026)

Register of Deeds Fees: $1735.50

Clerk of Courts Fees: $4077.00

AUDITORS ACCOUNT WITH THE COUNTY TREASURER: August 2026

Checking Accounts	$1,010.88
Cash on Hand	$500.00
Petty Cash	$400.00
Un-deposited receipts	$21,275.06
Preferred Checking	$3,080,686.00
Certificate of Deposits	$400,000.00
Total	$3,503,871.94

FUND BALANCE

General Fund	$2,625,277.49
Special Revenue Funds	$696,798.75
Tax Increment District Fund	$0.00
Trust and Agency Funds	$181,795.70
Total	$3,503,871.94

CLAIMS

August Tax Apportionments were reviewed by the Board.

The following claims were approved for payment:

GENERAL FUND

All Nations Interpreters 15.00 Prof fees; Amazon 622.78 supplies; Armour Dray 120.00 utilities; Armour City 174.00; Best Western Ramkota 550.00 travel; Melissa Bowers 140.16 travel; Buhl's Drycleaners 153.50; Cardmember Services 1221.47 prof fees/supplies; Charles Mix Co. Sheriff's Office 90.00 prof fees; Douglas Electric 853.14;Election Systems Software 1064.17 prof fees; AT&T Mobility 461.99 utilities; Jessica Goehring 583.10 travel; Kim Huebner 56.00 travel;; Kimberly Klein 388.59 travel; McLeod's Office Supply 299.01 supplies; Microfilm Imaging Systems 830.00 rental fees; Nextraq 46.00 utilities; Nutrien Ag Solutions 853.00 supplies; Office Products 671.65 supplies; Ramkota Hotel 560.00 travel; Select Service 3529.45 repairs; Two Trees Technologies 1857.77 prof fees; Vans Dray and Recycling 220.00 utilities; Wilson Hardware 109.60 supplies; Nathan Wunder 648.59 repairs.

ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND
Agland Coop 7308.70 fuel; Amazon 153.34 supplies; Armour City 304.00 utilities; Brosz Engineering 11230.00 prof fees; Cardmember Services 106.20 prof fee; Douglas Electric 72.65 utilities; AT&T Mobility 83.08 utilities; Fleetpride 247.17 repairs; Fousek Truck Service 37.85 repairs; Kimball Midwest 376.39 supplies; Legacy Building Supply 367.37 supplies; Nextraq 46.00 utilities; Northwestern 233.19 utilities; Office Products 53.00 supplies; Titan Machinery 6101.85 rentals/repair; Transource Truck & Equipment 1213.49 repairs; Two Trees Technologies 275.76 prof fees; Vogt's Repair 217.45 repairs; Wilson Hardware 50.97 supplies.

E911 FUND
Santel Communications 30.00 E911 System.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND
Two-Trees Technologies 150.69 prof fees.

MODERNIZATION AND PRESERVATION FUND
Microfilm Imaging Systems 237.50 rental fees.

ADJOURNMENT
At 1:30 p.m. a motion was made by Maas and seconded by Koedam to adjourn until the next meeting to be held at 9:00 a.m. on October 6, 2026. All members voted in favor of this action; motion carried.

SIGNED: _____
Lori Sparks, Chairperson
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST: _____
Melissa Bowers, Auditor