

The Deuel County Commissioners met in regular session on December 16th, 2025, 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 additions of Brandt Law Enforcement Contract. All voted yes and the motion carried.

Appointments

Item #1 Highway Superintendent Jamie Broksieck

Broksieck presented a quote for roughly \$5,000 for a wiring harness for a John Deere blade. The estimate is from RDO. This blade is a 2016 or 2017 and has 7000 hours on it. 2) Fieber moved, seconded by Rhody to approve the quote from RDO for the wiring harness in the amount of \$5,000. All voted yes and the motion carried.

Brief updates were given on a few other topics.

Item #2 Data Center Discussion

Discussion on the AI data center proposed for just East of Toronto was had by members of the public, the board of commission and representatives from Applied Digital. The facility would include 300 acres with two buildings, each building has 20 acres under one roof. Heat extraction is a big portion of this data center and runs on a closed coolant loop similar to a vehicle. The climate in South Dakota is desirable because of the cool weather in the fall, winter and spring. Outside the building there will be substation equipment. Construction will be a 3 phase, 12 month process for each building employing 1000-1500 construction workers at peak construction 5-6 days a week. They would like to pave roads around the facility to avoid ruining roads. Each building will employ roughly 200 people onsite, it does not include remote workers or visitors that will come to service the facility. Applied Digital is to build the facilities, run the facilities and then their customers run their own equipment.

The facility will cost Applied Digital 4.6-5.2 billion dollars to build the facility. Their customer would invest 1½ to 3 times that. \$300 - \$450 million would become taxable. This would increase Deuel County's taxable value 30-45% which could result in a 10% - 15% tax reduction across the county. Philips estimates paying \$3.5 - \$5 million on local property taxes and around 58% to the school system. Applied Digital would pay roughly \$19 million paid in the first year and a half. South Dakota charges sales tax on electricity therefore they would pay \$160 million dollars on the first 15 years.

The project is expected to be 430-megawatts on hottest day, normally 380-megawatt range. Applied digital likes to hire local. In Ellendale is more than 50% are local. What they do with runoff water is a conversation they would like to have with Deuel County. They would like it to be given to farmers and volunteer fire departments. Applied Digital would like to hook up to rural water on a 10 gallon a minute hook up using about two houses worth of water for regular everyday tasks.

Applied Digital looks for places with robust electricity infrastructure. South Dakota currently exports 30% of the electricity it produces. The attraction in Deuel County is the transmission lines and gas pipeline. In Ellendale, Montana-Dakota Utilities Company returned \$5.4 million dollars in 2023 and \$7.8 million in 2024 paid back to users as a direct result of the data center.

Discussion was opened by Grabow for questions. Questions including roads, noise, power outages, location, backup generators, legislation, employees, housing for

construction workers/potential assisted living center, property tax replacement, and similar footprint to proposed facility in Deuel County. Please go to www.deuelcountysd.com to listen to the entire discussion on the proposed Applied Digital data center.

Item #3 at 11:02 AM Executive Session Pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) Personnel Matters

3) Fieber moved, seconded by Mewherter to move into Executive Session Pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) for Personnel Matters. All voted yes and the motion carried. Fieber declared the Commissioners out of Executive Session at 11:50 AM.

4) Homan moved, seconded by Mewherter to advertise for 5th deputy in the sheriff's department. All voted yes and the motion carried.

Item #4 Sheriff Cory Borg

Borg discussed the Brandt Law Enforcement Contract. 5) Homan moved, seconded by Mewherter to approve the Brandt Law Enforcement Contract. All voted yes and the motion carried.

Borg presented two different quotes for countywide emergency notification systems, Everbridge Nixle and CodeRed. CodeRed recently experienced a hack. Borg stated their communication during their hack was poor which has led to him quoting other emergency notification systems. They handled their hack poorly with little to no communication with Deuel County. They have it partially fixed but still can't use everything within the system. Everbridge allows calls to landlines, posting to social media, sending out text messages, etc. Borg explained they can map an area of which they would like to be notified of emergencies. The public may have to resign up for Nixle but Borg is trying to get a download of contacts from CodeRed to Nixle. During discussions with Nixle, they stated they already had 70% of the county in contacts. Borgs suggested to save money and go with what he believes a better service, Nixle. If Nixle is chosen, he will notify the public by the paper and Facebook. CodeRed has changed and is not as simple. CodeRed quoted their system \$4,036.44 and Nixle quoted \$3,689.00. 6) Homan moved, seconded by Fieber approve the contract with Everbridge, Nixle for \$3,689.00. All voted yes and the motion carried.

Item #5 Zoning Officer Jodi Theisen

Theisen presented one plat to the board. 7) Rhody moved, seconded by Mewherter to approve the plat entitled "PLAT OF LOT 1A OF RYMERSON FARM SECOND ADDITION, in the East ½ of Section 22, T113N, R49W of the 5TH P.M., Deuel County, South Dakota" and Resolution 25-20. All voted yes and the motion carried.

COUNTY COMMISSION RESOLUTION

#25-20

Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Deuel County, South Dakota, that the plat herein PLAT OF LOT 1A OF RYMERSON FARM SECOND ADDITION, in the East ½ of Section 22, T113N, R49W of the 5TH P.M., Deuel County, South Dakota, Prepared by Brian D. Ernst, Registered Land Surveyor of the State of South Dakota be and the same is hereby approved.

I, Courtney Parker, County Auditor for Deuel County, South Dakota, do certify that the foregoing resolution was passed by the Board of County Commissioners, Deuel County, South Dakota, at the regular meeting on the 16th day of December, 2025.

Deuel County Auditor

New Business

The board chose not to approve the medical application Parker presented at this time. The individual is encouraged to reach out again after checking out other options first.

8) Rhody moved, seconded by Fieber to approve the November Cash Balance sheet. All voted yes and the motion carried.

9) Fieber moved, seconded by Rhody to approve a 9:00 AM December 31st, 2025, commission meeting for end of the year items. All voted yes and the motion carried.

10) Homan moved, seconded by Rhody to approve a travel request for Parker to attend a training in Mitchell, SD on January 28th, 2026. All voted yes and the motion carried.

Discussion was had on a new smart door lock for the 4-H complex. The quote from Milbank Glass and More was \$2,404.41. Board decided not to approve the quote and see if the Clear Lake Building Center had a substitute for less.

One of the furnaces in the 4-H Complex has broke down. A quote from Andor for a new system is \$30,500. Christianson Plumbing Heating and Air Conditioning also looked at the system. Christianson explained that the air conditioning portion of the unit works fine, it is only the furnace that does not work. He suggested a large Hot Dawg heater to pair with two others already in use. This fix would cost less than a whole new system and utilize the system that still works. The board will wait from a quote from Christianson on a Hot Dawg heater.

11) Fieber moved, seconded by Rhody to purchase weed chemicals in the amount of \$9,239.28. All voted yes and the motion carried.

Approval of Warrants

12) Rhody moved, seconded by Mewherter to pay all warrants. All voted yes and motion carried.

Paid Early: A-OX WELDING SUPPLY COMPANY IN 56.62 RENTAL, AT&T MOBILITY 40.04 UTILITIES, BROOKINGS DEUEL RURAL WATER 89.30 UTILITIES, BJERKE SANITATION 75.00 GARBAGE, CUSTOM CAGE 1145.00 VEHICLE PARTITION, DEUEL COUNTY FARMERS UNION OIL 2837.22 UTILITIES, SUPPLIES, H-D ELECTRIC COOP, INC 597.03 UTILITIES, ITC 1398.73 UTILITIES, JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL 787.28 REPAIR, NORTHWESTERN ENERGY 121.53 UTILITIES, OTTERTAIL POWER CO 889.85 UTILITIES, RC TECHNOLOGIES 150.00 911 UTILITIES, TIMOTHY WHELAN 464.29 OVR PMT TAXES,

Transmittals: Schools \$552,194.69, Townships \$48,377.17, Cities \$34,619.90, EDWD \$1,918.79, Upper Deer \$.32, Rural Fire \$10,918.98

Warrants: BANNER ASSOCIATES INC 15370.30 PROF FEES, BROOKINGS CO. SHERIFF'S OFFICE 4730.49 PRISONER SUPPLIES, BROOKINGS DEUEL RURAL WATER 46.00 UTILITIES, BUTLER MACHINERY CO 942.69 REPAIR, CARTNEY BEARING & SUPPLY CO 74.56 REPAIR, CINTAS CORP 51.31 RUGS, CLEAR LAKE BUILDING CENTER 95.98 REPAIR, COLE'S PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, INC 26188.19 SUPPLIES, COWBOY COUNTRY STORES 24.16 SUPPLIES, MICHAEL J DAHL 1050.00 ZONING BOARD MEMBER, KEVIN DEBOER 850.50 ZONING BOARD MEMBER, ECOLAB PEST ELIMINATION DIV 62.99 PROF. FEES, SCOTT FIEBER 353.60 ZONING BOARD MEMBER, FIRST BANK & TRUST 3877.86 CC STATEMENT, FRITZ CHEVROLET INC 440.72 REPAIR, GOODWIN TOWNSHIP 9577.82 RAIF REIMB., JAY GRABOW 680.40 ZONING BOARD MEMBER, H-D ELECTRIC COOP, INC 360.98 UTILITIES, INTER-LAKES COMM ACTION INC 1245.42 DECEMBER SUPPORT, J & L MACHINE & WELDING INC 440.00 REPAIRS, JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL 251.05 REPAIR, DENNIS KANENGIETER 704.52 ZONING BOARD MEMBER, MIKE LAMMERS 790.20 ZONING BOARD

MEMBER, LOWE TOWNSHIP 63547.48 RAIF REIMB., BLUE TARP FINANCIAL, INC 83.26
SUPPLIES, MATTHEW BENDER & CO., INC. 234.10 COURT RULE BOOKS, MAYNARDS 60.05
XMAS OPEN HOUSE SUPPLIES, MENARDS 404.05 SUPPLIES, MICROFILM IMAGING
SYSTEMS 90.00 RENTAL, OFFICE PEEPS INC 1337.00 SUPPLIES, POMP'S TIRE SERVICE,
INC 11100.00 SUPPLIES, POWERPLAN OIB 1671.21 SUPPLIES, SANFORD CLINIC 1666.67
HEALTH NURSE, SAVE YOUR FORK BAKERY 120.00 XMAS OPEN HOUSE TRAYS, SD DEPT
OF TRANSPORTATION 919.18 BRIDGE INSP., STATE OF SD 150.00 BLOOD DRAWS, SODAK
GARDENS 117.00 GREENERY, STREICHER'S 345.00 UNIFORM EXP., SUPREME WELDING,
INC. 10.99 SUPPLIES, TEESDALE LAW OFFICE, PLLC 1499.44 CAA FEES, THOMSON
REUTERS - WEST 539.96 LAW LIBRARY BOOK UPDATES, THE VINTAGE PEARL 100.00 DC
BUCKS REIMB., W W TIRE SERVICE INC-WTN 2365.82 REPAIR, CITY OF WATERTOWN
6345.90 911 SURCHARGE

Public Comment

Ryan Kohl introduced himself and gave information on his background. Kohl will run for
District 4 House Representative.

Adjournment

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

ATTEST:

Courtney Parker, Auditor

Published one time at the approximate cost of

Jay Grabow, Chairman