

McPherson County Board of Commissioners
Minutes of Proceedings
November 4th, 2025

The McPherson County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, November 4th, 2025, in the Commissioners chambers. Chairman Mark Opp called the meeting to order at 9:00AM. Members present were Mark Opp, Jeff Neuharth, Neal Woehlhaff, Sid Feickert and Mike Mardian. The full meeting can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/@McPhersonCountySD>

Woehlhaff moved and Feickert seconded to approve the November 4th agenda. All voted in favor. Motion carried. No conflicts of interest were declared.

Feickert moved and Woehlhaff seconded to approve the October 7th Commission and Drainage minutes. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

DRAINAGE COMMISSION:

At 9:00AM Neuharth moved and Feickert seconded to forgo meeting as the McPherson County Drainage Commission for the month of November. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

At 9:05AM public comments were heard from: Mike Klipfel, Co. Road 23/Demkota complaints – would like to see a toll on the county road, against purchase of Eureka Building/budget comments; Linda Schauer, Courthouse holiday decorations are excessive and unprofessional. Full public comments can be heard at <https://www.youtube.com/@McPhersonCountySD>

CLAIMS APPROVED:

Agtegra, Hwy/Soil Dist Supplies, \$21,351.77; Amazon, Supplies, \$556.96; Art's Body Shop, Chip Repair, \$60.00; ATT, Cellphone/Hotspot, \$489.25; Auto Value, Hwy Supplies, \$34.58; Butler, Hwy Supplies, \$34,158.24; Century Business Products, Printer Contract, \$71.89; CHS, Propane, \$658.47; Clubhouse, Conf Hotel, \$112.00; Crawford Trucks & Equip, Hwy Supplies, \$3,480.42; Curt's Repair, Oil Change, \$131.00; Brandon Duquette, Clothing Reimb, \$200.00; Eureka Comm Health Services, 3rd & 4th Qtr Nursing, \$14,250.00; FEM, Utilities, \$375.12; Fire Safety First, Fire Extinguishers, \$1,102.00; Josh Flemmer, Clothing Reimb, \$200.00; Gene's Oil, Fuel, \$1,381.83; Graham Tire, Sheriff Tires, \$852.80; Heartland Waste, Utilities, \$40.00; Johnny & Renee Schwingler, Mini Split, \$596.59; Kimball Midwest, Hwy Supplies, \$474.25; Lakeside Lumber, Hwy Supplies, \$11.99; Leola City, Utilities, \$205.94; Linde Gas & Equipment, Hwy Supplies, \$177.95; Rodney Malsam, Clothing Allowance, \$200.00; McPherson Co. Herald, Publishing, \$531.11; MDU, Utilities, \$696.23; Menards, Courthouse/Hwy Supplies, \$183.77; Microfilm, Equip Rent, \$364.40; North Central E911, Oct Remittance, \$3,308.56; NW Blade, Publishing, \$498.42; Premier Equipment, Hwy Supplies, \$1,901.91; Ramkota, Election Training, \$224.00; SD Sheriff's Association, 2026 Dues, \$572.33; SDML Worker's Comp, 2026 Work Comp, \$38,482.00; SDPAA, Insurance, \$79,577.48; Sheraton, Hwy Hotel, \$248.00; Sir Lines-A-Lot, Striping, \$54,825.00; Thomson Reuters-West, Sept West Law, \$795.44; Transource, Hwy Supplies, \$673.90; Tri-State Water, Courthouse Water, \$116.50; Valley Telco, Phone/Internet, \$800.52; Vanguard Appraisals, Service Fees, \$6,750.00; Vestis, Courthouse Supplies, \$185.25; Visa, Weed Supplies, \$351.35; Visa, Paper/Stamps, \$290.97; Visa, Subs/Fuel/Misc, \$267.96; September 2025 Apportionment Remitted to Cities/Schools/Townships/Fire

Districts, \$81,610.26; State Treasurer, Money Due to State, \$97,029.40; State Treasurer, Sales Tax/Excise, \$6.25; SDACC, September M&P Fees, \$104.00; Valley Telco, Phone/Internet, \$289.54; CorTrust, Direct Deposit Fee/Deliq Tax, \$443.83; October Payroll Reimbursements: Sam Barrett, Miles/Meals, \$437.18; Richard Kolb, Miles, \$4.90; Logan Heupel, Miles, \$12.60; George Hulscher, Miles, \$49.00.

Neuharth moved and Woehlhaff seconded to approve the forgoing claims. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

SALARIES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES:

Commissioners, \$6,637.10; Auditor, \$9,663.60; Treasurer, \$9,571.93; State's Attorney, \$6,920.43; Government Building, \$4,975.30; Director of Equalization, \$10,140.80; Register of Deeds, \$9,571.93; Veteran Service Officers, \$2,435.73; Sheriff, \$12,192.11; Coroner, \$250.00; Extension, \$4,262.40; Weed Control, \$832.50; Planning & Zoning, \$400.00; Road & Bridge, \$64,457.76; Eureka Joint Law, \$5,080.40; Leola Joint Law, \$4,500.00.

McPherson County's Share of the following:

Social Security and Medicare: CorTrust Bank: \$11,322.09

Insurance: American Family, \$440.79; Avera, \$3,017.93; Guardian Vision, \$114.36; MetLife, \$159.55; South Dakota Retirement System, \$8,378.54; Colonial Life Vision, \$47.65.

OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED AND ACTION TAKEN:

Leola City - Joint Law

McPherson County received notice that Leola City will not renew the Joint Law contract for 2026. Discussion was held on budget, staffing level and several questions were posed to Sheriff Ackerman. Public comment was received from Marian Kallas.

Annual Review of Open Meeting Laws

State's Attorney Austin Hoffman gave the annual review of open meeting laws per SDCL 1-25-13.

Eureka Building

Improvements made by Eureka City were discussed. Neuharth moved and Woehlhaff seconded to have the chairman sign the contract for deed for Lot 1 Public Square Addition to Eureka in the SE1/4 of Section 35-T127N-R73W of the 5th P.M. and Lot 13 Less North 5' First Railroad Addition to Eureka City. Upon roll call vote: Neuharth, Opp, Woehlhaff "Aye"; Feickert, Mardian "Nay". Motion carried.

Community Nursing

Neuharth moved and Woehlhaff seconded to remit \$14,250 to Avera Eureka for community nursing for the second half of 2025. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on entering into a contract with Avera Eureka for community nursing services in 2026 and a corresponding payment.

Zoning

Neuharth moved and Feickert seconded to have the chairman sign the NECOG agreement for Comprehensive Plan assistance for \$2,500. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Commission Mardian gave

an update on the Access Approach and Manure Hauling Ordinances. The Zoning board will hold a public hearing on the ordinances on November 12th. Alternates are needed for the upcoming Zoning meeting due to conflicts. Feickert moved and Opp seconded to appoint Glenn Spitzer, Jeff Neuharth, and Neal Woehlhaff as alternates to the Board of Adjustment for a term ending on December 31, 2025. Feickert moved and Opp seconded to rescind the motion.

Feickert moved and Neuharth seconded to appoint Glenn Spitzer as an alternate to the Board of Adjustment for a term ending on December 31, 2025. Upon roll call vote: Neuharth, Woehlhaff, Feickert, Opp voted "Aye"; Mardian abstained. Motion carried.

Neuharth moved and Feickert seconded to appoint Neal Woehlhaff as an alternate to the Board of Adjustment for a term ending on December 31, 2025. Upon roll call vote: Neuharth, Feickert, Opp voted "Aye"; Mardian and Woehlhaff abstained. Motion carried.

Woehlhaff moved and Feickert seconded to appoint Jeff Neuharth as an alternate to the Board of Adjustment for a term ending on December 31, 2025. Upon roll call vote: Woehlhaff, Feickert, Opp voted "Aye"; Mardian and Neuharth abstained. Motion carried.

Courthouse Records

Discussion was held on destroying certain records that have met their retention period and the process by which the county handles record management. More discussion will take place during the December meeting.

Courthouse Maintenance

Neuharth moved and Mardian seconded to call for bids for courthouse snow removal to be opened on December 2nd. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Sharon Guthmiller gave an update on the boiler system. In October there was a broken pipe on the boiler system that caused significant water issues in the basement and a 1st floor storage area. Ideas on what landscaping to place in the circles on the courthouse lawn. The remaining old windows left to be replaced were discussed. Quotes will be solicited from House of Glass. Insulating the space near the dome and replacing the roof door was discussed. Commissioner Feickert presented a quote for \$6,500 to redo the sides of the south steps and \$10,000 to redo the south steps.

Glenn Spitzer outlined issues with the courthouse lawn mower. The quote for fixing the mower is \$2,900 or several options for replacement were discussed ranging from \$8,400 to \$9,000 approximately. Due to the mower's age replacement is recommended. No action taken at this time.

The highway department mini split heating/cooling unit and the ongoing issues with the unit and possible replacement were discussed. Spitzer discussed the county purchasing a man lift.

A quote for spray foam above the courthouse dome for \$4,184.04 was considered. Mardian moved and Neuharth seconded to table any decision on the spray foam quote until the dome area can be inspected at the end of the meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Emergency Management

Sheriff Ackerman and Brown County Emergency Manager Scott Meints discussed with the commission an idea of regional emergency management to fill the open Emergency Manager position. Ackerman and Meints will work with Brown County on the details and will present them back to the Commission at a future meeting.

Highway Department

Feickert moved and Neuharth seconded to accept the quote for \$11,997 to install shop lights in the Eureka Highway shop. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Spitzer presented an offer for \$4/post for 300 steel signposts. The commission will keep the price at \$5/post. Cash, budget and moving up 2026 planned expenses to 2025's budget year were discussed. More discussion will take place at the December meeting. The purchase of a Mac Semi was considered, no action taken. Approaches and the possibility of adding a toll to County Road 23 based on public comments were briefly discussed. The commission requested increased sheriff presence in the area. Bales need to be removed from the road ditches by November 22nd. Public comment was received from Gordon Zetterlund.

Executive Session

Mardian moved and Neuharth seconded to enter executive session at 12:05PM pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) and (6). All voted favor. Motion carried. Woehlhaff moved and Mardian seconded to exit executive session at 12:28PM. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

As a result of executive session Neuharth moved and Woehlhaff seconded to hire Linda Hanke for the Highway Secretary position for \$21.51/hour for 1,820 hours per year. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Sheriff Department

A pickup drawer system for \$1,599.99 was discussed.

Auditor's Office

Discussion was held on the current precinct lines and a draft map and resolution with three precincts instead of four. Moving to three precincts will allow for combined elections with schools and municipalities if those entities choose to combine with the county. A resolution will be presented in December for approval. The HR Report through the end of October was presented. The commission discussed moving certain positions to salary or requiring departments to utilize flex time versus comp time.

An update on the email migration project with SecureSD was given. The county can migrate to a .gov domain with a new website at the same time. Woehlhaff moved and Opp seconded to accept the quote from Factor360 to develop a new .gov website for \$2,400. Upon roll call vote: Mardian, Opp, Woehlhaff, Neuharth "Aye"; Feickert "Nay". Motion carried.

A Quit claim deed and accompanying access easement for a vacated street in Leola City adjoining the county highway building was discussed. The commission declined to take action on either the quit claim deed or the easement.

Courthouse Maintenance

The commission went to the roof to inspect the dome area. Mardian moved and Neuharth seconded to revisit the spray foam quote for the dome. All voted in favor. Motion carried. The county will not proceed with spray foam at this time.

Appropriate storage, that keeps all office items and records safe in the event of a water leak was discussed. The commission will do courthouse office inspections to identify areas that need improvement or areas that are not accessible for general maintenance. Surplus will also be considered.

Upcoming Meetings, Holidays and Meeting Approval

Woehlhaff moved and Feickert seconded to set the December 2nd meeting start time at 10am and to schedule the end of the year on Tuesday December 30th to begin at 10am. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Neuharth moved and Woehlhaff seconded to approve Friday November 28th, Wednesday December 24th and Friday December 26th as holiday days as granted by Governor Rhoden and the State of SD. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Feickert moved and Neuharth seconded to approve the following meeting authorization: Lindley Howard to attend an election workshop in Pierre in November. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

At 1:55PM Mardian moved, Feickert seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carried. The next regular Commission Meetings will be on Tuesday, December 2nd and Tuesday, December 30th both beginning at 10:00AM.

ATTEST:

Lindley Howard

McPherson County Auditor

Mark Opp

Chairman of Board of Commissioners