Steele County Commission Meeting
Sept. 1, 2026

Meeting started late due to Camera issues Camera was recording video was not working

The Steele County Commission meeting was called to order at 8:25 a.m. by Chairman Richard Strand. Commissioners Brandon Oxton, Perry Brown, Brandon Krueger, and Chris Grandalen were present. Auditor Jana Flaten, and Matt Satrom were also present.

Commissioner Oxton moved to add Nov Meeting Date, Water Board ARPA Funds to the agenda. Commissioner Krueger seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the Aug minutes as amended, seconded by Commissioner Grandalen. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Camera problems were resolved

Steele County Park Board was called to order at 8:28am

Steele County Commissioner reconvened at 8:51am

Jason Ness with Mead hunt came to discuss new plat to approve, Township will need to approve but commissioner can arrive upon township approval. Ness talked about the new plats. It was Game and Fish lease property. There is no changes in outside lines and few lines within the property were slightly adjust with the lessor agreement. The name of the chairman for county commissioner will need to be changed to reflect Strands name. Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the name change of all 2 plats with name change. Seconded by Commissioner Grandalen.

Matt Satrom – Road Superintendent discussed the current right away and permits utility crossing ditch cleaning/ drainage and approach permits. Satrom discussed each permit and ordinance and changes he would like to add to them. Charlie Stock looked at them along with Mike Basswight and a few changes made by them. Approach permits - in addition to changes on all culvert, who oversees the county one per section, new approaches would be covered by the applicant. All culverts need to meet the stream crossing standards. Also added a section about the finishing work on the project and if they don't the county can go in and complete it on the owner's expense. There are a few people waiting to do some approach work before harvest.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the approach permit as written, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Satrom will bring the drainage and crossing permits back next month with the changes. And check the waterboard to see if they have any recommendations. And work with the county ordinance with Stock.

Satrom discussed the need for a new pickup, Commissioner Strand and Oxton discussed the mechanical issues with the current pickup and believe that is time to get a new pickup. Satrom brought 3 pickups quotes from Finley Motors. Commissioner Grandalen made a motion to trade in current pickup for a ¾ ton gas pickup for $55,205. Commissioner Krueger seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Satrom wanted to clear up some misunderstanding about the right away down by a bin site near Hope. They are out of the right away and up to 60 feet from the center.

Went over Satrom 6 month review. And his proposal raise it to go up to Grade 18 Step 12 for a positive review. Commissioner Brown made a motion to Approve his 6-month pay increase. Seconded by Commissioner

The county shop was discussing the short plan to get it fixed and long-term fix. On the structure of it. The wall is bowing out and away from the rafters and they are now not connected. There are also a few rafters that are broken. Brendemuhl Brothers were called and they have braced the rafters and will secure the wall and rafters. This is just a temp fix and will need to start planning for a long-term fix. Mike with Interstate engineering will send plans for new shops built in the past few years that he has been involved with. So, we can get an estimate of how much it may cost if we go with a new building.

Mike with Interstate Engineering discussed the road line painting and all of that is included minus the city of Hope, Brown would check with them to see if they wanted the paint down. If not, the bill is ready to be sent to them as the paint was not included on the bill. For the seal coat/pain invoice the county will pay for it all and will get reimbursed by the City of Hope. Commissioner Grandalen made a motion to approve the seal quote invoice with reimbursement from City of Hope. Second, by Commissioner Krueger. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Steele County Water Board came to ask for money that we had through the ARPA Fund. They are working on Drain 1, which is a 1.4-million-dollar project and are short of $105,000. London with Moore Engineer had heard about counties Arpa funds and had discussed with Ben Gates that the funds could help pay the deference owed. London has gone over history for the drains and landowners are currently paying for maintenance on the drain but that is not enough money coming in to get things fixed. And with the month they will not need to bond money for it. London also gave updates on the current project going on and an update of the water board.

Commissioner discussed the advantages and disadvantages of giving the water board the money to help fund the drain. This was tabled until Sept 15th meeting.

Finley Fire new area/ absorption

of City of Sharon was discussed and will be working with Charlie Stock on the proper way to get this moving and to get it approved by commissioners. This will be discussed at the Oct meeting.

Flaten discussed adding special event liquor and beer license for a weekend event as currently there is one permit for the whole year. Flaten reached out to other auditors and presented a rough draft of the special event liquor and beer license. The Hope Bar is looking to get an event permit for the Colgate township. Flaten has received the ok from the township and was waiting to see about the special event paperwork. Before they pay the filing fee. Commissioner Agreed to approve a special event license.

Flaten discussed the new hire in her office and what is currently going on in her office. She added that she would like to get approval of the Canvassing board on Nov 16th, 2026, and naming Angie as the election inspector. Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the canvassing and election inspector. Seconded by Grandalen. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried

Flaten also brought up that the November County Commissioner's meeting is the same day as the General election. And she would like to move the meeting to Nov 10th, 2026. Commissioner agreed and the meeting has been moved.

Casey Olson Tax Director- discussed the building permit in Finley Township. Commissioner Oxton made a motion to approve the building permit seconded by Commissioner Grandalen. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried

Brown discussed the IT issues and are still having some issues on first floor of the courthouse. Server has been upgraded and backups working. Discussion on getting a contract signed for 2027. Commissioner would like DNA mobility to be here at the next regular commissioner meeting.

Commissioner briefly discussed data centers and would like to have Stock look into ordinance so that we could apply to the current ones in Steele County.

Commissioner went over bills. There was a reimbursement submitted by the extension office for reimbursement of millage for a 4-H leader to go out to Bismarck. Flaten asked other auditors to see if this is something other counties do as she has never reimbursed nonemployees for millage. The counties that replied said no they would not pay and said this would be the 4-H council responsibility to pay. Flaten had not talked with extension as it was dropped off in her mailbox. Commissioner didn't approve this voucher.

Commissioner Oxton made a motion to approval all bills minus the 4-H extension millage voucher. Seconded by Commissioner Grandalen. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Commissioner Grandalen made a motion to adjourn the meeting second by Commissioner Oxton.

Meeting adjourned at 11:04am.

Richard Strand- County Chairman

Jana Flaten -County Auditor

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