

**AITKIN COUNTY BOARD****April 28, 2026****Call to Order**

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met the 28<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Aitkin County Government Center with the following members present: Board Chair J. Mark Wedel, Commissioners Laurie Westerlund, and Bret Sample. Commissioner Michael Kearney was present via interactive technology due to an out-of-town commitment and was seen and heard in the meeting room. Also present were County Administrator David Minke and Administrative Assistant April Kellerman.

Commissioner Travis Leiviska was absent.

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion made by Commissioner Kearney, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and upon a roll call vote carried 4-0 to approve the April 28, 2026 agenda, as amended by removing item 2J and adding item 2.1.

There was no Citizens' Public Comment.

**Consent Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Wedel and upon a roll call vote carried 4-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as follows.

- A) Correspondence File April 14, 2026 to April 27, 2026; 2025 Human Services Fiscal Reporting Letter.
- B) Approve April 14, 2026 County Board Minutes;
- C) Information Only – Cash Balance Report – March 2026;
- D) Approve Auditor Vouchers – Auditor Warrants paid 04.10.26: General Fund \$779.25, Health & Human Services \$67,056.57, Opioid Remediation Settlement \$2,275.00 for a total of \$70,110.82;
- E) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – Manual Warrants paid 04.14.26: General Fund \$4,817.85, State \$46,523.33, Long Lake Conservation Center \$266.37 for a total of \$51,607.55;
- F) Approve Affidavits for Duplicate of Lost Warrants – MN Dept of Revenue #92598 - \$28.50, #94733 - \$54.53, #95118 - \$4.24, #96097 - \$2,147.44;
- G) Adopt Resolution #20260428-048: App for Temporary On Sale Liquor License – Jacobson Community Center 05.2026;
- H) Adopt Resolution #20260428-049: App for Temporary On Sale Liquor License – Jacobson Community Center 07.2026;
- I) Approve Auditor Vouchers – Auditor Warrants paid 04.17.26: Health & Human Services \$39,433.28;
- K) Adopt Resolution #20260428-050: Application for Grant-in-Aid Funds for Snowmobile and Ski Trails;
- L) Approve Vehicle Purchase: 2018 Ford Escape SE from Aitkin Motor Company for \$10,900.00;
- M) Adopt Resolution #20260428-051: Search & Rescue Donation – Williams Township;
- N) Adopt Resolution #20260428-052: Search & Rescue Donation – Glen Township;
- O) Adopt Resolution #20260428-053: Search & Rescue Donation – Haugen Township;
- P) Adopt Resolution #20260428-054: Search & Rescue Donation – Workman Township;
- Q) Approve Commissioner Vouchers – Commissioner Warrants paid 04.24.26: Road & Bridge \$37,107.60;

- R) Approve KAMCO Inc. be awarded Contract 20266 in the amount of \$180,612.96 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;
- S) Approve Equipment Purchase of John Deere 5115M from Midwest Machinery for \$65,000;
- T) Adopt Resolution #20260428-055: DNR Lease No.LMIS010809;
- U) Adopt Resolution #20260428-056: Approving State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreements with the County of Aitkin on behalf of its County Attorney and County Sheriff;
- V) Approve Auditor Vouchers – Auditor Warrants paid 04.24.26: General Fund \$352,530.48, Reserves Fund \$2,003.70, Road & Bridge \$31,179.00, Health & Human Services \$5,969.82, State \$10,535.50, Trust \$12,432.39, Forest Development \$256.82, Taxes & Penalties \$1,677.17, Long Lake Conservation Center \$23,647.70, Parks \$29,266.85 for a total of \$469,499.40;
- W) Amend Adopted Resolution #202603424-042 Job Creation Fund – APT;
- X) Approve Safety Policy Update;
- Y) Approve Committee of the Whole Minutes – April 21, 2026;
- Z) Approve Auditor Vouchers – Auditor Warrants paid 04.24.26: Health & Human Service \$43,211.26, Opioid Remediation Settlement \$830.48 for a total of \$44,041.74.

Motion made by Commissioner Kearney, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and upon a roll call vote carried 3-0 (Commissioner Sample abstained) to Adopt Resolution #20260428-057: LG220 App for Exempt Permit – Forgotten Heros Ranges and Retreat.

## **Regular Agenda**

Dennis Thompson – Land Commissioner provided a Summary of 2025 tax forfeited land Apportionment.

Motion by Commissioner Sample, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and upon roll call vote carried 4-0 to Approve Aitkin County Engineer to enter into Agreement BF-20524069 a graded crossing and construction agreement with BNSF railway Company.

Motion by Commissioner Sample, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and upon roll call vote carried 4-0 to Adopt Resolution #20260428-058: EXHIBIT E LOCAL AGENCY RESOLUTION authorizing an agreement with BNSF Railway Company and the State of Minnesota for the installation and maintenance of railroad crossing signals at CSAH 5.

Motion by Commissioner Kearney, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund upon roll call vote carried 4-0 to Approve the Minnesota Cyber Response Team (MNCRT) Agreements with the Association of Minnesota Counties and allow IT Manager Chris Sutch or other approved IT Staff to volunteer as MNCRT responders.

Andrew Carlstrom – Environmental Services Director noted that the draft Amended NE Minnesota Regional Solid Waste Plan is open for public comment until May 11. The county board will consider the amended plan after the comment period.

Mark Jeffers – Economic Development Coordinator provided an Economic Development Impact Update.

Jim Bright – Facilities Coordinator provided a Health & Human Services Building Renovation Update.

Chair Wedel called a recess at 10:20 a.m.

The Board reconvened at 10:28 a.m.

Sarah Pratt – Health & Human Services Director provided the Health & Human Services 2025 Annual Report.

David Minke – County Administrator provided a 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Budget Report.

The Board discussed: Aitkin Airport Commission, Aitkin County CARE Board, Arrowhead Counties Association, Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, Arrowhead Regional Development Committee, Brainerd 1 Watershed 1 Plan, Budget Committee, Northeast Waste Advisory Council, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Commissioner Kearney left the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

**Adjourn**

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Sample and carried 3-0 to adjourn the meeting at 11:34 a.m. with the next regular meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 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