Steele County Commission Meeting
Aug. 4, 2026

The Steele County Commission meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. by Chairman Richard Strand. Commissioners Brandon Oxton, Perry Brown, and Brandon Krueger, were present. Auditor Jana Flaten, Ben Gates and Matt Satrom were also present. Commissioner Chris Grandalen attended via Zoom.

Commissioner Krueger moved to add courthouse update to the agenda. Commissioner Oxton seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Commissioner Krueger made a motion to approve the June minutes, seconded by Commissioner Oxton. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

No Park Board meeting

Matt Satrom- Seal coat happing end of Aug and culverts are ordered. He discussed that a road employee would like to donate sick time to another road crew that is having to care for family members. Matt made a form for this type of transfer. Commissioner Oxton made a motion to approve GK to BO. BO has used a lot of time of SL and would benefit for it. Second by Commissioner Brown. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Steele County right away ordinance and requirements - Satrom would like to get things updated as people have been asking to widen the right of way. He would like to get drainage permits and right way ordinance cleaned up and get things updated. Stock will review them when Satrom is done and bring them to the next meeting.

Guys have been busy with spot graveling, reshaping and cleaning bridges. Satrom 6-month elevation is scheduled. Krueger and Strand will get a date set with Ben Gates. Gates will help Satrom through the end of the year. Matt took the road crew over to and equipment training at Nextgen and looked at new equipment.

Gates gave an update on the courthouse restoration project. Bids will go out to bid next week and hoping to have bid awarded in Sept. Estimated cost for everything is 1.75 million. Lots of walk throughs and planning in the last month. There will be lots of electrical and mechanic items to update. There will be a list sent by Friday and Gates will send this out.

Gates discussed the sirens and talked with some of the cities to have dispatch be able to set the sirens off. County would own sirens and there is money for it to be done and to keep things updated. Gates is asking for the county to take over the siren in each town along with maintenance and get it updated when the grant is ready to apply too. Commissioner Brown asked to discuss it more and get the ok for all cities in the county before we start taking over. Will ask Bravera about insurance on them. Commissioner Krueger made a motion to have county take over siren maintenance and get them updated. Seconded by Commissioner Oxton. There was no further discussion, Grandalen, Krueger, Oxton Strand all voted aye, Brown – nay the motion carried.

Commissioner Brown made a motion was raised to .76 cents when the NDACO approves this millage. Seconded by Krueger.

No update on the stump/tree removal.

Brown discussed the issues on the first-floor internet office and the many problems the public health office is dealing with. Brown called Travis Palm (DNA Mobility) about this, and he came and resolve some things. After Palm was gone there have still been issues with the phones and internet still. Palm did tell Brown that there was no communication at the courthouse with him. Brown said he has text and email that showed this is not the case. Internet needs to be working as all work is done on the internet. There have been issues in the sheriff's office and treasures. There is no contract with him for him to be on site. Palm will be sending all ticket information to Brown and Flaten so he can track things a little better. This has been ongoing problem since last year and things just are not getting done. Things need to be resolved and get better service. He has a budget line and seems to use all of it each year. And Flaten thinks it would be good to have a contract for the IT.

Commissioner Oxton moved to approve the bills, and Commissioner Grandalen seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Commissioner Krueger moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Oxton. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 a.m.

Richard Strand- County Chairman
Jana Flaten -County Auditor

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