

March 3, 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 was absent. Commissioner Gage led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve the agenda. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent, shared with the Commissioner his thoughts on some bills that are going through the Legislative Session regarding the Rural Access Infrastructure Program (RAIF). SB 240 adds another \$5 Million to the program. Though Dirk believes the RAIF Program is a good program, he is frustrated because there is still over \$5.6 Million that counties haven't used under this program and they have challenges getting funding for other projects such as the Elm Lake Bridge. Then SB 236 bill that has a process to take the money back if not spent on the RAIF project and be redistributed to other counties. In Brown County less than 10% of the Townships participate in the RAIF Program. Dirk just wanted to voice his concerns to the Commission.

Gene Loeschke, Director of Equalization, shared that the Assessment Notices have been sent out. Then he added that the State is asking them to promote the New Income Guidelines for the Senior Tax Freeze and encourage people to apply. The deadline is April 1, 2026.

**ORDINANCE #321 – SECOND READING/POSSIBLE ADOPTION:**

Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to approve and adopt Ordinance #321. Applicant Kyler & Lia Dinger to rezone from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) to bring this parcel into compliance for its current use: Description of property: "Long's Outlot 1" in the NW1/4 of Section 26-T124N-R63W of the 5<sup>th</sup> P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (12848 392nd Avenue; Ordway Twp.) The motion passed with 3 votes; Commissioner Dinger abstained due to it being for himself.

**BID DATE SET FOR HIGHWAY DEPT.: GRAVEL/ROAD OIL/HOT MIX/RENTAL EQUIPMENT:**

Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Dennert to authorize advertising public hearing to open, read and consider bids for Gravel, Road Oil, Hot Mix and Rental Equipment Materials to be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2026 in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY:**

Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Gage to approve the application submitted by Midco for occupancy of Brown County Highway 19 in Section 22, T123N-R64W, Brown County, South Dakota to install fiber optic cable. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**TAX DEED PROPERTIES:**

Patty VanMeter, Treasurer had presented the Commission with a list of properties that she felt needed to be submitted for Tax Deeds, so she asked the Commission if there were any they wanted to dispute or discuss. Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dinger to approve the Treasurer, Patty VanMeter to proceed with Tax Deed notices. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**MINUTES:**

Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve the General Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS:**

Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to approve the following Claims: Professional Fees: Aberdeen ED \$164.45; Avera McKennan \$1,218.14; Avera Medical Group Radiology \$356.37; Avera St. Luke's Hospital \$4,867.50; Carrels & Bain Family Dental Care, LLC \$662.10; CenturyLink-Lumen \$234.90; Cogley Law Office, Prof LLC \$879.20; Dakota Group LLC \$2,500.00; DEVNET \$3,789.84; Dohrer Law Office, PC \$5,969.80; Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc \$17,600.00; Faulkton Area Medical Center \$177.34;

gWorks \$1,159.00; Helms & Associates \$3,540.00; Kuck Law Office \$10,238.00; Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC \$1,275.00; Modern Day Health Care Prof LLC \$325.51; Northwest Iowa Hospital Corporation \$386.25; NVC \$35.00; Pantorium Cleaners Inc \$32.00; Saber Shred Solutions \$2,741.34; Sanford Clinic \$884.52; Sanford Health \$405.00; SD Dept of Transportation \$643.94; SDHSC \$600.00; Taliaferro Law Firm, PC \$4,717.50; William A. Moss, Psy.D., LLC \$5,000.00; Yankton County Sheriff's Office \$50.00. Publishing: Groton Daily Independent \$383.75; McQuillen Creative Group, Inc \$121.75. Repairs & Maintenance: Artz Equipment, Inc \$21.80; Dakota Supply Group \$11.10; Gordon Schmidt Construction \$4,359.15; Graham Tire Inc \$275.40; Jake's Heating & Cooling \$13,589.82; K&S Plumbing, Inc \$2,590.58; Kramp Enterprise and Investment \$114.90; Lawson Products, Inc \$98.22; Lien Transportation Company \$1,565.00; Midstates Group \$1,520.00; Precision Kiosk Technologies \$3,000.00; Sewer Duck, Inc \$313.00; Thee Glass Doktor, LLC \$150.00. Supplies & Materials: Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$1,252.73; Artz Equipment, Inc \$446.45; Bob Barker Company Inc \$302.00; Cartney Bearing \$44.14; Century Business Products \$389.07; Cole Paper Inc \$580.16; Dohrer Law Office, PC \$5.55; Faulkton Drug \$86.38; FedEx \$46.06; Graham Tire Inc \$1,288.90; Great Western Tire \$10,464.20; Kuck Law Office \$384.39; Lawson Products, Inc \$1,418.55; Menards \$44.94; Midstates Group \$513.00; Performance Oil \$583.04; Pitney Bowes Global Financial Services LLC \$1,046.10; Safety Service \$430.94; Schwan Welding \$11,515.64; Steven Lust Automotive \$50.00; Thee Glass Doktor, LLC \$179.00; Titan Machinery \$308.45. Travel & Conference: Chris Hemen \$166.00; Jerry Lehrkamp \$166.00; Kuck Law Office \$460.00; Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC \$80.00; Mike Rohrbach \$166.00; Neil Bittner \$19.00; Scott Kolb \$19.00; The Lodge at Deadwood \$945.00. Utilities: AT&T Mobility \$141.34; CenturyLink \$345.87; Dependable Sanitation, Inc \$468.00; K&S Plumbing, Inc \$92.02; Northwestern Energy \$11,885.96. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

#### HR REPORT:

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

- Resignation of Kyle Brandner as Brown County Landfill Heavy Equipment Operator, FT; effective February 20, 2026. Request to fill

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

#### TRAVEL REQUESTS:

Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dennert to approve the following Travel Requests: Kristin Barstad, Jason Erickson and Tuckor Anderson from State's Attorney Office to attend Karpal Annual User Group Training on April 14-16, 2026 in St. Louis, MO; Brandon Mills, Sheriff's Department to attend Basic Incident Response to Digital Evidence (BIRDE) Training on June 23-26, 2026 in Vermillion, SD; Derek Hoefert, Sheriff's Department to attend AFTT Red Dot Sign Handgun Instructor Training on May 11-13, 2026 in Pierre, SD. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

Lynn Heupel, Auditor, informed the Commission that the 2025 Annual Report had been submitted to Department of Legislative Audit last week.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dinger to go into Executive Session per SDCL 1-25-2 for Contracts, Legal and Personnel. 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 Dennert to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:31 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

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