

**Lincoln County Board of Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2026**

THE LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS convened at on January 6, 2026, with Commissioners Joel Arends, Jim Schmidt, Tiffani Landeen, Betty Otten, Doug Putnam present. Alicia Cafaro, Deputy Auditor, served as Clerk of the Board. Chief Civil Deputy State's Attorney, Drew DeGroot, was also present.

Chair, Tiffani Landeen, called the meeting to order.

ROUTINE BUSINESS:

MOTION by Jim Schmidt and seconded by Betty Otten to approve Agenda. Ayes; Joel Arends, Jim Schmidt, Tiffani Landeen, Betty Otten, Doug Putnam, Nays; None. Motion Passed.

MOTION by Jim Schmidt and seconded by Betty Otten to elect Tiffani Landeen as the Chair of the Board of Commissioners for 2026. Ayes; Jim Schmidt, Tiffani Landeen, Betty Otten, Nays; Joel Arends, Doug Putnam. Motion Passed.

MOTION by Betty Otten and seconded by Tiffani Landeen to elect Jim Schmidt as the Vice Chair of the Board of Commissioners for 2026. Ayes; Jim Schmidt, Tiffani Landeen, Betty Otten, Nays; Joel Arends, Doug Putnam. Motion Passed.

Payroll: \$495,228.72

Commissioner's \$8,895.76; FICA 527.45, Medicare 123.35, SDRS 165.78
Auditor's \$16,170.10; FICA 894.85, Medicare 209.28, SDRS 964.51
Treasurer's \$21,107.50; FICA 1,176.01, Medicare 275.03, SDRS 1,257.77
States Attorney's \$75,679.18; FICA 4,365.41, Medicare 1,020.94, SDRS 4,484.65
Gen Gov Bldg \$20,038.48; FICA 1,110.94, Medicare 259.82, SDRS 1,190.80
DOE \$41,012.10; FICA 2,320.13, Medicare 542.61, SDRS 2,385.54
ROD \$10,756.81; FICA 592.82, Medicare 138.64, SDRS 639.71
VSO \$2,369.89; FICA 138.03, Medicare 32.28, SDRS 142.19
GIS \$6,130.54; FICA 341.23, Medicare 79.80, SDRS 366.34
IT \$12,054.04; FICA 715.61, Medicare 167.36, SDRS 719.04
HR \$6,161.99; FICA 351.27, Medicare 82.15, SDRS 368.52
Sheriff's \$129,938.06; FICA 7,552.04, Medicare 1,766.20, SDRS 9,767.37
Jail \$19,579.85; FICA 1,195.33, Medicare 279.55, SDRS 1,284.21
County 4-H \$4,835.12; FICA 284.99, Medicare 66.65, SDRS 287.41
Weeds \$4,839.35; FICA 300.04, Medicare 70.17, SDRS 278.36
P & Z \$13,817.41; FICA 841.12, Medicare 196.71, SDRS 809.55
Highway \$51,791.26; FICA 2,981.34, Medicare 697.25, SDRS 3,094.87
Communications \$39,832.65; FICA 2,299.57, Medicare 537.80, SDRS 2,361.03
EM MGMT \$4,263.51; FICA 241.71, Medicare 56.53, SDRS 252.99
Airport \$3,058.74; FICA 189.64, Medicare 44.35, SDRS 183.52
24/7 \$2,896.38; FICA 179.58, Medicare 42.00, SDRS 231.72

Reports:

Department of Natural Resources Notice of General Air Quality Operating Permit
Auditor's Office Monthly Transaction Report - December 2025

Recognition of Significant Anniversaries: January 2025

Jeanne Oakland, Buildings and Grounds – 17 Years

MOTION by Betty Otten and seconded by Jim Schmidt to approve Consent Agenda items. Ayes; Joel Arends, Jim Schmidt, Tiffani Landeen, Betty Otten, Doug Putnam, Nays; None. Motion Passed.

CONSENT AGENDA:

MOTION by Betty Otten and seconded by Jim Schmidt to approve County Commission Minutes: 12.23.2025. Ayes; Joel Arends, Jim Schmidt, Tiffani Landeen, Betty Otten, Doug Putnam, Nays; None. Motion Passed.

WHEREAS SDCL §7-7-25 states that the Board of County Commissioners, by Resolution, may authorize county officials to attend educational conferences, meetings, and conventions held and conducted within a 500-mile radius of the Lincoln County Courthouse, 104 N Main, Canton, SD for up to three days, pertaining to the betterment and advancement of county government; THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County Highway Superintendent, Auditor, Treasurer, Register of Deeds, State's Attorney, Sheriff, Director of Equalization, Planning and Zoning Director, IT Director, 911 Coordinator, Building Superintendent, Human Resources Director, GIS Director, 4-H Advisor, Emergency Manager Director and their respective staff, be authorized to attend conferences, meetings, and conventions for the purpose set forth in SDCL §7-7-25 and that the mileage and necessary expenses to attend such be allowed. This Resolution shall be for the fiscal year 2026. MOTION by Betty Otten and seconded by Jim Schmidt. Ayes; Joel Arends, Jim Schmidt, Tiffani Landeen, Betty Otten, Doug Putnam, Nays; None. Motion Passed.

MOTION by Betty Otten and seconded by Jim Schmidt to appoint the official depositories of Lincoln County as follows: Farmers State Bank – Canton, Security Savings Bank – Canton, Premier Bank – Hudson, US Bank (2013 Leased Acct, 2016 Leased Acct, 2023 Leased Acct & 2023 Construction Acct), PMA Financial Network (SD FIT). Ayes; Joel Arends, Jim Schmidt, Tiffani Landeen, Betty Otten, Doug Putnam, Nays; None. Motion Passed.

MOTION by Betty Otten and seconded by Jim Schmidt to appoint and authorize the Emergency Manager, Harold Timmerman, as Lincoln County Designee to request resources from the South Dakota Department of Agriculture's Wildland Fire Division. Ayes; Joel Arends, Jim Schmidt, Tiffani Landeen, Betty Otten, Doug Putnam, Nays; None. Motion Passed.

WHEREAS SDCL 12-15-11 made it the responsibility of the County Commissioners of each county to set the fee for precinct election officials of all units of government in the county. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the fee for precinct election officials in Lincoln County be set at \$200.00, election superintendent at \$250.00, and on-call/stand by workers \$50.00 for each election. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to SDCL 12-15-7 such election officials be allowed a fixed fee for attendance at a meeting called by the County Auditor for instruction on election laws and the duties of the judges and clerks of election as follows: \$25.00 compensation for election officials plus \$0.67/mile, or the established county rate, roundtrip. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that there will be one cell phone provided by one precinct worker per polling place, and a \$20.00 fee will be issued for the usage of the phone for only that day. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the person delivering the poll-books and ballot boxes to the County Auditor's Office at the county seat shall receive the county rate for mileage as established pursuant to SDCL 7-7-24, for miles necessarily traveled in going to and returning from making the delivery (SDCL 12-15-11). The county rate for mileage is \$0.67 per mile. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the judges, clerks, Resolution Board, Counting Board, and any other personnel deemed necessary by the County Auditor for receiving ballot boxes, supplies, and for tabulating ballots be allowed \$15 per hour. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Absentee Precinct personnel deemed necessary by the County Auditor for conducting Absentee Precincts be allowed \$15 per hour plus \$0.67/mile, or the established county rate, roundtrip. BE IT

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditing Board personnel deemed necessary by the County Auditor for conducting the Post-election Audit be allowed \$15 per hour plus \$0.67/mile, or the established county rate, roundtrip. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the payment of rent for polling places be \$50.00 per precinct, not to exceed \$100.00 per polling place. MOTION by Betty Otten and seconded by Jim Schmidt. Ayes; Joel Arends, Jim Schmidt, Tiffani Landeen, Betty Otten, Doug Putnam, Nays; None. Motion Passed.

MOTION by Betty Otten and seconded by Jim Schmidt to appoint the following as precinct polling places for 2026: Precinct 02-21 – Hudson Fire Hall, 310 4th St., Hudson; Precinct 06 – Canton Methodist Church, 621 E. 4th St., Canton; Precinct 08 – South Lincoln Rural Water, 28647 472nd Ave., Beresford; Precinct 11-14 – West Prairie Lutheran Church, 46788 282nd St., Lennox; Precinct 12 – Shalom Lutheran Church, 1000 Maple St., Harrisburg; Precinct 13-14 – New Day Church, 27365 472nd Ave, Harrisburg; Precinct 15 – Shalom Lutheran Church, 1000 Maple St., Harrisburg; Precinct 16 – Prairie View Event Hall, 27091 Kerslake Pl., Tea; Precinct 20 – Canton Methodist Church, 621 E. 4th St., Canton; Precinct 23-13 – Worthing Fire Station, 403 Louise Ave, Worthing; Precinct 24-01 – Tea City Hall, 600 E. 1st St., Tea; Precinct 24-02 – Tea City Hall, 600 E. 1st St., Tea; Precinct 24-03 – Tea City Hall, 600 E. 1st St., Tea; Precinct 25 – First English Lutheran Church, 120 E. 2nd Ave., Lennox; Precinct 26 – Beresford City Library, 115 S. 3rd St., Beresford; Precinct 27 – Old Liberty School/Heritage Center, 200 E Willow St, Harrisburg; Precinct 29 – Old Liberty School/Heritage Center, 200 E Willow St, Harrisburg; Precinct 30 – Canton Methodist Church, 621 E. 4th St., Canton; Sioux Falls 1-11 – First Evangelical Free Church, 2601 W. 69th St., Sioux Falls; Sioux Falls 1-12 – Trinity Reformed Church, 7301 S Louise Ave, Sioux Falls; Sioux Falls 1-13 – Central Church, 3100 W. Ralph Rogers Rd, Sioux Falls; Sioux Falls 1-14 – Central Church, 3100 W. Ralph Rogers Rd., Sioux Falls; Sioux Falls 1-15 – First Evangelical Free Church, 2601 W. 69th St., Sioux Falls; Sioux Falls 1-16 – Central Church 3100 W. Ralph Rogers Rd., Sioux Falls; Sioux Falls 1-18 – Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church, 2208 W. La Quinta St., Sioux Falls; Sioux Falls 1-20 – Living Word Free Lutheran Church, 7901 S. Meredith Ave, Sioux Falls; Sioux Falls 2-10 – Faith Baptist Church, 601 W. 57th St., Sioux Falls; Sioux Falls 2-11 – Faith Baptist Church, 601 W. 57th St., Sioux Falls; Sioux Falls 2-12 – Linwood Wesleyan Church, 1101 E. 57th St., Sioux Falls; Sioux Falls 2-13 – Linwood Wesleyan Church, 1101 E. 57th St., Sioux Falls; Sioux Falls 2-15 – Faith Baptist Church, 601 W. 57th St., Sioux Falls; Sioux Falls 2-16 – Spirit of Peace Church, 6509 S Cliff Ave, Sioux Falls; Sioux Falls 2-19 – Harvest Church, 6101 S Bahnson Ave, Sioux Falls. Ayes; Joel Arends, Jim Schmidt, Tiffani Landeen, Betty Otten, Doug Putnam, Nays; None. Motion Passed.

MOTION by Betty Otten and seconded by Jim Schmidt to appoint the location for Chattel Mortgage Sales to be at the main entrance of the Courthouse in Canton. Ayes; Joel Arends, Jim Schmidt, Tiffani Landeen, Betty Otten, Doug Putnam, Nays; None. Motion Passed.

MOTION by Betty Otten and seconded by Jim Schmidt to authorize the Auditor to schedule and advertise all necessary public hearings for Alcoholic Beverage Licenses, vacate highway/plat/right-of-way, Taxing Districts, Airport Hanger lease transfers, and Medical Marijuana Licenses as needed in the year 2026. Ayes; Joel Arends, Jim Schmidt, Tiffani Landeen, Betty Otten, Doug Putnam, Nays; None. Motion Passed.

MOTION by Betty Otten and seconded by Jim Schmidt Approve 2026 Commercial Garbage Hauler/Recycling Collection License for the following entity: JSP Sanitation DBA Roo's Sanitation. Ayes; Joel Arends, Jim Schmidt, Tiffani Landeen, Betty Otten, Doug Putnam, Nays; None. Motion Passed.

MOTION by Betty Otten and seconded by Jim Schmidt to approve and authorize the Highway Department to order the budgeted for 2026 Tennant T12 floor scrubber for the Highway shop utilizing GSA Contract # GS-07F-098CA to be purchased from Tennant Company in the amount of

\$25,305.14. Ayes; Joel Arends, Jim Schmidt, Tiffani Landeen, Betty Otten, Doug Putnam, Nays; None. Motion Passed.

MOTION by Betty Otten and seconded by Jim Schmidt to approve the hire of Babbi Martens, Deputy State's Attorney, in the State's Attorney's Office, effective 01/12/2026, 114/1 at \$47.27/hr. ** Babbi will be hired at the approved hourly rate for step 114/1. Upon successful completion of the bar exam, her compensation will transition to the corresponding full-time salaried rate @ \$3781.62 bi-weekly. Ayes; Joel Arends, Jim Schmidt, Tiffani Landeen, Betty Otten, Doug Putnam, Nays; None. Motion Passed.

MOTION by Betty Otten and seconded by Jim Schmidt to approve the hire of Nathan Damian, Winter Equipment Operator, in the Highway Department, effective 01/07/2026 at \$25.26/hr. Ayes; Joel Arends, Jim Schmidt, Tiffani Landeen, Betty Otten, Doug Putnam, Nays; None. Motion Passed.

MOTION by Betty Otten and seconded by Jim Schmidt to approve the Step Increase for Ryan Wiese, Senior Deputy State's Attorney, in the State's Attorney's Office, effective the first date of the biweekly pay period following 01/10/2026, 114/12 at \$4,961.81 bi-weekly. Ayes; Joel Arends, Jim Schmidt, Tiffani Landeen, Betty Otten, Doug Putnam, Nays; None. Motion Passed.

MOTION by Betty Otten and seconded by Jim Schmidt to approve the Step Increase for Gregri DeGrange, Deputy Sheriff, in the Sheriff's Office, effective the first date of the biweekly pay period following 01/11/2026, SO1/10 at \$39.79/hr. Ayes; Joel Arends, Jim Schmidt, Tiffani Landeen, Betty Otten, Doug Putnam, Nays; None. Motion Passed.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

COMMISSIONER BRIEFING: Paul Anderson, Commission Administrative Assistant, provided paperwork and details for appointing members to boards & committees. Public input was heard.

MOTION by Betty Otten and seconded by Jim Schmidt to appoint members to the following boards & committees: Airport Liaison Board Member: Jim Schmidt; Airport Liaison Board Member, Alternate: Tiffani Landeen; City of Sioux Falls Solid Waste Planning Board: Toby Brown; Emergency Management Communication System Member: Doug Putnam; Emergency Management Services, Commission: Jim Schmidt; Emergency Management Services, Coordinator: Harold Timmerman; Inter-Lakes Community Action, Inc.: Jim Schmidt; Inter-Lakes Community Action, Inc. Alternate: Betty Otten; JDC Juvenile Board: Tiffani Landeen; Lincoln County Weed Board: Doug Putnam; Planning and Zoning Board: Betty Otten; Planning and Zoning Board, Alternate: Jim Schmidt; School/Police Liaison Officer: Joel Arends; School/Police Liaison Officer, Alternate: Betty Otten; Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors: Tiffani Landeen; Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Alternates: Jim Schmidt; Sioux Metro Growth Alliance: Tiffani Landeen; Sioux Metro Growth Alliance, Alternate: Jim Schmidt; Sioux Valley Regional Railroad Authority: Tiffani Landeen; South Dakota Wildland Fire Division Designee: Harold Timmerman; Southeastern Council of Governments-Executive Board: Jim Schmidt; Southeastern Council of Governments-Executive Board, Alternate: Tiffani Landeen; Southeastern Council of Governments-Urbanized Development Board 1: Joel Arends; Southeastern Council of Governments-Urbanized Development Board 2: Betty Otten; Southeastern Council of Governments-Urbanized Development Board 3: Doug Putnam; Southeastern Council of Governments-Urbanized Development Board, Alternates: Toby Brown, Terry Fluit; Southeastern Mental Health Board of Directors: Joel Arends; Southeastern Mental Health Board of Directors, Alternate: Tiffani Landeen. Ayes; Joel Arends, Jim Schmidt, Tiffani Landeen, Betty Otten, Nays; Doug Putnam. Motion Passed.

COMMISSIONER BRIEFING: Kari Elling, Director of Human Resources, presented to the Board a few options in hopes that the Board will reconsider the COLA increase given to elected officials at the December 4th, 2025 meeting. Public input was heard.

MOTION by Betty Otten and seconded by Jim Schmidt to increase the COLA for elected officials from 2.5% to 5% for 2026. Ayes; Jim Schmidt, Tiffani Landeen, Betty Otten, Nays; Joel Arends, Doug Putnam. Motion Passed.

COMMISSIONER BRIEFING: Kari Elling, Director of Human Resources, gave a presentation to the Board regarding various options for Commissioners' salary increase for 2026. Public input was heard.

MOTION by Joel Arends and seconded by Doug Putnam to decrease the Commissioners' salaries by 5%. Ayes; Joel Arends, Doug Putnam, Nays; Jim Schmidt, Tiffani Landeen, Betty Otten. Motion Failed.

MOTION by Jim Schmidt to increase the Commissioners' salaries by 2.5%. Motion Failed for lack of a second.

MOTION by Betty Otten and seconded by Jim Schmidt to increase the Commissioners' salaries by 2.8%. Ayes; Jim Schmidt, Tiffani Landeen, Betty Otten, Nays; Joel Arends, Doug Putnam. Motion Passed.

COMMISSIONER BRIEFING: Paul Anderson, Commission Administrative Assistant, gave information to the Board regarding publication of the county's legal notices. For 2025, the county used Sioux Valley News, Tea Weekly and the Lennox Independent as its designated legal newspapers and also published in the Dakota Scout due to its placement in Sioux Falls. Public input was heard.

MOTION by Jim Schmidt and seconded by Betty Otten to designate Sioux Valley News, Tea Weekly and the Lennox Independent as legal newspapers per SDCL 7-18-3 and additional publish in the Dakota Scout. Ayes; Jim Schmidt, Tiffani Landeen, Betty Otten, Nays; Joel Arends, Doug Putnam. Motion Passed.

COMMISSIONER BRIEFING: Kari Elling, Director of Human Resources, asked the Board to consider closing county offices at 12:00PM on December 24, 2026 and giving employees four (4) hours of administrative leave for the holiday. No public input was heard.

MOTION by Betty Otten and seconded by Jim Schmidt to approve four (4) hours on 12/24/26 for Administrative Leave for Holiday. Ayes; Joel Arends, Jim Schmidt, Tiffani Landeen, Betty Otten, Nays; Doug Putnam. Motion Passed.

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION: Commissioner Doug Putnam provided information regarding the ongoing debate about the Old Courthouse Roof. Public input was heard.

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION: Commissioner Doug Putnam provided information about the Marv Skie/Lincoln County Airport and future development plans. Dave Myers, Airport Manager, was present to answer questions and provide more information. Public input was heard.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was heard.

COMMISSION OFFICE REPORT (INFORMATIONAL ONLY)

Paul Anderson, Commission Administrative Assistant, gave a report.

COMMISSIONER REPORT (INFORMATIONAL ONLY)

Commissioner reports were given.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION by Betty Otten and seconded by Jim Schmidt to enter into Executive Session at 9:54 a.m. For the following purposes: Consulting with legal counsel or reviewing communications from legal counsel about proposed or pending litigation or contractual matters. SDCL 1-25-2(3). Ayes; Joel Arends, Jim Schmidt, Tiffani Landeen, Betty Otten, Doug Putnam, Nays; None. Motion Passed.

MOTION by Jim Schmidt and seconded by Betty Otten to exit Executive Session at 10:38 a.m. Ayes; Joel Arends, Jim Schmidt, Tiffani Landeen, Betty Otten, Doug Putnam, Nays; None. Motion Passed.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Joel Arends and seconded by Betty Otten to adjourn at 10:39 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. on January 13, 2026. Ayes; Joel Arends, Jim Schmidt, Tiffani Landeen, Betty Otten, Doug Putnam, Nays; None. Motion Passed.

[MIN FOOT]