



# **Dakota County**

## **General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole**

### **Minutes**

---

**Tuesday, December 2, 2025**

**9:30 AM**

**Conference Room 3A, Administration  
Center, Hastings**

---

**(or following County Board)**

#### **1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Workman at 9:55 a.m.

<b>Present</b>	Commissioner Mike Slavik Commissioner Joe Atkins Commissioner Laurie Halverson Commissioner William Droste Commissioner Liz Workman Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland
<b>Absent</b>	Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg

Also in attendance were Heidi Welsch, County Manager; Tom Donely, First Assistant County Attorney; and Jeni Reynolds, Sr. Administrative Coordinator to the Board.

The recording of this meeting is available upon request.

#### **2. Audience**

Chair Workman noted that all public comments can be sent to  
CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us  
No comments were received for this agenda.

#### **3. Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)**

##### **3.1 Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)**

Motion: Laurie Halverson

Second: William Droste

Ayes: 6

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

On a motion by Commissioner Atkins, seconded by Commissioner Droste, the Consent agenda was approved as follows:

#### **4. County Administration - Approval of Minutes**

##### **4.1 Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on November 18, 2025**

Motion: Joe Atkins

Second: William Droste

Ayes: 6

**5. Central Operations**

**5.1 Report On Budget Amendments And Contracts**

Information only; no action required.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**6. Public Services and Revenue**

**6.1 Discussion On Public Art Blueprint Research And Community Dialog**

Principal Planner Lil Leatham and Public Services and Revenue Deputy Director Teresa Mitchell briefed this item and responded to questions.

Information only; no action requested.

**6.2 Approval Of Public Art Advisory Committee 2026 Work Plan**

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Laurie Halverson

Public Services and Revenue Deputy Director Teresa Mitchell briefed this item and responded to questions. Public Art Advisory Committee members Bob Erickson (District 6) and Al Tsai (Chair/At-large representative) were also present and shared information.

WHEREAS, County Policy states that advisory committees are required to consult annually with the County Board to seek concurrence regarding the topics they will study or which they advise the County Board; and

WHEREAS, the Public Art Advisory Committee has discussed and drafted potential directions for their efforts in 2026; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends that the Public Art Advisory Committee 2026 work plan to assist with public art blueprint planning, analyze public art inventory along greenways, host student art contest and collaborate and consult with departments on public art initiatives be approved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the Public Art Advisory Committee 2026 work plan.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 12/16/2025.

Ayes: 6

**6.3 Approval Of Library Advisory Committee 2026 Work Plan**

Motion: Laurie Halverson

Second: Mike Slavik

Library Director Jennifer Reichert Simpson briefed this item and responded to questions. Library Advisory Committee members Robin Cerio (Chair) and Kari Cahn (Vice-Chair) were also present and shared information.

WHEREAS, County policy states that advisory committees are required to consult annually with the County Board to seek concurrence regarding topics they will study or advise on, which are outlined in their annual work plan; and

WHEREAS, the Library Advisory Committee drafted potential direction for their efforts in 2026; and

WHEREAS, Library staff recommends that the Library Advisory Committee 2026 work plan about community input on library services, spaces, policies and awareness efforts be approved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the Library Advisory Committee 2026 work plan.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 12/16/2025.

Ayes: 6

## **7. County Board/County Administration**

### **7.1 Legislative Update**

Communications and Public Affairs Director Mary Beth Schubert briefed this item and responded to questions. Dan Dwight (Stinson Representative) was present via interactive technology but due to technical issues was unable to share information. The following information was sent to committee members and staff for the update:

The Senate Subcommittee on Federal Impacts received a SSIS demonstration on November 19th. Feedback from legislators been good. There is opportunity to build further engagement at the Capitol.

The November forecast will be released December 4, 2025. As usual, no definitive idea yet of what the forecast will look like, but if I had to guess the state will have a small deficit for the remainder of this biennium and a larger shortfall predicted for the next biennium. The February Forecast will provide a sharper picture for any required budget adjustments this session.

With the election as Saint Paul Mayor and subsequent resignation of Kaoly Her, current House Transportation Committee Co-Chair, Rep. Erin Koegel has been appointed as the new Co-Chair of the House Commerce Committee. Rep. Brad

Tabke has been appointed to replace Rep. Koegel as the Co-Chair of the House Transportation Committee. Rep. Tabke is the architect of last year's plan to take transportation funding from metro counties and redirect it to transit projects.

As we've discussed previously, Sen. Jim Carlson is retiring. Rep. Liz Reyer is running to replace him in the Senate, creating an opening for her current seat. Christos Jensen has announced his candidacy. I expect there to be others entering both the Senate and House races in this district. I expect there will be at least one or two additional open seats in Dakota County heading into the 2026 election.

A number of retirement announcements continue to stack up. Rep. Koegel announced her retirement a couple of weeks ago. Sen. Alice Mann from Bloomington announced her retirement yesterday. There will be additional retirements announced as we head into session.

There are two upcoming special elections in the House on January 27, 2026. The House should remain evenly divided for the 2026 session. The special elections are to replace Rep. Kaoly Her in Saint Paul and Rep. Amanda Hemmingsen-Jaeger in Woodbury.

Information only; no action requested.

## **8. Central Operations**

### **8.1 Update On 2026 Dakota County Housing Services**

Social Services Director Emily Schug and Social Services Deputy Director Madeline Kastler briefed this item and responded to questions.

Information only; no action requested.

### **8.2 Update On December Changes To 2026 County Manager's Recommended Budget**

Budget Office Supervisor Allie Regenscheid briefed this item and responded to questions.

Information only; no action requested.

## **9. County Manager/Deputy/Director's Report**

County Manager Heidi Welsch referenced the Director's Reports that were distributed to the committee.

## **10. Future Agenda Items**

There were no suggested topics for future meetings.

## **11. Adjournment**

**11.1** Adjournment

On a motion by Commissioner Atkins, seconded by Commissioner Hamann-Roland, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeni Reynolds  
Sr. Administrative Coordinator to the Board