

BROOKINGS COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026

The Brookings County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 17, 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 Post, seconded by VanderWal to approve the agenda for the February 17, 2026 Commission Meeting as amended.

Be it noted, an Executive Session, in accordance with SDCL 1-25-2(1), personnel was added to the agenda.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

The consent agenda consisted of the minutes from the February 3, 2026 Commission Meeting.

Travel & Education Requests: Sonia Mack to attend the Livestock Skill-A-Thon on February 13th-14th in Watertown; Sonia Mack to attend Chicks in the Classroom programming on February 24th, February 26th, March 5th, March 11th, March 16th and March 25th in Volga; Sonia Mack to attend the SDAE4-HP Spring Conference on March 30th - April 2nd in Rapid City, SD; Matt Pillar to attend the American Legion Department of South Dakota Strategic Planning Committee Meeting on March 19th in Oacoma; Robert Hill to attend the Tri-State EM Meeting and SDOEM Region 1 Meeting on February 18th in Sioux Falls; Robert Hill to attend the 2026 South Dakota Preparedness Summit on March 23rd - 25th in Oacoma; Commission, Sheriff & Highway Staff to attend Generational Training on March 11th in Brookings.

Personnel Action Notices: voluntary resignation- Isabella Hymans, effective January 28, 2026; annual review- Matthew Fee to \$33.55, effective February 1, 2026; annual review- Dane

Larsen at \$37.04, effective February 1, 2026; status change- Nathan Pester to full-time Correctional Officer at \$26.14, effective February 7, 2026; voluntary resignation- Misty Moser, effective February 16, 2026; voluntary resignation- Dawson Drent, effective February 20, 2026; annual review- Christine Kreutner to \$30.35, effective March 1, 2026.

Cellular Authorizations: Jenna Baker - High Usage at \$45/month.

Human Services Report: case #26-3 for rent was denied; case #26-7 for rent was denied; case #26-8 for rent was approved.

ROUTINE BUSINESS

Approval of Claims

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

Department Head Reports

Highway Superintendent Brian Gustad said bid openings for the 2026 Brookings County Asphalt Project and the 2026 Brookings County Chip Seal Project will be March 3, 2026 at 2:30 p.m. Gustad said he will be attending the South Dakota Association of County Highway Superintendents Short Course but will have bid recommendations ready and will make himself available via telephone during the next commission meeting.

Sheriff Marty Stanwick said there are 53 inmates in jail and 92 individuals participating on the 24/7 sobriety program. Stanwick said they are holding correctional officer training at the BCOAC this week.

Stanwick discussed the Sheriff’s Office strategic plan and said they were able to accomplish the 5-year goals and the 10-year goals. Stanwick said it would be a good idea for the newly elected officials to sit down and write out their short-term goals and long-term goals.

Finance Officer Lori Schultz discussed the yearly investment transfers. Schultz said they do check interest rates quarterly for CD’s and move them to the bank with the highest interest rate.

Schultz reminded the public that first half of property taxes are due April 30th.

Commissioner VanderWal asked about the new motor vehicle system and if that’s been getting better. Finance Specialist Jenna Baker said they’ve been using the new motor vehicle system for over a year now and things are getting better. Baker said customers are receiving their paper titles back from the State much quicker than before. Baker said she’s been hearing complaints that the kiosk at Lewis Drug won’t print registrations and complaints that customers are unable to print seller’s permits online themselves. She said the state was made aware of those issues.

County Development Deputy Director Richard Haugen presented the County Development Director's Report and the 2025 year-end statistics.

Finance Officer's Report

The Finance Officer's Report for the month of January was reported to the board.

January 2026

<i>Total amount of deposits in bank.....</i>	<i>\$35,846,447.28</i>
<i>Total amount of actual cash: Currency.....</i>	<i>\$3,863.00</i>
<i>Coins.....</i>	<i>\$4.45</i>
<i>Total amount of checks/drafts in Treasurer's possession not exceeding 3 days....</i>	<i>\$65,941.19</i>
<i>Itemized list of all other items.....</i>	<i>\$105,233.10</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>\$36,021,489.02</i>

Commission/HR/Veterans: \$76,265.53; Finance Officer: \$59,038.79; States Attorney/Welfare: \$86,978.23; Equalization: \$58,602.83; Register of Deeds: \$23,247.33; Sheriff's Office: \$4407,556.68; Coroner: \$1,290.75; Community Health: \$2,307.04; Extension: \$4,952.26; Weed: \$7,666.41; Planning/Zoning: \$17,779.75; Highway: \$139,964.94; Emergency Management: \$10,879.45; BCOAC: \$19,644.43; Technology: \$26,675.61.

AFLAC: \$7,771.66; Avesis: \$1,750.07; Office of Child Support: \$399.00; Delta Dental: \$9,837.14; Flex One: \$3,131.46; Principal Life Insurance: \$2,470.93; Garnishments: \$600.00; Local Teamsters: \$1,594.00; SDRS: \$121,300.42; SDRS Supplemental: \$4,498.55; Wellmark: \$121,431.35; SDRS Special Pay Plan Fee: \$207,609.54.

Be it noted, the Register of Deeds Statement of Fees collected for the month of January 2026 in the amount of \$36,626.00 was presented to the board.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Motion by Post, seconded by Jensen to approve and authorize Chairperson Hostler to sign Agreement #26-19: an intergovernmental contract for the South Dakota Public Assurance Alliance reaffirming membership in the local government risk pool.

All members voted "aye." Motion carried.

Motion by Jensen, seconded by Post to approve and authorize Chairperson Hostler to sign Agreement #26-20: a 3-year service agreement between Brookings County and Trane U.S., Inc. for the Brookings County Outdoor Adventure Center. Background information was provided by BCOAC Director Joseph Salvati.

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

Motion by VanderWal, seconded by Miller to approve and authorize Chairperson Hostler to sign a Change Order #2 for the Samara Avenue Improvements project for an increase of \$51,745.45. Background information was provided by Highway Superintendent Brian Gustad.

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

Motion by Jensen, seconded by VanderWal to approve and authorize Chairperson Hostler to sign a Change Order #1 for structure and approach grading, SN 06-227-230, PCN 08F4 in the amount of \$75,733.11. Background information was provided by Highway Superintendent Brian Gustad.

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

Motion by Miller, seconded by Post to approve the payment to Timmon’s Construction for the amount of the change order. Background information was provided by Highway Superintendent Brian Gustad.

All members voted “aye.” Motion carried.

Motion by Post, seconded by Jensen to approve a Request to Fill Vacancy for a full-time female Correctional Officer in the Brookings County Detention Center.

All members voted “aye.” Motion carried.

Motion by Jensen, seconded by VanderWal to approve and authorize Chairperson Hostler sign a Request to Fill Vacancy for a Corrections Corporal in the Brookings County Detention Center.

All members voted “aye.” Motion carried.

Motion by VanderWal, seconded by Post to approve and authorize Chairperson Hostler to sign a Request to Fill Vacancy for a Corrections Corporal in the Brookings County Detention Center.

All members voted “aye.” Motion carried.

Motion by Miller, seconded by Jensen to approve and authorize Chairperson Hostler to sign a Request to Fill Vacancy for a part-time Weed & Pest Supervisor.

All members voted “aye.” Motion carried.

Commission Department Director Stacy Steffensen presented the Veteran’s Service Officer’s Report and the Commission Department Director’s Report. Steffensen said she would like to get consensus from the board to move forward with a supplemental budget resolution. She said there is money in fund balance that needs to go into the 2026 budget for the City/County HVAC project, the library, the Samara Avenue project, and bridge projects. By consensus, the board agreed to move forward with the supplemental budget resolution.

Steffensen said the Trout Extravaganza will be Saturday, May 16th from 9:00 a.m.-4 pm, and Sunday, May 17th from 10am-4pm.

Steffensen discussed upcoming dates.

States Attorney Dan Nelson had nothing to report.

SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS – 9:00 A.M.

Berniece Stuefen and Scott Stuefen gave a presentation to the board regarding the Elkton Ambulance service. Berniece Stuefen said their area, as well as Elkton's fire service extends into Minnesota and Moody County, and they typically see 25-30 calls per year. She said they currently have 13 EMTs on the crew and none of them receive a salary. She said it's all volunteer.

Stuefen said they are looking for funds to help with continual educational training and for additional radios. Commissioner Jensen asked if other entities have heard this presentation. Stuefen said they have been reaching out to townships and local businesses to secure some funding. Jensen asked if there is a timeline to secure the funding. Stuefen said this calendar year. Jensen said they will be starting the budget process in May and recommended they put some quotes together. Stuefen said she will put some quotes together and send it to Commission Department Director Stacy Steffensen.

Commissioner Post thanked the Stuefen's for their service. Commissioner VanderWal asked if they have any upcoming events. Stuefen said their next EMS Refresher Course will be March 5th-7th.

Director of Library Services Ashia Gustafson gave a Brookings Public Library report.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS & DISCUSSION ITEMS

Commissioner VanderWal attended the County Planning & Zoning Meeting; attended a county call with the State Association; attended the District 7 Legislative Coffee; and attended a Legislative Coffee in Watertown. VanderWal encouraged residents to call all controlled burns in.

Commissioner Post had nothing to report.

Commissioner Miller attended the County Planning & Zoning Meeting and attended the ICAP Board Meeting.

Commissioner Jensen attended the Conservation District Meeting; attended the Joint Powers Board Meeting; and attended the Conservation District's Annual Christmas Party.

Commissioner Hostler attended the Brookings Regional Growth Alliance Meeting; attended the Legislative Update via zoom; attended the Brookings Regional Growth Alliance Board Meeting; attended the District 7 Legislative Coffee; and attended the PPCC/POD Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Jensen, seconded by VanderWal to enter into Executive Session at 9:26 a.m., in accordance with SDCL 1-25-2(1), personnel. All members voted "aye." Motion carried.

Chairperson Hostler declared the board out of Executive Session at 10:00 a.m. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jensen, seconded by VanderWal to adjourn the meeting. All members voted “aye.” Motion carried. The next regular scheduled meeting is Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.

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Jenna Baker
Finance Specialist
Brookings County

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