

**Call to Order**

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of December 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Aitkin Government Center with the following members present: Board Chair J. Mark Wedel, Commissioners Laurie Westerlund, Travis Leiviska, Bret Sample, and Michael Kearney. Also present were County Administrator David Minke and Administrative Assistant April Kellerman.

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion made by Commissioner Sample, seconded by Commissioner Kearney and carried 5-0 to approve the December 23, 2025 agenda, as amended with the addition of item 4.1 Facilities Updates, a correction to Resolution #20251223-148: 2026 Boat & Water Safety Agreement Budget, and a correction to December 16<sup>th</sup> Minutes.

There was no Citizens' Public Comment.

**Consent Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner Leiviska, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as follows and amended December 16, 2025 County Board Minutes.

- A) Correspondence File December 16, 2025 to December 22, 2025;
- B) Approve December 16, 2025 County Board Minutes;
- C) Approve Electronic Funds Transfers Report thru 12.15.25 with a total of \$1,089,269.79;
- D) Approve Aitkin County Extension Committee Reappointments of Sharon Dozler, District 1, and Becky Joerger, District 4, to three-year terms starting in January of 2026;
- E) Approve Auditor Vouchers – Auditor Warrants paid 12.12.25: General Fund \$408.46, Health & Human Services \$152,708.09 for a total of \$153,116.55;
- F) Adopt Resolution #20251223-139: LG220 Application for Exempt Permit – Up North Riders ATV Club;
- G) Approve 2026 Natural Resources Advisory Committee Appointments – Reappointment of Steve Hughes, Tom Veenker, and Frank Turnock to 4-year terms
- H) Adopt Resolution #20251223-140: Date and Time of 2026 Timber Auctions on May 11, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., August 12, 2026 at 2:00 p.m., and December 7, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.;
- I) Adopt Resolution 20251223-141: Fund Transfer to Forfeited Tax Sales Account in the amount of \$113,935.89;
- J) Approve Commissioner Vouchers – Commissioner Warrants paid 12.19.25: General Fund \$207,060.72, Reserves \$3,500.00, Road & Bridge \$61,993.06, Health & Human Services \$3,146.62, State \$7,420.00, Trust \$8,000.01, Forest Development \$7,067.29, Taxes & Penalties \$303.81, Long Lake Conservation Center \$17,524.60, Parks \$4,187.35 for a total of \$320,203.46;
- K) Approve 2026-2027 Health & Human Services Advisory Committee Reappointments of Sara Ehlke-Bejcek, Alissa Boser, and Andrew Jergensen;
- L) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – Manual Warrants paid 12.12.2025: General Fund \$1,200.44, State \$79,641.45, Long Lake Conservation Center \$53.15 for a total of \$80,895.04;
- M) Adopt Resolution #20251223-142: Award Contract No. 20262 for construction of CP 001-090-045 to Lot Pros Inc. in the amount of \$63,973.00;

- N) Approve Personnel Policy Update (Meal and Rest Breaks)
- O) Approve Personnel Policy Update (PTO Donation Policy)
- P) Approve Community Corrections Advisory Board membership roster for 2026.

### Regular Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Kearney and carried 5-0 to Adopt the following 2026 Budget Resolutions/2025 Year End Resolutions:

Resolution #20251223-143: Fund Transfer – 2026 Budget.

Resolution #20251223-144: Fund Transfer to Long Lake Conservation Center.

Resolution #20251223-145: Fund Transfer to Support Survey/GIS.

Resolution #20251223-146: To approve the 2026 property tax levy in the amount of \$18,981,045.

Resolution #20251223-147 adopting budgets for the following funds as shown: General \$19,028,237; Solid Wast \$416,958; Road and Bridge \$17,926,879; Health and Human Services \$8,773,610; Debt Service \$696,515; Parks \$757,510.

Resolution #20251223-148: 2026 Boat & Water Safety Agreement Budget.

Resolution #20251223-149: 2026 Unorganized Townships.

Resolution #20251223-150: 2025 Ditch Fund Budgets.

Resolution #20251223-151 adopting budgets for the following funds:

<u>Fund/Account</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
Law Library	\$33,000	\$33,000
TRUST	\$1,772,000	\$1,717,760
County Surveyor	\$483,520	\$483,520
Missing Heirs	\$0	\$0
MCIT	\$0	\$0
Collaborative Grant	\$80,562	\$79,562
Environmental Trust	\$25,000	\$25,000
LLCC	\$1,036,200	\$1,025,060

Resolution #20251223-152: County Ditch and County Development Transfers.

Resolution #20251223-153: Unorganized Road & Bridge Transfers.

Motion by Commissioner Sample, seconded by Commissioner Leiviska and carried 5-0 to Adopt Resolution #20251223-154: 2025 Reserve Funds.

Penny Harms – Veterans Services Officer presented update on Veterans Service Office.

Jim Bright – Facilities Coordinator presented updates for ongoing facility projects.

Draft Meeting Procedures and Rules of Business discussed.

2026 County Board Projects/Priorities discussed.

The Board discussed: Aquatic Invasive Species meeting concerns, Arrowhead Regional Development Committee, Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, Facilities, and Aitkin Airport.

### **Adjourn**

Motion by Commissioner Kearney, seconded by Commissioner Leiviska and carried 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 a.m. with the next regular meeting on Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at the Aitkin County Government Center.

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J. Mark Wedel, Board Chair  
Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

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David J. Minke, County Administrator  
Clerk to the County Board