

DAY COUNTY COMMISSION
WEBSTER, SOUTH DAKOTA
January 23, 2026

The Day County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 9:00 AM, Friday January 23, 2026, in the Commissioner Chambers in the Day County Courthouse. Meeting called to order by Chairman Sinner. Members present: Commissioners Kjos, McGregor-Okroi, Aldrich, and Torrence. Others: Auditor Lehman, States Attorney Knight, Treasurer Zubke, Andy Dale, Angie Schaefer, Becky Hubsch, Berdette Zastrow, Bob Jaskulka, Connie Jensen, Connor Handrahan-R&F, Dennis Peckham, Doug Hansen, Floyd Hansmeier, Gerald Pesall, Glenn Gebur, Jerry Mork, Jim Grimes, Jim Walter, Joe Schwan, Joel Shoemaker, Jon Raap, Hwy Supt. Jordan Schmieg, Katie Karpinske, Keith Hansmeier, Lynn Sletten, Mark Brandlee, Michael Herr, Mike Dale, Nick Jensen, Ordean Parks, Randy Schuring, Reed Mahlke, Reuben Parks, Scott Bierschbach, Sue Walter and Troy VanDusen.

PLEDGE: Chairman Sinner led the members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Jim Grimes noted that recent local press coverage has highlighted significant public discussion regarding wind energy infrastructure. Drawing on nearly 20 years of experience hosting wind towers in Oak Gulch Township, Grimes characterized the project as a consistent and valuable revenue stream. He highlighted a recent "re-powering" initiative on his property, which upgraded existing turbines with modern blade technology, an advancement he compared to the transition from an obsolete mobile device to a contemporary smartphone. Furthermore, he commended the cleanliness and efficiency of the construction process. Grimes concluded by urging stakeholders to shift their focus from inter-county tax distribution to the substantial, collective economic benefits these projects provide to both local governments and private landowners.

David Pearson expressed opposition to the proposed wind infrastructure, citing his perspective as a property owner on Pickerel Lake. He stated that residents are concerned that the presence of wind towers could negatively impact property values. Additionally, Pearson highlighted concerns regarding the visual impact of synchronized red lighting, noting that such flickering across the landscape could diminish the area's appeal and potentially disrupt the regional economy by affecting local revenue.

Reed Mahlke, Attorney at Law representing Day County Action Alliance, expressed concern that this proceeding might be the final opportunity for public comment. On behalf of his clients, Mahlke formally requested a setback requirement of three-quarters of a mile, or 3,960 feet. He also recommended that the County implement its own independent bonding requirements in addition to the standards mandated by the Public Utilities Commission. Finally, Mahlke noted that while his clients remain fundamentally opposed to the installation of wind towers, they urge the County to exercise its maximum regulatory authority over the project.

MINUTES: Moved by Aldrich, seconded by Kjos to approve the minutes from January 6th, 2026, regular commissioner meeting. Motion carried.

PAYROLL: Moved by McGregor-Okroi, seconded by Torrence to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the payroll period ending January 10, 2026. Motion carried.

Auditor's Office 5,621.11; Treasurer's Office 6,483.20; Register of Deeds 6,008.02; State's Attorney 3,174.69; Sheriff's Office 11,798.00; Jailors 12,173.58; Assessor's Office 4,305.21; Commissioners 3,106.92; Veteran's Service 1,699.00; Ambulance 10,762.00; Maintenance 2,040.00; Nurse 475.20; Extension 1,386.00; Welfare 495.00; Planning & Zoning 1,059.25; OEM 775.75; 911 428.00; Weed 754.00; Highway 22,648.47; Social Security 5,809.44; Medicare 1,358.64; Health Insurance 25,509.68; Dental Insurance 475.72; SD Retirement 4,963.00 for a total of 133,309.88.

CLAIMS: Moved by Kjos, seconded by Torrence to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the following audited claims. Motion carried.

SERVICES: A&B Business 184.27, AAA Collections Inc 42.54, Austin, Strait, Benson, Thole 539.50, Century Business Products 144.47, Kwasniewski Enterprises 12.00, Dacotah Bank 2,598.17, Delaney Nielsen & Sannes 7,750.00, Dependable Sanitation 111.75, Dial-A-Move 5,000.00, Fiksdal Funeral Service 1,600.00, Joe Linde 150.00, Kone Inc. 399.24, MedTox Laboratories Inc 77.80, Microfilm Imaging Systems 65.00, Minn-Kota Communications, Inc 4,968.00, PCC Ambulance Billing

Service 3,232.05, PEAC Solutions 188.91, Planning & Development District 4,000.00, Richardson, Wyly, Wise, Sauck 636.00, Safe Harbor 115.00, Sanford Health 1,152.00, SD Department of Labor 2,265.82, SD Public Health Laboratory 400.00, SDACO M&P Fund 260.00, Steve Hargis 61.50, Supercom 201.50, Taliaferro Law Firm, P.C. 1,150.00, Twotrees Technology 125.00, Verizon Connect 50.82, Vestis 454.20, Webster Auto Care 619.62, WEX 70.00, Xerox Corporation 295.09,

SUPPLIES: Allison Biscard 59.36, A-OX Welding Supply 144.95, Axon Enterprise Inc. 2,465.60, Bound Tree Medical 586.15, Cash-Wa Distributing 1,229.36, Dollar General 47.85, Equipment Blades Inc. 10,800.00, First Call Auto Parts 34.78, L.G Everist Inc. 1,299.76, Jordan Schmieg 191.15, Mike's Jack and Jill 407.25, Prairie Stitch and Print 239.00, Sioux Valley Cooperative 14,902.83, Tri State Water Inc 45.75, Troy Gabriel 138.05, Valley Office Products 749.66,

PUBLISHING: Waubay Clipper 890.78,

UTILITY: City of Webster 71.20, ITC Telecom 1,692.60, James Valley Telecommunications 341.40, Northwestern Energy 6,623.82, Otter Tail Power 38.94, Venture Communications 197.90,

REPAIR: Ace 261.61, Auto Value Webster 695.30, Bulter Machinery 4,892.92, Glacial Lakes Electric LLC 540.44, Power Plan 2,034.29, Snaza Implement LLC 3,180.64, TranSource Trucking Equipment 2,068.49, Twin Vally Tire 8,237.88

DUES: Mid-States Organized Crime 100.00, SD ASSN of County Weed & Pest 700.00, SDAE4-HP 200.00,

INSURANCE: SD Public Assurance Alliance 121,439.08,

MANUAL CHECKS: Jerred Schreur 400.00, Roots Kitchen & Taphouse 1,132.80, SD Department of Revenue 126,414.36, SD Treasurer 135.46.

REPORTS: The Board noted the following reports:

In compliance with the law, I, Tonya Lehman hereby submit the following report of my examination of the cash and cash items in the hands of the Treasurer of this County as of January 1, 2026. Total amount of deposits in bank \$63,535.17. Total amount of actual cash \$940.94. Total amount of deposits and drafts in Treasurer's possession not exceeding three days \$34,323.10. Itemized list of all items checks and drafts, which have been in the Treasurer's possession over three days: CD'S \$3,850,000.00; IMMA \$4,980,073.65; Postage \$187.79; Register of Deeds petty cash \$200.00; Sheriff \$2,627.00; Credit cards \$177.00 for a total of \$8,932,064.65. Cash Balances: General Fund \$4,857,213.77; Highway \$3,646,419.22; E911 \$2,487.03; OEM \$19,147.60; Domestic Abuse \$184.00; 24/7 Fund \$48,739.60; M & P Fund \$61,353.50; Highway Rural Access \$69,280.66; 700 & 800 Accounts \$317,485.60; equals \$9,022,310.98.

In compliance with the law, I, Jodi Berger, hereby report the fees of the Office of Register of Deeds for the month of December 2025. Births (9) \$135.00; Deaths (18) \$270.00; Marriages (1) \$40.00; Transfer fees \$12,751.00; Recordings \$4,166.00; Copies \$401.55; Sales Tax \$0.72 for a total of \$17,764.27.

In compliance with the law, I, Jerred Schreur hereby submit the following report of all fees received by me as Sheriff within and for the County for the month of December 2025: Phone Commission \$1,128.75; Remote Breath Tests \$185.00; Remote Breath Act/Deact \$80.00; Sheriff's Fees \$918.87; Fingerprints \$18.78; Misc. Income \$1,931.85; PBT's \$711.00; Prisoners-Out of Co. \$10,200.00; UA Fees \$350.00; Work Release \$1,250.00; GPS Monitoring \$180.00; State Grant \$806.66; Bristol Contract Hours \$500.00; Waubay Contract Hours \$1,000.00; Roslyn Contract Hours \$500.00; Pierpont Contract Hours \$500.00; Sales Tax \$1.22 for a total of \$20,262.13.

WEED BOARD: Moved by McGregor-Okroi, seconded by Aldrich to recess the regular session at 9:13AM, to convene as Weed Board. Motion carried. Chairman Sinner reconvened the regular session at 9:17 AM. Next Weed Board meeting will be March 3rd 2026, at 9:30 AM.

PLANNING/ZONING: Moved by Torrence, seconded by Aldrich to recess the regular session at 9:17 AM, to convene as Planning, Zoning and Drainage Board. Motion carried. Chairman Sinner reconvened the regular session at 10:37 AM.

PLAT: Upon recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Board, moved by McGregor-Okroi, seconded by Torrence to approve the following plat: Ben Johnson Addition in NE 19-121-57; Motion carried.

WATERTOWN 911 COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR: Troy VanDusen held a discussion with the Commissioners on what the Watertown 911 Communications Center has provided for our County since 2009, and that he would like to keep that partnership. He shared that they have a 96.6% rate of calls received which are answered within 10 seconds, he also explained that the State increased the 911 surcharge fee from \$1.25 to \$2.00 per phone line effective July 1st of 2024 which is what pays for the 911 service.

HIGHWAY LOAD LIMIT: Moved by Aldrich, seconded by Torrence to approve Chairman Sinner to sign Resolution #2026-02. Motion carried

RESOLUTION #2026-02

WHEREAS the Day County Highway Superintendent will be placing restrictions on county roads during the spring break-up, starting approx. March 1, 2026, and

DO NOW THEREFORE request that the South Dakota Highway Patrol assist in enforcing the road weight restrictions on county roads.

Dated at Webster, South Dakota, this 23rd day of January 2026.

By the Board of County Commissioners:

Derek Sinner, Chairman

Daniel Kjos

Sarah McGregor-Okroi

Blake Torrence

Roy Aldrich

ATTEST: Tonya Lehman -Auditor

SMALL STRUCTURES GRANT PROGRAM: Supt. Schmieg gave an update on applications received and which townships were chosen and the estimated costs. Moved by McGregor-Okroi, seconded by Aldrich to approve two applications to replace culverts in Farmington Township- 414 Ave, North of 130th St. (\$39,720) Motion carried.

APPROVE R.O.W.: Moved by Torrence, seconded by Kjos to approve occupancy of R.O.W. for Lake Region Electric for new underground powerline installation on Highway 30 in Section 5-121-56 Day County. Motion carried.

HWY DEPT. SEALED BIDS: Moved by Kjos, seconded by McGregor-Okroi to authorize Hwy Supt. Schmieg to advertise for Sealed Bids for 1) Road Machinery Rental Rates; 2) One-Year supply of Road Oil; 3) Hot Mix and Paver Laid Hot Mix and 4) Gravel – Road Materials. Bid opening will be on Friday, Feb 13th, 2026, at 10:00 AM. Approval of bids will be at the Commissioner meeting on Feb 17th, 2026. Motion carried.

TRAVEL REQUEST: Moved by Aldrich, seconded by McGregor-Okroi to approve travel for the Highway Department to attend MSHA training in Watertown. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Kjos, seconded by Torrence to enter into Executive Session at 11:10 AM for personnel as per SDCL 1-25-2. Motion carried. Chairman Sinner reconvened the regular session at 11:20 AM

HIGHWAY HIRE: Moved by Kjos, seconded by Aldrich to authorize Hwy Supt. Schmieg to advertise for open position. Motion carried.

WAGE ADJUSTMENT: Moved by Aldrich, seconded by McGregor-Okroi to approve a 6-month wage increase of \$.50 from \$26.00 to \$26.50 per hour for Kolby Weinberg effective November, 30th 2025 as requested by Sheriff Schreur. Motion carried.

OEM: Moved by McGregor-Okroi, seconded by Torrence to adopt the Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution 2026-01 presented by Bryan Anderson. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2026-01

WHEREAS, the County of Day, South Dakota, recognizes the threat that natural hazards pose to people and property within the community; and

WHEREAS, participation in hazard mitigation planning activities allows the community to identify vulnerabilities and strategies to reduce future risks; and

WHEREAS, an approved and adopted hazard mitigation plan is a prerequisite for receiving certain types of federal mitigation funding; and

WHEREAS, the County of Day participated in the development of the Day County Hazard Mitigation Plan, which has now been approved by FEMA; and

WHEREAS, the Plan recommends hazard mitigation actions that will benefit the County of Day by reducing potential losses from future hazard events;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission of Day County, South Dakota, hereby adopts the Day County Hazard Mitigation Plan as the community's official hazard mitigation plan.

Adopted this 23rd day of January, 2026.

Derek Sinner, Chairman

ATTEST: Tonya Lehman - Auditor

AAA COLLECTIONS INC: Discussion to approve AAA Collections Inc to take legal action against client #100366 was tabled until next regular Commission meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING ON MALT BEVERAGE LICENSE: Moved by Torrence, seconded by Aldrich to approve Auditor Lehman to set and advertise Public Hearing to be held February 17, 2026, at 9:05 AM. The hearing will be for a “Retail (on-off sale) Malt Beverage & SD Wine” License for 12 Spot Diner, Waubay, SD. Motion carried.

COURTHOUSE AND HWY DEPT CLOSURES: Courthouse & Hwy Dept will be closed February 16th, 2026, in observance of President’s Day.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Aldrich, seconded by Kjos to adjourn until 9:00 AM, Tuesday, February 3, 2026, to convene in the Commissioners’ Chambers in the Day County Courthouse. Motion carried.

Derek Sinner
Chairman

ATTEST:

Tonya Lehman
Day County Auditor

Day County does not discriminate on the basis of color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability in employment or the provision of service.