

Call to Order

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met the 27th day of January, 2026 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 by Commissioner Sample, seconded by Commissioner Kearney and carried 5-0 to approve the January 27, 2026 agenda, as amended with the addition of item 2S.1.

Citizens' Public Comment made by Randy Ott, Waste Management.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Sample, seconded by Commissioner Kearney and carried 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as follows.

- A) Correspondence File Acknowledge January 6, 2026 to January 26, 2026;
- B) Approve January 6, 2026 County Board Minutes;
- C) Adopt Resolution #20260127-005: LG220 Permit – Lawler Area Community Club;
- D) Adopt Resolution #20260127-006: Joel Seibert application to repurchase tax-forfeited property;
- E) Approve Auditor Vouchers – Auditor Warrants paid 01.09.2026: Road & Bridge \$37,432.89, Trust \$37,500.00, Forest Development \$61,296.60 for a total of \$136,229.49
- F) Approve Auditor Vouchers – Health & Human Services Auditor Warrants paid 01.09.2026: General Fund \$719.25, Health & Human Services \$670,497.54 for a total of \$671,216.79;
- G) Approve Auditor Vouchers – Sales/Use & Diesel Tax paid 01.12.2026: General Fund \$125.24, Road & Bridge \$2,265.34, Long Lake Conservation Center \$172.05, Parks \$4.50 for a total of \$2,570.13
- H) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – Elan paid 12.18.2025: General Fund \$6,647.14, Long Lake Conservation Center \$97.66, Road & Bridge \$59.00, Health & Human Services \$2,905.78 for a total of \$9,709.58;
- I) Adopt Resolution #20260127-007: LG230 Application to Conduct Off-sight Gambling – Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club
- J) Approve Commissioner Vouchers – Commissioner Warrants paid 01.16.2026: General Fund \$880,075.32, Road & Bridge \$398,058.25, Health & Human Services \$42,767.38, Debt Service \$584,007.51, State \$7,872.50, Trust \$43,118.83, Forest Development \$148,248.10, Long Lake Conservation Center \$42,945.07, Parks \$95,928.85, Coronavirus Relief Fund \$12,300.00 for a total of \$2,255,321.81;
- K) Information Only – Notice of intent to file for county treasurer position pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §375A.1205 by County Treasurer Grams.
- L) Approve Auditor Vouchers – Health & Human Services Auditor Warrants paid 01.16.2026: Health & Human Services \$54,080.72, Opioid Remediation Settlement \$175.00 for a total of \$54,255.72
- M) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – Manual Warrants paid 01.15.2026: General Fund \$6,828.34, State \$100,901.11, Long Lake Conservation Center \$87.70 for a total of \$107,817.15

- N) Information Only – Cash Balance Report – December 2025
- O) Adopt Resolution #20260127-008: Final payment for contract #20241(CSAH 5 bridge replacement north of Palisade) to S&R Reinforcing, Inc in the amount of \$13,592.29
- P) Adopt Resolution #20260127-009: Final payment for contract #20257 (for clearing and grubbing of CSAH 5 near Kimberly) to ACM, LLC in the amount of \$1,874.18
- Q) Approve Equipment purchase of a Trimble R980 from Frontier Precision in the amount of \$33,587.90
- R) Adopt Resolution #20260127-010: Local Bridge Replacement Program Grant Agreement Grant Terms and Conditions MnDOT Agreement No. 1060745 (SAP 001-602-015) with the amount of the grant to be \$752,154.65
- S) Appoint Jacquelyn Follmer, District 3, to the Health and Human Services Advisory Committee for a 2-year term beginning January 1, 2026
- S.1) Appoint Sarah Sadler, District 5, to the Health and Human Services Advisory Committee for a 2-year term beginning January 1, 2026
- T) Adopt Resolution #20260127-011: County On, Off and Sunday Sale Liquor License - Karrie L. Cordie dba Jackson's Hole LLC
- U) Approve Auditor Vouchers – Auditor Warrants – Settlements paid 01.23.2026: Townships/Cities/ARDC/Ambulance \$451,023.57

Regular Agenda

County Engineer John Welle and Environmental Services Director Andrew Carlstrom presented information on the DNR Public Water Inventory (PWI) Update. Engineer Welle noted that 0.32 miles of County Ditch 17 should not be included in the PWI as it is a county ditch. Motion by Commissioner Sample, seconded by Commissioner Leiviska and carried 5-0 to support removing the 0.32 miles of County Ditch 17 from the PWI. Update Comments.

Motion by Commissioner Sample, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried 5-0 to Adopt Resolution #20260127-012 setting the minimum 2027 annual salaries for the County Attorney (MS \$388.18) \$123,501.46, County Recorder (MS \$386.015) \$79,477.70, County Sheriff (MS \$387.20) \$119,102.79, County Treasurer (MS \$386.015) \$92,686.07

County Administrator David Minke requested the Board call three special meetings. After discussing, motion made by Commissioner Leiviska, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried 5-0 to schedule special meetings/Committee of the Whole meetings for February 17, 2026 at 1:00 p.m., April 21, 2026 at 1:00 p.m., and May 19, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. in the Aitkin County Government Center Training Room.

Minke updated commissioners on a January 12 meeting he had with Court Appointed Attorneys in Child Protection Cases under Minnesota Statutes §260C.163. The county pays \$75 per hour to these attorneys. Most Neighboring counties are paying \$125 per hour. Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Leiviska and carried 5-0 to set the rate at \$125 per hour effective January 1, 2026. The board requested Minke prepare an RFP for review.

Motion by Commissioner Leiviska, seconded by Commissioner Kearney and carried 5-0 to Approve the Agreement with Aitkin Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to allow the SWCD to administer the county aquatic invasive species program.

Environmental Services Director Andrew Carlstrom updated commissioners on the two proposals received for operating the Aitkin County recycling center and drop off sites. The Solid waste Advisory Committee reviewed the proposals from Waste Management (current vendor) and Garrison Disposal. The committee recommended Garrison disposal. Motion by Commissioner Leiviska, seconded by Commissioner Kearney and carried 5-0 to accept the proposal from Garrison Disposal and authorize a five-year contract with the first year amount of \$175,000.00 and subsequent years adjusted for inflation for operation of the Aitkin Recycling Center and unattended recycling drop-off sites.

Commissioner Committee Reports: Lakes & Pines, Aquatic Invasive Species, Meeting with Congressman Stauber, State of the Band Address, Aitkin County Association of Townships, Planning Commission, Joint Counties Natural Resources Board, H&HS Advisory, Aitkin County CARE Board, Arrowhead Counties Association, Aitkin County Water Planning Task Force, Solid Waste Advisory, Aitkin Economic Development Administration, Aitkin Airport.

Chair Wedel called a recess at 9:57 a.m.
The Board reconvened at 10:04 a.m.

Andrew Carlstrom – Environmental Services Director presented continuation of Public Hearing on Amendments to Shoreland Ordinance.

Continued public hearing opened at 10:08 a.m.
Citizen public comment made by Becky Sovde, Aitkin County resident.
Public hearing closed at 10:09 a.m.

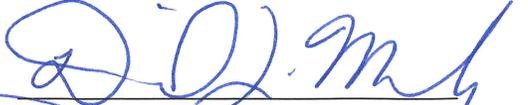
Andrew Carlstrom – Environmental Services Director presented the second reading of the Amendments to the Shoreland Ordinance.

Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Sample, seconded by Commissioner Kearney and carried 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 10:13 a.m. with the next regular meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 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