

Dakota County Board of Commissioners  
Monday, March 2, 2026  
3:00 p.m. Regular Business Meeting  
County Board Meeting Room, First Floor  
Dakota County Courthouse, Dakota City, Nebraska

Chair Hohenstein called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Present at Roll Call: Hohenstein, Rodriguez, Van Berkum, Bousquet, Reed. Absent: None. Also present was Kim Watson, County Attorney, and Cherie Conley, County Clerk, acting as Board Secretary. The location of the Open Meetings Act was noted.

CALL TO ORDER  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A current copy of the *Open Meetings Act* is posted on the west wall near the entrance of the County Board Meeting Room and is available for review by all citizens in attendance.

ROLL CALL – *Excused Absence*

*The Dakota County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to adjust the order of items on this agenda if necessary.*

1. PUBLIC COMMENT. The Board of Commissioners will hear comments about any item not on the agenda. The Chair has the discretion to limit the time of comment.
2. CONSENT AGENDA *Any individual item may be removed by a Commissioner for special discussion and consideration. Unless there is an exception, these items will be approved as one with a single vote of the Board of Commissioners.*
  - a. Approval of the previous meeting minutes – March 16, 2026
  - b. Approval of payroll claims for March 15 – March 28, 2026
  - c. Approval of payroll accounts payable claims
  - d. Approval of accounts payable claims (if any)
3. NEW BUSINESS AND RESOLUTIONS
  - a. So. Sioux City Chamber, Lori Warner and Lisa Bousquet, to give tourism update.
  - b. Julie Boyle, Nebraska Extension office, presenting quarterly reports.
  - c. Stephanie Gatzemeyer, County Treasurer, presenting the Tax Sale report.
  - d. Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations for the purpose of presenting and adopting an amendment to the One Year Road Plan for said governing body. The amendment is to include paving 600 feet of road from Hubbard's village limits south to county bridge located in Section 22 & 23, Township 28N, Range 7E.
  - e. Board to approve or not approve the amendment to the One Year Road Plan for said governing body. The amendment includes paving 600 feet of road from Hubbard's village limits south to county bridge located in Section 22 & 23, Township 28N, Range 7E.
  - f. Review and award bid for Dakota County Bridge Inspections in 2026.
  - g. Cindy Morgan Anderson, share concerns regarding Knife River proposed project.
  - h. Emmet Albenesius, share concerns regarding Knife River proposed project.
  - i. Chris Winkel, Knife River Midwest, LLC, to present information on proposed development along Highway 110.
  - j. Board to approve or not approve the Annual EAP Service Agreement with MercyOne Medical Group from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, and paying an annual amount at a 5% discount of \$2,708.20.
  - k. Board to approve contract presented by the County Assessor with Cardinal Assessment Group, LLC. to review all Ag Improved properties in Dakota County.
  - l. Board to approve the Storm Water Annual Report for 2025 and the Interlocal Agreement with City of South Sioux City, Dakota City, and Dakota County Stormwater Management Plan for 2025.
  - m. Board to review, discuss and take action on new Road Department Utility Permit for County ROW and establish fees.
  - n. Approve or not approve Sheriff Decker to have a credit card account with Siouxland Federal Credit Union to use for county related purposes only.
4. OLD BUSINESS AND MISCELLANEOUS
  - a. Jolene Gubbels, Highway Superintendent – Road Report
5. COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE REPORTS
6. MAIL AND/OR EMERGENCY BUSINESS
7. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hohenstein called for Public Comment. None

Chair Hohenstein called for Consent Agenda items. Chair Hohenstein explained that he had gone through payroll claims and payroll accounts payable claims. All were in order. Commissioner Van Berkum moved, seconded by Commissioner Reed to approve the consent agenda items: (a) approval of the previous meeting minutes – March 16, 2026; (b) approval of payroll claims for March 15 to March 28, 2026; (c) approval of payroll accounts payable claims; (d) approval of accounts payable claims-none. ROLL CALL VOTE: Rodriguez-Yes, Van Berkum-Yes, Bousquet-Yes, Reed-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

**Payroll: General Fund Employer:** Gross Salaries-\$180,956.20; Net Pay-\$132,137.28; Total Retirement-\$12,957.21; Total FICA-\$13,484.59; Health Plan-\$43,120.00; Dental Plan-\$1,520.00; Life Insurance-\$206.31; Richard Bousquet-\$1,251.25; Martin Hohenstein-\$1,297.40; Jeffrey Reed-\$1,251.25; Rogelio Rodriguez Villalobos-\$1,251.25; Brian Van Berkum-\$1,251.25; Cherie Conley-

\$2,613.74; Jennifer Enriquez Melgoza-\$850.00; Robin Hansen-\$1,605.98; Paola Ledesma-\$1,136.73; Kathy Abbe-\$1,578.40; Khen Chu-\$1,365.60; Maria Garcia-\$1,426.40; Stephanie Gatzemeyer-\$2,613.74; Jalissa Hattig-\$1,781.60; Brenda Landaverde-\$1,492.00; Emily McNaughton-\$1,414.40; Debera Benton-\$1,618.40; Christy Abts-\$2,613.74; Melissa Collins-\$1,951.20; Joseph O'Neil-\$655.08; Karen Becerra-\$1,867.20; Katherine Wiltgen-\$2,613.74; Louvontree Hunter-\$3,706.21; Debra Jensen-\$1,872.00; Samantha Mitchell-\$1,448.80; Samantha Mitchell-\$135.85; Rodney Soole-\$1,212.00; Todd Uhl-\$2,262.63; Tammy Dunn Peterson-\$1,677.60; Timothy Decker-\$3,265.43; Brian Ellinger-\$2,933.11; Penny Epting-\$3,384.62; Brian Fernau-\$2,558.33; Tyler Fulkerth-\$2,480.80; Martin Guerrero-\$3,605.36; Melvin Harrison III-\$2,630.04; Jason James-\$2,480.78; Kimberly Johnson-\$451.67; Jared Junge-\$2,516.80; Jose Magana-\$2,244.98; Keaton Mueller-\$2,451.09; Gregory Nyhof-\$2,767.60; Kelsey O'Neill-\$2,113.13; Cesar Ponce Robles-\$2,346.28; Mardi Schnee-\$1,463.49; Shantel Drum-\$1,195.36; Sarah Hammond-\$2,717.42; Jocelyn Rivera-\$1,388.63; Debra Schmiedt-\$4,106.35; Kimberly Watson-\$4,081.09; Jacob Acero-\$2,580.65; Summer Adair-\$1,978.85; Roberto Alvarez-Arreola-\$0.00; Malinda Bagby-\$1,464.48; Shaelee Barreras-\$3,134.26; Timathey Chamberlain-\$1,661.77; Charlotte Coleman-\$2,022.75; Omar Crawford Jr-\$1,351.05; Adilene Delgadillo Alvarez-\$857.96; Jennifer Fuentes-\$2,013.70; Kara Groetken-\$1,898.64; McKenna Hammer-\$1,733.76; Todd Hammer-\$2,469.61; Brieyqui Hernandez Mencos-\$837.71; Brenda Irwin-\$1,584.12; Daron Jackson-\$1,554.77; Dustin Johnson-\$1,855.69; Terry Johnson-\$2,045.75; Hannah Keatts-\$1,657.43; Jared Magana-\$1,567.02; Jennifer Marquez-\$1,843.69; Skyler Miner-\$1,983.00; Lucas Moulton-\$1,931.58; Kimberly Peterson-\$1,904.89; Travis Rivera-\$1,464.48; Michele Rohde-\$1,796.00; Jesus Ruelas-Hernandez-\$1,029.57; Kaden Ruring-\$1,910.58; Keeley Ruring-\$1,464.48; Jeremy Russell-\$1,784.40; Jennifer Svendsen-\$3,677.32; Cody Thomas-\$1,765.73; Tykell Truitt-\$718.22; Armando Valerio-\$1,785.72; Daniel Vasquez-\$723.24; Randall Walsh-\$2,928.84; Alondra Zermeno-Mendez-\$2,087.14; Deanna Hagberg-\$2,334.36; Jolene Gubbels-\$2,370.20; Jennifer Ankerstjerne-\$1,921.81; Theresa Grove-\$2,657.60; Johanna Marquez-\$1,411.20; Courtney Swick-\$1,619.25; Nicholas Nieman-\$2,575.13; **General Fund Employee:** Federal Tax-\$10,685.96; State Tax-\$5,310.87; Soc Sec-\$10,928.73; Medicare-\$2,555.86; Extra Fit-\$1,641.00; Extra Sit-\$500.00; Retirement-\$8,943.22; Health Plan-\$2,300.00; Dental Plan-\$399.00; Colonial Health-\$219.74; Sheriff Union Dues-\$600.00; Colonial Life/Disability-\$202.17; Deferred Comp-\$1,237.00; Garnishments-\$1,399.18; Flex Plan Medical-\$871.66; Flex Dependent Care-\$312.50; VSP Vision Prem-\$389.38; Legal Shield-\$128.61; Liberty Nat'l Pretax-\$81.74; Liberty Nat'l Post tax-\$0.00; VSP Vision Base-\$112.30; **Road Fund Employer:** Gross Salaries-\$22,497.25; Net Pay-\$16,267.96; Retirement-\$1,518.52; Total FICA-\$1,646.41; Health Plan-\$6,160.00; Dental Plan-\$220.00; Life Insurance-\$26.52; Tristin Eifert-\$1,818.72; Michael Fuchser-\$2,020.80; Robert Hacker-\$2,056.80; Scott Jorgneson-\$2,020.80; David Kneifl-\$2,044.80; Kimon Litras-\$2,080.80; Brandon Miller-\$2,020.81; Tanya Orr-\$2,020.80; Dean Pallas-\$2,371.32; Robert Schmidt-\$2,020.80; Gunner Stanwick-\$2,020.80; **Road Fund Employee:** Federal Tax-\$1,517.42; State Tax-\$678.99; FICA-\$1,334.34; Medicare-\$312.07; Extra Fit-\$65.00; Retirement-\$1,012.41; Health Plan-\$700.00; Dental Plan-\$63.00; Colonial Health-PreTax-\$90.79; Colonial Health L/D-\$0.00; Garnishments-\$0.00; Flex Plan Medical-\$40.00; Road Union Dues-\$275.00; VSP Vision Prem-\$55.91; Legal Shield-\$58.34; Liberty National PreTax-\$6.50; VSP Vision Base-\$19.52; **Health Planning Grant Employer 2502:** Gross Salaries-\$1,704.80; Net Pay-\$1,292.74; Retirement-\$115.07; Total FICA-\$126.59; Health Plan-\$560.00; Life Insurance-\$2.55; Chloe Coover-\$1,704.80; **Health Planning Grant Employee 2502:** Federal Tax-\$105.52; State Tax-\$53.23; FICA-\$102.60; Medicare-\$23.99; Retirement-\$76.72; Flex Plan Medical-\$50.00; **Health Program Grant Employer 2504:** Gross Salaries-\$2,026.67; Net Pay-\$1,598.95; Retirement-\$126.25; Total FICA-\$152.24; Health Plan-\$560.00; Dental Plan-\$20.00; Life Insurance-\$2.55; Mohamud Ibrahim-\$156.27; Yesica Saldana Cisneros-\$1,870.40; **Health Program Grant Employee 2504:** Federal Tax-\$106.26; State Tax-\$48.39; FICA-\$123.38; Medicare-\$28.86; Retirement-\$84.17; Dental Plan-\$21.00; VSP Vision Base-\$15.66; **Juvenile Services Aid Employer 2507:** Gross Salaries-\$2,014.27; Net Pay-\$1,501.23; Retirement-\$135.96; Total FICA-\$135.99; Health Plan-\$560.00; Dental Plan-\$20.00; Life Insurance-\$2.55; Kristin Robinette-\$2,014.27; **Juvenile Services Aid Employee 2507:** Federal Tax-\$0.00; State Tax-\$49.75; FICA-\$110.21; Medicare-\$25.78; Retirement-\$90.64; Health Plan-\$200.00; Dental Plan-\$21.00; VSP Vision Prem-\$15.66.

**Payroll Accounts Payable: General Fund:** Collection Service Center, garnishment-\$632.57; Colonial Life & Accident, life insurance premium-\$421.91; Dental Account, premium-\$1,959.00; FSA Dep Care - \$312.50; FSA Medical-\$871.66; Health Plan, premium-\$45,420.00; Fraternal Order of Police #49, union dues-\$600.00; Federal Withholding, federal taxes-\$12,326.96; Globe Life Liberty, premium-\$81.74; Legalshield, premium-\$128.61; Life Insurance, premium-\$206.31; Nationwide Retirement Solutions, contributions-\$1,237.00; Nebraska Child Support, garnishments-\$766.61; Neb Dept of Revenue, state taxes-\$5,810.87; Point C COE, flex admin fees - \$77.00; Principal, premiums-\$2,735.45; Ameritas Retirement, contributions-\$21,900.43; Social Security, FICA & MEDI-\$26,969.18; VSP, premium-\$501.68. **Road Fund:** Colonial Life & Accident, life insurance premium-\$90.79; Dental Account, premium-\$283.00; FSA Medical-\$40.00; Health Plan, premium-\$6,860.00; Federal Withholding, federal taxes-\$1,582.42; Globe Life Liberty, premium-\$6.50; Legalshield, premium-\$58.34; Life Insurance, premium-\$26.52; Neb Dept of Revenue, state taxes-\$678.99; Nebraska Public Empl Local 251, union dues-\$275.00; Ameritas Retirement, contributions-\$2,530.93; Social Security, FICA & MEDI-\$3,292.82; VSP, premium-\$75.43; **Insurance Fund 1275:** Point C FSA – withdrawals, \$2,527.93; Point C – medical auto withdrawals, \$41,255.03; Point C – administrative fees-\$26,976.91; **Health Fund 2502:** DC FSA–medical claims-\$50.00; Health Account, premium-\$560.00; Federal Withholding, federal taxes-\$105.52; Life Insurance, premium-\$2.55; Neb Dept of Revenue, state taxes-\$53.23; Principal, premiums - \$25.12; Ameritas Retirement, contributions-\$191.79; Social Security, FICA & MEDI-\$253.186; **Health Fund 2504:** Dental Account, premium-\$41.00; Health Plan, premium-\$560.00; Federal Withholding, federal taxes-\$106.26; Life Insurance, premium-\$2.55; Neb Dept of Revenue, state taxes-\$48.95; Principal, premiums - \$27.56; Ameritas Retirement, contributions-\$210.42; Social Security, FICA & MEDI-\$304.48; VSP, premium-\$15.66; **Juvenile Services Fund 2507:** Dental Account, premium-\$41.00; Health Plan, premium-

\$760.00; Life Insurance, premium-\$2.55; Neb Dept of Revenue, state taxes-\$49.75; Principal, premiums-\$23.87; Ameritas Retirement, contributions-\$226.60; Social Security, FICA & MEDI-\$271.98; VSP, premium-\$15.66.

Lisa Bousquet with the South Sioux City Chamber presented some information regarding various tourism opportunities and events the Chamber is working on in the surrounding communities. She encouraged everyone to go to utilize their website for information and to become a member.

Tammy Peterson with the Nebraska Extension office presented a quarterly summary of the many programs offered through the local Extension office.

Christy Abts, County Assessor, presented agreement with Cardinal Assessment Group to do the 6-year rural review. Commissioner Reed moved, seconded by Commissioner Van Berkum to approve the Cardinal Assessment Group Agreement for the 6-year rural review. ROLL CALL VOTE: Van Berkum-Yes, Bousquet-Yes, Reed-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Stephanie Gatzemeyer, County Treasurer, presented the Tax Sale Report which was held on March 2, 2026. There were 123 parcels totaling \$292,003.59, 49 parcels sold for \$95,107.53 leaving 25 parcels for \$9,216.69. There were 60 investors present at the sale.

Chair Hohenstein opened the public hearing for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations for the purpose of presenting and adopting an amendment to the One Year Road Plan for said governing body. The amendment is to include paving 600 feet of road from Hubbard's village limits south to county bridge located in Section 22 & 23, Township 28N, Range 7E at 3:12 p.m. There were no comments in support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observation from the public. Chair Hohenstein closed the public hearing at 3:13 p.m.

Commissioner Reed moved, seconded by Commissioner Hohenstein to approve the amendment to the One Year Road Plan for said governing body. The amendment includes paving 600 feet of road from Hubbard's village limits south to county bridge located in Section 22 & 23, Township 28N, Range 7E. ROLL CALL VOTE: Bousquet-Yes, Reed-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes, Van Berkum-Yes. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Bids for Dakota County Bridge Inspection in 2026 were reviewed. MEI bid was for \$7,600 and Mainelli Wagner bid was for \$8,150. Commissioner Van Berkum moved, seconded by Commissioner Bousquet to award the bid for the Dakota County Bridge Inspection in 2026 to MEI for \$7,600. ROLL CALL VOTE: Reed-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes, Van Berkum-Yes, Bousquet-Yes. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Knife River Project – Cindy Morgan Anderson appeared before the Board in opposition of said project and stated her reasons. Emmet Albenesius appeared before the Board in opposition to said project and stated his reasons. Chris Winkel with Knife River presented their plan with a power point and went over their reasons in support of said project. Chair Hohenstein stated that this issue is set for public hearing on April 13, 2026, on the Board's agenda. Due to the number of people attending today's meeting, the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at a larger facility which will be published in the Dakota County Star.

Commissioner Bousquet moved, seconded by Commissioner Van Berkum to approve the Annual EAP Service Agreement with MercyOne Medical Group from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, and pay an annual amount at a 5% discount of \$2,708.20. ROLL CALL VOTE: Reed-Yes, Hohenstein-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes, Van Berkum-Yes, Bousquet-Yes. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Van Berkum moved, seconded by Commissioner Bousquet to approve the Storm Water Annual Report for 2025 with City of South Sioux City, Dakota City, and Dakota County Stormwater Management Plan for 2025. ROLL CALL VOTE: Hohenstein-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes, Van Berkum-Yes, Bousquet-Yes, Reed-Yes. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Jolene Gubbels, Highway Superintendent, presented to the Board an updated Road Department Utility Permit for County ROW that she had worked with NIRMA on and requested approval, and asked if the current fees should be increased or left the same. Some discussion on the fees was had, and the addition of a permit is valid for 6 months from date of issuance. Commissioner Bousquet moved, seconded by Commissioner Reed to approve the Road Department Utility Permit for County ROW Agreement leaving the fees as is and adding the permit is valid for 6 months from date of issuance. ROLL CALL VOTE: Rodriguez-Yes, Van Berkum-No, Bousquet-Yes, Reed-Yes Hohenstein-Yes. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Van Berkum moved, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez to approve Sheriff Decker to have a credit card account with Siouxland Federal Credit Union to use for county related purposes only. ROLL CALL VOTE: Van Berkum-Yes, Bousquet-Yes, Reed-Yes Hohenstein-Yes, Rodriguez-Yes. UNANIMOUS MOTION CARRIED.

Jolene Gubbels, Highway Superintendent, presented the Bi-weekly Road Report from March 15 to March 28, 2026. Total Road Maintenance – 193 hours, Tree/debris removal – 155 hours; snow removal – 71.5 hours, Gravel hauled – 250 tons, sign repair – 35.5 hours, weed – 9 hours notices and paperwork. Grading concerns on Stable Drive and Blyburg Rd. Jolene had a representative with John Deere explaining the GPS tracking already is installed on their equipment, and they offer a JD

Link program that can be installed on all trucks and equipment. Jolene reminded the Board that the current GPS tracking devices are through Verizon. She would like to cancel the Verizon and use JD Link. The Board agreed with that and asked that John Deere and Jolene work together on getting a quote together on the cost for switching to JD Link and the benefits. Commissioner Bousquet commented on the excellent job Jolene Gubbels does.

Commissioner Committee Reports: Commissioner Rodriguez informed that he will be on the NACO Land Use Committee and attended the Area Agency on Aging meeting. Commissioner Hohenstein attended a Region IV meeting, Commissioner Reed and Rodriguez will be attending the Legislative day and Budget Workshop Day.

Mail and/or Emergency Business. None.

Commissioner Van Berkum moved, seconded by Commissioner Bousquet to adjourn. All in favor. Chair Hohenstein adjourned the Board of Commissioners meeting of March 30, 2026, at 4:03 p.m.

Dakota County Board of Commissioners

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Martin Hohenstein Chair

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Cherie Conley, County Clerk/Secretary