

AITKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING PROCEDURES AND RULES OF BUSINESS
January 6, 2026

Welcome to the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners meeting. We appreciate your interest in Aitkin County government and encourage you to understand and participate in county board meetings.

Board Members

The Board of Commissioners consists of five members elected to four-year, overlapping terms. Elections are held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of even-numbered years. Each commissioner is elected from a geographic district and takes office on the first Monday in January.

2026 Aitkin County Board Members are:

District 1 – J. Mark Wedel (218) 927-6500

District 2 – Laurie Westerlund (320) 684-2652

District 3 – Travis Leiviska (218) 513-8613

District 4 – Bret Sample (218) 839-1376

District 5 – Michael Kearney (218) 839-1329

County boards are assigned many duties and are governed under Minnesota law including Minnesota Statutes §373 and §375.

Board Meetings

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners generally meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 9:00 a.m. in the Government Center Board Room. Meeting dates, locations, and times may change. Notice of changes will be posted as required by statute.

The organizational meeting is held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January of each year.

Special or emergency meetings may be called as allowed under Minnesota Statutes §13D. Special meetings require three days' posted notice and are limited to identified topics. Emergency meetings require good-faith efforts to notify the media and others.

All meetings are open to the public except as permitted under Minnesota Statutes §13D.03 and §13D.05.

Board Actions

A majority of the members of the County Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and, as required by Minnesota Statutes §375.07, no business shall be done unless voted for by a majority of the whole board, meaning an affirmative vote

of at least three members is required to approve any action unless a greater number is required by law.

Meeting Agenda

The County Administrator prepares the agenda in consultation with the Board Chair.

General order of business:

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Public Comment
- Approval of Agenda
- Consent Agenda
- Additional Business Items

Agendas are available at the Administrator's Office and on the County website.

Citizens Public Comment

Members of the public are invited to speak during Citizen Public Comment time. If you wish to speak, when the Chair opens Citizen Public Comments (1) approach the podium (2) state your name (3) direct your comments to the chair.

The chair shall limit the time of any one speaker to no more than five minutes and may limit the total amount of time devoted to public comment. No disparaging, defamatory, or accusatory remarks are allowed.

The Board generally does not act on citizen public comment items, but may refer them for further consideration.

Aitkin County Board Rules Of Business

Rule 1. Presiding Officer

The Chair or Vice Chair presides over meetings.

Rule 2. Quorum

A majority (3 members) constitutes a quorum. Under Minnesota Statutes §375.07, at least three affirmative votes are required to approve an action. Some actions require a supermajority.

Rule 3. Voting

All members present must vote unless excused for a conflict of interest. Non-votes count as affirmative. Votes are taken as voice votes unless roll call is required or requested.

Rule 4. Ordinances

Proposed ordinances may be adopted after one reading.

Rule 5. Absent Member

If possible, members must notify the Chair or Administrator of absences.

Rule 6. Use of Interactive Technology

Best efforts will be made to provide live-streaming of regular county board meetings. Commissioners may participate via interactive technology per Minnesota Statutes §13D.02.

Rule 7. Public Hearing Format:

- A. Staff Presentation
- B. Board Questions
- C. Public Testimony
- D. Close Hearing
- E. Board Discussion
- F. Board Action

Rule 8. Robert's Rules of Order

To the extent they are consistent with state law and these rules of procedure, Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised shall guide the conduct of the meeting.

Rule 9. Conduct

The Chair may take necessary measures to maintain order. Disruptive people may be asked to leave.

Adopted this 6th day of January, 2026.