



# Dakota County

## General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole

### Minutes

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Tuesday, March 3, 2026

9:30 AM

Conference Room 3A, Administration  
Center, Hastings

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(or following County Board)

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

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Workman at 10:40 a.m.

**Present**

- Commissioner Mike Slavik
- Commissioner Joe Atkins
- Commissioner Laurie Halverson
- Commissioner William Droste
- Commissioner Liz Workman
- Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg
- Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland

Commissioner Atkins attended the meeting remotely via interactive technology.

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

The audio 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](mailto: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: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: William Droste

Ayes: 7

#### CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Commissioner Hamann-Roland, seconded by Commissioner Halverson, the Consent agenda was approved as follows:

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

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**4.1** Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on February 17, 2026

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Laurie Halverson

Ayes: 7

**5. Central Operations**

**5.1** Approval Of Amended Bylaws For Dakota County Disability Advisory Council

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Laurie Halverson

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 24-038 (January 23, 2024), the Dakota County Board of Commissioners (Board) authorized the creation of the Dakota County Disability Advisory Council (DAC); and

WHEREAS, the DAC offers individuals, parents, families, businesses, and community service providers the opportunity to make a difference in how disability access and services are provided in their community; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 25-094 (January 31, 2025), the Board approved the bylaws for the DAC, which prescribed the rules by which the committee will conduct its business; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends revision of the membership structure to allow a flexible range of 15 to 25 members and remove the requirement for a specific number of seats tied to each designated category; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends shifting to a six-meeting-per-year minimum schedule; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends establishing a 50 percent plus one quorum, which reflects best practices for advisory bodies and ensures the Council can reliably conduct business despite vacancies and typical attendance variability.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby amends Resolution No. 24-038, to allow the Disability Advisory Council to meet every other month; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the proposed amendments to the bylaws for the Dakota County Disability Advisory Council.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 3/24/2026.

Ayes: 7

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**6. County Board/County Administration**

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**6.1** Legislative Update

Mary Beth Schubert, Communications and Public Affairs Director briefed this item. Dan Dwight, Stinson representative and Mike Erlandson, Downs representative were present via interactive technology and provided a state and federal legislative update. 2027 Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) projects were presented and the committee gave direction to proceed with the top three:

- I-35/County Highway 50 Interchange
- County State Aid Highway 46 Expansion and Pedestrian Safety Improvements
- North Creek Pedestrian Improvements

A draft letter of support was presented urging County Board support on legislation to repurpose the Target Field sales tax to raise the revenue necessary to keep HHS open and operating. This legislation would support Hennepin Healthcare System (HHS) and its flagship hospital Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC). The committee approved moving ahead with the letter. Parks Director Niki Geisler presented draft letters of support for the Cities of Lakeville and Farmington and their application(s) to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). The committee approved moving ahead with the letters. This item was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

Information only; no action requested.

**7. Central Operations**

**7.1** Discussion Of Inmate Healthcare Management In County Jail

Risk Management Coordinator Sarah Fenske and Sheriff Joe Leko briefed this item and responded to questions. An overview of the Dakota County inmate healthcare background was reviewed as well as purpose, risk, potential solutions and providers. This item was on the agenda for informational purposes only. The committee directed staff to move ahead with preparing request for proposals and explore what potential shared opportunities with other counties are available. This could potentially arise to a state/federal issue.

Information only; no action requested.

**8. Public Services and Revenue**

**8.1** Authorization To Establish Absentee Ballot Board

Motion: Laurie Halverson

Second: Mike Slavik

Elections Director Michelle Blue briefed this item and responded to questions.

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 203B.121 requires that any governing body with the responsibility to accept and reject ballots establish an absentee ballot board; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 204B.19 to 204B. 22, requires the Absentee Ballot Board membership must consist of a sufficient number of elections judges in equal number from each of the major political parties in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the major political parties of this state provide the Secretary of State's Office with a list of prospective election judges, which in turn is provided to each county; and

WHEREAS, the Ballot Board may also include Deputy County auditors; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County Elections Department is responsible for the administration of absentee voting for the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby rescinds Resolution No. 22-248 (June 21, 2022); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 203B.121 hereby establishes the Dakota County Absentee Ballot Board, with the responsibility to accept or reject absentee ballots cast by voters in Dakota County and absentee ballots cast pursuant to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizen Absentee Ballot Act (UOCAVA), effective for the 2026 State primary election and until this resolution is rescinded; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby directs the Director of Elections to use the election judge list received from the Office of the Secretary of State to appoint election judges to the County Absentee Ballot Board pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 203B.121; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Director of Elections to appoint trained deputy county auditors to serve on the County Absentee Ballot Board when one or more appointed election judges are unavailable and the Absentee Ballot Board requires additional members to fulfill its statutory obligations.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 3/24/2026.

Ayes: 7

**8.2** Schedule County Canvassing Board Meeting For 2026 Primary And General Elections And Selection Of Commissioners To Serve On Canvassing Board

Motion: Laurie Halverson

Second: Mike Slavik

Elections Director Michelle Blue briefed this item and responded to questions.

WHEREAS, the State Primary Election will be held Tuesday, August 11, 2026;  
and

WHEREAS, the State General Election will be held Tuesday, November 3,  
2026; and

WHEREAS, Minn Stat. § 204C.31 requires that the county convene a  
canvassing board to certify the results after each election; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 204C.31 requires the canvassing board to be made up  
of the county auditor, the court administrator of the district court in that county  
(or designee), the mayor of the county's most populous city (or designee), and  
two Board members (or designee); and

WHEREAS, Commissioners Droste, Hamann-Roland, and Workman are not  
candidates during 2026 elections and are eligible to serve on the 2026  
canvassing boards.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That Commissioners Workman and  
Hamann-Roland (or designees) serve on the Canvassing Board for the State  
Primary Election; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Commissioners Workman and Droste (or  
designees) serve on the Canvassing Board for the State General Election; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners  
hereby schedules the County Canvassing Board meeting for the State Primary  
Election on Friday, August 14, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. at the County Administration  
Center in Hastings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners  
hereby schedules the County Canvassing Board meeting for the State General  
Election on Tuesday, November 10, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. at the County  
Administration Center in Hastings.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of  
Commissioners on 3/24/2026.

Ayes: 7

**8.3** Authorization To Execute Joint Powers Agreement Between Dakota County And  
Cities And Townships In Dakota County To Conduct Postelection Review

Motion: Laurie Halverson

Second: Mary Hamann-Roland

Elections Director Michelle Blue briefed this item and responded to questions.

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WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 206.89 requires a postelection review of the state general election by a manual count of the ballots in precincts selected by lot; and

WHEREAS, authorizing the County Election Department to appoint and hire election judges who will conduct the postelection review across all selected precincts streamlines administration and ensures consistency; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 206.89 requires a postelection review of the state general election by a manual count of the ballots in precincts selected by lot; and

WHEREAS, authorizing the County Election Department to appoint and hire election judges who will conduct the postelection review across all selected precincts streamlines administration and ensures consistency; and

WHEREAS, using county-appointed election judges will help to maintain uniform standards, party balance, and efficiency during the review process; and

WHEREAS, jurisdictions shall be billed only if their precinct(s) are selected, and then billed actual cost of the hourly salary of election judges.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Assistant County Manager to execute joint powers agreements between cities and townships in Dakota County to conduct the postelection review.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 3/24/2026.

Ayes: 7

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

County Manager Heidi Welsch gave an update on the following:

- referenced the Division reports.
- briefed the committee on a request for additional full-time equivalents (FTE's) for Employment and Economic Development Department to assist in current Medical Assistance backlog and future H.R. 1 impacts (federal budget reconciliation law that significantly impacts Medicaid, SNAP and tax policies).

## **10. Future Agenda Items**

The following topic was brought forward for a future agenda:

- Review of what Dakota County is doing for elections/polling place safety and protections. This topic will be brought to a future County Board meeting.

## **11. Adjournment**

**11.1** Adjournment

On a motion by Commissioner Hamann-Roland, seconded by Commissioner Slavik, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

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