

McPherson County Board of Commissioners
Minutes of Proceedings
April 14th, 2026

The McPherson County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Tuesday, April 14th, 2026, in the Commissioners chambers. Chairman Mark Opp called the meeting to order at 9:20AM. 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 and Feickert seconded to approve the agenda of the April 14th meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carried. No conflicts of interest were declared.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

At 9:20AM no public comments were heard.

DRAINAGE COMMISSION:

At 9:23AM Neuharth moved and Woehlhaff seconded to meet as the McPherson County Drainage Commission. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

The McPherson County Drainage Commission met on Tuesday April 14th, 2026. Chairman Sid Feickert called the meeting to order at 9:23AM. 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>

Woehlhaff moved and Opp seconded to approve Drainage Permit 25-D-05 as 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. All voted in favor. Motion carried. At 9:25AM Mardian moved and Neuharth 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:

Highway Department

Mardian moved and Neuharth seconded to hire Matthew Waldner part-time at \$25/hour. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Current road conditions were briefly discussed.

Courthouse Maintenance

Mardian moved and Woehlhaff seconded to add a 30 day removal requirement for the surplus parking lot shed to be sold at the Schock Auction on May 3rd in Leola. All voted in favor. Motion carried. The south steps were discussed. The board plans to move forward with the side pier reconstruction and have the hwy department bridge patch the steps when needed. Quotes will be considered at the May meeting. North Door enclosure will be put on hold due to the price tag of the project. Other ideas to solve the issues with the area will be considered. Mardian moved and Neuharth seconded to go ahead with replacing the weather stripping on all of the exterior doors and to add a keypad cover if possible. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Executive Session

Neuharth moved and Woehlhaff seconded to enter executive session at 9:45AM to discuss personnel matters. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Neuharth moved and Feickert seconded exit executive session at 9:55AM. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Courthouse Maintenance – Access Elevators and Lifts

At 10AM Rusty Carlson and JJ Hofts representing Access Elevators and Lifts met with the board to discuss the courthouse chair lift. The current lift is over 20 years old and obsolete. It is recommended that the county quit repairing and consider replacing. The cost for replacing the unit is \$64,950. An option that would provide more longevity is two units. One running from the 1st to the 2nd floor and the other running from the 2nd to the 3rd floor. Shorter runs would reduce strain and vibration likely leading to a longer lifespan with fewer issues. Estimates will be provided for the May meeting. A tech will be onsite to evaluate the cost of repair for the current lift and provide more information on how two units would function.

Veterans Service Officer

Feickert moved and Neuharth seconded to reduce Sam Barrett, Veterans Service Officer, hours to 520/year at \$25.26/hour (\$13,135.20/year; 1,094.60/month) at her request beginning on May 1st, 2026. All voted in favor. Motion carried. The Veterans Service Officer will be available to any veteran by appointment. Appointments can be made at any time by calling 605-282-9227. No regular office/walk in hours will be available going forward.

At 10:25AM Mardian moved and Woehlhaff seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

The next regular commission meetings will be Tuesday May 5th beginning at 9:00AM.

ATTEST:

Lindley Howard
McPherson County Auditor

Mark Opp
Chairman, Board of Commissioners