

The Deuel County Commissioners met in special session on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 9:00 AM in the Commission Room of the Courthouse with Chairman Jay Grabow presiding. Those present were Commissioners Jay Grabow, Scott Fieber, Harry Mewherter and Judith Homan. Absent was Steve Rhody. Also present was Auditor Courtney Parker and a few members of the public. The meeting began with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. 1) Fieber moved, seconded by Mewherter to approve the agenda with additions of Noble solutions a software contract for the Highway Department. All voted yes and the motion carried. 2) Mewherter moved, seconded by Homan to approve the minutes from December 2025. All voted yes and the motion carried.

### **Appointments**

#### **Item #1 Highway Superintendent Jamie Broksieck**

Broksieck presented a repair needed for the John Deere road grader. It needs a shift solenoid bank that will be roughly \$3,200. The blade has 18000 hours on it. Broksieck stated it is still a good machine and we should do the repair beings a new machine is \$500,000. 3) Fieber moved, seconded by Mewherter to approve the repair of the John Deere road grader. All voted yes and the motion carried.

Broksieck presented a software agreement for Noble Solutions. Pub Works is getting bought out and a new software is needed. This is the software that bought out Pub Works. It will be \$9,408 to move all the information over from one software to another and an additional \$4,700 a month. We currently pay \$5,458. Grabow said we can investigate Ultra first because that's what the courthouse has before the commission will approve the new software.

#### **Item #2 9:08 AM Executive Session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(3) Contractual Matters**

4) Fieber moved, seconded by Mewherter to move into Executive Session Pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(3) for Contractual Matters. All voted yes and the motion carried. Grabow declared the Commissioners out of Executive Session at 9:16 AM.

5) Fieber moved, seconded by Homan to approve an invoice of \$32,163.32 to fix a bridge and culvert. All voted yes and the motion carried.

#### **Item #3 9:30 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of B2022-01-10**

The second reading was held on amendment to Ordinance B2022-01-10. 6) Fieber moved, seconded by Mewherter to approve the amendment to Ordinance B2022-01-10. All voted yes and the motion carried.

#### **Item #4 NextEra Energy Resources**

NextEra Energy Resources presented a 365 transmission line. This line would run approximately 3 miles and run through 3-5 landowners depending on the route that is chosen. This power will be going to Minnesota. They would like to tap into the line that is coming from Big Stone south. that comes from MN it is the small 365 existing line. NextEra will have to get contracts from all landowners which will be 3-5 depending on the route that is taken. NextEra will need to get contracts from all landowners for this.

#### **Item #5 Conservation District Manager Jerry Aberle**

Aberle gave the annual report and asked for annual funding. Aberle has been in office for about six months, coming in on the tail end of fall planting. The Conservation office is housed within the USDA office and his position is part time roughly 18-20 hours a week. Busy season, May and June, increases his hours. Their plans for 2026 is to continue to plant trees, seedings, rentals, etc. Current rates were included in annual report. Aberle submitted a balance sheet and profit and loss statement. Scott Fieber is the conservation district commissioner representative. Thad Krause, Conservation District Board Member,

stated there was an additional expense that was added to fix the planter in the amount of \$20,000. They took out a small loan. 7) Homan moved, Mewherter seconded to approve \$12,000 yearly support funds to the Conservation District. All voted yes and the motion carried.

**Item #6 Dakota Cornerstone Founder Gary Hudiburgh**

Hudiburgh explained there's some funding he believes the county could get. Currently Deuel gets 1/5 of 1% for federal funding. He explained these funds would be for projects the BIG grants aren't paying for. Hudiburgh is building a relationship with Johnson's office. Broksieck went over the 5 year road and bridge plan with Hudiburgh. The commission agreed they need more time to look over the documents that were presented before a decision can be made. Grabow explained they would need legal counsel for the MOU. Discussion was tabled.

**Item #7 Veteran Service Officer Lynna Speier**

Speier started by thanking the board for recognizing Dennis Evenson for his 40 years in the Veterans Service Officer position. Speier also thanked the Clear Lake Courier for the picture on the front page. The Veteran Service Office is in the Deuel County Courthouse on Tuesdays. Claims: 5 prior claims (3 submitted in current quarter), 11 newly submitted claims, 5 completed, Community Revenue: \$3,848.23/month going forward plus one time payments of \$11,724.34. Estimated annual impact from new claims is \$111,871.20. Codington County is continuing to advertise for Deuel County for free. There is spring and winter training Speier will complete. 8) Homan moved, seconded by Fieber to appoint Lynna Speier for a two year term as Veteran Service Officer. All voted yes and the motion carried.

**Item #8 Zoning Officer Jodi Theisen**

Theisen presented her annual report of building permits for 2025. Permits were down mostly however, 2024 was a very high year. The 2026 fee schedule was presented. Every fee was kept the same as the prior year. The PUC required Missouri River Valley to put the sign up per their regulations. Our zoning ordinance says the sign is allowed but they do have to get a building permit for it. PUC sign verbiage would have to be cleared with PUC not commission or zoning. 12) Mewherter moved, seconded by Grabow to approve the 2026 Fee Schedule. All voted yes and the motion carried.

**Item #9 10:02 AM Executive Session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) Personnel Matters**

13) Fieber moved, seconded by Mewherter to move into Executive Session Pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(3) for Personnel Matters. All voted yes and the motion carried. Grabow declared the Commissioners out of Executive Session at 10:07 AM.

14) Homan moved, seconded by Fieber to hire Brandon Collins for a full time deputy sheriff at \$27.27 an hour with a year probation and will be eligible for all benefits. All voted yes and the motion carried.

**Item #10 Sheriff Cory Borg**

Borg presented an in car camera system with Lens Lock. One car has the old system which is Borg's vehicle. He would like to update since the vehicle is getting updated as well. With the upgrade to the vehicle then all everything is on the same system and is automatically uploaded. If the attorneys request video it can go directly to them while recording the chain of custody. To upgrade the vehicle to this software would be \$11,037. Vehicle should be ready for pickup this week. Current vehicle is going to Director of Equalization when everything is taken out. Video system will be destroyed as there has been other law enforcement agencies that have had trouble with leaking evidence

before. 15) Fieber moved, seconded by Mewherter to approve the Lens Lock in car camera system for the new vehicle in the amount of \$11,037. All voted yes and the motion carried.

**Item #11 Xcel Energy**

Xcel Energy and Otter Tail Power Energy presented the demand of energy is growing in the upper Midwest and the demand is expected to increase over the next two decades. This increase in electric use, combine with the changing ways electricity is generated, requires new long-term solutions to meet the needs of our communities, states and regions. This project is a 765 kV transmission line. The MISO Tranche 1 & 2.1 map shows the route from Big Stone to Brookings and then East to Minnesota. This project would give approximately 204 GW of new generation to be reliably connected to the transmission grid. Additional Transmission capacity allows better and fuller utilization of existing resources reducing curtailment by 7,200 GWh. This includes queued natural generation requests in Deuel County totaling 1586 MW. The studied projects mitigate NERC reliability overloads on 102 facilities mitigating a total of 1,313 NERC reliability violations. Without the studied projects, 1,300 GWh of demand is at risk of not being served on an annual basis. 765 kV lines are recommended for efficiency, fewer lines, lower impacts, meet growing power demands, resilient infrastructure, provide backup pathways. The 765 kV structure is approximately 150-175 feet tall and 140-150 feet wide with a right of way width of 250 feet. PowerOn South Dakota permitting requires approval from South Dakota Public Utilities Commission and county approvals. The route development process for a transmission line is a multi-step analysis that identifies potential route options that minimize impacts on humans and the environment. They would like to pick a route that has less impact on landowners and the environment. Currently they are trying to have open house discussions in the study areas, file facility permit application(s), routing, and negotiating easements with landowners in 2026-2027. Next would be regulatory review and engagement, engineering design, environmental surveys, real estate, and county CUP applications in 2027-2029. 2030-2034 construction would take place and 2034 is the anticipated in-service date.

Fieber asked how does this project help Deuel County? The team stated the 765kV will support the current transmission system. Grabow asked since Deuel County has natural gas generation and wind generation do we generate more energy than we use? The team could not answer how much Deuel County generates.

Chairman Grabow opened discussion to the public where many people spoke on concerns and questions they had about the proposed transmission line project.

**New Business**

Discussion was had on Blom Township presenting invoices to be reimbursed from the RPP fund of Plainview Dairy. Parker will try and get details on when money will be coming in to reimburse for roads. Road haul agreement between Blom township and Plainview Dairy is signed.

16) Homan moved, seconded by Mewherter to start recording all commission meetings starting February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026. All voted yes and motion carried.

Discussion was tabled on the RAIF program.

17) Fieber moved, seconded by Mewherter to approve Resolution 25-02 Deuel County Housing Resolution. All voted yes and motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #26-02  
CHAIRMAN'S CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE**

**DEUEL COUNTY HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

Pursuant to South Dakota Codified Law 11-7-12 and by virtue of my office as Chairman, I hereby appoint five (5) persons hereinafter named to serve as Commissioners of the Deuel County Housing and Redevelopment Commission and to serve until their term is expired appearing after their names, respectively from the date of this certificate. Term expiration can result in reappointment.

Roberta Parker – 1/31/2030

Sandy Koenecke – 1/31/2030

Russell Hamann – 1/31/2027

Gary DeJong – 1/31/2027

Jennifer Mewherter – 1/31/2027

The preceding Board of Commissioners of the Deuel County Housing and Redevelopment Commission hereby renew and abdicate all authority to the Brookings County Housing and Redevelopment Commission accepting all financial reports and independent audit reports of the Brookings County Housing and Redevelopment Commission of Brookings, South Dakota.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SIGNED MY NAME AS Chairman of the Deuel County Board of Commissioners, in Clear Lake, South Dakota, this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2026.

Motion by Fieber, second by Mewherter to approve Chairman's appointments.

Voting aye: Homan, Mewherter, Fieber, Grabow

Voting nay:

Motion carried.

Dated February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026  
DEUEL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Courtney Parker, County Auditor

18) Mewherter moved, seconded by Grabow to approve December 2025 Cash Balance Sheet and the Commissioner Cash Out Sheet. All voted yes and motion carried.

**DEUEL COUNTY AUDITOR'S ACCOUNT WITH TREASURER  
END OF MONTH CASH BALANCE- DECEMBER 2025**

CASH TOTAL				\$	1,352.73
CHECKS TOTAL				\$	5,906.53
CASH ITEM				\$	-
CASH CHANGE SHERIFF				\$	50.00
TOTAL CASH ASSETS ON HAND				\$	7,309.26
CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE				\$	105,737.77
PREMIUM MM FIRST BANK & TRUST OF TORONTO				\$	4,699,520.97
SD FIT				\$	-
CREDIT CARDS				\$	706.27
CD		DNB		\$	250,000.00
		FB&T		-	
INTEREST EARNED: \$13,086.33					
REVOLVING LOAN				\$	46,035.12
<b>GRAND TOTAL CASH ASSETS</b>				<b>\$</b>	<b>5,109,309.39</b>
GL CASH BALANCE BY FUNDS:					
GENERAL				\$	5,690,507.34
				\$	(934,080.45)
TRUST & AGENCY FUNDS				\$	352,882.50
Townships	\$44,311.79	Cities	\$12,429.51		
Schools	\$59,980.97	Rural Fire	\$995.69		
<b>TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER CASH</b>				<b>\$</b>	<b>5,109,309.39</b>

**Difference = \$ -**

19) Fieber moved, seconded by Homan to approve a quote from Brian's Glass to replace the keyless entry for \$1,880.00 at the 4-H Service Center. All voted yes and motion carried.

Open meeting laws were handed out to the commission. At the February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting we will make a motion and a roll call vote stating they reviewed all open meeting laws.

20) Mewherter moved, seconded by Fieber to approve the contract with First District for GIS in the amount of \$8,000. All voted yes and motion carried.

Grabow spoke with legal counsel regarding a moratorium. A moratorium cannot be issued at one meeting. It has its own legal process in which it needs to follow similar procedures to an amendment to an ordinance. Legal counsel stated since the amendment to the ordinance was already underway, we would be covered if they did apply. Xcel confirmed they will not be applying for a permit within the next month and a half with a verbal "correct" given. Grabow stated they will not issue a moratorium today but will look at them in the future. Grabow stated Richardson Law Firm has been invited to the commission meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026.

Discussion on county burial CB#24-01 was tabled.

21) Homan moved, seconded by Fieber to approve allowing the SACH program to use the fairgrounds service center. All voted yes and motion carried.

Discussion on Deuel County's spending limits was had. Currently they are \$1,000 for courthouse department heads and \$2,500 for the highway shop department head.

Discussion was tabled on NDAs until next meeting.

### **Approval of Warrants:**

22) Homan moved, seconded by Fieber to pay warrants as presented. All voted yes and motion carried.

**Paid Early:** US Postmaster 50.00 Service Fee, Excise Tax 669.32, Sales Tax 185.83, US Postmaster 3000.00 Load Machine, IBC 644.50 MERP Employee Claims, IBC 757.86 MERP Employee Claims, IBC 268.50 MERP December Admin Fees, IBC 220.00 MERP Employee Claims

**Transmittals:** Schools \$59,980.97, Townships \$64,442.15, Towns \$21,236.53, EDWD \$180.45, Rural Fire \$995.69

**Warrants:** BROOKINGS DEUEL RURAL WATER 157.60 UTILITIES, CLEAR LAKE AREA DEVELOPMENT 5000.00 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER FUNDS, DEUEL COUNTY FARMERS UNION OIL 3117.30 REPAIRS, DEUEL COUNTY TREASURER 30860.91 DELINQUENT TAXES, H-D ELECTRIC COOP, INC 1011.04 UTILITIES, NORTHWESTERN ENERGY 517.56 UTILITIES, OTTERTAIL POWER CO 1267.78 UTILITIES, A-OX WELDING SUPPLY COMPANY IN 618.31 SUPPLIES, AMERICAN SOLUTION FOR BUSINESS 960.00 FILE CABINET, AUGUST 17TH 40.00 DC BUCKS, AVERA OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE-MI 37.70 DOT TESTING, BANNER ASSOCIATES INC 10962.80 PROF. SERVICE, BROOKINGS CO. SHERIFF'S OFFICE 4293.48 PRISONER HOUSING, CENTURY LINK 341.40 911 UTILITIES, CHRISTIANSON PLBG, HTG. & A.C. 4080.00 EXT BLD HEATER INSTALLATION, CINTAS CORP 172.62 RUGS, CLEAR LAKE BUILDING CENTER 138.64 SUPPLIES, DAKOTABILITIES 180.00 1ST QTR FUNDS, DEUEL COUNTY FARMERS UNION OIL 920.00 DC BUCKS REIMB., DEUEL COUNTY TREASURER 55.40 DELINQ TAXES, EQUIPMENT BLADES INC 4723.47 SUPPLIES, EVERBRIDGE, INC 3689.00 NIXLE ANNUAL FEE, FIRST DIST. ASSOC LOCAL GOV'T 8000.00 GIS WEBSITE PROF. SERV., GARY BAR 20.00 DC BUCKS, GARY LIQUOR STORE 80.00 DC BUCKS, GLACIAL LAKES AND PRAIRIES 449.00 2026 MEMBER CONTRIBUTION, DWAYNE GORDER 71.00 WEED MTG/MILEAGE, GREEN OVIATT LAW LLP 1523.40 CAA FEES, HIDEWOOD MEATS 500.00 DC BUCKS REIMB, INTER-LAKES COMM ACTION INC 2979.75 JAN FUNDS & NUTRITION PGRM, JODIE BJERKE 131.33 OVR PAYMENT, JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL 57.38 SUPPLIES, JOHNSON CONTROLS 13034.58 ANNUAL SERVICE AGREEMENT, KELLY & KATNI NORDGAARD 7880.86 OVR PAYMENT TAXES, DEB LESSMAN 134.91 TRAVEL & SUPPLIES, LEWIS FAMILY DRUG #38 40.00 DC BUCKS, LORI GODFREY 220.00 DC BUCKS - D. GENERAL, MACKSTEEL WAREHOUSE, INC. 313.17 SUPPLIES, CRAIG MAGEDANZ 68.20 WEED MTG/MILEAGE, MAGNUM ELECTRONICS, INC. 115.48 SUPPLIES, MENARDS 140.22 SUPPLIES, MID-STATES ORGANIZED CRIME INF 100.00 MEMBERSHIP DUES, OFFICE PEEPS INC 485.30 SUPPLIES, NATHAN PALM 65.40 WEED MTG/MILEAGE, POWERPLAN OIB 2596.38 SUPPLIES, RICHARD EIDET 287.42 OVR PMT CONTRIBUTION, RUNNING'S SUPPLY INC 23.96 REPAIR, SANFORD CLINIC 1666.67 HEALTH NURSE, SO DAK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH 50.00 BLOOD DRAWS, SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION 1269.02 FUEL, SD ASSN CO HWY SUPERINTENDENTS 600.00 2026 DUES, SDACO 597.40 2026 DUES, SD PUBLIC ASSURANCE ALLIANCE 110351.65 GENERAL & AUTO LIABILITY, SIOUX VALLEY CO-OP 250.00 DEF SUPPLIES, SODAK GARDENS 100.00 DC BUCKS, STAN

January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Regular Meeting

HOUSTON EQUIPMENT CO, INC 299.00 SUPPLIES, CITY OF WATERTOWN 6291.14 911  
SURCHARGE

### **December Payroll**

Commissioners \$10,647.41, Election \$134.25, Auditor's Office \$12,354.21, Treasurer's Office \$12,241.22, State's Attorney's Office \$10,560.73, General Government Building \$8,752.94, Director of Equalization Office \$18,435.78, Register of Deeds Office \$10,100.41, Veteran Service Officer \$3,001.53, GIS \$749.03, Sheriff's Dept. \$51,019.17, County Assist \$402.64, 4-H \$0, Extension Office \$6,372.73, Weed & Pest \$4,720.88, Planning & Zoning \$5,585.78, Road & Bridge \$72,315.21, Civil Defense \$428.08

### **Public Comment**

January stated being a County Commissioner is a tough job. January stated he appreciated all they do. Grabow stated there were a lot of questions asked on December 31<sup>st</sup> and they will get answers to them all real soon.

Mary Nosbush said thank you to the commissioners because they have listened to concerns. Homan wanted to let her know that only two commissioners can be at a meeting otherwise they violate open meeting laws. That's why there were only two commissioners at the Toronto meeting.

### **Adjournment:**

There being no further business 23) Mewherter moved, seconded by Grabow to adjourn. All voted yes and the motion carried.

ATTEST:

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Courtney Parker, Auditor

Published one time at the approximate cost of

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Jay Grabow, Chairman