

McPherson County Board of Commissioners
Minutes of Proceedings
December 2nd, 2025

The McPherson County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, December 2nd, 2025, in the Commissioners chambers. Chairman Mark Opp called the meeting to order at 10:00AM. Members present were Mark Opp, Jeff Neuharth, Neal Woehlhaff, Sid Feickert and Mike Mardian. The full meeting can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/@McPhersonCountySD>

Feickert moved and Mardian seconded to approve the December 2nd agenda. All voted in favor. Motion carried. No conflicts of interest were declared.

Mardian moved and Neuharth seconded to approve the November 4th and November 12th Commission meeting minutes. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

DRAINAGE COMMISSION:

At 10:00AM Feickert moved and Neuharth seconded to forgo meeting as the McPherson County Drainage Commission for the month of December. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

At 10:05AM no public comments were heard.

CLAIMS APPROVED:

Agtegra, Hwy Supplies, \$11,872.29; Amazon, Supplies, \$781.70; Art's Body Shop, Lock Smith & Decals, \$285.00; ATT, Cellphone/Hotspot, \$489.25; Auto Value, Hwy Supplies, \$98.94; Beadle Ford, Oil Change, \$241.07; Butler, Hwy Supplies, \$121.57; Century Business Products, Printer Contract, \$70.25; CHS, Propane, \$428.15; Crawford Trucks & Equip, Hwy Supplies, \$12,053.98; Decked LLC, Drawer System, \$1,599.99; Dependable Sanitation, Utilities, \$264.00; Dickey Rural, Server Maint/Fix/Backup, \$1,309.64; Eureka City, Utilities, \$276.25; FEM, Utilities, \$382.18; Dean Geffre, Clothing Allowance, \$119.37; Gene's Oil, Fuel, \$1,191.61; Heartland Waste, Utilities, \$80.00; Lindley Howard, Reimb, \$130.65; IMEG, Survey, \$1,200.00; Intoximeters, PBT, \$449.00; Johnny & Renee Schwingler, Ignitor, \$48.01; Jensen Rock & Sand, Cold Mix, \$762.20; Kimball Midwest, Hwy Supplies, \$578.84; Lakeside Lumber, Hwy Supplies, \$468.60; Leola City, Utilities, \$209.23; Linde Gas & Equipment, Hwy Supplies, \$181.86; Greg McCulloch, Clothing Allowance, \$200.00; McPherson Co. Herald, Publishing, \$336.62; MDU, Utilities, \$758.07; Menards, Courthouse Supplies, \$136.95; City of Moberge, Printer Fix, \$91.59; Nelson Sales & Service, Snowblower Part, \$40.64; North Central E911, Nov Remittance, \$3,318.14; NW Blade, Publishing, \$439.75; Performance Oil, DEF, \$214.50; Pheasantland Industries, Clothes/Signs, \$418.67; Pomp's, Tires, \$2,144.00; Premier Equipment, Hwy Supplies, \$239.13; Ramkota, Hotel-Training, \$282.60; Jackie Rau, Reimb, \$149.42; Richardson Wylly Wise Heib Sauck, Mental Health, \$600.00; SD Federal Property Agency, Boom/Air Compressor/Fridge, \$16,352.00; SDAE4-HP, Conf Dues, \$200.00; Share, Hwy Supplies, \$433.78; Streicher's, Vest/Supplies, \$1,687.94; The Radar Shop, Radar Recert, \$320.00; Thomson Reuters-West, Nov West Law, \$795.44; Tri-State Water, Courthouse Water, \$91.75; USPS, Postage, \$62.80; USPS, Postage, \$1,460.00; Valley Plains, Equip Rental, \$16,850.00; Valley Telco, Phone/Internet, \$792.99; Vestis, Courthouse Supplies, \$185.25; Visa, Fuel, \$49.19; Visa, Hwy Supplies, \$187.09; Visa, Subs/Hotel/Misc, \$548.53; Michael Yost, Clothing Allowance, \$108.45; October 2025 Apportionment

Remitted to Cities/Schools/Townships/Fire Districts, \$1,913,650.68; State Treasurer, Money Due to State, \$73,283.70; State Treasurer, Sales Tax/Excise, \$8.29; SDACC, October M&P Fees, \$124.00; Dickey Rural, Server Maint/Fix; \$258.39; CorTrust, Direct Deposit Fee, \$15.00; November Payroll Reimbursements: Mike Mardian, Miles, \$266.88; Trisha Erdmann, Meals, \$80.00; Lindley Howard, Reimb, \$362.59; Sam Barrett, Miles, \$49.00; Richard Kolb, Miles, \$4.90; Logan Heupel, Miles, \$12.60; George Hulscher, Miles, \$49.00.

Neuharth moved and Woehlhaff seconded to approve the forgoing claims. Upon roll call vote: Neuharth, Woehlhaff, Opp "Aye"; Excused Feickert, Mardian. Motion carried.

SALARIES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES:

Commissioners, \$6,637.10; Election, \$40.00; Auditor, \$9,663.60; Treasurer, \$9,571.93; State's Attorney, \$6,920.43; Government Building, \$4,866.91; Director of Equalization, \$10,140.80; Register of Deeds, \$9,571.93; Veteran Service Officers, \$2,435.73; Sheriff, \$12,192.11; Coroner, \$250.00; Extension, \$4,262.40; Weed Control, \$177.36; Planning & Zoning, \$400.00; Road & Bridge, \$62,605.21; Eureka Joint Law, \$5,080.40; Leola Joint Law, \$4,500.00.

McPherson County's Share of the following:

Social Security and Medicare: CorTrust Bank: \$11,124.99

Insurance: American Family, \$440.79; Avera, \$3,017.93; Guardian Vision, \$114.36; MetLife, \$159.55; South Dakota Retirement System, \$8,350.11
November Payroll Reimbursements: Mike Mardian, Miles, \$266.88; Trisha Erdmann, Meals, \$80.00; Lindley Howard, Reimb, \$362.59; Sam Barrett, Miles, \$49.00; Richard Kolb, Miles, \$4.90; Logan Heupel, Miles, \$12.60; George Hulscher, Miles, \$49.00.; Colonial Life Vision, \$47.65.

ADDED SALARIES:

Mardian moved and Neuharth seconded to add the following salary: Linda Hanke, 21.51/hour for 1,820 hours per year beginning on 11/24/2025. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS:

**RESOLUTION 25-26
"PLAT APPROVAL"**

"Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of McPherson County, South Dakota, that the plat showing: Kunz Third Subdivision in the SW1/4 of Section 17-T127N-R70W of the 5th P.M., McPherson County South Dakota, having been examined, is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL 11-3, and any amendments thereof."

Dated this 2nd day of December 2025.

ATTEST:

Lindley Howard

McPherson County Auditor

Mark Opp

McPherson County Commission Chair

Neuharth moved for the adoption of Resolution Number 25-26, Mardian seconded the foregoing motion. Upon roll call vote, thereon, all voted "AYE". Motion carried and Resolution Number 25-26 was declared duly adopted.

OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED AND ACTION TAKEN:

Courthouse Weather Protocol

Discussion was held on the protocol for closing the courthouse in the event of poor weather. Sheriff Ackerman, Auditor Howard will work with the Commission Chair to close the courthouse if weather conditions warrant. Notice of weather closures will be posted on the county's Facebook page and local news websites.

Christmas at the Courthouse

Area groups are invited to set up their decorated tree and come for cookies on December 11th and tree judging December 11th – 23rd in the 1st floor rotunda of the Courthouse.

Court Security Committee

Neuharth moved and Feickert seconded to appoint the following stakeholders to the Court Security Committee: State's Attorney Austin Hoffman, Sheriff Dave Ackerman, Auditor Lindley Howard, 5th Circuit Court Administrator Jean Hutson and Judge McNeece and Commissioner Neal Woehlhaff. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Public Hearing and First Reading of Ordinance 25-2

At 10:15AM a public hearing and 1st reading of Ordinance #25-2: An Ordinance Amending McPherson County Ordinance #24-1, An Ordinance Establishing Zoning Regulations for Access Approach Permits in McPherson County, South Dakota. Several items were discussed, and public input was provided.

Neuharth moved and Woehlhaff seconded to approve the first reading and public hearing of Ordinance 25-2 and to set a second reading and public hearing for December 30th at 10:00AM. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Public Hearing and First Reading of Ordinance 25-3

At 10:20AM a public hearing and 1st reading of Ordinance #25-3: An Ordinance Amending McPherson County Ordinance #24-1, An Ordinance Amending Zoning Regulations for Manure Management and Operation Plan in McPherson County, South Dakota. Several items were discussed, and public input was provided. Changes were made to 4e iv. Revising that section to read: A description, approximate quantity and produce (per load/gallon) to be hauled or pumped that meets legal load limit requirements and Right of Way occupancy permits. An addition was made to section 4e vi to read: Statement that the permit applicant is liable for any leaks or spills. Mardian moved and Woehlhaff seconded to approve the first reading and public hearing of Ordinance 25-2 and to set a second reading and public hearing for December 30th at 10:05AM. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Courthouse Snow Removal Bid Opening

At 10:30AM Mardian moved and Feickert seconded to table opening bids until later in the 12/2 meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Auditor's Office

The 2025 Budget was reviewed along with the contingency and cash on hand estimates for 12/31. Discussion and direction were given for the 2026 employee raise increase and 2026 Employee Benefits. Options and recommendations will be provided to the commission at the December 30th meeting.

Courthouse Records

Discussion was held on destroying certain records that have met their retention period and the process by which the county handles record management.

Mardian moved and Woehlhaff seconded to destroy all records that have met their retention period; records of historic value will be transferred to State Archives in Pierre and/or area museums; Department heads will choose certain records to be displayed in the case on the first floor of the courthouse. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Mardian moved and Neuharth seconded to have each department follow the records retention manuals as prescribed by the State of SD. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Courthouse Maintenance

Discussion was held on the status of several ongoing projects.

Two quotes were submitted from House of Glass for replacement of the remaining 10 old windows in the courthouse. Feickert moved and Woehlhaff seconded to accept the House of Glass lowest quote for \$42,286 to replace 10 windows in the courthouse. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Feickert moved and Woehlhaff seconded to accept the quote from J&R Plumbing and Heating for \$15,570.22 to replace the mini split units serving the highway department and courtroom. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Hub City roofing completed the roof sample of the courthouse roof. Discussion was held on the sample, insulating the ceiling and the roof's insulation value.

Feickert moved and Woehlhaff seconded to replace the door on the courthouse roof and to have the roof access house shingles replaced with tin.

Chairman Mark Opp donated a lawnmower to replace the courthouse lawn mower with a motor issue. No replacement is needed currently.

Discussion was held on the landscaping circle in the courthouse south lawn. The county is hoping to fill the circles with donated old farm equipment and native grasses/low maintenance plants next spring. If you have any great ideas or items that could be donated, please reach out to Sharon Guthmiller or a Commissioner.

Courthouse Snow Removal Bid Opening

Mardian moved and Feickert seconded to revisit opening bids for courthouse snow removal for 2026. All voted in favor. Motion carried. One bid was received and read publicly: Moser Excavating and Trucking LLC, \$185 per hour. Neuharth moved and Mardian seconded to accept the bid from Moser Excavating LLC for \$185/hour for courthouse snow removal for 2026. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Sheriff Department/Leola Joint Law/Emergency Management

Sheriff Ackerman presented the state bid base price for new patrol vehicles for 2026. Discussion will continue at the next meeting. A quote from JR Plumbing to replace the jail toilet in the Eureka Building holding cell was discussed. Public comments were heard by Marian Kallas. Neuharth moved and Woehlhaff seconded to approve the quote from JR Plumbing for holding cell toilet replacement for \$4357.62. Upon roll call vote: Neuharth, Opp, Woehlhaff, Feickert "Aye"; Mardian "Nay". Motion

carried.

The Commission attended the City Council meeting on 12/1 and gave an update. The current Leola Joint Law contract will end on 12/31/2025.

Brown County Commission is discussing the regional Emergency Management concept. A proposal is expected to be presented soon.

Right of Way Permits

Neuharth moved and Feickert seconded to approve the following permits to occupy right of way: ValleyTel to bury fiber optic cable along 329th Ave, boring under the road at the intersection of 329th Ave and Co Hwy 3A/B Ave in Section 36-T127N-R73W; FEM to bore 7200 volt power cable between Section 17 and Section 8 of T125N-R68W; Web Water to bore 2" potable water line under 115th street in Section 18 T126N-72W. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Highway Department

Feickert moved and Neuharth seconded to surplus a 2008 Dodge pickup 4x4 pickup at the spring 2026 Schock auction in Leola. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Glenn Spitzer notified the commission that lease tractors may not be available for the 2026 season, the county will consider the options available including, fixing owned tractors, buy a tractor or find lease tractors from another source. Chip sealing and resurfacing costs for 2026 were discussed. Public comments were received from Melvin Kallas.

Executive Session

Mardian moved and Neuharth seconded to enter executive session at 1:10PM pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1). All voted favor. Motion carried. Feickert moved and Neuharth seconded to exit executive session at 3:35PM. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Reports Approved

Woehlhaff moved and Neuharth seconded to approve the following reports: Register of Deed's Modernization and Preservation fees collected during month of October 2025 for the amount of \$310; Register of Deeds statement of fees collected during the month of October 2025 in the amount of \$2,123.50; Register of Deed's Modernization and Preservation fees collected during month of November 2025 for the amount of \$170; Register of Deeds statement of fees collected during the month of November 2025 in the amount of \$1,800.50; HR Reports: Extension, SA Secretary October & November, VSO October and November; Auditor's Account with the County Treasurer as of October 31st, 2025 as follows: total amount of deposits in Leola Bank, \$474,425.66; total amount of actual cash, \$2,405.63; total amount of checks and drafts in treasurer's possession not exceeding three days, \$211,815.93; Itemized list of all items, checks and drafts in the Treasurers possession over three days, \$149; CD's, \$1,197,920.74; Super savings, \$3,203,475.88; total, \$5,090,192.84; Auditor's Account with the County Treasurer as of November 30th, 2025 as follows: total amount of deposits in Leola Bank, \$292,239.68; total amount of actual cash, \$771.00; total amount of checks and drafts in treasurer's possession not exceeding three days, \$26,913.72; Itemized list of all items, checks and drafts in the Treasurers possession over three days, \$876.95; CD's, \$1,206,242.58; Super savings, \$1,626,663.90; total, \$3,153,707.83; Upon roll call vote: Mardian, Neuharth, Woehlhaff, Opp "Aye"; Excused Feickert. Motion carried.

At 4:05PM Woehlhaff moved, Neuharth seconded to adjourn the meeting. Upon roll call vote: Neuharth, Woehlhaff, Opp "Aye"; Excused Feickert, Mardian. Motion carried. The next regular Commission Meetings will be Tuesday, December 30th, 2025 and Tuesday, January 6th, 2026 both beginning at 10:00AM.

ATTEST:

Lindley Howard

McPherson County Auditor

Mark Opp

Chairman of Board of Commissioners