

**FEBRUARY 3, 2026**  
**BOARD MINUTES**

Pursuant to motion of adjournment, the Polk County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 8:00 o'clock a.m., February 3, 2026. Members present: Commissioner Paul Reese, Commissioner Warren Strandell, Commissioner Joan Lee, and Charles S. Whiting, County Administrator, Clerk of the Board. Others present: Annalee Jones, Deputy Clerk of the Board. Members absent: Commissioner Gary Willhite. District 5 seat vacant.

**AGENDA**

A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the February 3, 2026, agenda.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the February 3, 2026, consent items:

1. Approve the January 20, 2026, Board minutes.
2. Approve Auditor Warrants.
3. Approve payment of \$5,011.88 to Road Machinery & Supplies Co. for Serco Loader Maintenance at the Transfer Station.
4. Resolution 2026-09 Accepting Financial Donations on Behalf Polk County Coordinated Victim's Services.

**RESOLUTION (2026-09)**

**ACCEPTING FINANCIAL DONATIONS ON BEHALF OF POLK COUNTY**  
**COORDINATED VICTIM SERVICES**

The following resolution (2026-09) was offered by Commissioner Strandell:

WHEREAS, Trinity Lutheran Church WLECA, located in Crookston, Minnesota, has made a financial donation of \$250.00 to support the services and programming of Polk County Coordinated Victim Services;

WHEREAS, American Federal Bank, located in Crookston, Minnesota, has made a financial donation of \$400.00 to support the services and programming of Polk County Coordinated Victim Services;

WHEREAS, Polk County Coordinated Victim Services, which is part of the Polk County Attorney's Office, wishes to have the County Board formally accept these financial donations on behalf of Polk County Coordinated Victim Services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Board of Polk County, Minnesota that Polk County hereby accepts financial donations of \$250 from Trinity Lutheran Church WELCA and \$400 from American Federal Bank on behalf

of Polk County Coordinated Victim Services to be used in support of the services and programming provided by Polk County Coordinated Victim Services.

Commissioner Reese seconded the foregoing resolution, and it was declared adopted upon the following vote: YEAS: Commissioner Strandell, Commissioner Reese, Commissioner Lee. NAYS: None

### **COUNTY BOARD MEMBER ISSUE FORUM**

1. Judicial Ditch #60 Committee – need to have three members on this committee, currently only two members. Commissioners Lee and Reese are currently on the committee. Judicial Ditch #60 meeting for redeterminations will be at the Polk County Board meeting on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026. A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to appoint Commissioner Willhite to the Judicial Ditch #60 Committee.
2. Commissioner Reese brought forth that he attended the following meetings:
  - a. West Central Regional Water District board meeting
3. Commissioner Strandell brought forth that he attended the following meetings:
  - a. West Central Regional Water District Board meeting.
  - b. Finance Committee for the Grand Forks-East Grand Forks Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting.
  - c. Special Election next Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> 2026.
4. Commissioner Lee brought forth that she attended the following meetings:
  - a. Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) Board of Directors meeting. She is no longer the Regional Delegate, but is now the HHS Committee Director.
  - b. Inner-County Community Council Board Yearly Board Training
  - c. Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act Workforce meeting
  - d. AMC Longtime Service & Support Meeting
  - e. Alternative Productions meetings
  - f. Toward Zero Deaths meeting.
  - g. Polk, Norman, and Mahnommen Community Health Board meeting. Joan Lee was re-elected as Chair of the Board.
  - h. Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act Board Meeting.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

Jon Steiner, Environmental Services Administrator, came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department:

- 1. Update on 2024 Grant Projects**
- 2. MPCA Co-collected Organics & Compost Grant Change Order #4**

A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve Change Order #4 in the amount of \$28,065.62

- 3. Setting the 2026 Single Stream Recycling Tip Fee**

A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve 2026 tip fee for Single Stream Recyclables at \$150.00/ton for CY 2026.

### **HIGHWAY**

Richard Sanders, Polk County Engineer, came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department:

#### **1. Orders Initiating Redetermination of Benefits for CD 70 and Groups 2, 3, & 4.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the orders for POLK COUNTY DITCHES 10,11,14,15,28,62,63,64,67,72,74,78,79,85,100,106,111,129,130,132,139,140,143,144,158, & Judicial Ditch 73 and allow the Chair and Director of Property Records to sign each order.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the orders for POLK COUNTY DITCHES 1,2,7,24,25,26,27,30,31,32,33,34, Branch County Ditch 35, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41, 42, 50, 54, 56, 58, 66,99,125,126,134, & 147 and allow the Chair and Director of Property Records to sign each order.

A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner and Strandell adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the orders for POLK COUNTY DITCHES 23,59,81,84,109,113,121,136, & Judicial Ditch 4 and allow the Chair and Director of Property Records to sign each order.

Polk County Ditch 70 was missed on the original list for group 1. A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the orders for POLK COUNTY DITCH 70 and allow the Chair and Director of Property Records to sign each order.

#### **2. Certificate of Performance/Final Acceptance – Roundabout SP 060-070-020 (CSAH 21) SP 0611-30 (TH75)**

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the Certificate of Performance and the Certificate of Final Acceptance for CP 060-070-020 etc. and allow the County Engineer to sign the Certificate of Performance and the County Engineer and County Administrator to sign the Final Voucher.

#### **3. BUILD Grant Application Letter of Support – Red River of the North Bridge Replacement**

A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Reese and approved by unanimous vote of the Board to approve sending in a letter of support for the proposed BUILD Grant Application and allow the Chair of the Board to sign the letter.

#### **4. Approval to Fill Highway Department Vacancy – Maintenance II Position**

A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve filling a Highway Maintenance II vacancy and authorize HR to advertise for the positions.

#### **5. 2026 Road Restrictions Map & Weight Resolutions**

##### **a. Resolution 2026-07 Designating CSAH 19 from TH 75 to East County Line a Ten Ton County Highway Route**

**RESOLUTION (2026-07)**

**Designating CSAH 19 from TH 75 to East County Line a Ten Ton County Highway Route**

The following resolution (2025- 07) was offered by Commissioner Reese:

WHEREAS, The Board of County Commissioners of Polk County desire to designate an efficient transportation system of County Highways within Polk County.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of County Commissioners of Polk County that the following route be and hereby is designated a Ten Ton county Highway route: CSAH 19 from TH 75 to East County Line.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

Commissioner Strandell seconded the foregoing resolution, and it was declared adopted upon the following vote: YEAS: Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Reese, Commissioner Strandell  
NAYS: None

**b. Resolution 2026-08 Designating CSAH 8 from TH 2 to North County Line a Ten Ton County Highway Route**

**RESOLUTION (2026-08)**

**Designating CSAH 8 from TH 2 to North County Line a Ten Ton County Highway Route**

The following resolution (2025- 08) was offered by Commissioner Reese:

WHEREAS, The Board of County Commissioners of Polk County desire to designate an efficient transportation system of County Highways within Polk County.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of County Commissioners of Polk County that the following route be and hereby is designated a Ten Ton county Highway route: CSAH 8 from TH 2 to North County Line.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

Commissioner Strandell seconded the foregoing resolution, and it was declared adopted upon the following vote: YEAS: Commissioner Reese, Commissioner Strandell, Commissioner Lee  
NAYS: None

**c. Approve 2026 Polk County Road Restriction Map**

A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the 2026 Polk County Road Restriction Map as presented.

**FINANCE**

Stacy Grover, Finance Director, came before the Board with matters pertaining to her department:

**1. County Ditches Levy Request for 2026**

Discussion along with a handout pertaining to the Polk County Ditch Levy Request for 2026 was presented to the Board. A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the Ditch Levy requests for 2026 as presented. (Handout on file in the Administrator’s Office)

**2. Approval of 2026 Abdo Financial Services Work Agreement**

A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the 2026 Services Agreement with Abdo Financial Solutions.

**FACILITIES**

Richard Langlois, Facilities Director, came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department:

**1. Disposition of Surplus County Materials**

A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve disposal of the unused items as listed.

**ADMINISTRATION**

Chuck Whiting, Polk County Administrator, came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department:

**1. Resolution (2026-06) for Conditional Use Permit for Ryan Grinde for hooking up a New Septic System to a New Accessory Structure**

**RESOLUTION (2026 - 06)**

**Conditional Use Permit for Ryan Grinde  
for hooking a new septic system to a new accessory structure**

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Strandell:

WHEREAS, Polk County Zoning Ordinance, Section 18.2225 E allows for an accessory structure to be hooked to a septic system in the Shore Land District; and

WHEREAS, Ryan Grinde owns land on a backlot located at: 19746 Hideaway Cove Dr SE, Erskine, MN 56535 and described as: Lot Seventeen (17), Block One (1), Hideaway Cove First Addition to Polk County, MN, parcel #45.00558.00;

WHEREAS, Ryan Grinde’s plan meets all requirements of the Polk County Zoning Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, The Polk County Board of Commissioners finds:

1. The applicant owns a riparian and non-riparian lot on Union Lake. The total non-riparian lot (backlot) size is 150' x 482', approx. 68,820 square feet in size.
2. There is a dwelling on the front lot with a mound septic system that was constructed in 2015. There are currently no structures on the backlot parcel.
3. There is a wetland located on the backlot which the applicant had a wetland delineation done in the summer of 2025 to determine the exact boundary of this wetland complex.
4. The applicant is proposing to have a bathroom in this proposed shed and noted on the application that there will be no bedrooms, but rather a shop.
5. The septic system would be designed to handle the shop/shed and our office has not received the septic design for the septic system, but Planning & Zoning staff have evaluated that there is room on the site for a septic system to be installed and meet setbacks.
6. Existing impervious coverage with the planned shed would be at approximately 3% of the lot area. Stormwater rules state that 25% impervious or under is allowed on any parcel.
7. The shed is to have no habitable space as defined by the PCZO and is planned for storage use. This is addressed via condition placed on this request. The applicant will be required to complete and record a no guesthouse waiver before the building permit is issued.
8. No comments have been received on this request.
9. The proposed use is a conditional use expressly designated in the ordinance; and,
10. That the conditional use will not be injurious to the use and enjoyment of other property in the immediate vicinity for the purposes already permitted, nor substantially diminish and impair property values within the immediate vicinity.
11. That the establishment of the conditional use will not impede the normal and orderly development and improvement of surrounding vacant property for uses predominant in the area.
12. That adequate utilities, access roads, drainage and other necessary facilities have been or are being provided.
13. That adequate measures have been or will be taken to provide sufficient off-street parking and loading space to serve the proposed use.
14. That adequate measures have been or will be taken to prevent or control offensive odor,

fumes, dust, noise and vibration, so that none of these will constitute a nuisance, and to control lighted signs and other lights in such a manner that no disturbance to neighboring properties will result.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Polk County Board of Commissioners grants a conditional use permit to Ryan Grinde with the following conditions:

1. That the conditional use will not be injurious to the use and enjoyment of other property in the immediate vicinity for the purposes already permitted, nor substantially diminish and impair property values within the immediate vicinity.
2. That the establishment of the conditional use will not impede the normal and orderly development and improvement of surrounding vacant property for uses predominant in the area.
3. That adequate utilities, access roads, drainage and other necessary facilities have been or are being provided.
4. That adequate measures have been or will be taken to provide sufficient off-street parking and loading space to serve the proposed use.
5. That adequate measures have been or will be taken to prevent or control offensive odor, fumes, dust, noise and vibration, so that none of these will constitute a nuisance, and to control lighted signs and other lights in such a manner that no disturbance to neighboring properties will result.
6. That the use of the property shall at all times be in compliance with all federal, State of Minnesota, and County of Polk rules and regulations.
7. No guest house uses – applicant shall have furnished evidence of having recorded the signed no-guest house waiver with the property deed before the building permit is issued.
8. The applicant shall provide a septic design from a licensed septic professional for the planned septic system prior to issuance of the zoning permit.
9. No future development shall be allowed on the lot that would exceed the 25% impervious surface requirement. (This shall include sidewalks, patios, pavers, etc.)
10. The conditional use permit shall become void one year after it was granted unless used.

Commissioner Reese seconded the foregoing resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote. YEAS: Commissioner Strandell, Commissioner Reese, Commissioner Lee. NAYS: None.

**AUDITOR WARRANTS**

A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board that the following Auditor Warrants were approved:

**AUDITOR WARRANTS  
AUDITOR WARRANTS 01/05/2026**

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3     Payments less than   2000	45.00
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>45.00</b>

**AUDITOR WARRANTS 01/07/2026**

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Brandner Printing & Office Supplies	2,325.98
Crookston Water Department	3,183.25
Johnson Controls Fire Protection LP	3,590.85
Mn State Treasury	7,394.00
Mn State Treasury	6,732.00
Norman County Public Health	26,410.19
Pemberton Law PLLP	4,703.50
Polk Co Historical Society	10,000.00
US Bank Voyager Fleet Sys	4,935.44
Xcel Energy	2,633.80
27     Payments less than   2000	12,092.92
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>84,001.93</b>

**AUDITOR WARRANTS 01/07/2026**

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Clean Harbors Environmental Services Inc	8,015.05
L&M Road Services LLC	7,289.08
Lepier Oil Company Inc	2,888.58
Northdale Oil Inc	5,937.18
3     Payments less than   2000	242.57
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>24,372.46</b>

**AUDITOR WARRANTS 01/14/2026**

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Abdo LLP	27,000.00
Alternative Sanitation	2,138.94
AMP Robotics Corporation	6,487.49
AT&T Mobility	2,939.30
Caterpillar Financial Services	38,200.00
Crookston Driftbusters	9,048.06
Dustrol, Inc.	233,761.69
ENTERPRISE FM TRUST	15,738.16
Lenes Sand & Gravel Inc	102,122.36
Liberty Business Systems Inc	6,606.84
M & K Porta Potties	8,167.00
Marshall County Coop	3,757.50
Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Wtrshd Dist	5,518.00
Morris Electronics Inc	17,342.65
Morris Electronics Inc	7,193.55
One Stop Student Services	6,536.83
Red Lake Watershed District	5,850.50
Sand Hill River W S District	4,116.50
Sandhill Snowcruisers	23,116.14
Snow Wheel Systems Inc	7,580.00
Total Lawn Care & Landscaping	4,365.00
Widseth Smith Nolting & Assoc	3,369.60
Wilkens Inc/Lyle	52,778.75
28 Payments less than 2000	12,318.33
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>606,053.19</b>

**AUDITOR WARRANTS 01/21/2026**

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Abdo LLP	30,909.75
Chiller Systems Inc	7,550.00
CloudSAFE Group LLC	7,000.00
D & T Ventures, LLC	3,828.84
ENTERPRISE FM TRUST	71,686.04
ESRI	42,200.00
Fosston Municipal Utilities	62,137.24
Garden Valley Technologies	2,514.18
Great Plains Natural Gas Co	19,947.96
Hoffman, Philipp, & Martell, PLLC	45,215.00
HP INC	6,936.00
Joseph Donald Construction	5,830.00
Kinetic Leasing	34,406.89
LSQ Funding Group LC	4,692.85
Ottertail Power Co	34,309.13
Red Lake Electric Co-Operative	2,054.72
28 Payments less than 2000	15,381.80
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>396,600.40</b>

**AUDITOR WARRANTS 01/21/2026**

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Blue Cross Blue Shield of MN	870,066.61
Delta Dental of Minnesota	17,509.95
MN PEIP	25,666.51
VSP Insurance Co	2,356.89
3 Payments less than 2000	3,454.37
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>919,054.33</b>

**AUDITOR WARRANTS 01/23/2026**

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Belgium Township Treasurer	2,830.15
Climax City Treasurer	6,444.69
Columbia Township Treasurer	3,426.55
County Emergency Medical Serv.	13,450.93
Crookston Area Ambulance Inc	6,285.16
Crookston City	147,590.38
Crookston Township Treasurer	2,797.24
East Grand Forks City	99,508.11
Erskine City Clerk-Treasurer	7,137.28
Euclid Township Treasurer	2,764.07
Fertile City	9,357.24
First Care Medical Services	7,472.71
Fisher City	5,103.29
Fosston City	14,051.43
Garden Township Treasurer	5,889.81
Garfield Township Treasurer	4,741.90
Godfrey Township Treasurer	6,501.98
Grove Park Tilden Township	3,269.01
Hammond Township Treasurer	2,128.39
Helgeland Township Treasurer	4,673.65
Hubbard Township Treasurer	3,492.79
Huntsville Township Treasurer	8,888.67
King Township Treasurer	2,127.18
Liberty Township Treasurer	4,002.16
Maple Lake Imprvmt District	2,860.79
Mcintosh City	4,237.83
Mentor City	4,845.03
Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Wtrshd Dist	15,221.06
NW Regional Development Comm	2,713.52
NWMN HRA	8,054.95
Queen Township Treasurer	3,334.63
Red Lake Watershed District	43,057.75
Reis Township Treasurer	3,259.29
Rhinehart Township Treasurer	3,673.64
Sand Hill River W S District	28,250.79
Sandsville Township Treasurer	2,833.33
School District 2176 Treas	16,385.10
School District 2311 Treas	3,400.91
School District 2609 Treas	36,391.01
School District 2906 Treas	2,473.18
School District 592 Treas	24,522.80
School District 593 Treas	77,389.86

School District 595 Treas	81,074.68
School District 599 Treas	45,639.66
School District 600 Treas	13,522.90
School District 601 Treas	36,753.66
Sletten Township Treasurer	3,479.20
Sullivan Township Treasurer	4,420.48
Union Lake Sarah Improvement Dist	2,833.51
Vineland Township Treasurer	3,510.81
Winger City Clerk Treasurer	3,338.84
Winger Township Treasurer	3,739.54
Woodside Township Treasurer	8,532.88
43 Payments less than 2000	40,055.99
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>903,742.39</b>

### AUDITOR WARRANTS 01/28/2026

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Altru Health System	2,240.63
BELTRAMI COUNTY SOLID WASTE	3,644.64
CITY OF CROOKSTON	4,787.70
Crookston Water Department	4,077.10
DTN LLC	77,792.40
East Grand Forks City	2,240.63
Gordon Construction of Mahnommen Inc	21,117.29
Kronos SaaShr Inc	6,756.50
Lake Agassiz Regional Library	83,557.50
Mcintosh City	2,016.00
MnCCC Lockbox	210,475.80
MnCCC Lockbox	8,800.00
Orton Motor, Inc	6,744.51
Ottertail Power Co	5,602.13
SET Environmental, Inc	13,483.56
Thomson Reuters - West	2,357.88
Traill County	53,805.67
Tri County Community Corr	1,720,663.00
West Polk Soil & Water	17,554.00
18 Payments less than 2000	7,621.76
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>2,255,338.70</b>

### MANUAL WARRANTS 01/02/2026

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2 Payments less than 2000	1,150.00
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>1,150.00</b>

**MANUAL WARRANTS 01/20/2026**

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Minnesota Revenue	4,532.00
Mn Dept Of Rev Tax Division	101,741.03
4 Payments less than 2000	3,381.90
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>109,654.93</b>

**MANUAL WARRANTS 01/20/2026**

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
PERA	147,523.98
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>147,523.98</b>

**MANUAL WARRANTS 01/23/2026**

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
U.S. Bank Corporate Payment Systems	105,360.18
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>105,360.18</b>

**MANUAL WARRANTS 01/26/2026**

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Mn Dept Of Rev Tax Division	42,626.82
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>42,626.82</b>

**MANUAL WARRANTS 01/26/2026**

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
U S Bank	623,698.75
U S Bank	286,375.00
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>910,073.75</b>

**MANUAL WARRANTS 01/29/2026**

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
U S Bank	1,842,590.00
U S Bank	144,750.00
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>1,987,340.00</b>

**MANUAL WARRANTS 01/30/2026**

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Mn UI Fund	3,491.62
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>3,491.62</b>

With no further business, the Board adjourned to reconvene at 9:30 o'clock a.m., February 17, 2026.

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Joan Lee, Chair

ATTEST:

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Charles S. Whiting, County Administrator  
Clerk of the Board