

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

The McPherson County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, July 6th, 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>

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

Woehlhaff moved and Neuharth seconded to approve the minutes of the June 4th Commissioner meetings. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

At 9:00AM public comments were heard from: Dan Mettler. Full comments can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/@McPhersonCountySD>

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION 26-13
"PLAT APPROVAL"

"Be it Resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of McPherson County, South Dakota. That the Plat "Plat of LOT 1 Beutler Addition in the NE ¼ of Section 2-T126N-R72W 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 6th day of July 2026.

ATTEST:

Lindley Howard
McPherson County Auditor

Mark Opp
Chairman of the Board of Commissioners

Neuharth moved for the adoption of Resolution Number 26-13, Mardian seconded the foregoing motion. Woehlhaff, Neuharth, Mardian, Feickert and Opp voted in favor. Motion carried and Resolution Number 26-13 was declared duly adopted.

RESOLUTION 26-14
"PLAT APPROVAL"

"Be it Resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of McPherson County, South Dakota. That the Plat showing Kempf First Addition in the NE ¼ of Section 13-T126N-R66W 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 6th day of July 2026.

ATTEST:

Lindley Howard
McPherson County Auditor

Mark Opp
Chairman of the Board of Commissioners

Neuharth moved for the adoption of Resolution Number 26-14, Mardian seconded the foregoing motion. Woehlhaff, Neuharth, Mardian, Feickert and Opp voted in favor. Motion carried and Resolution Number 26-14 was declared duly adopted.

RESOLUTION 26-15
“PLAT APPROVAL”

“Be it Resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of McPherson County, South Dakota. That the Plat showing Christensen Farms First Addition in the S1/2 of Section 15-T125N-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 6th day of July 2026.

ATTEST:

Lindley Howard
McPherson County Auditor

Mark Opp
Chairman of the Board of Commissioners

Neuharth moved for the adoption of Resolution Number 26-15, Mardian seconded the foregoing motion. Woehlhaff, Neuharth, Mardian, Feickert and Opp voted in favor. Motion carried and Resolution Number 26-15 was declared duly adopted.

RESOLUTION 26-16
“IMPLEMENTING A COUNTY ROAD AND BRIDGE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT LEVY”

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of McPherson County desires to properly maintain, repair, construct, and reconstruct roads and bridges in McPherson County.

WHEREAS, SDCL 10-12-13 permits the governing board of said entity to establish a tax amount which may be levied and such amount can increase each year with the amount of inflation and new construction.

THEREFORE, the board does now establish a base property tax in the amount of \$150,000 starting with calendar year 2026 taxes payable in calendar year 2027. This action has been taken by the board and approved by at least a two-thirds vote of the board.

This decision may be referred to a vote of the people upon a petition signed by at least five percent of the registered voters in McPherson County and filed with the governing body within twenty days of the second publication of this decision.

Unless this action is referred to a vote of the people and reversed by such vote, this resolution authorized the county auditor to spread a levy to raise tax dollars in the above stated amount, allowing for percentage increases from inflation and new construction in subsequent years.

Signed this 6th day of July 2026.

Mark Opp, Board Chairman

Sid Feickert, Vice Chairman

Neal Woehlhaff, Board Member

Jeff Neuharth, Board Member

Mike Mardian, Board Member

ATTEST:

Lindley Howard, McPherson County Auditor

Woehlhaff moved for the adoption of Resolution Number 26-16, Mardian seconded the foregoing motion. Woehlhaff, Neuharth, Mardian, Feickert and Opp voted in favor. Motion carried and Resolution Number 26-16 was declared duly adopted.

OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED AND ACTION TAKEN:

Leola Data Center

Ben Rees, on behalf of the Leola Data Center, gave an update on their Conditional Use permit to be filed with the Zoning Administrator.

Extension Office

Jackie Rau updated the board on Achievement Days coming up on August 3rd and 4th. Rau asked for leniency for using compensatory time that will be acquired through August and September. The commission advised that compensatory time balance must be under 30 hours by the end of pay period 12.

2026 Primary Election Post Election Audit

Lindley Howard, Auditor, presented the results from the post-election audit for the June 2nd, 2026, Primary Election. United States Senator and Precinct Committeeman races in precinct 4 were audited by a four-person board on Tuesday, June 16th, 2026. The official canvass and election night tabulated results were compared to the audited results. Results are as follows:

Statewide Race United States Senator– Zero discrepancies

Official canvass & election night tabulated results: Justin McNeal – 45, Mike Rounds – 157;

Post-Election Audit results: Justin McNeal – 45, Mike Rounds – 157;

Other Contest Precinct Committeeman – Zero discrepancies

Official canvass & election night tabulated results: Tod A Gohl– 14, James Croshaw – 72, Charles B Hoffman – 107

Post-Election Audit results: Tod A Gohl– 14, James Croshaw – 72, Charles B Hoffman – 107

Auditor's Office

Neuharth moved and Woehlhaff seconded to approve an auto supplement for 101-0-331: \$11,916.98 and 101-120-426: \$11,916.98. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Sheriff Department

The Sheriff's Department June report was given to the board. Sheriff Ackerman gave a grant update to the board.

Highway Department

Mardian moved and Neuharth seconded to set a minimum bid of \$70,000 for motorgrader #904 to be sold at Ulmer Auction. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Neuharth moved and Woehlhaff seconded to allow CDL training for employee #311.39. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Glen Spitzer, Hwy Superintendent, discussed truck #0515 that requires a transmission replacement. There is the option to replace with a 13 speed versus the 10 speed. Woehlhaff moved and Mardian seconded to replace truck #0515 with a 10 speed transmission. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

The upcoming schedule with hot mix repairs, resealing, culvert repairs and culvert replacement was discussed with the board. Ditches will begin to be mowed around the last week of July. Landowners looking to cut the ditches for hay are encouraged to do so before the last week of July. Landowners are reminded that crops may not be planted within the public right-of-way. Right-of-way easement information is available through the Register of Deeds Office. County Road 23 was discussed as well as Haul Road Agreements.

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. Very rough estimates for an elevator are around \$600,000-\$800,000. Neuharth moved and Mardian seconded to move forward with a 2 system lift if space allows; or if space doesn't allow a 1 system like kind lift. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Bids will be sought.

Discussion was held on the south steps piers, Feickert will get a picture of the stone that will be used so a coordinating color can be picked, and the courthouse foundation repainted.

Discussion was held on the basement venting project to disperse boiler heat throughout the building. Mardian has a quote for cutting the holes required, but fan quotes are needed along with the electrical quotes before the project can be considered.

Discussion was held on the ongoing basement water issues. Additional sump pumps or further remedy will have to be investigated. The landscaping at the courthouse that incorporates donated equipment is complete.

Provisional Budget 2027

The commission met with each department to discuss expenditure requests for 2027. Several changes were made to the 2027 expense requests; discussion was held on potential adjustments to the current 2026 budget. An updated 2027 Provisional Budget is available online and in the Auditor's Office for inspection. More discussion on the provisional budget will be held at the next meeting. Discussion was held regarding the ongoing increase in expenses within the Road and Bridge Fund and the uncertainty surrounding future courthouse maintenance and repair costs. The Commission considered potential funding options, including a General Fund opt-out and the implementation of a dedicated Road and Bridge levy. Following discussion, the Commission approved Resolution No. 26-16, "Implementing a County Road and Bridge Capital Improvement Levy."

CLAIMS APPROVED:

Dave Ackerman, Reimbursement, \$30.00; Agtegra, Hwy/Soil Dist/Courthouse Supplies, \$6,231.14; Amazon, Supplies, \$3,074.15; Art's Body Shop, Windshield, \$800.00; Aspire, 2026 Allocation, \$1,400.00; ATT, Cellphone/Hotspot, \$515.64; Auto Value, Hwy Supplies, \$876.93; Axle Surgeons, Repair, \$1,550.00; Beadle Ford-Chrysler-Dodge, AC Repair, \$823.22; Century Business Products, Printer Contracts, \$132.08; CHS, Fuel, \$14,393.83; Crawford Trucks & Equipment, Hwy Supplies, \$15,775.99; CRS, June Inmate Ins, \$45.30; Dickey Rural Telephone Coop, Server Maint/Antivirus/Fix, \$668.34; Trisha Erdmann, Miles & Meals for Conf, \$247.20; Eureka City, Utilities, \$215.50; Eureka City, MDU Reimbursement, \$666.52; Eureka Comm Health Service, Tests, \$82.50; Factor 360, County Website, \$2,880.00; FEM, Utilities, \$222.13; Gene's Oil, Fuel, \$1,721.69; Kristen Gonsoir, Horse Show Judge, \$344.50; Graham Tire, Tires, \$849.72; Sharon Guthmiller, Reimbursement, \$36.48; Heartland Waste, Utilities, \$80.00; Lester Hospitality, Conf Hotel, \$660.00; Horn Law Office, Mental Health, \$207.40; Kimball Midwest, Hwy Supplies, \$745.81; Leola Ambulance, Ins Reimb, \$7,554.00; Leola City, Utilities, \$234.23; Linde Gas & Equipment, Hwy Supplies, \$205.87; Live Inc, 2026

Allocation, \$720.00; Long Lake Town, Utilities, \$42.00; McPherson County Sheriff, Check Blanks, \$34.15; McPherson County Herald, Publishing, \$247.81; MDU, Utilities, \$702.01; Menard's, Courthouse Supplies, \$891.62; Microfilm, Equip Rent, \$274.00; National Sheriff's Association, Membership, \$125.00; North Central 911, June Reimittance, \$3,335.35; Northeast Mental Health, 2026 Allocation, \$3,500.00; NW Blade, Publishing, \$278.04; Performance Oil, DEF, \$1,458.75; Premier Equipment, Hwy Supplies, \$1,063.55; ProAg Supply, Weed Supplies, \$394.01; Ramkota Hotel Pierre, Conf Hotel, \$336.00; Jackie Rau, Reimbursement, \$100.73; Richardson Law Firm, Mental Health, \$321.00; Safe Harbor, June Remittance, \$33.50; Cindy Schumacher, Post Election Audit, \$83.00; SDAAO, DOE School, \$1,000.00; SDACC Clerp, 2nd Qtr, \$1,864.00; SDSU Extension, Conf Registration, \$180.00; Share, Hwy Supplies, \$484.34; Sioux Falls Two Way Radio, Batteries, \$109.98; Stan Houston, Hwy Supplies, \$3,250.00; Ten-45 Grocery, Hwy Supplies, \$126.93; Thomson Reuters, June West Law, \$890.88; Tri-State Water, Courthouse Water, \$207.75; TrueNorth Steel, Hwy Supplies, \$60,083.20; Twotrees Technologies, Office Backup, \$81.00; Valley Telco, Phone/Internet, \$788.88; Vanguard Appraisals, Service Fees, \$2,400.00; Vestis, Courthouse Supplies, \$199.44; Visa, Fuel, \$172.03; Visa, Subs/Postage/MISC, \$758.03; West McPherson EMS, Ambulance Miles, \$7,914.50; Connie Woehlhaff, Post Election Audit, \$110.30; Cortrust, Deliq Tax/Direct Deposit Fee, \$113.05; May 2026 Apportionment Remitted to Cities/Schools/Townships/Fire Districts, \$260,856.35; State Treasurer, Money Due to State, \$64,655.14; State Treasurer, Sales Tax, \$4.09; SDACC, M&P May Fees, \$128.00; McPherson County Herald, Publishing, \$522.94; Rock Tuff, Reissue, \$379.01; June Payroll Reimbursements: Mike Mardian, Miles, \$195.30, Trisha Erdmann, Miles, \$49.00; Lindley Howard, Miles, \$49.00; Vivian Sain, Meals & Miles, \$27.40; Becky Wolff, Miles, \$2.80; Brooke Mehlhaff, Fuel & Meals, \$103.99; Hunter Heinrich, Meals, \$94.00; Kyra Moser, Meals, \$26.00; Justin Bentz, Hotel & Inmate Transfer Reimb, \$452.13; George Hulscher, Miles, \$49.00; Doug Hatlewick, Miles, \$11.20.

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

SALARIES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES:

Commissioners, \$6,728.05; Elections, \$640.00; Auditor, \$10,670.69; Treasurer, \$10,694.33; State's Attorney, \$6,450.48; Government Building, \$5,625.51; Director of Equalization, \$12,656.00; Register of Deeds, \$10,600.73; Veteran Service Officers, \$1,094.60; Sheriff, \$10,905.16; Coroner, \$500.00; Extension, \$5,291.75; Planning & Zoning, \$400.00; Road & Bridge, \$79,842.78; Emergency & Disaster, \$1,506.67; 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: \$12,974.89

Insurance: American Family, \$371.00; Avera, \$6,233.99; Guardian Vision, \$150.15; MetLife, \$156.18; South Dakota Retirement System, \$9,360.60; Colonial Life Vision, \$70.07.

Miscellaneous Items and Reports

Neuharth moved and Feickert seconded to approve the following reports: Register of Deeds statement of fees collected during the month of June 2026 for the amount of \$2,699.25; Register of Deed's Modernization and Preservation fees collected during month of June 2026 for the amount of \$275.00; Auditor's Account with the County Treasurer as of June 30th, 2026 as follows: total amount of deposits in Leola Bank, \$348,957.24; total amount of actual cash, \$1,098.20; Total amount of checks and drafts in Treasurers possession not exceeding three days, \$5,399.10; CD's, \$1,213,957.18; Super savings, \$1,559,493.53; total, \$3,129,159.65. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

At 1:20PM Woehlhaff moved and Mardian seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

The next regular commission meeting will be Thursday, July 30th and the next zoning meeting will be held on July 21st. Both meetings begin at 9AM.

ATTEST:

Lindley Howard

McPherson County Auditor

Mark Opp

Chairman, Board of Commissioners