

Call to Order

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met the 23rd 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 16th 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;

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- 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.

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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.

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

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