

**AITKIN COUNTY BOARD****March 10, 2026****Call to Order**

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met the 10<sup>th</sup> day of March, 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 Auditor Kathleen Ryan and Administrative Assistant April Kellerman.

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion made by Commissioner Sample, seconded by Commissioner Kearney and carried 5-0 to approve the March 10, 2026 agenda.

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.

- A) Correspondence File Acknowledge – February 24, 2026 to March 9, 2026;
- B) Approve February 24, 2026 County Board Minutes;
- C) Approve Auditor Vouchers – Auditor Warrants paid 02.20.26: Road & Bridge \$563,134.71;
- D) Approve Auditor Vouchers – Auditor Warrants paid 02.20.26: Health & Human Services \$10,021.87;
- E) Approve Auditor Vouchers – Auditor Warrants paid 02.24.26: Human Resources \$4,032.00;
- F) Approve Commissioner Vouchers – Commissioner Warrants paid 02.27.26: General Fund \$129,411.81, Reserves \$2,336.49, Road & Bridge \$69,894.81, Unorganized Townships \$2,522.88, Trust \$13,949.44, Forest Development \$37,001.21, Long Lake Conservation Center \$26,080.53, Parks \$6,510.29, Coronavirus Relief Fund \$3,218.90 for a total of \$290,926.36;
- G) Approve Affidavit for Duplicate of Lost Warrant - #114557 Arrowhead EMS Association, Inc. \$120.00;
- H) Adopt Resolution #20260310-025: LG220 Application for Exempt Permit – Sherwood Forest Owner Association 7-3-26;
- I) Adopt Resolution #20260310-026: LG220 Application for Exempt Permit – Sherwood Forest Owner Association 7-4-26;
- J) Adopt Resolution #20260310-027: LG220 Application for Exempt Permit – Sherwood Forest Owner Association 7-18-26;
- K) Adopt Resolution #20260310-028: LG220 Application for Exempt Permit – Sherwood Forest Owner Association 7-31-26;
- L) Adopt Resolution #20260310-029: LG220 Application for Exempt Permit – Sherwood Forest Owner Association 8-14-26;
- M) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – Manual Warrants paid 02.26.26: Health & Human Services \$264.62;
- N) Approve Auditor Vouchers – Auditor Warrants paid 02.27.26: Townships/Cities/ARDC/Ambulance \$90,778.00;
- O) Approve Auditor Vouchers – Auditor Warrants paid 02.27.26: General Fund \$18.39, Health & Human Services \$13,409.60 for a total of \$13,427.99;
- P) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – Elan paid 02.12.26: General Fund \$2,582.50, Trust

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\$660.00, Forest Development \$275.81, Long Lake Conservation Center \$535.06, Health & Human Services \$1,338.53 for a total of \$5,391.90;

Q) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – Manual Warrants 02.27.26: General Fund \$6,523.15;

R) Approve Affidavit for Duplicate of Lost Warrant – #94575 Duane Nygren \$81.00;

S) Adopt Resolution #20260310-030: Bulk Applications to Make Retail Sales of Cigarette & Other Tobacco Products;

T) Adopt Resolution #20260310-031: Keith Smith application to repurchase tax-forfeited property;

U) Adopt Resolution #20260310-032: Joint Powers Agreements between Aitkin County and the State of Minnesota for the use of systems and tools available over the State's criminal justice data communications network;

V) Approve Out-of-State Travel Authorization (Community Health Specialist);

W) Approve eRecording Vendor;

X) Approve Affidavit for Duplicate of Lost Warrant - #94581 Kristine Peterson \$18.00

## Regular Agenda

Dale Lueck, Aitkin-Carlton County Farm Bureau, presented information on agriculture in Aitkin County and requested the board approve a proclamation proclaiming Agriculture Week March 22-28, 2026. Motion by Commissioner Leiviska, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried 5-0 to Approve Proclamation for National Agriculture Week. The Proclamation was presented to Dale Lueck and members of the Aitkin Agriculture Community.

Motion by Commissioner Sample, seconded by Commissioner Leiviska and carried 5-0 to Approve the application for the Childcare Economic Development Grant and authorize the County Administrator and Economic Development Coordinator to manage the grant if awarded.

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Sample and carried 5-0 to Adopt Resolution #20260310-033 Allow County Auditor to Act in County Administrator's Absence:

**WHEREAS**, Aitkin County has appointed a County Administrator under Minnesota Statutes §375A.06; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Board desires to name someone to fulfill the duties of the County Administrator when the County Administrator is unavailable due to illness, injury, vacation, or similar other absence.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Aitkin County Auditor to fulfill the duties of the Aitkin County Administrator as needed during absences of the County Administrator.

Motion by Commissioner Sample, seconded by Commissioner Kearney and carried 4-0 (Commissioner Westerlund abstained from vote due to a potential conflict of interest) to approve Casper Construction, Inc. be awarded Contract 20263 in the amount of \$953,000 for the grading and aggregate base on 2 miles of Malmo Township roads and the chairperson of the Aitkin County Board and the Aitkin County Administrator are authorized and directed to enter into a contract on behalf of Aitkin County upon presentation of proper contract documents.

Motion by Commissioner Leiviska, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried 5-0 to Adopt Resolution #20260310-034 Transfer Municipal State-Aid Construction Funds:

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statute 162.08, Subd 4(d), provides that accumulated balances in excess of two years of municipal account apportionments may be spent on projects located outside of municipalities under 5000 population when approved solely by resolution of the county board.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Commissioner of Transportation transfer all Aitkin County Municipal Construction Funds in excess of two years' apportionment into the Aitkin County Regular Construction Account.

Motion by Commissioner Sample, seconded by Commissioner Kearney and carried 5-0 to Adopt Resolution #20260310-035 2025 Budget Reserve: **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the County Board of Commissioners, County of Aitkin, do hereby approve \$551,711 to be placed in reserve funds for the Road and Bridge fund for fiscal year end 2025.

Jim Bright – Facilities Coordinator provided updates on the Health & Human Services building remodel.

Motion by Commissioner Sample, seconded by Commissioner Kearney and carried 5-0 to Approve the purchase of three 2026 Chev Equinox from Atwater Chevrolet for a total of \$87,033.17, with the trade-in of two 2017 Chev Equinox and one 2016 Ford Escape.

Commissioners Travis Leiviska and Michael Kearney provided information from their trip to Washington, D.C., to attend the 2026 NACo Legislative Conference.

The Board discussed: AMC Legislative Conference, MN Rural Counties, Northern Counties Land Use Coordinating Board & Arrowhead Counties Association diner, East Central Regional Library Board, Aitkin County HRA, Natural Resources Advisory Committee, State Capital visit, Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, Mississippi Headwaters Board, Personnel Committee, Economic Development, Aitkin Airport, H&HS Advisory.

**Adjourn**

Motion by Commissioner Kearney, seconded by Commissioner Leiviska and carried 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 10:27 a.m. with the next regular meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 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