

FEBRUARY 17, 2026
BOARD MINUTES

Pursuant to motion of adjournment, the Polk County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:30 o'clock a.m., February 17, 2026. Members present: Commissioner Paul Reese, Commissioner Warren Strandell, Commissioner Gary Willhite, Commissioner Joan Lee, Commissioner Pape and Charles S. Whiting, County Administrator, Clerk of the Board. Others present: Samuel Melbye, Deputy Clerk of the Board.

AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the February 17, 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 17, 2026, consent items:

1. Approve February 3, 2026, Board minutes.
2. Approve Commissioner Warrants: General Revenue Fund, \$39,711.19; Public Works Fund, \$146,881.26; Public Safety Fund, \$26,751.03; Public Health Fund, \$21,189.90; Opioid Settlement, \$39,902.17; Spec Assmnts (Ditch) Fund, \$98,380.26; Environmental Services Fund, \$19,458.25; Solid Waste, \$91,213.00; Landfill Fund, \$46,909.74; Per Diems, \$1,500.00 Meal Reimbursements (without over-night lodging), \$183.33; and Sign Audit List.
3. Approve payment to US Bank, St. Louis, MO, in the amount of \$66,363.57 for procurement card purchases.

COUNTY BOARD MEMBER ISSUE FORUM

1. Committee Assignments – A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the updated listing on committee assignments for the Board. (List available in Administrator's Office)
2. Commissioner Strandell brought forth that he attended the following meetings:
 - a. Tri-County Corrections meeting.
 - b. MnDOT District 2 Area Transportation Partnership meeting.
3. Commissioner Willhite brought forth that he attended the following meetings:
 - a. Polk County Planning Commission meeting.
 - b. Polk, Norman, and Mahnomen Community Health Board meeting.
 - c. Minnesota Rural Commissioners meeting. (online)
 - d. Tri-Valley Opportunity Council meeting. (online)
 - e. Extension Service Cow and Calf Days in Fosston, MN.
4. Commissioner Lee brought forth that she attended the following meetings:
 - a. Two Long Term Services and Support meetings.
 - b. Three Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act (MAAFPCWDA) meetings.
 - c. Canvassing of Special Election Results

- d. Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) Futures Committee meeting.
- 5. Commissioner Reese brought forth that he attended the following meetings:
 - a. Commissioner Reese requested to be on the 911 Planning Commission to replace Commissioner Strandell as delegate. A motion was made by Commissioner Willhite seconded by Commissioner Pape and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to appoint Commissioner Reese as delegate in place of Commissioner Strandell on the 911 Planning Commission. (List Available in the Administrator's Office)
 - b. Tri-Valley Opportunity Council meeting. (online)
 - c. Canvassing of Special Election Results

SHERIFF

James Tadman, Polk County Sheriff, came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department:

1. Monthly Sheriff's Report

The January 2026 Monthly Sheriff Reports were discussed and presented to the Board. (Reports on file in the Administrator's Office)

2. 2024 Emergency Management Performance Grant

A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve accepting and matching the 2024 Emergency Performance Grant in the amount \$19,995.00.

3. New K9 and K9 Handler

Training for a new K9 and K9 Handler will be March 16, 2026, - June 19, 2026.

PLANNING & ZONING

Jacob Snyder, Assistant Environmental Services Administrator, came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department:

1. Tax Forfeit Demolition Projects - 2026

Discussion was held on commercial forfeit properties in Erskine and McIntosh.

2. Joint Solid Waste Hauling Contract (2026 – 2028)

A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Pape and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the 2026-2028 hauling contract to Dukek Trucking, Inc.

3. 2026 Polk County Haulers License

A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Willhite and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the CY2026 Polk County Haulers License to Al's Disposal Inc. of Ada, MN.

4. 2026 Polk County Haulers License

A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the CY2026 Polk County Haulers License to Tipton Grease Services, Inc. of Box Elder, SD.

FINANCE

Annette Storm, Abdo Financial Services Manager, came before the Board with matters pertaining to the Finance Department:

1. Q4 Report

The Fourth Quarter Financial Report was presented to the Board. (Report on file in Administrator's Office)

2. Work Progress Update

Discussion was held regarding the progress that has been made within the Finance Department.

JOINT DITCH 60

A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Willhite and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to call a recess of the regular Board meeting and begin the Joint Ditch meeting at 11:08 am.

Samuel Melbye, Polk County Director of Property Records, called the Joint County Ditch 60 meeting to order. A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to nominate and elect Commissioner Lee as Chair of the Joint Ditch meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Remick seconded by Commissioner Willhite and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to nominate and elect Commissioner Moran as Vice Chair of the Joint Ditch meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Willhite and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to nominate and elect Sam Melbye as Secretary of the Joint Ditch meeting.

1. Joint Ditch 60 Redetermination Discussion

Polk County has already started the process to redetermine benefits on the county-owned ditches. Joint ditch 60 is included in the redetermination groups, requiring approval from the Joint Ditch Authority. The redetermination of ditch benefits for JD 60 was discussed with the Drainage Authority Board and Bryan Murphy, H2Over Viewers. The Drainage Authority requested to have an informational meeting and presentation from H2Over Viewers for the landowners in Red Lake County. A date for the informational meeting will be determined at a later date when it can be organized with H2Over Viewers and the Red Lake County Commissioners to determine the best date.

JOINT DITCH 64

Samuel Melbye, Polk County Director of Property Records, called the Joint County Ditch 64 meeting to order. A motion was made by Commissioner Gerardy seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to nominate and elect Commissioner Lee as Chair of the Joint Ditch meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Willhite and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to nominate and elect Commissioner Gerardy as Vice Chair of the Joint Ditch meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Gerardy and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to nominate and elect Sam Melbye as Secretary of the Joint Ditch meeting.

1. Joint Ditch 64 Redetermination Discussion

Polk County has already started the process to redetermine benefits on the county-owned ditches. Joint ditch 64 is included in the redetermination groups, requiring approval from the Joint Ditch Authority. The redetermination of ditch benefits for JD 64 was discussed with the Drainage Authority Board and Bryan Murphy, H2Over Viewers. The Drainage

Authority requested to have an informational meeting and presentation from H2Over Viewers for the landowners in Red Lake County. A date for the informational meeting will be determined at a later date when it can be organized with H2Over Viewers and the Red Lake County Commissioners to determine the best date.

JOINT DITCH 71

Samuel Melbye, Polk County Director of Property Records, called the Joint County Ditch 71 meeting to order. A motion was made by Commissioner Gerardy seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to nominate and elect Commissioner Lee as Chair of the Joint Ditch meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Gerardy seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to nominate and elect Commissioner Gerardy as Vice Chair of the Joint Ditch meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Gerardy seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to nominate and elect Sam Melbye as Secretary of the Joint Ditch meeting.

1. Joint Ditch 71 Redetermination Discussion

Polk County has already started the process to redetermine benefits on the county-owned ditches. Joint ditch 71 is included in the redetermination groups, requiring approval from the Joint Ditch Authority. The redetermination of ditch benefits for JD 71 was discussed with the Drainage Authority Board and Bryan Murphy, H2Over Viewers. The Drainage Authority requested to have an informational meeting and presentation from H2Over Viewers for the landowners in Red Lake County. A date for the informational meeting will be determined at a later date when it can be organized with H2Over Viewers and the Red Lake County Commissioners to determine the best date.

A motion was made by Commissioner Willhite seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to end the recess of the regular Board meeting and to resume the business of the regular Board meeting at 11:56 am.

HIGHWAY

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

1. MN/ND Border Bridge MOU Agreements

i. MOU with Grand Forks County, ND

A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the MOU Agreement with Grand Forks County, ND and allow the Polk County Board Chair to sign MOU Agreement.

ii. MOU with Traill County, ND

A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the MOU Agreement with Traill County, ND and allow the Polk County Board Chair to sign MOU Agreement.

2. Award Bids for Crackfilling and Equipment Rental

i. Award Contract for CP 126-014-1468 for Crackfilling

A motion was made by Commissioner Willhite seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to award the contract for CP 126-01-1468 to Lot Pros,

Inc. of Fergus Falls, MN in the amount of \$149,520.00 and have the Administrator and Board Chair sign the contracts.

ii. Award Equipment Rental Bids

A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Pape and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to award the Equipment Rental Bids to all.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Chuck Whiting, Polk County Administrator, on behalf of Greg Widseth, Polk County Attorney, came before the Board with matters pertaining to Greg's department:

1. Approval to Fill Vacancy – Assistant County Attorney

A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve filling the vacated Assistant County Attorney position.

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Levi Webster, MIS Director, came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department:

1. Renew Splunk Enterprises License Agreement

A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve renewal license agreement with Splunk Enterprise.

2. Update on Server and Storage Replacement Updated Cost

The number of servers listed on the previously presented quote was incorrect (52). The correct number of servers is fifty-four (54) and the updated cost is \$256,398.24.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Victoria Ramirez, Social Services Manager, on behalf of Karen Warmack, Social Services Director, came before the Board with matters pertaining to Ms. Warmack's department.

1. 2026 Alluma Inc. County Contract Approval

A motion was made by Commissioner Willhite seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the 2026 contract with Alluma in the amount not to exceed \$40,000.00 to provide mental health services and support.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Sarah Reese, Public Health Director, came before the Board with matters pertaining to her department:

1. Out of State Travel Request – Melissa Perreault

A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve out of state travel for Melissa Perreault to attend SOPHE Annual Conference in Portland, OR from April 22-24, 2026.

2. Out of State Travel Request – Angel Korynta

A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Pape and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve replacing former employee Jason Flores with Angel Korynta and approving Angel's out of state travel to attend NACCHO's Preparedness Summit at Baltimore, MD from April 12-16, 2026.

3. Deterra Drug Deactivation – Opioid Settlement Funds

A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve up to \$5,000.00 Opioid Settlement Funds be allocated for the purchase and distribution of Deterra Drug Deactivation pouches.

4. Polk County Opioid Settlement Fund – Approve Contract with Crookston Secondary High School

A motion was made by Commissioner Willhite seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve Polk County Opioid Settlement Fund contract with Crookston Secondary High School for \$40,000.00.

5. Polk County Opioid Settlement Fund – Approve Contract with KROX Radio

A motion was made by Commissioner Pape seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve Polk County Opioid Settlement Fund contract with KROX Radio for \$10,400.00.

6. Polk County Opioid Settlement Fund – Approve Contract with Recovery Partners, Inc. – HopeWorks Network

A motion was made by Commissioner Willhite seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve Polk County Opioid Settlement Fund contract with Recovery Partners, Inc. – HopeWorks Network for \$50,000.00.

7. Polk County Opioid Settlement Fund – Approve Contract with Recovery Partners, Inc. – Northwest MN Center for Hope

A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Pape and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve Polk County Opioid Settlement Fund contract with Recovery Partners, Inc. – Northwest MN Center for Hope for \$47,600.00

8. Vocal Fuel Consulting

A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Pape and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve Vocal Fuel Consulting proposal.

9. IGRA and Mantoux Tests

A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the updated TST fee structure and the addition of Quantiferon IGRA testing at the proposed rate.

FINANCE

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

1. Approval to Hire Assistant Finance Director

A motion was made by Commissioner Willhite seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the job description and filling an Assistant Finance Director position.

CITY OF LENGBY PROPERTY LINES

Paul Kahlbaugh, Mayor of Lengby, came before the Board with matters pertaining to the City of Lengby:

1. Property Lines in the City of Lengby – Follow up information on Columbia Township Monumentation Project

Discussion was held with the Board regarding property line issues in the City of Lengby and Columbia Township. Darrell Donnell, Polk County resident, presented items to the Board (on file in the Administrator's Office) regarding the property lines in Columbia Township.

ADMINISTRATION

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

1. Out of State Travel Authorization – NACo Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA

A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Pape and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve Chuck Whiting to attend the NACo Annual Conference in place of the ICMA Conference.

COMMISSIONER WARRANTS

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

**COMMISSIONER WARRANTS
DATED 02/20/2026
APPROVED 02/17/2026**

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Advanced Tire & Auto Service	7,031.45
Agassiz Septic & Roll Off Services	2,111.72
Alluma Inc	2,135.90
Applied Concepts Inc	13,852.50
Association of Mn Counties	31,624.00
AT-Scene LLC	9,514.00
Auto Value - Crookston	2,740.76
Brandner Printing & Office Supplies	2,970.97
Brost Chevrolet	3,822.40
Burggrafs Ace Hardware	2,495.37
Care & Share	2,608.98
Church & Dwight Co Inc	26,679.45
CNH Industrial Accounts	3,205.48
Code 4 Services Inc	46,966.35
Crookston Fuel Company	4,088.25
Dakota Wholesale Tire	4,199.16
Election Systems & Software Inc	5,391.50
Far-Moor Acoustics & Floors LLC	4,979.00
Galls LLC	7,687.42
GF-Bergstrom Electric Inc	3,167.25
H2Over Viewers LLC	101,440.35
Hennen Equipment Inc	2,886.19
In Progress	2,000.00
Jemco Incorporated	11,408.58
Kimball Midwest	2,038.31
Kurita America Inc	9,911.26
Level 5 Services	4,269.00
Little Falls Machine Inc	8,340.17
Marshall County Highway Dept	5,680.00
Metler-Toledo	4,211.00
Minnesota Sheriffs' Association	9,785.79
Motorola Solutions Connectivity Inc	2,660.00
MPCA	3,600.00
Napa Crookston Welding	2,353.11
Northdale Oil Inc	3,661.80
OK Tire Store - Fargo	4,953.64
POMPS Tire Service Inc	5,770.62
Premier Signs LLC	6,809.00
RJ Zavoral & Sons Inc	4,635.00
RTVision Inc	5,000.00
Schulz Carpeting	6,294.00
SeaChange Printing & Marketing	2,708.96

Stantec Consulting Services Inc	4,440.35
Stone's Mobile Radio Inc	15,750.00
Streicher's	3,657.00
Timeclock Plus LLC	2,184.00
Titan Machinery	22,545.20
Total Response	13,821.85
UpNorth Engineering LLC	4,647.50
Vanguard Appraisals Inc	3,720.00
Vestis	2,846.39
Widseth Smith Nolting & Assoc	8,900.07
Winger City	3,037.50
Ziegler Inc	10,584.16
151 Payments less than 2000	65,923.42
Final Total:	559,746.13

With no further business, the Board adjourned to reconvene at 8:00 o'clock a.m., March 3, 2026.

Joan Lee, Chair

ATTEST:

Charles S. Whiting, County Administrator
Clerk of the Board