

McPherson County Board of Commissioners
Minutes of Proceedings
April 7th, 2026

The McPherson County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 7th, 2026, in the Commissioners chambers. Chairman Mark Opp called the meeting to order at 9:00AM. 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 April 7th meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carried. No conflicts were declared.

Feickert moved and Woehlhaff seconded to approve the March 10th Commissioner Meeting Minutes. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

DRAINAGE COMMISSION:

At 9:05AM Mardian moved and Neuharth seconded to meet as the McPherson County Drainage Commission. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

The McPherson County Drainage Commission met on Tuesday April 7th, 2026. Chairman Sid Feickert called the meeting to order at 9:05AM. 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>

Brief discussion was held on Drainage Permit 25-D-05 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. A decision on the permit will be postpone until April 14th. Highway Superintendent Glenn Spitzer has identified a drainage concern on the McPherson/Edmunds County line that could be relieved with a culvert. The Superintendent will file the necessary permit after he contacts the appropriate Edmunds County township/county board. At 9:10AM Mardian moved and Opp seconded to adjourn the Drainage Commission meeting and resume meeting as the McPherson County Board of Commissioners. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

At 9:10AM public comments were heard from: Garrett Heinz- live streamed meetings, Edmunds County CAFO projects; Ray Geffre – South Door seal concern. Full comments can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/@McPhersonCountySD>

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION 26-7
“ESTABLISHING ELECTION FEES”

WHEREAS, SDCL 12-15-11 states that each precinct superintendent and precinct deputy shall receive are to be established annually by resolution of the board of county commissioners at its first regular meeting each year

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following rates will be paid to election workers:

Precinct Superintendents and Deputies – Election Day \$300/day

Attendance at Election School	\$30/person
Absentee Board	\$25/hour
Resolution Board	\$25/hour
Post-Election Audit Board	\$25/hour

Reimbursement at state rate will be paid for applicable mileage and meals (if meals are not provided).

Dated this 7th day of April 2026.

ATTEST:

Lindley Howard
McPherson County Auditor

Mark Opp
McPherson County Commission Chair

Mardian moved for the adoption of Resolution Number 26-7, Neuharth seconded the foregoing motion. Upon roll call vote, thereon, Neuharth, Feickert, Mardian, Woehlhaff and Opp voted “AYE”. Motion carried and Resolution Number 26-7 was declared duly adopted.

RESOLUTION 26-8
“PLAT APPROVAL”

“Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of McPherson County, South Dakota, that the plat showing Sam Aman First Addition in the NE1/4 of Section 12-T125N-R73W 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 7th day of April 2026.

ATTEST:

Lindley Howard
McPherson County Auditor

Mark Opp
McPherson County Commission Chair

Woehlhaff moved for the adoption of Resolution Number 26-8, Neuharth seconded the foregoing motion. Upon roll call vote, thereon, Neuharth, Feickert, Mardian, Woehlhaff and Opp voted “AYE”. Motion carried and Resolution Number 26-8 was declared duly adopted.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 26-9
“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, there are mileage and meeting pay costs associated with each planning and zoning 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that should any applicant request a special meeting of the planning and zoning board, for the purpose of securing their permit or plat at an earlier date, the applicant shall be responsible for paying a fee of \$600 or actual expenses for mileage and meeting pay whichever is less. Resolution 26-9 replaces Resolution 26-4 and will be reevaluated in January 2027.

Dated this 7th day of April 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 26-9, Neuharth seconded the foregoing motion. Upon roll call vote, thereon, Neuharth, Feickert, Mardian, Woehlhoff and Opp voted "AYE". Motion carried and Resolution Number 26-9 was declared duly adopted.

OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED AND ACTION TAKEN:

Courthouse Maintenance

Mardian moved and Feickert seconded to declare the following items surplus to be sold at the Schock Auction on May 3rd in Leola: courthouse parking lot shed (purchaser moves the shed), office chairs, weights, non-running lawn mower, shed, unusable buffers, old light fixtures, flooring remnants, plexiglass pieces, steel rail, wooden paper organizer, metal stand. All voted in favor. Motion carried. A quote has been received from CWF for refacing the south steps and side piers. Feickert will obtain a second quote and the commission will consider both quotes tentatively on April 14th. Discussion was held on how best to repair the stair faces. Quotes were received for a North Door enclosure to solve the frost, wind and water concerns in the area. Total cost for the enclosure and concrete work associated was \$30,851.26. Other options will be sought, no action was taken on the presented quote. Neuharth shared a killed in action veterans memorial idea brought forward from a community member, the idea was passed to the Veterans Service Officer. Marian Kallas made a public comment. Three pieces of antique equipment have been sourced for the landscaping circles in the courthouse lawn. Other ideas for items that could be incorporated into the 100-year celebration were also discussed. The ADA chair lift in the Courthouse is currently inoperable. The lift is 20 years old, and the company recommends replacing the lift versus spending money fixing a lift that has passed its life expectancy. More discussion will be held at the next meeting. Neuharth moved and Feickert seconded to allow a \$200/year clothing allowance for Sharon Guthmiller in 2026. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Leola Data Center

Ben Rees representing the Leola Data Center joined the meeting via Zoom to update the board. The Leola Data Center is working to complete the requested studies and hopes to apply for a conditional use permit soon.

Zoning Update

Discussion was held on meeting schedules and special meeting pay for board members. Resolution 26-4 was rewritten as Resolution 26-9.

Demkota 10-Mile Manure Variance Permit

Scott Langner, on behalf of Demkota, and Sam Wipf, on behalf of Spring Creek Colony, updated the board and asked for a motion to extend the 10-mile manure variance permit granted in September 2025. Demkota asked the board to consider changing the rate structure to a flat amount per load instead of the tiered fee structure currently in place through resolution 26-3, fees were discussed. Mike Klipfel made a comment. Feickert moved and Mardian seconded to extend the 10-mile manure variance held by Demkota Ranch Beef until January 1st, 2027; the permit fees will remain the same as outlined in Resolution 26-3 and the following conditions will continue: (1) To lessen road wear Demkota will travel the original route - hwy 10, north on C23, west on C2 and south on C21 to location for approximately 50% of the loads, the other 50% of the load will be hauled on the alternative route - enter McPherson County going west on C2, south on C21 to location, (2) approval must be obtained from Brown County and Dickey County if the approved route and/or alternate route includes any of their county roads. Upon roll call vote: Mardian, Feickert, Opp "Aye"; Neuharth, Woehlhaff "Nay". Motion carried.

Mardian moved and Feickert seconded to take a break for 5 minutes. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Five minutes later Mardian moved and Neuharth seconded to resume the meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Director of Equalization

Woehlhaff moved and Feickert seconded to allow a clothing allowance of \$200 for the equalization office to use in 2026. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Highway Department

The Approach Permit application changes needed due to the passing of Ordinance 25-2 were discussed and recommendations will be considered before the application is finalized. In the meantime, those wanting an approach application should contact the Hwy Department. Road shoulder pulling and reseal schedules were discussed with public comments from Mike Klipfel and Sam Wipf. Several culvert replacement projects are planned for this summer and will use RAIF Funding. Discussion was held on presented quotes to the board for a new Loader. Discussion will continue at the next meeting. CDL changes with the K restriction will affect several employees. Those with the restriction currently will need to be recertified. One-trip permits to allow overweight equipment to travel roads with load limits are allowed with a permit. The one trip permit costs \$100/trip and is available through the highway office. The reseal schedule for 2026 was discussed along with cost to maintain gravel roads versus oil roads. Several sections of oil road were identified during the Road Tour as potential candidates to be returned to gravel.

Right of Way Permit

Feickert moved and Neuharth seconded to approve the following permit to occupy right of way: Web Water to install a potable waterline for livestock service along 339th Ave in Section 33 T128N-R71W, boring under 105th street between Section 28 and 33 of T128N-R71W. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Executive Session

Feickert moved and Woehlhoff seconded to enter executive session at 11:30AM to discuss personnel matters. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Neuharth moved and Feickert seconded exit executive session at 11:43AM. All voted in favor. Motion carried. No action taken.

At 12:10PM the commission took a break and the meeting resumed at 12:50PM.

Auditor's Office

Resolution 26-7: Establishing Election Fees was discussed. Feickert moved and Neuharth seconded to add Casey Cox to the Leola Fire Department and Alyx Hoffman to the Leola Ambulance roster for Work Comp Coverage. All voted in favor. Motion carried. A Lein Compromise request was considered. No action taken. Information from Governor Rhoden regarding the owner-occupied tax relief bills, SB96 and SB245, was presented to the commission.

CLAIMS APPROVED:

Agtegra, Hwy Supplies, \$2,346.74; Amazon, Supplies, \$1,062.05; AMG, Hwy Tests, \$37.70; Area IV Senior Meals, 2026 Allocation, \$3,000.00; ATT, Cellphone/Hotspot, \$515.74; Auto Value, Hwy Supplies, \$334.48; Butler, Hwy Supplies, \$5,436.56; Century Business Products, Printer Contract, \$209.62; CHS, Hwy Propane/Diesel Fuel, \$11,130.92; CHS, Courthouse Propane, \$2,851.70; Crawford Trucks & Equipment, Hwy Supplies, \$409.16; CRS, March Inmate Ins, \$44.64; D-Ware, 2026 Dues, \$4,900.00; DANR, Storm Water, \$800.00; Dickey Rural Telephone Coop, Server Maint & Fix, \$1,303.39; Eureka City, Utilities, \$244.75; FEM, Utilities, \$572.51; Gene's Oil, Fuel, \$718.20; G&R Controls, Boiler Repair, \$9,030.77; Heartland Waste, Utilities, \$20.00; House of Glass, Plexiglass/Keys, \$177.75; Inclusion Solutions, ADA Voting Booths, \$2,155.11; Jensen Rock & Sand, Pearock, \$14,306.18; Ken's Food Fair, Hwy Supplies, \$18.84; Seth Ketterling, Tire Casings, \$480.00; Kimball Midwest, Hwy Supplies, \$687.52; Lakeside Lumber, Hwy & Sheriff Supplies, \$42.47; Leola City, Utilities, \$206.54; Linde Gas & Equipment, Hwy Supplies, \$722.41; McLeod's, Election Supplies, \$993.77; McPherson Co Herald, Publishing, \$652.67; MDU, Utilities, \$619.77; Menards, Courthouse Supplies, \$307.69; Microfilm, Equip Rent, \$229.00; Midwest Pump & Tank, Hwy Supplies, \$541.00; NW Blade, Publishing, \$729.28; Performance Oil-Eureka, Fuel Oil, \$1,057.35; Pomp's, Tires, \$1,002.98; Premier Equipment, Hwy Supplies, \$376.69; Rise Structural Associates, Structural Assessment, \$1,552.50; SDACO, 2026 Conf, \$600.00; SDACC, Welfare Workshop, \$20.00; SDAE4-HP, Networking Day, \$30.00; Taliaferro Law, Court Appointed Attorney, \$341.90; Taliaferro Law, Court Appointed Attorney, \$455.30; The Lodge At Deadwood, Hwy Conf Hotel, \$210.00; Thomson Reuters, Mar West Law, \$795.43; Tri-State Water, Courthouse Water, \$115.50; Tripp Co DOE, Difficult Assessment Workshop, \$270.00; Twotrees Technologies, Office Backup, \$81.00; USPS, Election Stamps, \$780.00; Valley Telco, Phone/Internet, \$935.23; Vestis, Courthouse Supplies, \$321.92; Visa, Hwy Supplies, \$54.90; Visa, Subs/Postage/MISC, \$527.92; Cortrust, Deliq Tax/Direct Deposit Fee/Box Rent, \$3,383.76; February 2026 Apportionment Remitted to Cities/Schools/Townships/Fire Districts, \$170,635.93; State Treasurer, Money Due to State, \$72,990.82; State Treasurer, Sales Tax, \$11.73; SDACC, M&P February Fees, \$124.00; March Payroll Reimbursements: Neal Woehlhoff, Miles, \$369.60; Samantha Barrett, Miles, \$49.00; David Ackerman, Reimb, \$133.00.

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

SALARIES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES:

Commissioners, \$6,728.05; Auditor, \$10,694.09; Treasurer, \$10,600.73; State’s Attorney, \$6,450.48; Government Building, \$4,874.00; Director of Equalization, \$12,656.00; Register of Deeds, \$10,600.73; Veteran Service Officers, \$2,189.20; Sheriff, \$11,866.43; Extension, \$5,305.75; Road & Bridge, \$57,816.69; Emergency & Disaster, \$1,566.67; Eureka Joint Law, \$5,206.93; Leola Joint Law, \$5,163.27.

McPherson County’s Share of the following:

Social Security and Medicare: CorTrust Bank: \$11,341.29

Insurance: American Family, \$418.47; Avera, \$6,233.99; Guardian Vision, \$150.15; MetLife, \$161.36;

South Dakota Retirement System, \$9,030.09; Colonial Life Vision, \$70.07.

Meeting Authorizations

Feickert moved and Neuharth seconded to approve the following meeting authorizations: Lindley Howard Welfare Workshop in Pierre in April; Austin Hoffman, States Attorney Conference in May; Vicki Geffre, Tiffany Weiszhaar and Lindley Howard SDACO Workshop in Pierre in May. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Miscellaneous Items and Reports

Neuharth moved and Woehlhaff seconded to approve the following reports: VSO Hours March 2026, Register of Deeds statement of fees collected during the month of March 2026 for the amount of \$2,972.75; Register of Deed’s Modernization and Preservation fees collected during month of March 2026 for the amount of \$305.00; Auditor’s Account with the County Treasurer as of March 31st, 2026 as follows: total amount of deposits in Leola Bank, \$307,422.46; total amount of actual cash, \$1,425.20; Total amount of checks and drafts in Treasurers possession not exceeding three days, \$36,423.63; Itemized list of all items, checks and drafts in the Treasurers possession over three days, \$5,102.84; CD’s, \$1,206,242.58; Super savings, \$808,477.23; total, \$2,365,093.94. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

At 1:50PM Woehlhaff moved and Mardian seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

The Board of Equalization will meet on Tuesday April 14th at 9AM with a special Commission Meeting to follow. The next Zoning meeting will be April 21st beginning at 10AM and the next regular commission meetings will be Tuesday May 5th and Thursday June 4th both beginning at 9:00AM.

ATTEST:

Lindley Howard
McPherson County Auditor

Mark Opp
Chairman, Board of Commissioners