

McPherson County Board of Commissioners
Minutes of Proceedings
January 6th, 2026

The McPherson County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 6th, 2026 in the Commissioners chambers. Chairman Mark Opp called the meeting to order at 10:00AM. Members present were Neal Woehlhaff, Jeff Neuharth, Sid Feickert and Mike Mardian. The full meeting can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/@McPhersonCountySD>

Mardian moved Neuharth seconded to approve the agenda of the January 6th meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carried. No conflicts were declared.

Woehlhaff moved and Feickert seconded to approve the December 30th Commissioner Meeting Minutes. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman Opp relinquished the Chair to the Auditor for the purpose of reorganizing the board for the year 2026. Nominations for chairman were requested. Feickert nominated Opp for chairman. Neuharth moved and Mardian seconded to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Opp. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Nominations for vice-chairman were requested. Woehlhaff nominated Feickert for vice-chairman. Neuharth moved and Mardian seconded close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Feickert. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

The Auditor relinquished the Chair to Chairman Opp.

2026 APPOINTMENT AND DESIGNATIONS:

Consideration was given to Mike Lapka and Don Pudwill to fill the open zoning board position. Feickert moved and Woehlhaff seconded to appoint Mike Lapka to the zoning board. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Consideration was given to Glenn Spitzer, Neal Woehlhaff and Jeff Neuharth to serve as Board of Adjustment Alternates. Opp moved and Feickert seconded to appoint Jeff Neuharth and Neal Woehlhaff as Board of Adjustment Alternates. Upon roll call vote: Opp, Feickert, Woehlhaff, Mardian "Aye"; Abstain Neuharth. Motion carried.

Neuharth moved and Woehlhaff seconded to make the following 2026 appointments and designations:

Weed Board- Sid Feickert, 1 year remaining; Trevor Zantow and Mike Wolff, 3 years remaining; Galen Hauck and Curtis Hoff, 4 years remaining

Northwest Council of Governments- Sid Feickert, Neal Woehlhaff, and Glenn Spitzer

Zoning Board and Housing Redevelopment Board- Mike Mardian, 3 years remaining; Logan Heupel and George Hulscher, 3 years remaining; Mike Lapka, 2 years remaining; Dan Mettler, 1 year remaining.

Board of Adjustment Alternates- Jeff Neuharth and Neal Woehlhaff

North Central E-911 Board - Mark Opp and Dave Ackerman

Community Health Board- Mike Mardian

Northwest South Dakota Community Action Program Board- Jeff Neuharth

Court Security Committee – State’s Attorney Austin Hoffman, Sheriff Dave Ackerman, Auditor Lindley Howard, 5th Circuit Court Administrator Jean Hutson, Judge McNeece and Commissioner Neal Woehlhaff

Local Emergency Planning Committee- Mark Opp, Travis Mehlhaff, Jackie Rau, Michael Schwingler, Casey Jundt, Karl Moser, Wes Hilgemann, Doug Hatlewick, Tim Serr, Dave Ackerman.

Official Depositories- Great Plains Bank, CorTrust Bank and First State Bank of Roscoe.

Official Legal Newspapers- Northwest Blade, Inc. and McPherson County Herald

Foreclose Sale Sites: McPherson County Courthouse; County Highway Shops in Leola and Eureka.

All voted on favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

At 10:05AM public comments were heard from: Mike Klipfel – wants 4 precincts. Full comments can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/@McPhersonCountySD>

SECOND READING ORDINANCE 25-2:

The commission held a second 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. Neuharth moved and Mardian seconded to adopt 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. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

BIDS:

At 10:15AM the following bids that were submitted for the 2026 supply of products/services to McPherson County were opened and read aloud. Bid amounts shown are the total bid margin and freight cost which the vendors are adding to the cost of the products shown on the State of South Dakota website:

Unleaded Bulk delivered to Leola and Eureka; Ethanol at the pump in Leola:

Gene's Oil Company- **\$.199 Leola at Pump**, no bid submitted for Eureka Bulk

Agtegra- Posted price less \$.184 Leola at Pump; **\$.29 Leola Bulk; \$.36 Eureka Bulk**

Dyed Diesel Fuel delivered in bulk:

Agtegra - \$.29 Leola area; \$.36 Eureka area; \$.36 Long Lake area

CHS Farmers Alliance - \$.22 Leola area; \$.30 Eureka area; \$.30 Long Lake area

Neuharth moved and Woehlhaff seconded to accept Gene's Oil's bid for Ethanol at the Pump in Leola; Agtegra for Leola and Eureka Bulk Unleaded Gasoline; and CHS Farmers Alliance for dyed Diesel Fuel Leola area, Eureka area and Long Lake area. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Propane –Courthouse

CHS Farmers Alliance - .29 added to state rack price (Jan-May), .29 added to state rack price (Oct-Dec)

Agtegra - \$1.549 per gallon

Propane Highway Shops

CHS Farmers Alliance - .30 added to state rack price Leola Area, .30 added to state rack price Eureka Area, .30 added to state rack price Long Lake Area

Agtegra - \$1.549/gallon Leola Area, \$1.599/gallon Eureka Area, \$1.966/gallon Long Lake Area

Neuharth moved and Woehlhaff seconded to accept Agtegra's bid for propane at the Leola, Eureka, Long Lake highway shops and the Courthouse. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION 26-1
“RESOLUTION IMPOSING SPEED LIMITS AND WEIGHT PER AXLE LIMITS”

WHEREAS, the County of McPherson, South Dakota, is responsible for the maintenance of certain highways under its jurisdiction, and

WHEREAS, it appears said highways, by reason of deterioration, rain, snow or other climatic conditions will be seriously damaged or destroyed unless the use of vehicles thereon is prohibited or restriction as to the weight of vehicles are imposed

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: Pursuant to SDCL 32-14-6 and any laws amendatory, thereto, that the load limits on all McPherson County oil roads be posted at 6 ton per axle, 80,000 gross. McPherson County oil roads will be posted at 40 mph for trucks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That there shall be erected and maintained signs designating the provision of this resolution as provided by state law, and that this resolution shall not be effective until or unless such signs are erected and maintained.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the County of McPherson shall request the South Dakota Highway Patrol to enter the County of McPherson to ensure compliance with State Laws pertaining to vehicle weight and with the weight laws established by this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the speed limit for trucks on all county oil roads within McPherson County, South Dakota, shall be 40 MPH. McPherson County requests South Dakota Highway Patrol to enter the County of McPherson to enforce the speed limit of 40 MPH for trucks on all McPherson County oil roads.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the effective dates of the provisions of this resolution shall start the same time that the State of South Dakota starts their restrictions or when county conditions warrant and shall end 1 week after the State lifts their limits or when county conditions warrant.

Dated this 6th day of January, 2026 at Leola, SD

ATTEST:

Lindley Howard
McPherson County Auditor

Mark Opp
McPherson County Commission Chair

Feickert moved for the adoption of Resolution Number 26-1, Neuharth seconded the foregoing motion. Upon roll call vote, thereon, all voted in favor. Motion carried and Resolution Number 26-1 was declared duly adopted.

RESOLUTION 26-2
“ESTABLISHING FEES FOR GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS) PUBLIC INFORMATION ACCESS AND PRICING SCHEDULE FOR DIRECTOR OF EQUALIZATION’S OFFICE”

WHEREAS, requests for computer generated copies of public information in the McPherson County Director of Equalization office has prompted the need for establishing office policy and fees;

WHEREAS, there is an inherent cost not only to generate records but to maintain records;

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners have hereby elected to establish said GIS fees by resolution to be reviewed annually in January of each calendar year;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT BE RESOLVED that the following fee schedule be established:

Product	Date Developed	Source	Format	Unit Size	Total Price
Tax Parcels with Parcel ID (Rural & City)	Ongoing	McPherson County	Shapefile or Geodatabase	Approx. 8,500	\$2,500
Rural Only	Ongoing	McPherson County	Shapefile or Geodatabase	Approx. 6,900	\$2,000
Eureka Only	Ongoing	McPherson County	Shapefile or Geodatabase	Approx. 900	\$300
Leola Only	Ongoing	McPherson County	Shapefile or Geodatabase	Approx. 500	\$150
Other Towns (Long Lake, Wetonka, Hillsview)	Ongoing	McPherson County	Shapefile or Geodatabase	Approx. 235	\$100
Excel File with ownership, address, legal					\$2,500

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a request for computer-generated public records form must be filed & approved, a completed product license agreement must be filed and full payment must be received before release of records. McPherson County reserves the right to share data with other governmental/public entities.

Dated this 6th day of January, 2026 at Leola, SD

ATTEST:

Lindley Howard
McPherson County Auditor

Mark Opp
McPherson County Commission Chair

Mardian moved for the adoption of Resolution Number 26-2, Neuharth seconded the foregoing motion. Upon roll call vote, thereon, all voted in favor. Motion carried and Resolution Number 26-2 was declared duly adopted.

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 26-3
“ESTABLISHING PLANNING AND ZONING PERMIT APPLICATION FEES”**

WHEREAS, the Planning and Zoning Ordinance #2024-1, Ordinance #25-1, Ordinance #25-2 and Ordinance #25-3 for McPherson County requires that McPherson County shall establish the fees for each of the planning and zoning permits provided for within said Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, there is an inherent cost for the publication of said notice(s) for each permit application that is correlated directly related to each respective application; and

WHEREAS, there is an inherent cost of notification by certified letter to all adjacent or affected neighboring landowners; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners have hereby elected to establish said fees for all planning and zoning permits by resolution to be reviewed annually in January of each calendar year;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT BE RESOLVED that the following fee schedule be established:

Building Permit (based on cost of construction)

\$25 for projects costing \$0 - \$999,999

\$100/million for projects costing 1,000,000+

Rezone Fee - \$100

Variance Permit - \$100

Conditional Use Permit - \$250

Drainage Permit - \$250

10-Mile Manure Variance (from within county) - \$250/day plus \$500 haul road inspection/office fee and a \$1000 bond

10-Mile Manure Variance (from out of county) - \$50/load: 0-30 loads per month, \$100/load for 31+ loads per month plus a \$500 haul road inspection/office fee and a \$1000 bond. The commission reserves the right to increase this fee on a case-by-case basis for any 10-Mile Manure (from out of county) permit.

Hazardous Material Pipeline Permit Application Fee: \$15,000 base fee plus for any pipeline qualifying for any federal tax credit and/or subsidy, one percent (1%) annually of the tax credit and/or subsidy amount.

County Road and Right of Way Renewal Fee: \$250 per drivable surface crossed plus any additional costs incurred by the county, that shall be paid annually by the Pipeline Owner on the anniversary of the In-Service date of the Hazardous Material Pipeline.

Screening Fence Inspection fee to be paid by the Pipeline Owner: \$1000 per substation or related above-ground pipeline structure or facility plus any additional costs incurred by the county.

Annual Facility Inspection Fee: \$250 per substation or related above-ground pipeline structure or facility, plus any additional costs incurred by the county, that shall be paid annually by the Pipeline Owner on the anniversary of the In-Service date of the Hazardous Material Pipeline

Data Processing Center Permit Application Fee: \$15,000

Access Approach Permit Application Fee: \$50 per approach; \$150 per temporary approach

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the permit applicant must pay the permit fee prior to the application being reviewed by the Zoning Board and/or Drainage Commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT in addition to the permit fee the applicant will be billed for all publication and certified mailing costs that are directly associated with the permit and no permit shall be issued until such costs are reimbursed to McPherson County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT If an applicant initiates a project prior to obtaining necessary permits the cost of the permit fee the applicant will be charged in accordance with Section 1.02.03 of Ordinance 2024-1

Dated this 6th day of January, 2026 at Leola, SD.

ATTEST:

Lindley Howard
McPherson County Auditor

Mark Opp
McPherson County Commission Chair

Mardian moved for the adoption of Resolution Number 26-3, Woehlhaff seconded the foregoing motion. Upon roll call vote, thereon, all voted in favor. Motion carried and Resolution Number 26-3 was declared duly adopted.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 26-4
“ESTABLISHING PLANNING AND ZONING MEETING DATES AND FEES”

WHEREAS, SDCL 11-2-3.1 requires that McPherson County Planning and Zoning commission meet no less than once every three months;

WHEREAS, a predetermined schedule is necessary to efficiently conduct Planning and Zoning business and will offer permit applicants and the public the opportunity to better plan for these meetings;

WHEREAS, there is an inherent cost of holding planning and zoning meetings as SDCL 11-2-3.2 requires that per diem and expenses of the county planning commission shall be paid by the county;

WHEREAS, the cost of each planning and zoning meeting in 2026 is \$600 per meeting;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT BE RESOLVED that the Planning and Zoning Board will meet on the third Tuesday of the months of January, April, July, and October. The Planning and Zoning Board reserves the right to call additional meetings to conduct planning and zoning business. However, should a permit applicant request a special meeting of the planning and zoning board, for the purpose of securing their permit at an earlier date, the permit applicant shall be responsible for the meeting costs. The meeting costs shall be reevaluated in January of each year.

Dated this 6th day of January 2026 at Leola, South Dakota.

ATTEST:

Lindley Howard
McPherson County Auditor

Mark Opp
McPherson County Commission Chair

Feickert moved for the adoption of Resolution Number 26-4, Neuharth seconded the foregoing motion. Upon roll call vote, thereon, all voted in favor. Motion carried and Resolution Number 26-4 was declared duly adopted.

RESOLUTION 26-5:

A draft of Resolution 26-5 adopting boundaries for 3 precincts was presented. Reduction in precincts would reduce costs. Public comment was heard from Linda Schauer – doesn't want precinct consolidation. Full comments can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/@McPhersonCountySD>

Mardian moved and Neuharth seconded to table Resolution 26-5 until a re-draft can be presented with 4 precincts. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Later in the meeting Mardian moved and Neuharth seconded to consider a re-draft of Resolution 26-5. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 26-5
“RESOLUTION TO ADOPT MCPHERSON COUNTY VOTING PRECINCT BOUNDARIES”

WHEREAS, SDCL 12-14-1 and SDCL 12-14-2 provides that the Board of Commissioners, through a Resolution, can make changes in voting precincts already established and shall clearly set forth and define the boundaries that are established or altered, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the McPherson County Board of Commissioners in session on this 6th day of January, 2026 that the Voting Precinct boundaries and polling locations shall be as follows:

Precinct 1 – North Leola: Polling Place McPherson County Courthouse

Townships: Harrison (excluding Long Lake Town), Wacker, Weber, Wachter, Hoffman, Koto, Carl, Willow sections 1-18 (north of hwy 10), Leola twsp. outside of Leola city limits sections 1-18 (north of hwy 10), Spring sections 1-18 (north of hwy 10).

Cities: City of Leola, Wards 1 and 2 – all premises north of Moulton from Church to Sherman including premises north of hwy 10 west of Church Street to 363rd Ave to Leola city limits, and all premises west of Sherman Street to Leola city limits.

Precinct 2 – South Leola: Polling Place McPherson County Courthouse

Townships: Lincoln, Washington, Howard, Dewey, Arena, Highland, Spring sections 19-36 (south of hwy 10), Leola twsp. outside of Leola city limits sections 19-36 (south of hwy 10), Willow sections 19-36 (south of hwy 10). Moscow sections 36, 25, 24, 13, 12, 1 (east of 348th Ave), Long Lake sections 1-3, 10-15 (North of 109th street and East of 346th Ave)

Cities: Wetonka Town, Long Lake Town, City of Leola: Ward 3 – all premises south of Moulton from Church Street to Sherman Street including the block east of Church Street and south of hwy 10 to Leola city limits.

Precinct #3 – West Eureka: Polling Place old Eureka city Building (613 7th Street, Eureka)

Townships: Jackson sections 2-11, 14-23, 26-35 (west of 328th Ave), Bauer outside of city limits sections 2-11, 14-23, 26-35 (west of 328th Ave), Glucksthal outside of city limits sections 2-11, 14-23, 26-35 (west of hwy 47), Spring Creek sections 2-11, 14-23, 26-35(west of hwy 47/328th ave).

Cities: City of Eureka - All premises north of J Avenue and west of 10th Street to city limits, all premises south of F Avenue but north of J Avenue which are west of 3rd Street, but east of 10th Street, also including an area north of F Avenue and south of C Avenue between 3rd and 5th streets, including that block whose boundary is F Avenue on the south, E Avenue on the north, 6th Street on the west and 5th Street on the east.

Precinct #4 – East Eureka: Polling Place old Eureka city Building (613 7th Street, Eureka)

Townships: Glucksthal outside of Eureka city limits sections 1, 12, 13, 24, 25 and section 36 outside of Eureka city limits (east of hwy 47), Spring Creek sections 1, 12, 13, 24, 25, 36 (east of hwy 47), Jackson sections 1, 12, 13, 24, 25, 36 (east of 328th Ave), Bauer outside of Eureka city limits sections 1, 12, 13, 24, 25, 36 (east of 328th Ave), Detmold, Rosenthal, Stickel, Hillsvie, Petersburg, Odessa, Kassel, Cleveland, Bergdorf, Blaine, Long Lake sections 4-9, 16-36 (west of 346th Ave and South of 109th street), Moscow sections 2-11, 14-23, 26-35 (West of 348th Ave).

Cities: Hillsvie Town, City of Eureka - Ward Three: All premises in Sunrise Addition and also all premises within the incorporated city limits which are south of J Avenue, City of Eureka - All premises

north of F Avenue and west of 5th Street but east of 10th street, but also including the area north of C Avenue which lies east of 5th Street, excluding that block whose boundary is of F Avenue on the south, E Avenue on the north, 6th Street on the west and 5th Street on the east.

Dated this 6th day of January 2026 at Leola, South Dakota.

ATTEST:

Lindley Howard
McPherson County Auditor

Mark Opp
McPherson County Commission Chair

Mardian moved for the adoption of Resolution Number 26-5, Neuharth seconded the foregoing motion. Upon roll call vote, thereon, all voted in favor. Motion carried and Resolution Number 26-5 was declared duly adopted.

DRAINAGE COMMISSION:

At 11:15AM Neuharth moved and Feickert seconded to meet as the McPherson County Drainage Commission. All voted in favor. Motion carried. The McPherson County Drainage Commission met on Tuesday January 6th, 2026. Chairman Sid Feickert called the meeting to order at 11:15AM. Members present were: Mike Mardian, Neal Woehlhaff, Mark Opp and Jeff Neuharth. The Meeting and comments can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/@McPhersonCountySD>

Chairman Feickert relinquished the chair to the Auditor for the purpose of reorganizing the board for the year 2026. Nominations of chairman were requested. Mardian nominated Feickert for chairman. Neuharth moved and Woehlhaff seconded that nominations for chairman cease and that a unanimous ballot be cast for Feickert. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Nominations of vice-chairman were requested. Neuharth nominated Woehlhaff for vice-chairman. Opp moved and Mardian seconded that nominations for vice chairman cease and that a unanimous ballot be cast for Woehlhaff. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

The Auditor relinquished the Chair to Chairman Feickert.

Discussion was held on Drainage Permit 25-D-04 submitted by Jim Schauer to improve drainage in the W1/2 STR 28-126-67 by installing patterned drain tiles flowing into a lift station. Concerns were expressed by neighboring landowner Derek Merkel, in opposition of the project. Jim Schauer presented the commission with an attorney's opinion. Neuharth moved and Mardian seconded to table action on permit 25-D-04 to allow time for the applicant and neighboring landowner to resolve their differences. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

At 11:30AM Neuharth moved and Woehlhaff seconded to adjourn the Drainage Commission meeting and resume meeting as the McPherson County Board of Commissioners. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED AND ACTION TAKEN:

Public Records Request Policy and Fees

A review of the Public Records Request Policy and associated fees was performed with no changes.

Vendor Authorization and Purchase preauthorization policy

Neuharth moved and Feickert seconded to allow Auditor's Office to pay the following monthly utility bills for the year 2026 in the event they have not been posted 24hrs in advance of a meeting: Agtegra – Fuel; ATT – Phone; Dicky Rural – Co Server; Eureka City – Water/Rent; FEM –Electric; Gene's – Fuel; Heartland Waste – Garbage; Leola City – Water; McPherson Co Herald – Publishing; MDU – Electric; NorthWest Blade – Publishing; Valleytel – Phone/Internet; CHS – Propane; Web Water – Water; and bills from the following Highway Department vendors– Butler, Premier Equipment, Share, Macs, Crawford Trucks. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Neuharth moved Woehlhaff seconded to require preauthorization in 2026 for any purchase over \$1,000 per item by all departments except the highway department; for the highway department, any purchase exceeding \$5,000 per item must be preauthorized by the board of commissioners. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Emergency Management

Brown County informally suggested they could McPherson County Emergency Management services for 30,000-40,000 per year with McPherson supplying a local contact with vehicle etc. at McPherson County's cost. Ackerman presented another option with Sheriff Ackerman continuing as the Emergency Manager and 4 Emergency Management Deputies at a cost of \$17,000/year in salary. Feickert moved and Woehlhaff seconded to appoint Sheriff Dave Ackerman as the Emergency Manager for \$5000/year; Justin Bentz, AJ Whited, Nathan Chambers and Michael Yost as Deputy Emergency Managers for \$3000/year each. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Emergency management pay is included in the 2026 salaries of officers and employees amounts.

Neuharth moved and Feickert seconded to perform the annual reviews for the Emergency Operations Plan, McPherson County's Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan and the McPherson Co. Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan; and to authorize the Chair to sign the review forms. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Sheriff's Department

Feickert moved and Neuharth seconded to authorize the \$25,000 payment for the 2026 Brown County Jail Contract. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Neuharth moved and Woehlhaff seconded to sign the Edmunds County 2026 Jail Housing Contract. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Highway Department

Rental tractors were discussed briefly; Superintendent Glenn Spitzer is looking for options. Discussion was held on surplus posts available for sale. Opp moved and Neuharth seconded to revise the price per surplus post to 0-100 \$5/post; 100+ \$4/post. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Neuharth moved and Mardian seconded to add a stop sign at the intersection of 121st Street and 349th Ave. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Mardian moved and Feickert seconded to approve following: McPherson County Highway annual overwidth permits are \$100, state rules apply, State annual overwidth permits will be honored and no additional county permit is needed. McPherson County Highway overweight permit fees are \$100/load with a max of 12 loads. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

The board performed a review of Ordinance 16-1 McPherson County Highway Utility Crossing Ordinance, Appendix C Utility Permit Fee Schedule (last updated by the commission on 1/3/2023). No changes were made.

Neuharth moved and Mardian seconded to approve the following as highway department part time and seasonal employees working as-needed in 2026: Equipment Operators, rate of \$27.81/hour – Stanton

Spitzer, Curt Schumacher, Dawn Jenner and Lee Geffre; Restricted Seasonal, rate of \$20.00/hour – Connor Spitzer; Summer Seasonal, rate of \$18.00/hour. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Woehlhaff moved and Neuharth seconded to include the following step pay amounts in the 2026 rate per hour for the following employees: Dean Geffre, .50/hour; Henry Spitzer, .50/hour; Sid Maier, .10/hour; Rodney Malsam, .32/hour. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Step pay is included in the 2026 salaries of officers and employees amounts.

Executive Session

Neuharth moved and Feickert seconded to enter executive session at 12:00PM to discuss personnel matters. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Neuharth moved and Mardian seconded exit executive session at 2:07PM. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

2026 Employee Raises

Neuharth moved and Feickert seconded to adopt a 2.5% raise for all employees except Austin Hoffman and to reduce hours for Megan Hoffman in 2026 to 520/year, 10 hours per week. Upon roll call vote: Feickert, Woehlhaff, Opp and Neuharth “Aye”; Mardian “Nay”. Motion carried. Feickert moved and Woehlhaff seconded to pay the commission chair receives an additional \$100/month. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

All additional amounts are included in the 2026 salaries of officers and employee’s amounts.

2026 Meeting Pay Rates and Travel Reimbursement

Neuharth moved and Feickert seconded that members of the Local Emergency Planning Committee are paid \$30.00/meeting and reimbursed mileage. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Neuharth moved and Woehlhaff seconded that members of the Zoning board are paid \$100.00/meeting and reimbursed mileage. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Feickert moved and Mardian seconded that members of the Weed Board are paid \$30.00/meeting, \$100/day for conference/district meeting agenda days, and reimbursed mileage. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Woehlhaff moved and Mardian seconded to set the fee for the coroner at \$250/body and reimbursed mileage. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Neuharth moved and Woehlhaff seconded that McPherson County will follow the state travel reimbursement rates for 2026. The following officers and employees receive mileage to come to the courthouse for meetings/office hours/court: County Commissioners, Veterans Service Officer, State’s Attorney. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

2026 Longevity Pay

Mardian moved and Feickert seconded to pay longevity pay to full time employees, including all elected officials except commissioners, who have worked for the county for 4 years or more. Pay will be added to the December payroll; payment amount varies according to number of years worked. Should the employee retire prior to the end of the year the following longevity pay will be prorated, but an employee who resigns, for reasons other than retirement, forfeit longevity pay: 4-10yrs: \$600, 11-15yrs: \$1,200, 16-20yrs: \$1,800, 21-25yrs: \$2,400, 26-30yrs: \$3,000, 31-35yrs: \$3,600, 36-40yrs: \$4,200, 41-45yrs: \$4,800. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

2026 Employee Benefits

Mardian moved and Neuharth seconded to approve the presented benefits sheet, full benefits are offered to all elected officials and regular full-time employees; eligible employees who have their own health coverage will be reimbursed \$600/month with proof of other health insurance. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Health reimbursement is in addition to the 2026 salaries of officers and employees for eligible employees who have proved proof of other coverage.

2026 Compensatory Time

Woehlhaff moved and Neuharth seconded to set the 2026 Compensatory Time max accumulation amount at 30 hours/year for each employee eligible; additional hours may be granted with pre-approval from the Board of Commissioners on a case-by-case basis. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

2026 SALARIES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES:

The following annual salaries are in effect for McPherson County elected officials and employees for 2026:

Elected Officials: David Ackerman, Sheriff/Emergency Manager, \$77,714.00; Austin Hoffman, State's Attorney, \$65,237.76; Lindley Howard, Auditor, \$64,789.08; Tiffany Weiszhaar, Treasurer, \$63,668.80; Vicki Geffre, Register of Deeds, \$63,668.80; Mark Opp, Commission Chairman, \$9,931.32; Sid Feickert, Commissioner, \$8,701.32; Neal Woehlhaff, Commissioner, \$8,701.32; Jeff Neuharth, Commissioner, \$8,701.32; Mike Mardian, Commissioner, \$8,701.32.

Salaried Appointed: Glenn Spitzer, Hwy Superintendent, \$72,342.12; Justin Bentz, Sheriff/Emergency Management Deputy, \$65,483.20; Aaron James Whited, Sheriff/Emergency Management Deputy, \$65,483.20; Nathan Chambers, Sheriff/Emergency Management Deputy, \$58,350.00; Samantha Boshard, Veterans Service Officer, \$26,270.40 (1,040 hours per year); Megan Hoffman, State's Attorney Secretary, \$12,168.00 (520 hours per year); David Roggenkamp, Appointed Coroner, \$250 per body.

Courthouse Hourly Rates: Brooke Mehlhaff, Director of Equalization, \$30.61; Jackie Rau, 4H/Extension, \$26.81/hour; Hunter Heinrich, Certified Assessor, \$26.67; Sharon Guthmiller, Courthouse Custodian/Maintenance, \$24.37; Vivian Sain, Deputy Treasurer, \$23.40/hour; Trisha Erdmann, Deputy Auditor, \$23.40/hour; Kyra Moser, Deputy Register of Deeds, \$23.40/hour; Linda Hanke, Hwy Secretary, \$22.08/hour; Becky Wolff, as needed Courthouse Custodian/Maintenance, \$22.82/hour.

Highway Department Hourly: Rick Rau, \$30.30; Josh Flemmer, \$30.11; Rodney Malsam, \$30.11; Greg McCulloch, \$29.79; Brandon Leeper-Duquette, \$29.79; Sid Maier, \$29.79; Dean Geffre, \$29.16; Henry Spitzer, \$29.16; Micheal Yost, \$26.61 plus \$250/month for Emergency Management Deputy.

Part-time Highway Department (working as needed): Equipment Operators - Stanton Spitzer, \$27.81/hour; Curt Schumacher, \$27.81/hour; Dawn Jenner, \$27.81/hour; Lee Geffre, \$27.81/hour; Restricted Seasonal - Connor Spitzer, \$20.00/hour.

Courthouse and Highway hourly employees are paid time-and-half for hours worked in excess of 40 hours within the standard work week. (Does not apply to elected and salaried appointed). Courthouse Hourly are eligible for compensatory time in lieu of pay for additional hours worked, up to the max accrual as set by the Board of Commissioners. Compensatory time balances are paid on the December payroll each year.

Courthouse Maintenance

Discussion was held on the roof access house door. Labor quotes to replace the door and tin on the roof access house and to reface the shed in the parking lot of the courthouse. A decision on the roof house door replacement will be put off until a door and price can be found. The cost benefit of fixing/refacing the parking lot shed was discussed versus declaring the shed surplus. No action was taken on the shed. The parking lot guardrail was discussed. Sharon Guthmiller updated the board on courthouse boiler issues.

Mardian moved and Neuharth seconded to approve the following part-time working as needed for courthouse maintenance in 2026 at a rate of 22.82/hour, Becky Wolff. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

CLAIMS APPROVED:

Agtegra-Leola Shop, Oil Change, \$66.03; Amazon, Ink/Toner, \$343.87; AT&T, Cellphone/Hotspot/Ipads, \$495.60; Auto Value, Hwy Supplies, \$155.30; Brown County Sheriff, 2026 Jail Contract, \$25,000.00; CHS, Propane, \$2,590.95; Waste Connection, Shredding, \$126.92; Dickey Rural Telephone, Server Maint/Backup/Fix, \$258.39; ES & S, Warranty & Firmware, \$1,200.86; Eureka City, CFD 1st Payment, \$20,000.00; Eureka City, Utilities, \$124.25; Eureka MFG, Hwy Supplies, \$2.40; FEM, Utilities, \$623.04; Lakeside Lumber, Hwy Supplies, \$62.46; Leola City, Utilities, \$210.02; Linde Gas & Equipment, Hwy Supplies, \$187.65; McPherson Co Herald, Publishing, \$517.31; City of Mobridge, 2026 Maintenance, \$3,472.47; NECOG, 2026 Dues, \$8,266.77; Planning & Development, 2026 Web Hosting, \$1,500.00; Premier Equip, Hwy Supplies, \$654.93; SDAAO, 2026 Dues, \$150.00; Streicher's, Eureka JL Supplies, \$324.00; Thomson Reuters, Dec West Law, \$795.43; Transource Truck & Equipment, Hwy Supplies, \$838.86; Twotrees Technologies, DOE Transfer to Aud, \$120.00; Tyler Technologies, 2026 VSO Dues, \$475.94; Valley Telco, Phone/Internet, \$785.39; CorTrust, Delinquent Tax/Auto Deposit Fee, \$6,439.01.

Feickert moved and Neuharth seconded to approve the forgoing claims. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting Authorizations

Mardian moved and Neuharth seconded to approve the following meeting authorizations: Jackie Rau to attend all required in-person SDSU Extension/4H meetings for the year 2026 if zoom is not available; Nathan Hoffman and Curtis Hoff to attend the Weed Board Conference in February; Mike Mardian to meet with RISE Engineering date TBD; Lindley Howard to attend the DLA Annual Report Training in Mitchell in January. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Miscellaneous Items and Reports

Neuharth moved and Feickert seconded to approve the following reports: VSO Hours December 2025, Register of Deeds statement of fees collected during the month of December 2025 for the amount of \$3,603.75; Register of Deed's Modernization and Preservation fees collected during month of December 2025 for the amount of \$305.00; State's Attorney Secretary Hours December 2025; Auditor's Account with the County Treasurer as of December 31st, 2025 as follows: total amount of deposits in Leola Bank, \$111,028.74; total amount of actual cash, \$853.00; Total amount of checks and drafts in Treasurers possession not exceeding three days, \$15,374.65; Itemized list of all items, checks and drafts in the Treasurers possession over three days, \$149.00; CD's, \$1,206,242.58; Super savings, \$1,026,663.90; total, \$2,360,311.87.

At 3:10PM Feickert moved and Neuharth seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carried. The next regular meeting will be held on February 3rd, 2026, beginning at 10:00AM.

Mark Opp

Chairman, Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Lindley Howard

McPherson County Auditor