

McPherson County Board of Commissioners
Minutes of Proceedings
June 4th, 2026

The McPherson County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, June 4th, 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>

Neuharth moved Feickert seconded to approve the agenda of the June 4th meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carried. No conflicts were declared.

Neuharth moved and Woehlhaff seconded to approve the minutes of the May 5th Commissioner meetings. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

At 9:00AM public comments were heard from: Linda Schauer and Tod Gohl. Full comments can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/@McPhersonCountySD>

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION 26-12
“DISASTER DECLARATION”

WHEREAS, McPherson County, South Dakota, suffered damage, brought on by severe rain and flash flooding on May 31st, 2026; and

WHEREAS, McPherson County has committed all available resources and taken all possible actions within the jurisdictional boundaries to combat and to alleviate the emergency/disaster and local resources are not adequate to cope with the situation.

WHEREAS, McPherson County recognizes that all municipal, tribal and rural electric cooperatives, utility companies, farmers and ranchers have taken all possible actions within the jurisdictional boundaries to combat and to alleviate the emergency/disaster.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the McPherson County Board of Commissioners for, and on behalf of the citizens of McPherson County, request the Governor of the State of South Dakota to petition the President of the United States of America to declare McPherson County, South Dakota an emergency/disaster area.

Dated this 4th day of June 2026.

ATTEST:

Lindley Howard
McPherson County Auditor

Mark Opp
Chairman of the Board of Commissioners

Woehlhaff moved for the adoption of Resolution Number 26-12, Mardian seconded the foregoing motion. Woehlhaff, Neuharth, Mardian, Feickert and Opp voted in favor. Motion carried and Resolution Number 26-12 was declared duly adopted.

2026 PRIMARY ELECTION CANVASS

Mardian moved and Feickert seconded to convene as the McPherson County Election Canvassing Board for the purpose of canvassing the votes from the June 2nd Primary Election. All voted in favor. Motion carried. The board unsealed the unofficial election results which were compared to the canvass report. The commission reviewed the reconciliation reports, the registration lists and pollbooks were available. Neuharth moved and Mardian seconded to certify the June 2nd election results and to sign the canvass certificate. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

The post-election audit was set for June 16th beginning at 10am in the commission chambers in the Courthouse in Leola. A random draw was performed per 12-17B-20, Precinct 4 was drawn, statewide contest drawn: United States Senator, second contest drawn: Precinct #4 Committeeman. The auditor signed the Selection for Audit. Mardian moved and Neuharth seconded to adjourn the canvassing board and reconvene as the board of McPherson County Commissioners. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

DRAINAGE COMMISSION:

At 9:40AM Neuharth moved and Mardian seconded to meet as the McPherson County Drainage Commission. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

The McPherson County Drainage Commission met on Thursday June 4th, 2026. Chairman Sid Feickert called the meeting to order at 9:40AM. 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>

Discussion was held on Drainage Permit 26-D-01 submitted by the McPherson County Hwy Department to install a culvert between 326th Ave and 327th Ave on 124th Street on the county line to allow drainage to flow across County line into a slough in section 34. The project was requested by Craig Gab who owns the land where the drainage concern is and the land where the slough is located. There is no opposition from Edmunds County or the organized township on the Edmunds County side of the county line. Opp moved and Woehlhaff seconded to approve Drainage Permit 26-D-01 as submitted by the McPherson County Hwy Department. At 9:50AM 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

Glen Spitzer, Hwy Superintendent, discussed with the commission road conditions, road wash, culvert destruction and closed roads following the rain event and flooding in the Leola area on May 31st. The hwy department is working to get all roads open and passable. It will take considerable time to replace all the culverts and return the affected roads to their pre-flood condition. All landowners are advised to remove field debris that has flowed from their fields into the right-of-way. Feickert moved and Neuharth seconded to declare motorgrader #904 surplus to be sold at Ulmer Auction with a minimum bid set at \$80,000. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Approaches were briefly discussed. Public comments were heard from Marian Kallas – accident on involving a pickup that went around a closed road barricade and Mike Lapka.

Sheriff's Office

Feickert moved and Neuharth seconded to approve step pay for Justin Bentz, Step 5 – Year 4, \$30.29/hour \$63,003.20 annually for 2080 hours/year. All voted in favor. Motion carried. The Sheriff's May Report was presented to the commissioners.

Courthouse Maintenance

Discussion was held on the ADA chair lift. Two quotes were received to replace the ADA chair lift in the Courthouse. A replacement of the current system was quoted at \$64,950 and a two-lift system which may operate better with less issues was quoted at \$130,400. The commission is waiting for a quote for an elevator system, before making any decisions. No grants have been found for adding an elevator or replacing a chair lift; any ideas are welcome. Brief discussion was held on applying for the Deadwood grant for the front step repairs.

Venting to disperse the boiler heat in the basement was looked at by an electrician and plumber, the issue is still ongoing. Mardian looked at the open chase space behind the corners in the rotunda, to possibly run venting/ductwork. JR Plumbing will be contacted for their opinion. There was several inches of water in the basement and on the 3rd floor that flowed in from the roof door during the May 31st rain event. The water in the basement issue has been ongoing for the past couple of days but seems to be improving. Neuharth moved and Mardian seconded to purchase 2 additional dehumidifiers and 50-foot extension cords. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Public Comments were heard by Linda Schauer regarding the election.

The commission took a break until 10:30AM.

Auditor's Office

Follow up documents showing expenses and revenue for County Rd 23 and the manure variance permit fees was given to the board. Discussion was held. Election expenses as of 5/5 were also given to the board.

Executive Session

Mardian moved and Feickert seconded to enter executive session at 10:49AM to discuss legal matters. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Mardian moved and Neuharth seconded exit executive session at 11:19AM. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

CLAIMS APPROVED:

A-Jax Welding & Repair, Jail Door, \$98.53; AB Creations, DOE Shirts, \$181.00; Agtegra, Hwy/Soil Dist Supplies, \$7,465.86; Amazon, Supplies, \$1,568.54; AMG, Tests, \$37.70; ATT, Cellphone/Hotspot, \$515.64; Auto Value, Hwy Supplies, \$357.96; Black Hills Ammunition, Ammo, \$749.00; Lanette Butler, Election Wages & Miles, \$328.70; Butler, Hwy Supplies, \$8,850.65; Century Business Products, Printer Contract, \$93.42; CHS, Fuel, \$26,327.45; Crawford Trucks & Equipment, Hwy Supplies, \$375.69; CRS, May Inmate Ins, \$46.81; Curt's Repair, Oil Change/Metal, \$116.00; Joshua Lee Halsey, New Patrol Vehicle, \$10,140.00; Sharel Delzer, Election Wages & Miles, \$332.80; Dependable Sanitation, Utilities, \$291.00; Dickey Rural Telephone Coop, Server Maint/Antivirus, \$1,098.34; ES&S, Election Fees, \$3,248.37; Sheila Erdmann, Resolution Board, \$93.90; Eureka City, Utilities, \$211.75; Eureka Comm Health Service, Tests, \$41.25; FEM, Utilities, \$445.90; Zelda Fischer, Election Wages & Miles, \$332.80; Kathy Gab, Election Wages & Miles, \$332.80; Dean Geffre, Clothing Reimbursement, \$148.67; Gene's Oil, Fuel, \$1,502.47; Heartland Waste, Utilities, \$80.00; House of Glass, Closures & Weather Stripping, \$1,036.63; J&R Plumbing, Mini Split Cleaning, \$589.24; Jensen Rock & Sand, Pearock, \$4,253.40; Connie Jung, Election Wages & Miles, \$431.80; Perry Kessler, Election Wages & Miles, \$352.40; Kimball Midwest, Hwy Supplies, \$654.47; Lakeside Lumber, Hwy/Sheriff/ Supplies, \$62.99; Leola City, Utilities, \$226.31; Lewis & Clark Behavioral, Mental Health, \$225.00; Linde Gas & Equipment, Hwy Supplies, \$189.65; Sid Maier, Clothing Reimbursement, \$148.68; MDU, Utilities, \$551.44; Menard's, Courthouse Supplies, \$138.82; Microfilm, Equip Rent/Software, \$2,788.00; Midwest Pump & Tank, Hwy Supplies,

\$14.00; Moser Excavating & Trucking, Rock, \$400.00; Newman Traffic Signs, Hwy Supplies, \$1,122.19; North Central 911, May Reimittance, \$3,520.68; NW Blade, Publishing, \$481.11; Janene Playle, Election Wages & Miles, \$332.80; Pomp's, Tires, \$749.24; Premier Equipment, Hwy Supplies, \$432.35; Ramkota Hotel Pierre, Conf Hotel, \$705.00; Rock Tuff, Hwy Supplies, \$639.43; Safe Harbor, Jan-Apr Remittance, \$85.00; Ina Schock, Election Wages & Miles, \$332.80; SD Dept of Public Safety, Teletype 2nd Half 2025 & 1st Half 2026, \$4,680.00; SD DOT, Bridge Inspection, \$11.45; Share, Hwy Supplies, \$427.20; Simplot, Spray Trailer, \$2,425.22; Stan Houston, Hwy Supplies, \$4,875.00; Taliaferro Law, Court Appointed Attorney, \$373.00; The Lodge at Deadwood, St. Attny Conf Hotel, \$270.00; Thomson Reuters, May West Law, \$890.89; Tri-State Water, Courthouse Water, \$165.00; Twotrees Technologies, Office Backup, \$81.00; USPS, PO Box Renewal, \$846.00; USPS, Sheriff Postage, \$156.00; USPS, DOE Postage, \$78.00; USPS, Aud Postage, \$312.00; USPS, Treas Postage, \$2,676.00; Valley Telco, Phone/Internet, \$795.66; Vestis, Courthouse Supplies, \$238.79; Visa, Torque Wrench, \$159.29; Visa, Subs/Postage/MISC, \$201.60; Margaret Walker-Wanner, Election Wages & Miles, \$382.80; Michele Waltman, Resolution Board, \$83.40; Judy Weiszhaar, Election Wages & Miles, \$344.00; Deb Weiszhaar, Election Wages & Miles, \$332.80; Cortrust, Deliq Tax/Direct Deposit Fee, \$346.55; Ken Stugelmayer, MV Refund Reissue 10/2025, \$20.00; April 2026 Apportionment Remitted to Cities/Schools/Townships/Fire Districts, \$2,325,280.39; State Treasurer, Money Due to State, \$66,988.74; State Treasurer, Sales Tax, \$4.55; SDACC, M&P April Fees, \$140.00; May Payroll Reimbursements: Trisha Erdmann, DOE Basket, \$60.00; Lindley Howard, Meals/Miles/Reimb, \$599.76; Tiffany Weiszhaar, Meals, \$52.00; Sharon Guthmiller, Plant Reimb, \$24.68; Brooke Mehlhaff, Miles/Meals/Carwash, \$338.60; Hunter Heinrich, Meals/Miles, \$326.60; Vickie Geffre, Miles/Meals, \$274.60; Jackie Rau, Supplies/Meals; \$128.97.

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

SALARIES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES:

Commissioners, \$6,728.05; Auditor, \$9,875.09; Treasurer, \$9,781.73; State's Attorney, \$6,450.48; Government Building, \$3,899.20; Director of Equalization, \$10,378.80; Register of Deeds, \$9,781.73; Veteran Service Officers, \$1,094.60; Sheriff, \$11,866.43; Coroner, \$500.00; Extension, \$4,401.40; Weed, \$360.00; Road & Bridge, \$65,766.67; Emergency & Disaster, \$1,416.67; 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: \$11,345.00

Insurance: American Family, \$371.00; Avera, \$6,233.99; Guardian Vision, \$150.15; MetLife, \$156.18; South Dakota Retirement System, \$8,461.11; Colonial Life Vision, \$70.07.

INCREASED SALARIES:

Feickert moved and Neuharth seconded to approve step pay for Justin Bentz, Step 5 – Year 4, \$30.29/hour \$63,003.20 annually for 2080 hours/year. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting Authorizations

Feickert moved and Neuharth seconded to approve the following meeting authorizations: Kyra Moser, Trisha Erdmann and Vivian Sain to attend the SDACO Deputy Workshop in Pierre. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Miscellaneous Items and Reports

Mardian moved and Feickert seconded to approve the following reports: Register of Deeds statement of fees collected during the month of May 2026 for the amount of \$5,181.50; Register of Deed's Modernization and Preservation fees collected during month of May 2026 for the amount of \$320.00; Auditor's Account with the County Treasurer as of May 31st, 2026 as follows: total amount of deposits in Leola Bank, \$352,254.52; total amount of actual cash, \$1,098.20; Total amount of checks and drafts in Treasurers possession not exceeding three days, \$12,646.41; Itemized list of all items, checks and drafts in the Treasurers possession over three days, \$0.00; CD's, \$1,213,957.18; Super savings, \$1,559,493.53; total, \$3,139,449.84. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

At 11:50AM Neuharth moved and Woehlhaff seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

The next regular commission meetings will be Tuesday, July 7th both beginning at 9:00AM.

ATTEST:

Lindley Howard
McPherson County Auditor

Mark Opp
Chairman, Board of Commissioners