

AGENDA
Codington County Board of Commissioners
Codington County Court House, 14 1st Ave SE, Watertown SD
Commission Chambers, Room #114
9:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 07, 2025

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Call for public comments. Public comment may be submitted in person or via telephone at 605-882-6248 or 605-882-6297
3. Conflict of interest items
4. Action to approve October 07, 2025, agenda
5. Action to approve September 23, 2025, minutes of the Board of Codington County Commissioners
6. Action to approve Resolution 2025-15 Codington County Five-Year Highway and Bridge Improvement Plan
7. Discussion with Kari Johnston, Human Service Agency Executive Director regarding Opioid Settlement funds
8. Monthly Reports
 - a. 4-H Educator
 - b. Veterans Service
9. Discussion/possible action to authorize Chair to sign MOU for shared roads between Codington County and City of Watertown
10. Discussion/possible action to approve purchase of snowplow for Highway Supt. pickup
11. Discussion/possible action to approve striping for Courthouse parking lot
12. Discussion/possible action to approve striping for Codington County Extension/Koch Complex parking lot
13. Action to approve computer equipment purchases for the Director of Equalization Office
14. Note mileage rate change for Elected Officials
15. Note Native American Day Codington County office closures
16. Action to approve abatement applications
17. Action to approve claims for payment
18. Action to approve automatic budget supplements
19. Action to approve personnel changes
20. Action to approve travel requests
21. Public Notices – a possible quorum of Commissioners could be in attendance at:
22. Old Business
23. New Business
24. Open
 - a. Public Comments
 - b. Commission Comments

25. Action to enter into Executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2

- (1) Discussion of personnel issues (SDCL 1-25-2(1))**
- (2) Consulting with legal counsel or reviewing communications from legal counsel about proposed or pending litigation or contractual matters (SDCL 1-25-2(3))**
- (3) Preparing for contract negotiations or negotiating with employees or employee representatives (SDCL 1-25-2(4))**
- (4) Discussion of pricing or marketing strategies when public disclosure may harm the competitive position of the county owned business (SDCL 1-25-2(5))**
- (5) Discussion of information pertaining to the protection of public or private property (SDCL 1-25-2(6))**

26. Action to adjourn upon completion of agenda items

Codington County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability in employment or the provision of service.

**Official Proceedings
County of Codington
Codington County Court House
14 1st Ave SE
Watertown, SD 57201**

October 07, 2025

The Codington County Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 07, 2025, at the Codington County Court House. Commission members present were Lee Gabel, Tyler McElhany, Myron Johnson, Randall Schweer and Troy VanDusen; Chair VanDusen, presiding. The pledge of allegiance was led by Executive Director HSA, Kari Johnston.

CALLS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST ITEMS

Chair VanDusen called for public comments to be taken up during the open portion of the meeting; none were offered. There were no conflict-of-interest items to note.

AGENDA APPROVED

Motion by Gabel, second by Schweer, to approve the agenda for October 07, 2025, as posted; all voted aye; motion carried.

MINUTES APPROVED

Motion by Johnson, second by McElhany, to approve the minutes of September 23, 2025; all voted aye; motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2025-15 FIVE-YEAR HIGHWAY AND BRIDGE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Motion by Gabel, second by McElhany, to approve Resolution 2025-15 and to authorize the Chair to sign the certification form for the Five-Year Codington County Highway and Bridge Improvement Plan; all voted aye; motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2025-15

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CODINGTON COUNTY FIVE-YEAR HIGHWAY AND
BRIDGE IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Department of Transportation Local Bridge and Improvement Grant Fund requires that in order to be eligible to apply for Bridge Improvement Grant funds, Counties are required to develop a five-year Highway and Bridge Improvement Plan, hereinafter referred to as Plan; and

WHEREAS, Codington County has utilized the South Dakota Department of Transportation, County Staff, the First District Association of Local Governments, Townships, and the general public in developing the various components of the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Plan includes maps and lists identifying an inventory of highways and bridges, project needs, and revenue sources; and

WHEREAS, Codington County held a public meeting on September 16th, 2025, to solicit input into the Plan, and the citizens who attended expressed an interest in the Plan; and

Codington County, 07 October 2025

WHEREAS, the County will be able to use the Plan as a tool to budget for transportation enhancements and better coordinate transportation issues with other entities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CODINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS THAT THE CODINGTON COUNTY FIVE-YEAR HIGHWAY AND BRIDGE IMPROVEMENT PLAN IS HEREBY ADOPTED AND IS RECOGNIZED AS THE HIGHWAY AND BRIDGE IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR CODINGTON COUNTY.

Dated at Codington, South Dakota this 7th day of October 2025.

Troy VanDusen, Commission Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Hanten, Auditor

OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

Kari Johnston, Executive Director for the Human Service Agency, met with the Board to request a formal request of Opioid Settlement funds in the amount of \$35,000.00 to be allocated to the Human Service Agency to support their MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment) Program. Due to this item being for discussion only the Board will put it on the agenda in the future for further discussion and possible action.

MONTHLY REPORTS

4-H Educator, Jodi Lochrer, updated the Board, the new 4-H year began on October 1, 2025, and youth need to re-enroll and new youth can now enroll; Cloverbuds are ages 5-7 and 4-H members are 8-18, call the Extension Office if interested in joining 4-H; It's National 4-H Week and Codington County youth are beyond ready, ready to lead and ready for life; It's treat Tuesday and Jodi brought treats for the Board; 4-H Award applications are due to the Extension Office by Friday, October 10th with the 4-H Recognition Event on Sunday, October 26th; Cloverbuds will begin in November 2025. **Veterans Service Officer, Jay Roberts**, updated the Board: metrics for the month, 162 open claims (working claims) 74 pending action from VA, 263 completed (YTD), Hamlin 20 open (working claims) 11 pending from VA, 12 completed (YTD), currently working for 14 veterans and have completed 19 claims for veterans from outside our county; \$14,750 for the month September 2025, increase in monthly compensation for veterans or their dependents YTD monthly increase \$125,463; \$91,564 for the month of September 2025, retro-payment to bring a claim current to monthly compensation YTD retro-payments \$1,199,066; 5 veteran DAV transports in September, 2 - currently scheduled for October, currently 5 drivers; CURRENT – Attended the State Training Conference, there are now different processes to submit claims; still in need of volunteer drivers, a couple people stopped in with interest; Codington County Veterans Council submitted their nominations for the Veteran of the Year, voting for the 2025 VOY will take place at the meeting tonight, the announcement and presentation will be at the Veterans Day Program in November; Veterans Benefits Administration and the impacts of the Government Shutdown, lapse in appropriations; Veterans Benefits Administration public contact team, some Veterans Readiness and Employment operations, and exterior-facing operations, Outreach, will be impacted by a Government Shutdown effective October 3rd, 2025, claims processing operations will continue; however, VBA cannot address external inquiries regarding VBA related matters, such as VSO claim inquiries and congressional inquiries, at the local level; the 1-800-827-1000 customer service number will remain operational for claims related inquiries; the Regional Office Public Contact Units and Veteran Readiness and

Employment offices will be closed to the public, effective October 3rd, 2025, if a budget or continuing resolution has not been determined before that date; FUTURE – meeting with the commanders on Oct. 7, 2025 at the VFW; radio shows KWAT – 8:30 and KXLG – 9:05 on Oct. 9th, 2025; Eric is in contact with personnel from Sioux Falls to complete his security clearance, fingerprints and get issued his PIV I.D. card from the VA to allow him access to the VA's web portal program called VBMS; Veterans/Military Appreciation Event will be held on November 8th, 2025 from 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at Joy Ranch, 16633 448th Ave, Florence, SD with a free burger bar lunch; Redleg Retiree Summit will be held on Nov. 8th, 2025 from 1:00-4:30 p.m. at the Watertown Readiness Center.

MOU FOR SHARED ROADS BETWEEN CODINGTON COUNTY AND CITY OF WATERTOWN

State's Attorney, Alison Bakken appeared before the Board and asked for this item to be discussed in Executive Session due to this being the 1st time for an MOU between Codington County and City of Watertown for shared roads, have some concerns about the MOU and would like to discuss these with City Attorney, Lisa Carrico; no action was taken and will be discussed in Executive Session.

SNOWPLOW FOR HIGHWAY SUPT. PICKUP

Motion by Johnson, second by Gabel, to purchase a snowplow for the Highway Supt. pickup from Steve's World in the amount of \$11,291.69, Highway Supt., Randy Falvey, provided the Board with a quote from Steve's World for the snowplow and his recommendation to purchase due to the rising costs; all voted aye; motion carried.

STRIPING COURTHOUSE PARKING LOT

Motion by McElhany, second by Johnson, to approve quote for striping of the Courthouse parking lot, from T & J Parking Lot Maintenance, in the amount of \$900.92, Facility Manager, Steve Molengraaf, presented the Board with two quotes, from T & J Parking Lot Maintenance, in the amount of \$900.92 and Prairie Painting, in the amount of \$3,202.80, Facility Manager, Steve Molengraaf recommended approving the quote of \$900.92 from T & J Parking Lot Maintenance; all voted aye; motion carried.

STRIPING CODINGTON COUNTY EXTENSION/KOCH COMPLEX PARKING LOT

Motion by Gabel, second by Schweer, to approve quote for striping of the Codington County Extension/Koch Complex parking lot, from T & J Parking Lot Maintenance, in the amount of \$6,808.39, Facility Manager, Steve Molengraaf, presented the Board with two quotes, from T & J Parking Lot Maintenance, in the amount of \$6,808.39 and Prairie Painting, in the amount of \$13,056.00, Facility Manager, Steve Molengraaf recommended approving the quote of \$6,808.39 from T & J Parking Lot Maintenance; all voted aye; motion carried.

COMPUTER PURCHASE FOR DIRECTOR OF EQUALIZATION OFFICE

Motion by Johnson, second by Gabel, to approve purchase of two HP EliteOne 870 G9 All-in-One Computers for the Director of Equalization Office, in the amount of \$4,257.70, from Twotrees Technologies, as requested by Director of Equalization, Shawna Constant, all voted aye; motion carried.

NOTE MILEAGE RATE CHANGE FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Note that the mileage rate change for elected officials will now be \$0.70 per mile, effective October 1, 2025.

NOTE NATIVE AMERICAN DAY CODINGTON COUNTY OFFICE CLOSURES

Note that the Court House and all County offices will be closed on Monday, October 13th, 2025, in observance of Native American Day.

SEPTEMBER SALARY CLAIMS

Motion by McElhany, second by Schweer, to approve for payment the following September salary claims; all voted aye; motion carried.

Commissioners: 12,182.76 total salaries. Auditor: 22,616.42 total salaries. Co. Treasurer: 40,643.68 total salaries. States Attorney: 57,971.60 total salaries. Gov. Buildings: 21,607.61 total salaries. Dir. Equalization: 59,736.06 total salaries. Reg. of Deeds: 32,059.11 total salaries. Veterans Service: 22,919.06 total salaries. Sheriff: 138,281.35 total salaries. Jail: 163,293.67 total salaries. Coroner: 2,583.60 total salaries. Welfare: 34,950.93 total salaries. CO. Nurse: 6,206.29 total salaries. Park: 10,236.59 total salaries. Ag. Bldg.: 12,745.24 total salaries. Co. Extension: 13,973.42 total salaries. Weed: 10,337.70 total salaries. Planning Board: 661.09 total salaries. Road & Bridge: 114,362.07 total salaries. Emergency Management: 16,146.79 total salaries. Crime Victim: 8,870.95 total salaries. W.I.C.: 5,683.64 total salaries. 24/7: 7,568.94 total salaries Total 815,638.57

Breakdown of withholding amounts which are included in the above:

S.D. Retirement 77,367.42; VSP 934.36 eye insurance; S.D. Supplemental Retire. 5,275.00 suppl. retire.; Sanford 102,958.10; Reliance Standard Life Insurance 1204.17 life ins.; Delta Dental 7,689.60 ins.; Codington County 8,025.13 employee HSA contribution; AFSCME Council 65 364.42 employee union dues; AFLAC 4,048.68 ins.; VSP 404.94 eye insurance; John Hancock 4,480.00 suppl. retire.; AFLAC 1,723.58 ins.; Sioux Valley Credit Union 22,212.75 employee payments; John Hancock Roth 400.00 suppl. retire.; SDRS Supplemental Retirement 4,670.00 Roth retirement; Teamsters Local Union 120 506.00 employee union due; Codington County Deputy Sheriff's Association 150.00 employee union dues; ReliaBank Dakota 54,500.18 federal withholding; ReliaBank Dakota 74,802.34 social security; ReliaBank Dakota 17,494.20 Medicare; United Way 60.00 employee contributions; Health Equity 8,025.13 employee HSA contribution.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Motion by Gabel, second by McElhany, to approve the following personnel changes: Jennifer Kirschenmann, Administrative Support, Treasurer's Office, effective 10-08-2025, Grade 20 step 1/\$20.31 hr./\$3,533.94 month; Brady Sandquist, FT Corrections Officer, Detention Center, effective 10-01-2025, Grade 35 step 1/\$25.80 hr./\$4,489.20 month; all voted aye; motion carried.

TRAVEL REQUEST

Motion by Schweer, second by Johnson, to approve the following travel request; Community Service Office staff to attend summit; all voted aye; motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Gabel updated the Board on the construction progress for the new jail, working on soil testing to set footings and rebar is on site.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Johnson, second by McElhany, to enter into executive session, per SDCL 1-25-2 (3) Preparing for contract negotiations or negotiating with employees or employee representatives (SDCL 1-25-2(4)) at 9:39 a.m.; all voted aye; motion carried. The Board returned to regular session at 10:52 a.m., no action was taken. Human Resource Representative, Natalie Remund, State's Attorney, Alison Bakken and Highway Supt., Randy Falvey, were present for executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon conclusion of all business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Schweer, second by Johnson, to adjourn at 10:53 a.m., all voted aye; motion carried.

ATTEST:

Brenda Hanten

Codington County Auditor

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