

BROOKINGS COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026

The Brookings County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 with the following members present: Shawn Hostler, Kelly VanderWal, Larry Jensen, Doug Post and Dave Miller.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Hostler called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Miller, seconded by Post to approve the agenda for the March 3, 2026 Commission Meeting. Motion by Jensen, seconded by VanderWal to amend the agenda to include public comment after the scheduled agenda item at 9:00 a.m.

Voice vote on amendment: all members voted “aye.” Amendment carried.

Voice vote on main motion as amended: all members voted “aye.” Main motion as amended carried.

RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

The board recognized Ben Rentsch for five years of service in the Highway Department.

CITIZEN INVITATION

Volga Resident Scott Christopherson said he’s concerned about protecting the county from hyper scale projects. Christopherson said he would like to see the county create setbacks for these types of projects.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Post, seconded by VanderWal to approve the consent agenda. Roll call vote: VanderWal “aye,” Post “aye,” Miller “aye,” Jensen “aye,” Hostler “aye.” Motion carried.

The consent agenda consisted of the minutes from the February 17, 2026 Commission Meeting.

Travel & Education Requests: Richard Haugen to attend National Weather Service Spring 2026 Flooding forecast on March 3rd in Sioux Falls; Marty Stanwick & Dave Biteler to attend Graduation

Three Deputies Law Enforcement Training on March 6th in Pierre; various staff- Commission, Sheriff, Highway, Register of Deeds, County Development, BCAOC and Director of Equalization on March 11th in Brookings.

Personnel Action Notices: status change - Full-time Correctional Officer Amanda Robbins to \$25.63, effective February 21, 2026; annual review- Sam Hardin to \$32.25, effective March 1, 2026; annual review- Tim Haug to \$26.67, effective March 1, 2026; annual review- Alex Luke to \$33.55, effective March 1, 2026; annual review- Reid Squires to \$36.32, effective March 1, 2026; retirement- Lori Schultz, effective April 3, 2026.

ROUTINE BUSINESS

Approval of Claims

Motion by Post, seconded by Jensen to approve the following claims. Roll call vote: Post "aye," Miller "aye," Jensen "aye," VanderWal "aye," Hostler "aye." Motion carried.

A&B Business Inc, Copier Contract, \$249.78; Action Target, Gun Range Member Targets, \$266.18; Advance, Non-Mandated Fund, \$35,000.00; Allegra Print & Imaging, Business Cards-Blk On White, \$118.03; Amazon Capital Services, Keyboard, Tape Dispenser, Scissors, Paper For GIS Printer, Chicks In The Classroom, Archery Targets, Office Supplies/Programming Materials, \$746.89; AMP Electric Construction, Strip Light Install/Service, \$92.91; AT&T Mobility, Nighthawk Mifi Mobile WIFI, \$40.54; Aurora Quick Stop, Deputy Fuel, \$1,459.63; Avera Medical, Inmate Liable Clinical Visit, \$17.28; Avera Occupational Medicine-Mitchell, Lab Testing, \$222.90; Axess Cooperative, Lp Gas, \$435.18; Ban-Koe Systems Inc, Renewal On Inspection/Test/Supplies, \$1,346.00; Banner Associates, Professional Services For Medary Township Big Sioux River Diversion Channel Dike, Project Structures06-153-200, 06-248-040, 06-320-118, 06-240-123/141, 06-320-235, \$22,310.00; Bierschbach Equipment, Red Squeegee Blade, \$228.64; Bobcat Of Brookings, Shop Supplies/Coupler, \$344.25; Brookings Auto Mall Inc, Seals/Hose, \$401.51; Brookings City Utilities, Western Ave/Swiftel, Water For Truck Shed, Courthouse/Comm Health/Lawn Irrigation, Monthly Utilities/Fees, Irrigation, \$10,056.35; Brookings County Finance, 2026 Silverado/2026 Tahoe Title, License, Mail, \$67.40; Brookings Health System, Monthly PPCC/POD Meeting, \$126.06; Brookings-Deuel Rws, Bruce Shop, \$39.40; C&R Fire Suppression dba DVL Fire And Safety, Fire Extinguishers, \$613.50; Century Business Products, Copier Contract, \$557.01; Champion Media, LLC, Publications, Subscription Renewal, \$4,774.86; CHS, Fuel Statement, \$4,533.42; City Of Brookings, Dec 2025 E911 Money, Unclaimed Dogs X3, \$47,883.40; Coast To Coast Solutions, Deputy Supplies, \$348.59; Cook's Wastepaper & Recycling, Main Shop/White Shop, Garbage/Waste Utilities, Feb 2026 Commercial/Recycling, \$892.15; CrafcO, Inc, Crack Machine Repair, \$26,685.75; Creative Printing, Envelopes, \$156.95; Alli Cummings Gauer, Court Appointed Attorney, \$1,520.31; Dakota Mailing, Freight/Postage Machine Ink, \$181.84; Den-Wil Inc, March Community Health Rent, \$1,050.00; East River Psychological Services, Psychosexual Evaluation CRI24-295, \$2,500.00; Ekern Home Equipment Co, Fixed Leaking Vacuum Breaker, Fixed Two Flushometers & A New Sensor, \$312.73; Election Source, Vote Here Signs, \$1,552.25; First Bank & Trust, Facebook Ads, Mailchimp, Kool Beans Coffee With Vets, Sodak SHRM Conference, Vacuum, 1Password Annual Subscription, Stamps.com, Wall Canvas, USPAP Course, Jail Supplies, Deputy Fuel, Jail Fuel, Deputy Equipment, \$4,436.08; Foerster

Distributing, Toilet Paper/Paper Towels, \$190.00; Forte, Courthouse AV Maintenance, \$710.00; Fox Law Firm, PLLC, IVC, \$207.57; Hillyard/Sioux Falls, Defoamer, Jail Janitorial Supplies, \$4,848.33; Tim Hogan, Court Appointed Attorney, \$14,728.48; Hy-Vee Food Store, Zoning Mtg Refreshments, Funeral Flowers, Court Refreshments/Supplies, \$78.37; IMEG Consultants Corporation, Surfacing Proj Prof Services, \$10,000.00; Katterhagen, Mark, IVC, \$24.00; Kennedy Pier Knoff Loftus LLP, IVC, \$192.00; L&L Auto & Truck Parts, Battery, \$6.00; Val Larson, IVC, \$24.00; Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health, IVC, \$225.00; Lowe's, Office Supply Glue, \$12.31; M&M Service, Patrol Vehicle Maint/Repairs, \$207.75; Donald McCarty, Court Appointed Attorney, \$1,373.80; Mcleod's Printing & Office Supplies, Fee Book #41, \$1,006.78; Mediacom LLC, Courthouse WIFI, \$191.94; Midwest Glass, Adhesive&Install Glass, \$280.00; Teree A Nesvold, Court Appointed Attorney, \$1,116.00; Northern Carpet Cleaning, Stripping/Waxing Concourse Floor, \$3,315.60; Northwestern Energy, Courthouse Natural Gas Usage, Monthly Utilities/Fees, \$5,682.27; Office Peeps Inc, Toners, Office Supplies, Paper, Toner, Sanitizer, Ink, Tape, Paper, \$1,356.95; Pennington County Sheriff, Inmate Shuttle Transportation, \$287.02; Prevention Magazine, Magazine Ads, \$200.00; Prochem Dynamics LLC, Jail Supplies, \$238.66; Qualified Presort Service, 2026 Assessment Notices, \$7,521.53; Razors Edge Grounds Keeping, Jan CH Grounds Maintenance, Snow Removal/Ice Melt&Sand, \$5,037.50; RFD Newspapers Inc, Publications, \$4,252.32; Rick Ribstein, Court Appointed Attorney, \$3,866.21; SD Department Of Revenue, DW#25-21 Sheriff Trust, \$559.80; SD Dept of Agriculture, Stormwater Construction Fee, \$100.00; SDACC, 1st Quarter Clerp Payment, \$14,256.00; SDAE4-HP, Spring Conference Registration, \$80.00; SDSU Extension, 4H Educator Salary Billing, \$23,050.00; Sodak Painting, Courthouse Painting, \$8,635.72; State 4-H Office, Poultry Bands, \$60.00; Teesdale Law Office PLLC, Court Appointed Attorney, \$4,026.70; Thomson Reuters - West, November Information Billing, \$1,185.03; Town of Sinai, Jan Sewer/Feb Garbage, \$66.00; Trane US Inc, Installation/Equipment HVAC, \$7,950.00; UPS Store, Free Membership Card For Jail, \$104.99; Steven Ust, Inspections, \$700.00; Vandenberg Law, Court Appointed Attorney, \$3,725.25; Verizon Wireless, Toughbook USB Hwy Dept Tablet, \$80.02; Walburg, Duane, Animal Control Mileage, \$44.88; Warrior Monk Academy LLC, SD Enhanced, \$322.00; WW Tire Service Inc, Patrol Vehicle Maint/Repairs, \$466.08.

Department Head Reports

Highway Superintendent Brian Gustad said there will be a bid opening today at 2:30 p.m. for the 2026 Brookings County Chip Seal project and the 2026 Brookings County Surfacing project. Gustad said there will be a bid opening in late March for the striping project, which is done with sixteen other counties.

Commissioner Miller asked about the crack machine repair claim for \$26,000. Gustad said the year of the machine is a 2017 and the pump needed to be replaced.

Sheriff Marty Stanwick said there are 53 inmates in jail and 79 individuals participating on the 24/7 sobriety program. Stanwick said he attended his last Towns & Townships Board Meeting. Stanwick said he has three deputies graduating from Law Enforcement school Friday.

Finance Officer Lori Schultz reminded the public of the motor vehicle kiosk at Lewis Drug. She said the state also has a website where you can do all things motor vehicle. The website is <https://my605drive.sd.gov>.

Schultz reminded the public that first half of property taxes are due by April 30, 2026. She said there is a Senior Citizens and Disabled Tax Assessment Freeze and the deadline to file is April 1st of every year as well as a Disabled Veteran and Surviving Spouse Property Tax Exemption.

Deputy Finance Officer Jennifer Beller presented the 2025 Finance Office Annual Report.

County Development Director Robert Hill discussed upcoming dates with the board.

SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEM – 9:00 A.M.

Randy Fordice, of Xcel Energy, gave a presentation on the PowerOn Midwest project.

Deuel County resident Steven January said his land was eminent domain by the CapX2020 project and has a 345KV tower on his property. He said it's 175' tall and 150' in width. January said he asked representatives of Otter Tail Power Company what their plans are once Big Stone Power Plant retires in 2040. He said their response was that they do not know.

January said he is here today to encourage the commission to pass a 2,000-foot setback.

Brookings County resident Sue Engelmann asked the commission to match Deuel County's zoning setback requirements that transmission lines with voltage greater than 345KV must have a setback of 2,000 feet from any inhabited residence.

Brookings County resident Janii White asked the commission to consider a 2,000-foot setback. White said there is a family from the Elkton area who couldn't be here today, and she said it will be in their backyard. White said she went to the company's open house, and they couldn't answer any of her questions.

Brookings County resident Charlie Fenster said the last mile heading north of the proposed project in Brookings County abuts the Oak Lake Field Station, which does a tremendous amount of community outreach.

Brookings County resident LoWayne Juenke thanked the zoning office and the commission for responding to his questions. Juenke said there's nothing in zoning right now that protects homes from these transport lines. Juenke said the 2,000-foot setback is a step in the right direction.

Department Head Reports Continued

Register of Deeds Beverly Chapman presented the 2025 Register of Deeds Annual Report.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Motion by Miller, seconded by VanderWal to approve and authorize Chairperson Hostler to sign Resolution #26-07: a Resolution Declaring a Fire Danger Emergency in Brookings County and Prohibiting Open Burning.

Commission VanderWal said with the recent snowfall, he doesn't believe this is needed anymore. VanderWal reminded the public to monitor their controlled burns from start to finish. Jensen reminded the public to call dispatch if they will be burning.

Roll call vote: Miller "aye," Jensen "no," VanderWal "no," Post "no," Hostler "no." Motion failed.

Motion by Post, seconded by VanderWal to approve and authorize Chairperson Hostler to sign a Resolution #26-08: a Resolution Establishing Fees to be Paid by Licensed Abstractors for Uncertified Copies of Recorded Documents in the Register of Deeds Office.

Background information was provided by Register of Deeds Beverly Chapman.

Roll call vote: Jensen "aye," VanderWal "aye," Miller "aye," Post "aye," Hostler "aye." Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #26-08

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING FEES TO BE PAID BY LICENSED ABSTRACTORS FOR UNCERTIFIED COPIES OF RECORDED DOCUMENTS IN THE REGISTER OF DEEDS OFFICE

WHEREAS, SDCL 7-8-15 sets the fees to be charged in the Register of Deeds Office;

WHEREAS, SDCL 7-8-15 Section 5 states that the County Commission shall by resolution fix the fees to be paid by licensed abstractors of the county or by any person who has passed the written examination established by the Abstractors' Board of Examiners pursuant to SDCL 36-13-11 for uncertified copies of recorded instruments;

WHEREAS, Section 5 further states that those fees may not exceed the actual cost to the county for providing such copies;

WHEREAS, the Register of Deeds has determined the following fees cover the actual cost of providing these copies:

Copies made in office	\$0.15
Copies of existing electronic (TIFF/PDF) copies	\$0.25

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the above listed fees for uncertified copies of recorded documents in the Register of Deeds Office are hereby approved.

Adopted this 3rd day of March, 2026

Shawn Hostler, Chairperson
Brookings County Commission

ATTEST:

Lori Schultz
Finance Officer
Brookings County

Motion by Jensen, seconded by VanderWal to approve and authorize Chairperson Hostler to sign Agreement #26-21: the State of South Dakota Department of Public Safety Office of Emergency Management 2025 Local Emergency Management Performance Grant.

Background information was provided by County Development Director Robert Hill.

Roll call vote: VanderWal “aye,” Post “aye,” Miller “aye,” Jensen “aye,” Hostler “aye.”

Motion carried.

Motion by VanderWal, seconded Jensen to approve Abatement #26-02: an abatement application made by Brookings Municipal Utilities for parcel #04000-11049-291-00 in the amount of \$2,409.53.

All members voted “aye.” Motion carried.

Motion by Jensen, seconded by VanderWal to approve Abatement #26-03: an abatement application made by Brookings Municipal Utilities for parcel #40071-00100-002-00 in the amount of \$38.04.

All members voted “aye.” Motion carried.

Motion by Post, seconded by Miller to approve Abatement #26-05: an abatement application made by Clarene G. Lems for parcel #09100-11247-272-09 in the amount of \$883.54.

All members voted “aye.” Motion carried.

Motion by Jensen, seconded by Post to approve Abatement #26-08: an application for a late elderly and disabled assessment freeze.

Background information was provided by Finance Officer Lori Schultz.

All members voted “aye.” Motion carried.

Motion by Post, seconded by VanderWal to approve Abatement #26-09: an application for a late elderly and disabled assessment freeze.

All members voted “aye.” Motion carried.

Motion by Post, seconded by Jensen to approve all annual weed chemical bids for 2026, as presented.

Background information was provided by Commission Department Director Stacy Steffensen and Finance Specialist Jenna Baker.

Roll call vote: Post “aye,” Miller “aye,” Jensen “aye,” VanderWal “aye,” Hostler “aye.”

Motion carried.

Nutrien Solutions - Spearfish

Platoon 2, 4-D Amine

Gallons	Price Per Unit	+/- from 2025
2.5 gallon	\$15.80 per gallon	\$0.30+
30-gallon drum	\$15.80 per gallon	\$0.52+
265-gallon tote	\$14.80 per gallon	\$0.30+

Alligare 2,4-D Amine

Gallons	Price Per Unit	+/- from 2025
270 gallon tote	\$14.80 per gallon	\$0.30+
2.5 gallon container	\$15.80	\$0.30+

Grazon PD3

Gallons	Price Per Unit	+/- from 2025
2 gallon container	\$48.98 per gallon	\$1.48+
250 gallon tote	\$48.98 per gallon	\$1.48+

Freelexx Herbicide

Gallons	Price Per Unit	+/- from 2025
2.5 gallon container	\$35.00 per gallon	\$2.25+
30 gallon drum	\$35.00 per gallon	\$2.25+
250 gallon tote	\$35.00 per gallon	\$2.25+

Orion Solutions LLC – Rocky Mount, Virginia

	LB PER GALLON	BRAND	PRICE PER GALLON	AQUATIC YES / NO	+ / - from 2025
2, 4-D Amine Aquatic Label	3.8 lbs. per gallon	Alligare	\$20.50 per gallon	YES	NA
Gunslinger P+D	2 lbs. per gallon Picloram 0.54 lbs. per gallon 2, 4-D	Alligare	\$27.75 per gallon	NO	NA
Freelexx	3.8 lbs. per gallon	Corteva	\$32.75 per gallon	YES	NA
Surfactant	-	Orion	\$5.30 per gallon	YES	NA
Rodeo Generic Aquatic	4 lbs. per gallon	Alligare	\$23.50 per gallon	YES	NA
Triumph 22	2 lbs. per gallon Picloram	Alligare	\$50.00 per gallon	NO	NA

Vandiest Supply - Yankton

	LB PER GALLON	BRAND	PRICE PER GALLON	AQUATIC YES / NO	+ / - from 2025
2, 4-D Amine Aquatic Label	3.8 lbs. per gallon	Corn Belt 4#	\$17.34 per gallon	YES	\$0.29+
Grazon PD3	3 lbs. per gallon	Corteva	\$47.89 per gallon	NO	\$4.91+

Freelex	3.8 lbs. per gallon	Corteva	\$35.00 per gallon	YES	\$2.25+
Surfactant	-	Brewer International	\$9.44 per gallon	YES	\$0.20+
Rodeo Generic Aquatic	5.4 lbs. per gallon	NuFarm	\$20.64 per gallon	YES	NA

Motion by Post, seconded by VanderWal to approve and authorize Chairperson Hostler to sign a Request to Fill Vacancy for a part-time female correctional officer in the detention center.

All members voted “aye.” Motion carried.

Motion by Post, seconded by VanderWal to declare the following items as surplus property to be disposed of as part of the HVAC and boiler project for the Government Center building: Four (4) variable speed drives, cooling tower, chiller 1, chiller 2, chiller 3 and four (4) fluid pumps.

Background information was provided by Commission Department Director Stacy Steffensen. All members voted “aye.” Motion carried.

The board discussed limiting traffic on 214th Street/County Road 16A, from 34th Avenue to Aurora City limits. Commissioner Jensen said with the change in cold and warm weather, there was significant damage that occurred to a portion of the road. Jensen said he believes the damage was done prior to putting up the seven (7) ton load limit. Jensen said he doesn’t believe the seven (7) ton per axle posting is sufficient, and suggested they post a “no trucks” sign or “no thru trucks” sign. Jensen said he would like to protect the investment.

VanderWal said he agrees with Jensen and said a few years ago this was a township road. VanderWal said the county took over that road and put a huge investment into it. He said he would like to protect that road. Hostler asked Highway Superintendent Brian Gustad if the damage has been repaired. Gustad said with the weather and the lack of products being produced, no repairs have been done. Gustad said there are plans this summer to repair it. Gustad said it’s up to the commission on what they would like to post.

States Attorney Dan Nelson suggested posting a “maximum weight” sign rather than a “no trucks” sign. Nelson said they have the authority to post a sign, but they would have to formulate the penalty. Sheriff Marty Stanwick said it’s a whole new ball game when you have weight signs and his deputies are not trained for weights. Stanwick said he would rather post “no trucks” signs and educate the public. Nelson said they would need to draft an ordinance and figure out what the penalty would be so that it’s enforceable. VanderWal said a lot of it comes down to communication and education.

Gustad suggested the commission amend the resolution that was passed in a previous meeting that sets weight limit enforcements on county highways. Jensen said he agrees with that. Hostler said they can act on the amended resolution at the next commission meeting.

Commission Department Director Stacy Steffensen provided the board with an updated “Commission Projects” funding spreadsheet to review, and to discuss funding requests.

Steffensen said Berniece Stuefen with the Elkton Ambulance sent her quotes for additional radios and training. Steffensen said the cost for three radios was just over \$16,000 and for training it was about \$6,500.

County Development Director Robert Hill said they allocated \$28,750 for the East Fire Station/EOC generator, and that it was initially designated to help the city hook up the former city/county generator. Hill said it's been hooked up already, so they don't need any financial help. Hill said his recommendation would be to purchase a backup 50KW generator for emergency management to be used anywhere in the county in the event of a disaster. Hill said right now, they have an 18KW generator. Steffensen said she needs to verify with the BCOAC Director about whether they have a generator or not.

Post said he would like to see a formal request from the Elkton Ambulance for the board to act on because they may have received funding from other entities. Post said they could receive the funding this year. Hostler agreed and said they could have received funding from other entities so an updated request would be good.

Commission Department Director Stacy Steffensen presented the Commission Department Director's Report. Steffensen included documents titled "Brookings County, South Dakota Board of Commissioners Bylaws, Rules of Procedure, and Policies," and "Code of Conduct for County Commissioners, Elected and Appointed Department Heads, Members of All Boards, Commissions, Committees, Task Forces, or Other Appointed Advisory Groups." Steffensen said if the board wishes to formally adopt these documents, she can add them as action items at the second meeting in March. Commissioner Miller said he didn't see any red flags as he read through it. The board agreed to reach out to Steffensen after they'd read through the documents.

Steffensen said the HVAC boiler project is underway.

Steffensen discussed upcoming dates.

States Attorney Dan Nelson had nothing to report.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS & DISCUSSION ITEMS

Commissioner VanderWal attended the District 7 & District 8 Legislative Coffee; held interviews for the Weed Supervisor position; attended a DOT Stakeholder's Meeting; attended the Annual Township and Weed Board Meeting.

Commissioner Post attended bid openings for the annual weed chemicals; held interviews for the Weed Supervisor position; and attended the Annual Township and Weed Board Meeting.

Commissioner Miller attended a Brookings Behavioral Health & Wellness Board Meeting; met with the President of the Humane Society; attended a BATA Board Meeting; attended the Annual Township and Weed Board Meeting; toured the Humane Society; and met with the CEO of ICAP.

Commissioner Jensen attended the District 7 and District 8 Legislative Coffee; attended a hospital board meeting; attended the Brookings Area Transportation Plan; and attended the Annual Township and Weed Board Meeting.

Commissioner Hostler attended the United Way Stronger Together Suicide Prevention Forum; attended the zoom legislative update; attended the Research Park Board Meeting; attended a Brookings Regional Growth Alliance Meeting; attended the District 7 and District 8 Legislative Coffee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Jensen, seconded by Post to enter into Executive Session at 10:54 a.m., in accordance with SDCL 1-25-2(1)(4), personnel and contract negotiations.

Chairperson Hostler declared the board out of Executive Session at 11:23 a.m.

Motion by Post, seconded by Miller to approve Sick Leave Bank Request #26-01. All members voted “aye.” Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Post, seconded by VanderWal to adjourn the meeting. All members voted “aye.” Motion carried. The next regular scheduled meeting is Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.

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Jenna Baker
Finance Specialist
Brookings County

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