OCTOBER 20, 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 and Sutton. Commissioner Wiese joined via zoom. Commissioner Dinger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dinger to approve the agenda. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

DISCUSS CO. ROAD 5 BY HECLA:
Tom Stehly wanted to voice his concerns regarding County Road 5 being milled up near Hecla. He stated there are 3 homes along there and one of them is his folk's place. They don't want to see the road turned to gravel and maintain a tar road. Matt Heupel, Highway Supervisor, was in attendance and he informed Tom that they won't be milling any further and will be putting a lift of gravel on that yet this year. The portion that was milled was too far gone. Tom commented that the Highway Department does a good job on the roads and seemed satisfied knowing that they didn't plan to mill anymore of that road because he also shared that there is a high water table so when it gets soft it will be a mess, plus there is a lot of truck traffic along there including traffic from the local colony.

REZONE ISSUE: Joe Kokales was not in attendance, so nothing was discussed

RICHMOND DAM UPDATE: None

FAIR BOARD APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATION:
Rachel Kippley, Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager shared with the Commission that the Fair Board would like to appoint the following new members for their first 3-year term: Taden Borge, Daisy Christianson, John Florey, Travis Hoeft, Jay Kleinknecht and Heidi Johnson along with reappointing the following for their second 3-year term: Aaron Dosch, Dylan Frey, Trevor Meints and Terry Nash. The also accept the resignation of Brodie Mueller from the Fair Board. Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve these appointments and accept the resignation. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. The Fair Board will have 24 members; 25 members constitutes a full Fair Board.

RENEWAL OF HAY LAND LEASE AGREEMENT FOR FAIRGROUNDS:
Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to approve the renewal of the Hay Land Lease Agreement with Donald Griese at the Fairgrounds for 36.5 acres at $103.50/acre for 2027 season. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

RFP FOR CARNIVAL OPERATOR FOR THE 2027-2031 BROWN COUNTY FAIR:
Rachel Kippley, Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager met with the Commission to get approval to publish notice requesting proposals for Carnival Operator for the 2027-2031 Brown County Fairs. The Brown County Fair is seeking proposals for an experienced and qualified carnival operator in which safety is the top priority; maintenance and upkeep of rides is evident; personnel are clean and well dressed; and the most current popular rides and games. Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Gage to approve publishing the RFP for Carnival Operator for the 2027-2031 Brown County Fairs. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. Bids are due by 8:45am on Tuesday, November 10th and more details can be found at https://www.brown.sd.us/brown-county-bids.

QUOTES FOR YOUTH CAMP HEATER REPLACEMENT:
Rachel Kippley, Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager presented three quotes for three new heaters at the Youth Camp Lodge. They were as follows:

Company	Large Heater 1	Large Heater 2	Kitchen Heater	Grand Total
Climate Control	$5,128.00	$5,128.00	$3,300.00	$13,832.68 w/ Excise Tax
Harms Heating	$4,135.65	$4,135.65	$2,932.15	$10,953.45
Heartland Heating	$5,241.17	$5,241.17	$3,186.73	$13,776.05 w/ Excise Tax

Rachel recommended going with the lowest bid from Harms Heating. Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to accept the quote from Harms Heating at the cost of $10,953.45. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

TICKET PRICE UPDATE:
Rachel Kippley, Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager informed the Commission that the Fair Board wants to make some changes to the Tickets for the Brown County Fair in 2027. They want to get rid of the 3-day Reserved Seating because the numbers have kept dwindling and just make it all General Admission in the Grandstand. Grandstand seating has not been painted because plan to eventually replace the Grandstand. Fair Board wants to add a Pit in front of the Stage, and you can add the Pit Pass on to your tickets at the cost of $20.00 for a Daily Ticket; $50.00 for a 3-Day Pass or $60.00 for a 4-Day Pass. This can be added on at a later date if tickets are available. They are still working on the logistics of how the tickets will work for the Pit Pass. Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Gage to approve adding the Pit Pass tickets and removing the 3-day Reserved Passes. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. Tickets will go on sale on Cyber Monday.

FAIRGROUNDS DEPARTMENT UPDATE:
Rachel Kippley, Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager shared with the Commission that they finished up with the Camper and Boat Winter Storage. All indoor spots are sold but do have a few outside spots available. There are still 8 campers using campsites and will allow them to stay as long as weather allows. The Seasonal Staff members are done for the year. They did a walk-thru at Centennial Village and looking for some Leadership to possibly take this over.

RFP FOR MARKETING AGENCIES TO ASSIST 4-H COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE:
Becca Tullar, 4-H Educator, met with the Commission to get approval to publish notice requesting Marketing, Public Relations and Fundraising Agencies to collaborate closely with the 4-H Educator and Building Committee to move the capital campaign into its broad public phase to include things such as creating donor packages, informational brochures, digital media & content production and marketing events. Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dinger to approve publishing the RFP for Marketing Agencies to work with the 4-H Advisor and Building Committee. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. Bids are due by 8:45am on Tuesday, November 10th and more details can be found at https://www.brown.sd.us/brown-county-bids.

APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY:
Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Dennert to approve the following application submitted by Northern Electric for occupancy of Brown County Highway 19 in Section 21, Township 123N, Range 64N, Brown County, South Dakota to bore across entire right of way to install primary power. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE:
Matt Heupel, Highway Supervisor, informed the Commission that things are going good, they are still mowing. The James River came up over the weekend so had to shut the gates was at 103" yesterday. He stated the Crow is down though. The Contractor is done on Co. 10, and we need to do some prep work on 27 before the Contractor comes in to complete that project. Sand Lake Bridge is still moving along; not sure if will be done by November 1st but it will be close.

SURPLUS EQUIPMENT:
Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Gage to declare the following equipment surplus from county offices: Kyocera TaskAlphs 3501I Copier, Kyocera Mita 3500i Copier and HP Z240 Tower to be disposed of at the Landfill; LG Computer Monitors (2) and ACER Computer Monitors (4) to be sold on Public Surplus, if don't sell then will be disposed of at the Landfill. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES:
Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Gage to approve the General Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS/PAYROLL:
Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Gage to approve the following claims/payroll. Claims: Professional Fees: Boyce Law Firm $360.00; Brick's TV and Appliance $2,105.00; CGI, LLC $1,312.50; Dean Schaefer Court Reporting $198.00; Dependable Sanitation, Inc $40,705.00; Dohrer Law Office, PC $402.60; Kuck Law Office $610.00; Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC $2,369.50; Lewis & Clark BHS $720.00; Network Center, Inc $3,629.90; Northeastern Mental Health Center $1,268.75; Sara Zahn $420.30; SD Dept of Health $3,385.00. Publishing: Groton Daily Independent $1,092.56; Hub City Radio $350.00; McQuillen Creative Group, Inc $2,025.95. Repairs & Maintenance: Butler Machinery Company $391.80; Dakota Electronics LLC $2,860.80; Dependable Sanitation, Inc $387.00; Foerster Testing Limited $13,755.80; Gary's Auto Body & Accessories $459.00; Hoven Auto Repair, Inc $769.90; Interstate Powersystems $906.38; Kone $5,151.96; Leidholt Electric, LLC $154.14; Pomp's Tire Service, Inc $1,412.08; Steven Lust Automotive $625.02; Titan Machinery $383.29; Ultimate Upholstery Solutions, LLC $360.00. Supplies & Materials: Amazon Capital Services, Inc $1,160.59; Arts South Dakota $350.00; Butler Machinery Company $143.94; Cartney Bearing $29.85; Century Business Products $134.55; Cole Paper Inc $1,653.30; Crescent Electric Supply Co $2,532.35; Dakota Electronics LLC $3,124.36; Dakota Oil $4,496.45; Gary's Auto Body & Accessories $268.88; GovConnection, Inc $186.40; Hall Sand & Gravel, Inc $1,646.30; Hitch 'n' Post $199.99; Jebro Inc $69,810.80; Jensen Rock & Sand Inc $36,113.40; Kuck Law Office $14.84; Leidholdt Tool Sales, LLC $56.05; Leidholt Electric, LLC $53.05; Lynn Heupel $20.17; Menards $92.80; NVC $28.83; Performance Oil $483.75; Runnings $398.00; Steven Lust Automotive $407.95; Titan Machinery $1,975.05; Ultimate Upholstery Solutions, LLC $97.25. Travel & Conference: Adelaide Mounga $351.80; Austin Ball $19.00; CGI, LLC $23.50; Dan Bray $28.00; Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC $200.00; Madison Miller $522.18; Neil Bittner $19.00; Russell Metz $19.00; Scott Kolb $19.00; The Lodge at Deadwood $714.00; Wes Graff $154.00. Utilities: CenturyLink $3,741.70; City of Aberdeen Treasurer $706.60; City of Hecla $168.05; Dependable Sanitation, Inc $120.00; Midwest Alarm Fire & Security Systems $334.96; Northern Electric $132.50; Northwestern Energy $1,545.89; NVC $2,930.42; T-Mobile USA Inc $2,520.00. Other: SD Assoc of County Officials $988.00. Machinery & Equipment: Benco Products $11,215.39. Other: Etix, Inc. $2,328.15.
Payroll: Commission $5,165.81; Elections $6,567.18; Auditor $9,562.56; Treasurer $19,004.98; SA $38,018.17; Public Defender $12,156.42; Maintenance $10,364.68; Assessor $17,506.93; Register of Deeds $12,693.54; VSO $5,259.85; GIS $3,110.76; IT $10,766.94; HR $5,721.14; Sheriff $59,616.45; Jail $71,724.94; Court Security $7,990.02; JDC $32,910.44; Support of Poor $1,124.71; Museum $15,582.20; Parks/Fairgrounds $10,089.15; Fair Board $5,017.80; 4-H $881.59; Weed $7,844.97; Planning & Zoning $8,510.51; Highway $53,883.70; Dispatch $37,698.21; Emergency $3,188.53; 24/7 Sobriety $2,897.01; Landfill $16,395.50; Meal Benefits $180.00; Tips $252.00; SDRA Pay-Out $13,644.02; FICA $29,061.69; Medicare $6,796.69; HAS $2,463.36; Health Insurance-Wellmark BCBS $148,843.88; Dental Insurance-Delta $9,692.55; Life Insurance-Dearborn $1,112.82. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT:

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

- Employment ending for Walter Wagemann Jr., Brown County Landfill Grounds Worker, PT; effective October 14, 2026. Request to fill.
- Transfer of Matthew Muth from Brown County 911 Communications Officer to Brown County JDC Officer, FT; starting wage $22.59/hr. – effective May 5, 2026.
- Transfer of Matthew Muth from Brown County JDC Officer to Brown County Jail Detention Officer, FT; effective October 11, 2026.
- Transfer of Nicholas Cochran from PT Brown County Jail Transport & Court Security to FT Brown County Deputy Sheriff; starting wage $28.91/hr. – effective October 25, 2026.
- Job description update for the Deputy Public Defender position along with amended summary to add to the job posting.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

TRAVEL REQUESTS:
Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve the following Travel Requests: Dirk Rogers, John Florey & Josh Matthews, Highway Dept. to attend the Local Roads Conference; Jerry Lehrkamp & Mike Rohrbach, Weed & Pest Dept. to go pick up the new F550; Joe Kraft, Assessor's Office to attend the Soils Workshop. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:
Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Dennert to go into Executive Session per SDCL 1-25-2 for Personnel and Legal. All member present voting aye. Motion carried.
Chairman Sutton declared the Executive Session closed with No Action taken.

ADJOURNMENT:
Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Dennert to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:04 A.M. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor
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