

APRIL 21, 2026 – GENERAL MEETING

Meeting called to order by Chairman Sutton at 8:45 A.M. in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD. Present were Commissioners Dennert, Dinger, Gage, Sutton and Wiese. Commissioner Wiese led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Chairman Sutton asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Dean Buntrock, whose donation led to the development of a new baseball field and updated park in the City of Columbia and most recent donation to the Dacotah Prairie Museum, creating the Rosemarie and Dean L. Buntrock Gallery.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Chairman Sutton shared needing to add Masa contract under the Benefit Contracts. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the amended agenda. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

PUBLIC HEARING – SPECIAL EVENT TEMPORARY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE:

Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to approve the following Special Event Temporary Alcoholic Beverage License for Malt Beverage and Wine to SPURS Therapeutic Riding Center, Aberdeen, SD – SPURS 2nd Addition, NW ¼ of Sec 6-T123N-R63W, Brown County, SD; effective September 19, 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

JDC AGREEMENT WITH ABERDEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT:

Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the JDC Agreement between Aberdeen School District and Brown County; the term of this agreement is from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

JUNIOR FAIR BOARD:

Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Dennert to approve Leah Eisenbeisz to be on the 2026 Junior Fair Board. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY:

Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve the application submitted by Web Water for occupancy of Brown County Highway 2 (aka 102nd St.) in Section 8-T128-R65, Brown County, SD to install potable waterline service for Tom Berheim. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent, shared that he was pulling the application for Bill Edwards and Diamond Five Farms, LLC because they discovered an old culvert at this site, so now it becomes a County issue to take care of. Since Ben Hofer is already doing the work, they are just going to pay him to complete the project.

BID CONTRACTS:

Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the following Bid Contracts: Full Operation of Rental of Gravel Trucks & Road Machinery with Diesel Machinery Inc.; H.F. Jacobs & Son Construction; Hanlon Brothers & Crush Mode; Gravel Material with Althoff Aggregates; LG Everist, Inc.; H.F. Jacobs & Son Construction; Hanlon Brothers and Hall Sand & Gravel; Bituminous Plant Mix with Jensen Rock & Sand. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent, shared that the flood gates are currently open but anticipate closing them, still 6 feet from the top of the gates. Work on the Railroad Crossing on 14 will be starting but will have one-lane open at all times. Sand Lake Bridge may begin on April 27th or the following week. Cold patching until they can get hot mix the beginning of May. They are doing some prep work at the Fairgrounds and will start paving there, will be a training opportunity before starting on the roads. At this time Load Limits will not be extended but were put on 2 weeks later than other counties. Shared that County Road 9 and 7 in the Claremont area are having some issues but they do have routes for Emergency Vehicles if need be.

Commissioner Dinger asked Dirk about the detour route for Richmond Dam project. Currently, plan is to go straight out on 127th to 281; discussion was had about going 2 miles on 127th then south on 384th to 129th to enter onto 281. There is some concern though about the visibility at the intersection of 384th and 129th due to trees on that corner. Dirk will look into this and also mentioned that Lincoln Township will need to sign off on this as well.

BENEFITS DISCUSSION:

Allison Tunheim, HR Director, met with the Commission to discuss the benefits for the next fiscal year. The County will stay with Optilegra for Vision Insurance and there are no plan changes or premium increases for this next year; we will stay with Delta Dental for Dental Insurance and we will be increasing the annual max allowed per member from \$1200 to \$1500 and there will be a 2.5% increase; for Health Insurance we will be staying with Wellmark but we will be making some changes to the plan this next year in order to keep the renewal rates at a lower increase amount (10.92%) to our premiums. We will keep both the Copay plan and the HDHP, however, the structure of our Copay plan will be adjusted to include increases with deductibles, out of pocket max, ER copay, prescriptions and non-primary care provider office visits. There will be no changes to the plan structure for the HSA compatible HDHP. We will remain with HealthEquity for our Health Savings Account, Flexible Spending account and the dependent care flexible spending account. We will be introducing a voluntary supplemental insurance option for medical transport coverage to include ground and air transport. This is through MASA and offered to us through our RISTY benefits vendor. Open Enrollment is scheduled for May 4th through May 15th, and we will be holding open enrollment meetings in the Community Room on the 7th and 8th for employees and their dependent family members to attend.

BENEFIT CONTRACTS:

Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Wellmark BCBS and Masa contracts for the 2026-2027 Benefit Fiscal Year. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

NE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT (NECOG) AGREEMENT & PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES:

Chairman Sutton informed the Commissioners that he visited with Eric Senger with NECOG regarding the e-mail we received and the upcoming meeting on April 29th. The attendance and participation from County Officials have been dwindling so they are looking at making some changes to their By-Laws and making it so only 1 Representative/County would need to attend the meetings. Chairman Sutton plans to attend the April 29th meeting via Zoom and will keep the Commission informed of what is decided.

MINUTES:

Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve the General Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dinger to approve the Brown County Board of Equalization Minutes of April 14, 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Gage to approve the Consolidated Board of Equalization Minutes of April 14, 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES:

Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Gage to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL:

Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Claims/Payroll.

Claims: Professional Fees: American Engineering Testing, Inc \$12,242.50; Cogley Law Office, Prof LLC \$1,301.80; Dean Schaefer Court Reporting \$96.00; Den Herder Law Firm \$164.70; Dohrer Law Office, PC \$2,841.00; HealthStream, Inc \$1,928.50; IMEG Corp \$12,397.84; Kuck Law Office \$1,256.60; Kyle Kost \$110.00; Kylee Boomsma \$244.00; Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC \$1,271.50; Lewis & Clark BHS \$450.00; Payne County \$50.00; SD Dept of Health \$350.00; Tammy Stolle Court Reporting \$144.50; Yankton County Sheriff's Office \$50.00; Yankton County Treasurer \$178.15. Publishing: Groton Daily Independent \$291.58;

McQuillen Creative Group, Inc \$55.20. Rentals: Dakota Electronics LLC \$591.00. Repairs & Maintenance: Ace Refrigeration, LLC \$216.75; Applied Concepts, Inc. \$154.00; Big Scoop Snow Removal \$596.67; Custom Installation Solutions \$21,365.00; J & K Painting \$262.74; Newman Signs, Inc \$43.41; Sprocket Ventures, LLC \$1,742.46; St Mark's Episcopal Church \$1,500.00; Steven Lust Automotive \$790.85; Ultimate Upholstery Solutions, LLC \$300.00. Supplies & Materials: Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$934.75; Avera LTC Pharmacy Aberdeen \$1,319.83; Century Business Products \$539.81; Cole Paper \$949.64; Dakota Electronics LLC \$382.30; Danko Emergency Equipment Co. \$336.00; Den herder Law Firm \$1.53; FedEx \$24.78; Kuck Law Office \$66.68; L. G. Everist, Inc \$8,764.28; Leidholdt Tool Sales, LLC \$7.09; Menards \$48.46; Midwest Pump & Tank \$10.50; Newman Signs, Inc \$775.38; Performance Oil \$199.80; PharmChem, Inc \$1,204.34; Reliable Tent and Awning \$5,500.00; Republic National Distributing Co. LLC \$274.75; Rinse & Go Car Wash \$13.00; Runnings \$15.92; Safety Service \$866.48; SD Federal Property Agency \$1,903.00; Share Corporation \$777.00; Stephanie Jacobson \$20.50; Steven Lust Automotive \$124.85; Ultimate Upholstery Solutions, LLC \$56.95. Travel & Conference: Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC \$200.00; Lynn Heupel \$235.63; Neil Bittner \$19.00; Scott Kolb \$19.00; SD Assoc of County Officials \$400.00. Utilities: Big Scoop Snow Removal \$298.33; City of Aberdeen Treasurer \$53.70; Dependable Sanitation, Inc \$450.00; Northwestern Energy \$2,776.74; T-Mobile USA Inc \$2,708.77; Verizon Wireless \$460.29. Machinery & Equipment: SD Federal Property Agency \$32,000.00. Other: Charles Mehlhaff \$4,940.86; Hannah C. Green \$6,120.28; John R. Johnson \$4,913.80. Payroll: Commission \$5,165.81; Elections \$2,044.00; Auditor/Welfare \$12,081.02; Treasurer \$18,452.92; SA \$38,070.72; Public Defender \$14,449.33; Maintenance \$13,718.01; Assessor \$17,506.93; Register of Deeds \$11,511.05; VSO \$5,013.31; GIS \$3,110.76; IT \$10,616.94; HR \$5,762.42; Sheriff \$71,179.05; Jail \$91,447.65; Coroner (Voucher) \$2,300.00; Court Security \$8,425.25; JDC \$39,945.61; Museum \$14,661.82; Parks/Fairgrounds \$8,363.12; Fair Board \$4,858.35; 4-H \$881.60; Weed \$1,245.44; Planning & Zoning \$8,510.52; Highway \$57,191.21; Dispatch \$43,193.41; Emergency \$5,805.34; 24/7 Sobriety \$3,099.76; Landfill \$19,359.13; Mileage Benefits \$1,055.40; Meal Benefits \$255.00; FICA \$32,007.22; Medicare \$7,485.53; HSA \$2,360.72; Health Insurance-Wellmark BCBS \$138,141.19; Dental Insurance – Delta \$9,642.36; Life Insurance – Dearborn \$1,139.85; Retirement – SDRS \$66,394.37. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT:

Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Gage to approve the following Human Resource Report submitted by Human Resources Director, Allison Tunheim:

- Return of Breanna Locke as Brown County Seasonal Fairgrounds Grounds Worker, PT; starting wage \$14.50/hr. – effective May 7, 2026.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

TRAVEL REQUESTS:

Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Travel Request: Brandon Mills, Sheriff's Department to attend Science-Based Interviewing & Interrogation Course on July 20-22, 2026 in Vermillion, SD; Brad Borge & Jason Hasty, Public Defenders to attend Trial Academy on May 5-9, 2026 in Rapid City, SD. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ABATEMENTS:

Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the following abatements: For Tax Year 2026: Parcel #18953-\$779.93; For Tax Years 2020-2026: Parcel #22633-\$1,764.21 (Tax Deed); Parcel #23791-\$2,540.93 (Tax Deed); For Tax Years 2019-2026: Parcel #29027-\$2,118.91 (Tax Deed). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

SHERIFF REPORTS:

Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dinger to acknowledge the March 2026 Sheriff Reports: Incidents and offenses, Prisoner Care, JDC, and money deposited with the County Treasurer. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to go into Executive Session per SDCL 1-25-2 for Personnel, Contracts and Legal. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Chairman Sutton declared the Executive Session closed with No Action taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:06 A.M.
All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

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