

The Deuel County Commissioners met in regular session on May 19<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, Steve Rhody, Scott Fieber, Harry Mewherter and Judith Homan. 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 the addition of Executive Session Pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(3) Consulting with Legal Counsel. All voted yes and the motion carried.

### **Appointments**

#### **Item #1 County Health Nurse Tammy Baer**

Baer gave her semi-annual report. Baer stated she's involved in Healthy Hometown where they are discussing preserving and canning food, and the produce stands will be back on main street Clear Lake. A suicide-prevention event was held in conjunction with Lost and Found. The event was well attended on March 30th. Baer has been providing free vision screenings at the Gary Library. The board also wanted her to reach out to other towns. Parker will send Baer the Deubrook Community Library contact information. Baer is now a certified CPR instructor and will be offering "Friends and Family" classes. Immunization rates remain great at the county level. Baer provided education on health care careers to 9th and 12th grade students at Deuel School. She provided community education at various locations including nutrition, picky eating, heart health and dental health. Baer networked with SDSU Extension and the Clear Lake Summer Rec regarding a babysitting training. The Bike Rodeo is scheduled for June 5th. The board is always appreciative of Baer and all she does for our county.

#### **Item #2 Department of Legislative Audit- Auditor Natalie Zirbel**

Zirbel presented the 2023-2024 Audit Findings. Zirbel explained there were no major infractions and the audit went well. There were two minor infractions that warranted discussion but corrections are already in place. Zirbel thanked Parker and the rest of Deuel County employees for being good to work with.

#### **Item #3 at 10:00 AM Fuel Bid Letting**

Bids were opened in the order in which they were received. First- Deuel County Farmers Union quoted #2, #1 and 10% Ethanol bid \$.15 off per gallon of their daily price, Second- Sioux Valley Coop #2 \$4.35, #1 \$4.65, 10% Ethanol \$3.76, Third- Coles Petroleum #2 \$3.8650, #1 \$.13 higher than Sioux Falls unbranded rack average, 10% Ethanol \$3.72. 2) Fieber moved, seconded by Mewherter to approve Coles Petroleum for a fuel contract for the next six months. All voted yes and the motion carried.

#### **Item #4 Highway Superintendent Jamie Broksieck**

Broksieck had a few different topics to bring to the board. Discussion was had on the bids from the bidding from Box Culvert 20-008-220. Five bids were received with two bids thrown out as they were not a pre-qualified contractor with the SDDOT. One of those being Timmons Construction which was the low bid. A representative from Timmons Construction stated they have been in business for 21 years and completed projects like Deuel County Memorial Hospital, Deuel School project, 3 successful SDDOT projects, and many more. Timmons stated he has been trying to contact the SDDOT 15 times to be a pre-qualified contractor with no reply. Grabow explained since being a pre-qualified bidder with the SDDOT was included in the packet to bidders then we are unable to accept his bid. Mark Junker from Banner Associates was there to help explain as well. He gave Timmons a number to reach out to someone at the SDDOT that would return his call. 3) Mewherter

moved, seconded by Rhody to approve the BX Civil and Construction Inc. for Box Culvert 20-008-220 quoted at \$695,750. All voted yes and the motion carried. Next, Broksieck presented the Banner Contract for Box Culvert 20-008-220. This is for the engineering services on that bridge. 4) Fieber moved, seconded by Homan to approve the contract with Banner Associates for Box Culvert 20-008-220 in the amount of \$60,000. All voted yes and the motion carried.

Broksieck presented Sourcewell contracts for a blade. First is a Butler Cat 150 15B AWD Motor Grader quoted at \$493,038.23 on Sourcewell Contract #011723-CAT. Next is a John Deere 772P Motor Grader quoted at \$486,697.06 on Sourcewell Contract #011723-JDC. The Brandt blade is currently at 18,000 hours. This purchase will be out of the capital outlay fund. 5) Fieber moved, seconded by Rhody to approve the John Deere 772P Motor Grader off of a Sourcewell contract #011723-JDC at \$486,697.06. All voted yes and the motion carried.

6) Rhody moved, seconded by Mewherter to approve the purchase of ¾ inch rock for structures 300 ton roughly \$8,000 from Fischer's

Broksieck stated the Transportation Alternatives Grant through SDDOT can be applied for just the planning stage and then can reapply for the construction phase. Broksieck is scheduling a call to discuss.

Discussion was had on Dust control for the Clear Lake Road and Lake Cochrane Road as the commission has tightened up on dust control. The Commission agreed to continue dust control for public safety on these roads.

**Item #5 Deuel County Ambulance President Cory Borg**

Cory Borg provided an update on ambulance services in Deuel County. The Deuel County Ambulance currently has approximately 38 members. Officers include President Cory Borg, Vice President Joni Kanable, Secretary Brooke Pederson, Board Members Erik Eversman, Julie Donahue, and Tristan Rabine, and Medical Director Dr. Mark Vossler. Additional members include Denise Eversman, Rob Kleen, Brenda Schake, Nathan Pederson, Billie Jo Gauger, Morgan Schmidt, Sheila Monnier, Robert Schmidt, Lisa Lundberg, Blaine Franken, Sheila Pitts, Brandon Collins, Haydyn Wiesner, Jady Reppe, Deidra Clausen, Cindy Bohlen, Michelle Greene, Scott Moeller, Joey Gislason, Dillon Krosch, Steve Bohlen, Jaylen Schulte, Darren Engesser, Jeff Engesser, Rob Deslauriers, Melinda Baker, Chantelle Fieber, Jacob Monnier, William Landmark, Kelli Franken, Dawn Timmons, and Mike Greenman.

Borg reported that in 2025, the Gary Ambulance responded to 30 emergency calls and 16 transfers, while the Clear Lake Ambulance responded to 200 emergency calls and 40 transfers. Through the date of the meeting in 2026, Gary had responded to 21 emergency calls and 6 transfers, while Clear Lake had responded to 60 emergency calls and 12 transfers.

Borg noted that the County provided \$75,000 in support funding to the Deuel County Ambulance in 2025 for the purchase of supplies, fuel, and an ambulance. The new ambulance currently on order is expected to arrive in 2027. Estelline Ambulance had planned to purchase the Clear Lake ambulance being replaced; however, due to the extended delivery timeline, Estelline purchased another ambulance. As a result, the old ambulance will be traded in.

The Commissioners asked what portion of the support funding benefits the Gary Ambulance. Borg explained that Gary Fire purchases its own ambulance, equipment, and staffing. When Gary responds to a call, it receives 50% of the revenue generated through billing for that call. If the Deuel County Ambulance responds, it receives 100% of the billing

revenue. Borg stated that Gary Fire has not received any of the County funding previously provided to the Deuel County Ambulance.

Borg further explained that, depending on available funding in 2026, Gary Fire would like to add a second ambulance. This would ensure an ambulance remains available in Gary when the current unit is out on a transfer and would reduce the need for Clear Lake to respond within Gary's service area.

Commissioner Homan commented that staffing had previously been a challenge for the Gary Ambulance. Borg responded that the service initially had six volunteers and now has 10 to 11 active volunteers, with two additional individuals currently enrolled in EMT training. He also noted that three individuals from Clear Lake and three from Toronto are taking the EMT course.

Gary Fire is considering the purchase of a Type II van ambulance at an estimated cost of \$15,000. Borg stated that the van-style ambulance provides a smoother ride and is better suited for patient transfers.

Ambulance member Denise Eversman, who assists with coordinating transfer schedules, stated that the current arrangement of one ambulance in Gary and two ambulances in Clear Lake has worked well. She noted that transfers are declined only when staffing is unavailable, not due to a lack of ambulances. Commissioner Grabow asked which service handles most transfers, and Eversman replied that it depends on who is available to take them.

Borg noted that the County, the City of Gary, and several other organizations assisted with funding the original ambulance purchase for Gary Fire. Based on call volume, Commissioner Grabow suggested an 80/20 split of County support funding between the Deuel County Ambulance and Gary Fire, with the specific allocation to be determined by the respective boards.

Borg stated that the goal is to continue providing local ambulance services and reduce the need for air transfers. Eversman remarked that there have been no air transfers due to a lack of ambulances. Borg agreed that this is currently the case but noted that five years ago helicopter and airplane transfers appeared to occur more frequently.

The Commissioners agreed that an 80/20 funding split was reasonable but expressed concern about funding equipment that may remain unused. Borg reiterated that Gary Fire is not seeking to handle all transfers but rather to ensure ambulance coverage remains available when another unit is out of service.

Eversman stated that if there is another community that could benefit from ambulance support, it is Toronto. Commissioner Grabow responded that if Toronto Fire wishes to pursue an ambulance service, it may request funding from the County. Commissioner Mewherter stated that the County provides the funding and the ambulance organizations can determine how best to use it. Grabow agreed but noted that no funds would be distributed until a clear plan is presented.

7) Mewherter moved, seconded by Homan to approve \$75,000 in support funds to the Deuel County Ambulance and Gary Fire, under the condition that both Deuel County Ambulance and Gary Fire can explain how they will use them. Funds are to be held until that time. All voted yes and the motion carried.

**Item #6 at 11:19 AM Executive Session Pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) Personnel Matters & SDCL 1-25-2(3) Consulting Legal Counsel**

8) Fieber moved, seconded by Mewherter to move into Executive Session Pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) for Personnel Matters and 1-25-2(3) for Consulting Legal Counsel. All

voted yes and the motion carried. At 11:50 PM the board switched to consulting legal counsel. Grabow declared the Commissioners out of Executive Session at 12:16 PM.

**Old Business**

Parker let the board know that Plainview Dairy is done with construction and the State reached out with an amount that will be given to the county as apart of a program. The County will receive \$501,922.27. Parker stated the funds have not been received yet. The County entered an MOU with Plainview and Blom Township to spend 65% of those funds to restore roads. Plainview and Blom Township received a grant to do work on the roads as well. Blom Township and Wildrose Dairy also received it.

Parker let the board know that she reached out to insurance on the Fairgrounds and Deuel County covers all liability insurance but none of the structures are listed on the schedule. Parker asked the board if they would like to move forward with adding those structures we can. Also, Parker reached out to the Lanners with no response yet.

**New Business**

Parker asked what the board was thinking for raises as she works on the 2027 Budget. The board decided \$0.70 plus step and grade.

9) Rhody moved, seconded by Homan to approve the April 2026 Cash Balance Sheet. All voted yes and motion carried.

**DEUEL COUNTY AUDITOR'S ACCOUNT WITH TREASURER  
END OF MONTH CASH BALANCE- APRIL 2026**

CASH TOTAL				\$	2,808.45
CHECKS TOTAL				\$	273,982.37
CASH ITEM				\$	-
CASH CHANGE SHERIFF				\$	50.00
TOTAL CASH ASSETS ON HAND				\$	276,840.82
CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE				\$	2,335,196.33
PREMIUM MM FIRST BANK & TRUST OF TORONTO				\$	7,607,547.83
SD FIT				-	
CREDIT CARDS				\$	7,491.00
CD		DNB		\$	250,000.00
		FB&T		-	
INTEREST EARNED: \$20,092.97					
REVOLVING LOAN				\$	46,036.27
<b>GRAND TOTAL CASH ASSETS</b>				<b>\$</b>	<b>10,523,112.25</b>
GL CASH BALANCE BY FUNDS:					
GENERAL				\$	5,363,493.49
				\$	553,633.44
TRUST & AGENCY FUNDS				\$	4,605,985.32
Townships	\$506,638.06	Cities	\$288,932.96		
Schools	\$3,494,890.70	Rural Fire	\$44,502.95		
<b>TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER CASH</b>				<b>\$</b>	<b>10,523,112.25</b>

**Difference**  
= \$ -

10) Fieber moved, seconded by Mewherter to approve the support funds for the Gary Historical Support Funds in the amount of \$2,000. All voted yes and motion carried.

11) Homan moved, seconded by Grabow to approve reimbursement to Jacky Kloos for mowing the Gary Deuel County Highway shop in the amount of \$200. All voted yes and the motion carried.

**Approval of Warrants:**

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

**Paid Early:** BROOKINGS DEUEL RURAL WATER 92.80 UTILITIES, DEUEL COUNTY FARMERS UNION OIL 118.47 REPAIRS, H-D ELECTRIC COOP, INC 922.62 UTILITIES, ITC 1248.06 UTILITIES, JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL 73.01 REPAIR, OTTERTAIL POWER CO 645.36 UTILITIES, W W TIRE SERVICE INC-WTN 139.05 REPAIR, IBC 279.50 Admin Fees,

**Warrants:** A-OX WELDING SUPPLY COMPANY IN 58.79 RENTAL, AMERICAN SOLUTION FOR BUSINESS 37.32 SUPPLIES, AUTO VALUE PARTS STORE 24.99 REPAIR, BANNER ASSOCIATES INC 31196.16 PROF. SERVICES, BROOKINGS CO. SHERIFF'S OFFICE 860.08 PRISONER HOUSING, CENTURY LINK 341.40 911 UTILITIES, CINTAS CORP 121.31 RUGS, TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES 199.00 IT PROF FEES, DAKOTA PORTABLE TOILETS, INC 275.00 TOILET RENTAL, DEUEL COUNTY FARMERS UNION OIL 2754.44 SUPPLIES/UTILITIES, DEUEL COUNTY TREASURER 403.73 DELINQ TAXES, ECOLAB PEST ELIMINATION DIV 62.99 PROF. SERVICE, ELECTION SYSTEMS& SOFTWARE INC 1652.67 USB STICK, FRITZ CHEVROLET INC 1125.41 REPAIR, INTER-LAKES COMM ACTION INC 1379.75 MAY SUPPORT, ITC 170.10 HWY UTILITY, L G EVERIST INC 4809.82 PEA ROCK SUPPLIES, OFFICE PEEPS INC 426.74 SUPPLIES, RICHARDSON, WYLY, WISE, 4083.23 CAA PROF FEES, SANFORD HEALTH 288.00 BLOOD DRAWS, SANFORD CLINIC 1666.67 HEALTH NURSE, SANFORD HEALTH OCCMED 168.00 PROF. FEES, SO DAK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH 100.00 BLOOD DRAWS, SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION 2154.62 FUEL SUPPLIES, TEAM LABORATORY CHEMICAL, LLC 48381.00 OVERLAY SUPPLIES, CITY OF WATERTOWN 6467.48 911 SURCHARGE,

**Public Comment**

Sheriff Cory Borg stated Deuel County Shooting Sports asked about using the range out at the shop. They would like to add a .22 program. Borg stated he spoke Insurance stated it could be possible. Grabow stated they should use the Isaac Walton. CLAD Director Deb Adkins stated she is in communications to revitalize the facility.

Mary Nosbush expressed her concern with The Commission not influencing Grant and Brookings Counties on the 765 kV line. Grabow stated he has talked with both counties but it is their county. Grabow stated he will not influence them. The taxpayers of those counties need to influence their commission with what they want.

Nosbush asked how to deal with the zoning board and the lack of decorum they have. Grabow stated he will not tolerate name calling. Grabow stated if there is something specific that Nosbush has a problem with, he's more than happy to discuss. Nosbush went on to discuss a specific time including Mike Lammers attacking and insulting people. Grabow stated some people in the audience do the same thing. Grabow explained that the public interrupting meetings by shouting, standing and pointing fingers is unacceptable. Grabow stated we all need to be held to the same standard. Grabow stated if the public

would like to solve problems, then they 100% approve that and will work with them. Grabow stated that Lammers was shut down by the Chair in that specific time. Grabow ended the discussion by asking both sides to be professional.

Nosbush stated she would like to see a sample ballot for the special election before it was published. Parker responded that sample ballots are available in the auditor's office.

Eversman returned to explain the Deuel County Ambulance does not forbid Gary Fire to drive their ambulances.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business 13) Rhody moved, seconded by Grabow to adjourn. All voted yes and the motion carried.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Courtney Parker, Auditor  
Published one time at the approximate cost of

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jay Grabow, Chairman