

McPherson County Board of Commissioners
Minutes of Proceedings
September 1st, 2026

The McPherson County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 1st, 2026, in the Commissioners' chambers. Chairman Mark Opp called the meeting to order at 9:00AM. Members present in person were Neal Woehlhaff and Sid Feickert; via Zoom Jeff Neuharth and Mike Mardian. The full meeting can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/@McPhersonCountySD>

Neuharth moved Woehlhaff seconded to approve the agenda of the September 1st meeting. Upon roll call vote: Mardian, Neuharth, Feickert, Woehlhaff and Opp voted "Aye". Motion carried. No other conflicts were declared.

Feickert moved and Woehlhaff seconded to approve the minutes of the July 30th Commissioner meeting. Upon roll call vote: Mardian, Neuharth, Feickert, Woehlhaff and Opp voted "Aye". Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING:

At 9:00AM a public hearing was held on the 2027 provisional budget. There were no proponents, or opponents. Written public comments were submitted by Tod Gohl. Discussion and commissioner comments were heard on the State's Attorney Budget. Neuharth moved and Woehlhaff seconded to add \$10,000 to 101-151-411 (State's Attorney Salaries) making the new total for Activity 151: \$110,800; a corresponding \$10,000 was added to 101-0-276.01 (General Fund Cash Applied) making the new total for 101-0-276.01: \$105,905; Amended General Fund Total Appropriations \$2,254,425 versus the published \$2,244,425. Upon roll call vote: Neuharth, Woehlhaff and Opp "Aye"; Mardian, Feickert "Nay". Motion carried.

The final adoption of the 2027 budget will take place on September 22nd, 2026, at 9AM. The provisional budget is on file for public inspection at the Auditor's Office and available online.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

At 9:00AM no public comments were heard.

DRAINAGE COMMISSION:

At 9:30AM Feickert moved and Neuharth seconded to forgo meeting as the McPherson County Drainage Commission for the month of September due to no new permits. Upon roll call vote: Mardian, Neuharth, Feickert, Woehlhaff and Opp voted "Aye". Motion carried.

OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED AND ACTION TAKEN:

Courthouse Maintenance

Neuharth moved and Woehlhaff seconded to declare the 1996 Dodge Ram 1500 pickup surplus to be sold at the Schock Auction on September 27th. Upon roll call vote: Mardian, Neuharth, Feickert, Woehlhaff and Opp voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the Air Shaft project. Work was expected to start on August 17-18th but was postponed for mold and radon testing. Initial radon test shows safe levels, the mold test results are outstanding. More discussion will be held on September 22nd. Work has begun on the south steps piers.

Discussion was held on the progress on moving old books into the display case. An update was given on the ADA lift replacement project, more discussion will take place after drawings are received.

Several trees around the courthouse yard need dead branches trimmed. Sharon Guthmiller has contacted Russell Schaffner about removing the dead branches and was quoted \$3000. Feickert moved and Neuharth seconded to offer Russell Schaffner \$2500 to trim all trees. Upon roll call vote: Mardian, Neuharth, Feickert, Woehlhaff and Opp voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Auditor's Office – DRSD PAVA Polling Place ADA Concern

Discussion was held on a letter received by Disability Rights South Dakota containing observations from both McPherson County polling locations during the June 2nd Primary election. The Eureka polling place was rated very accessible and the Courthouse mostly accessible. The primary concern was the Courthouse ramp's switch-back landing is smaller than the 60-inch ADA accessibility standard.

Highway Department

Hwy Superintendent Glenn Spitzer discussed the hydrology study and Holloway Bridge Construction estimate for the Rural Access Infrastructure location near Grassland Colony site 47-4800-1950 a/b/c. Feickert moved and Woehlhaff seconded to accept the presented road haul agreement for Christensen Farms for the construction phase of the project. Upon roll call vote: Mardian, Neuharth, Feickert, Woehlhaff and Opp voted "Aye". Motion carried. Spitzer updated the board on the sale of motorgrader #904 and asked the board to consider a future equipment purchase of an oil truck. Discussion was held regarding the possibility of requiring a variance permit or haul road agreements for gravel trucks hauling material from pits located within McPherson County to destinations outside of the county.

Permit to Occupy Right of Way

Neuharth moved and Feickert seconded to approve the following permits to occupy right of way: FEM to install power cable under the road between Section 17 and 18 of T125N-R70W; FEM to install power cable under the road between Section 26 and 25 of T126N-R68W; FEM to install power cable under the road between Section 10 and 11 of T125N-R71W. Upon roll call vote Mardian, Neuharth, Feickert, Woehlhaff, Opp voted "aye". Motion carried.

Eureka Building Office Space

Sheriff Ackerman asked the board to consider renting office space within the Eureka Building to the State of South Dakota. Feickert moved and Woehlhaff seconded that the board would be willing to rent the basement space of the Eureka Building for \$400/month. Upon roll call vote Mardian, Neuharth, Feickert, Woehlhaff, Opp voted "aye". Motion carried. A formal agreement would be presented at a future meeting if the State of South Dakota elects to pursue the space.

Zoning Update

Commissioner Mardian gave a brief update on the public meetings the Leola Data Center held in Eureka and Leola and the August 11th Zoning Board meeting.

Opening Conference FY2024-2025 Audit

Jason Hill from the Department of Legislative Audit presented the board with an engagement letter for the FY2024-2025 Audit. Neuharth moved and Mardian seconded to have Mark Opp and Lindley Howard sign the engagement letter. Upon roll call vote Mardian, Neuharth, Feickert, Woehlhaff, Opp voted "aye". Motion carried. Once the Audit is complete an audit report will be issued. Past audit reports, fraud hotline information and other resources are available on the Department of Legislative Audit's website. Audit reports are also available on McPherson County's website.

Meeting Authorizations

Neuharth moved and Feickert seconded to approve the following meeting authorizations: Brooke Mehlhaff & Hunter Heinrich, assessor school in September; Lindley Howard, Vicki Geffre, Tiffany Weiszhaar, Glenn Spitzer, Mark Opp and Neil Woehlhaff to attend fall convention in Sioux Falls in September; Austin Hoffman to attend Fall State's Attorney Training. Upon roll call vote Mardian, Neuharth, Feickert, Woehlhaff, Opp voted "aye". Motion carried.

Executive Session

Woehlhaff moved and Neuharth seconded to enter executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1) and (3) at 11:10AM. Upon roll call vote Mardian, Neuharth, Feickert, Woehlhaff, Opp voted "aye". Motion carried. Feickert and Woehlhaff declared executive session concluded at 11:47AM. No Action Taken.

CLAIMS APPROVED:

Agtegra, Hwy Supplies, \$5,331.28; Amazon, Supplies, \$1,620.52; Applied Concepts Inc, New Vehicle, \$2,811.00; Art's Body Shop, Windshield Repair, \$60.00; ATT, Cellphone/Hotspot/iPads, \$528.50; Auto Value, Hwy Supplies, \$129.98; Kristi Brandt, Court Reporting, \$131.70; Lanette Butler, Achievement Days Judge & Miles, \$82.00; Century Business Products, Printer Contracts, \$74.53; CHS, Fuel, \$17,915.35; Crawford Trucks & Equipment, Hwy Supplies, \$11,750.09; CRS, Inmate Ins, \$46.81; Dakota Fluid Power, Hwy Supplies, \$443.82; Dependable Sanitation, Utilities, \$291.00; Dickey Rural Telephone Coop, Server Maint/Antivirus/Fix, \$273.34; Edmunds County Hwy Dept, 50% Sale of Equip, \$1,250.00; Sheila Erdmann, Achievement Days Judge & Miles, \$65.20; Eureka City, Utilities, \$216.25; Eureka Senior Center, 2026 Allocation, \$2,964.00; FEM, Utilities, \$609.53; Flint Hills, Hwy Supplies, \$61,194.36; Sandra Flittie, Achievement Days Judge & Miles, \$100.20; Michael Frey, Achievement Days Judge & Miles, \$114.20; Gene's Oil, Fuel, \$1,282.54; G & R Controls, Boiler Take Down, \$2,153.00; Mike Hassebrook, Achievement Days Judge & Miles, \$150.60; Heartland Waste, Utilities, \$20.00; Lindley Howard, Reimbursement, \$486.79; IMEG, Hwy Supplies, \$2,100.00; Jensen Rock & Sand, Crusher Chips, \$10,591.50; Wanda Jundt, Achievement Days Judge & Miles, \$89.00; Kimball Midwest, Hwy Supplies, \$542.98; Lakeside Lumber, Hwy Supplies, \$48.67; Leola City, Utilities, \$219.65; Leola Senior Center, 2026 Allocation, \$1,036.00; Linde Gas & Equipment, Hwy Supplies, \$205.87; McPherson Co Herald, Publishing, \$421.31; MDU, Utilities, \$1,339.23; Menard's, Supplies, \$101.26; Microfilm, Equip Rent, \$548.00; Midwest Pump & Tank, Hwy Supplies, \$244.00; Moser Excavating & Trucking, Landscape Rock, \$102.04; North Central Regional E911, August Remittance, \$3,396.51; NW Blade, Publishing, \$358.69; Lisa Pederson, Achievement Days Judge & Miles, \$411.40; Sherry Perrion, Achievement Days Judge & Miles, \$75.00; Premier Equipment, Hwy Supplies, \$40.00; RDO Equipment, Hwy Supplies, \$311.64; SD Public Health Lab, Tests, \$100.00; Share Corp, Hwy Supplies, \$350.49; Sioux Falls Two Way Radio Svc, Charger, \$80.98; Thee Glass Docktor, Window, \$681.00; Thomson Reuters-West, August West Law, \$890.90; Tools Plus Industries, Hwy Supplies, \$334.76; Transource Truck & Equipment, Hwy Supplies, \$1,288.17; Tri-State Water, Courthouse Water, \$280.50; TrueNorth Steel, Hwy Supplies, \$18,667.20; TwoTrees Technologies, Email Back-up, \$81.00; Valley Telco, Phone/Internet, \$797.44; Vestis, Courthouse Supplies, \$200.28; Visa, Course Registration, \$109.00; Visa, Hwy Supplies, \$314.44; Visa, Subs/Postage/Supplies, \$674.72; Julie Weist, Achievement Days Judge & Miles, \$135.20; 8 Grand Jurors, Juror Fees & Miles, \$594.60; Cortrust, Direct Deposit Fee, \$15.00; July 2026 Apportionment Remitted to Cities/Schools/Townships/Fire Districts, \$14,802.87; State Treasurer, Money Due to State, \$66,790.97; State Treasurer, Sales Tax, \$15.65; SDACC, M&P July Fees, \$94.00; McPherson County Treasurer, New Pickup Paperwork, \$33.20; SDACC, Fall Conference, \$1,500.00; August Payroll Reimbursements: Trisha Erdmann, Miles, \$56.00; Lindley Howard, Miles/Keys, \$95.94; Becky Wolff, Miles, \$1.40; Dave Ackerman, Postage, \$19.47; Nathan Hoffman, Fuel, \$54.65; Logan Heupel, Miles, \$12.60; George Hulscher, Miles, \$49.00.

Woehlhaff moved and Feickert seconded to approve the forgoing claims. Upon roll call vote Mardian, Neuharth, Feickert, Woehlhaff, Opp voted "aye". Motion carried.

SALARIES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES:

Commissioners, \$6,728.05; Elections, \$353.00; Auditor, \$9,875.09; Treasurer, \$9,781.73; State's Attorney, \$6,450.48; Government Building, \$4,173.04; Director of Equalization, \$10,364.80; Register of Deeds, \$9,781.73; Veteran Service Officers, \$1,094.60; Sheriff, \$11,866.43; Coroner, \$1,000.00; Extension, \$4,353.40; Weed, \$3,206.33; Planning & Zoning, \$400.00; Road & Bridge, \$75,304.98; Emergency & Disaster, \$1,416.67; Eureka Joint Law, \$5,250.27; Leola Joint Law, \$5,163.27.

McPherson County's Share of the following:

Social Security and Medicare: CorTrust Bank: \$12,407.74

Insurance: American Family, \$371.00; Avera, \$6,233.99; Guardian Vision, \$150.15; MetLife, \$156.18; South Dakota Retirement System, \$8,644.53; Colonial Life Vision, \$70.07.

Miscellaneous Items and Reports

Woehlhaff moved and Neuharth seconded to approve the following reports: State's Attorney Secretary Hours Reports from July 2026; Sheriff's Calls for Service July 2026; Notice and Record of Payments to Poor Persons through August 2026; VSO Hours June and July 2026; Register of Deeds statement of fees collected during the month of July 2026 for the amount of \$2,746.50; Register of Deeds statement of fees collected during the month of August 2026 for the amount of \$6,316.50; Register of Deed's Modernization and Preservation fees collected during month of July 2026 for the amount of \$235.00; Register of Deed's Modernization and Preservation fees collected during month of August 2026 for the amount of \$360.00; Auditor's Account with the County Treasurer as of July 31st, 2026 as follows: total amount of deposits in Leola Bank, \$178,409.51; total amount of actual cash, \$844.40; Total amount of checks and drafts in Treasurers possession not exceeding three days, \$10,562.96; Itemized list of all items, checks and drafts in the Treasurers possession over three days, \$1,077.70; CD's, \$1,213,957.18; Super savings, \$1,559,493.53; total, \$2,963,267.58. Upon roll call vote Mardian, Neuharth, Feickert, Woehlhaff, Opp voted "aye". Motion carried.

At 1:00PM Woehlhaff moved and Mardian seconded to adjourn the meeting. Upon roll call vote Mardian, Neuharth, Feickert, Woehlhaff, Opp voted "aye". Motion carried.

The next regular commission meeting will be Tuesday, September 22nd beginning at 9AM.

ATTEST:

Lindley Howard

McPherson County Auditor

Mark Opp

Chairman, Board of Commissioners