

FALL RIVER COUNTY UNAPPROVED MEETING MINUTES February 19, 2026

The Fall River Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on February 19, 2026. Present: Joe Allen, Les Cope, Deb Russell, Sandra Wahlert, Sue Ganje, Auditor and.

An invocation was given by Wahlert.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given, and the meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

The agenda was reviewed for conflicts; none were noted. ALL MOTIONS RECORDED IN THESE MINUTES WERE PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE, UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. The full context of the meeting can be found on the county website under Commissioners at <http://fallriver.sdcounties.org> or on Facebook on the Fall River County page.

Motion made by Wahlert, seconded by Cope, to approve the agenda with an amendment of adding Tony March to present Application to Occupy Right of Way and to move classification change for Jessica Dossey to executive session.

Motion made by Wahlert, seconded by Allen, to approve the Fall River County Commission meeting minutes from February 5, 2026.

Motion made by Cope, seconded by Wahlert, to approve January 2026 Auditors Account as follows:

Office of the Fall River County Auditor

January-26

Sue Ganje, Auditor

Stacy Schmidt, Deputy Auditor

906 North River Street

Hot Springs SD 57747

Phone 605-745-5130 email: sue.ganje@state.sd.us

DATE: February 18, 2026

TO: Fall River County Board of Commissioners

From: Stacy Schmidt, Deputy Auditor

Auditor's Account of the Treasurer

Per SDCL 7-10-3 Monthly verification of treasurer's accounts - Report to county commissioners

To the Fall River Board of Commissioners; I hereby submit the following report of my examination of the cash and cash items in the hands of the County Treasurer as of **January 31, 2026**

Total Balances of Checking/Savings Accounts	1,075,458.14
Total Outstanding Deposits	61,658.07
Schwab Treasury	9,041,163.40

NSF Checks:		
Thomas, Hannah		426.01
Suter, Debbie	729.45	
Waite Investments		2,534.38
Lauing, tom & Ashley		9,819.73
Total Treasurer's Change Fund		900.00
Register of Deeds Change Fund		500.00
Election Petty Cash		15.00

TOTAL **10,193,204.18**

Audited By: Stacy Schmidt

Fall River Co Auditors Office

- Motion made by Wahlert, seconded by Allen, to approve the transfer of a Hanns-G Computer monitor, tag#01920 from the Auditor’s office to the HWY Department.
- Motion made by Allen, seconded by Wahlert, to approve and authorize to pay SDSU \$43,220.00 for the County 4-H Educator 2026 Salary.
- Motion made by Wahlert, seconded by Allen, to approve the Order of Incorporation resolution for Sheps Canyon Estates Road District

FALL RIVER COUNTY RESOLUTION #2026-05

ORDER FOR ORGANIZATION AND INCORPORATION
OF THE SHEPS CANYON ESTATES DISTRICT
FALL RIVER COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA

WHEREAS, all voting property owners that are within the proposed district have agreed to and petitioned for the organization of the Sheps Canyon Estates Road District, and

WHEREAS, an Election was held on February 17, 2026, asking the voters to accept or reject the formation of the Sheps Canyon Estates Road District, with 8 voters accepting and 0 voters rejecting the formation of the Sheps Canyon Estates Road District, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED, that the Fall River County Commissioners shall declare Sheps Canyon Estates Road District to be organized and established as a governmental subdivision of the State of South Dakota and a public body, corporate and political, effective as of today’s date, with taxing authority for the 2025 tax year payable in 2026 and after, and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the Sheps Canyon Estates Road District be described as follows:

Sheps Canyon Estates Subdivision: Includes 39 Total Lots in Sections 22 & 27, Township Eight South (T8S), Range Five East (R5E), Black Hills Meridian (BHM) in Fall River County, South Dakota. Lots are numbered as follows:1,2,3A,3B,4A,4B,5A,5B,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13A.13B,14,ShaglaTract,16A,16B,16C 19A,19B,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28, the unplatted portion of the NW 4 NE 1/4 less lots platted to Sheps Canyon Estates Subdivision,30,31,32,33 & 34.

Dated this 19th day of February 2026.

/s/ Deborah Russell
Deborah Russell, Vice-Chairman
Fall River County Commissioner

ATTEST:

/s/ Sue Ganje
Sue Ganje
Fall River County Auditor

- Motion made by Wahlert, seconded by Allen to approve the Hire of Erik Lee, Part-time Custodian, for \$17.75/ hour, effective 02/09/2026.
- No **County assistance** applications were presented.

Lyle Norton, Sheriff, met with the Board, and gave updates.

Motion made by Wahlert, seconded by Allen, to approve Deputy Tanner Schiferl to attend Overdose Investigation training in Mitchell, SD on the dates of March 9-10, 2026 for the cost of \$109.00 for 2 nights plus per diem. Joe Falkenburg joined via phone at 9:20 a.m.

- Motion made by Allen, seconded by Wahlert, to approve surplus- to- sell 9 unused Sheriff's Office duty firearms (4 rifles and 5 shotguns). Discussion was held on the law enforcement standard protocol request which is the of the right of first refusal by LE officers. Motion by Allen seconded by Wahlert to amend the motion to include the standard protocol, with KSK's estimated value, with no discount, and the sale of unpurchased firearms to KSK at the estimated value With Cope voting no, all others voting yes the motion carried.
- Mike Close updated the board about training he attended in Yankton, SD for a 3-day training on Street Level De-Escalation, which included 4th amendment rights, search and seizures, and use of force, put on by premium police training.
- Current Jail Census 10 in house 6 male 4 female with 1 male in Pennington and 1 male in Meade.

Dar Coy, Emergency Manager, met with the Board, and gave updates.

- Motion made by Wahlert, seconded by Falkenburg, to approve travel and meals for Dar Coy, located at Pierre SD on March 18-19, 2026.
- Motion made by Allen, seconded by Wahlert, to approve the Wildfire resolution as follows:

Fall River County
RESOLUTION #2026-06

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Wildland Fire Coordinator is authorized to assist in fighting range fires through the State; and

WHEREAS, a county must formally request his assistance pursuant to SDCL 41-20A-11; and

WHEREAS, because there is insufficient time to hold a meeting and adopt a resolution during a fire, Fall River County can designate a person (s) with authority to request assistance under this law;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fall River County Commissioners hereby designate the following person (s) with the authority to request assistance from the State Wildland Fire Coordinator in fighting range fires:

Darwin Coy
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR
605 890-7245 (CELL) or 605 745-7562 (OFFICE)

Lyle Norton
FALL RIVER COUNTY SHERIFF
605 890-1931 (CELL) or 605 745-4444 (OFFICE)

Joe Falkenberg
COMMISSIONER
307 259-2583 (CELL) or 605 745-4244 (HOME)

Deb Russell
COMMISSIONER
605 890-9796 (CELL) or 605 424-2135 (HOME)

Joe Allen
COMMISSIONER
605 745-1890 (HOME)

Sandra Wahlert
COMMISSIONER
605 891-3949 (CELL)

Les Cope
COMMISSIONER
605 441-4960 (CELL) or 605 535-6910 (HOME)

Dated this 19th day of February, 2026

/s/ Deb Russell
Deb Russell Vice-Chair
Fall River Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

/s/ Sue Ganje

Sue Ganje

Fall River County Auditor's Office

Tony March, Highway Superintendent, met with the Board, and gave updates.

- Motion made by Wahlert, seconded by Allen, to approve the purchase of a Road Rage Scarifier and accessories in the amount of \$12,500.10 from DMC Wear Parts.
- Motion made by Cope, seconded by Allen, to accept fuel bids for 8,000 gallons of 50/50 winter blend dyed diesel as follows:
 - Stern: \$2.83 per gallon
 - WestCo: \$2.899 per gallon
 - Nelsons Oil & Gas: #1 dyed \$3.05 per gallon and #2 dyed \$2.671 per gallon
 - Patrons: declined to bid
 - CBH: No Bid
 - MG Oil: No Bid
 - Vollan Oil: \$2.775 per gallon (**Awarded**)

Motion made by Wahlert, seconded by Allen, to approve the Supplement Hearing.

**FALL RIVER COUNTY RESOLUTION #2026-7
Supplemental Budget 2026, #1**

WHEREAS, SDCL 7-21-22 provides that the Board of County Commissioners may adopt a supplemental budget, and whereas, as due and legal notice has been given, the following Supplements to expenditures for February 19, 2026, be approved as follows:

FALL RIVER SUPPLEMENT HEARING #1			2/19/2026		
Expenditures					
DATE	AMOUNT	EXPENSES TO SUPPLEMENT	ACCOUNT	GRANT Y-N	Description
2/19/2026	\$ 600.00	20100X4293310	Hwy Admin Clothing Allowance	N	Went up from 300 to 600 a year
2/19/2026	\$ 3,300.00	20100X4293311	Hwy Clothing Allowance	N	Went up from 300 to 600 a year
2/19/2026	\$ 350.00	20700X4293225	Dispatch Clothing Allowance	N	Went up from 300 to 350 a year
2/19/2026	\$ 350.00	10100X4293212	Jailer Clothing Allowance	N	Went up from 500 to 550 a year
2/19/2026	\$ 800.00	10100X4293211	Sheriff Clothing Allowance	N	Went up from 600 to 700 a year
	\$ 5,400.00				

Means of finance to be cash, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners to adopt the Supplemental Budget #1.

Dated at Fall River County, South Dakota this 19th day of February 2026.

/s/Deb Russell

Deb Russell Vice-Chair

Fall River County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

/s/Sue Ganje

Sue Ganje

Everett Dossey, Director of Equalization, met with the Board, and gave updates on '26 pay '27 valuations.

- Motion made by Wahlert, seconded by Allen, to approve the purchase of two (2) tablets, not exceed \$600 per unit for field work.
- Motion made by Allen, seconded by Wahlert, to approve purchase of a new desktop computer from Golden West in the amount of \$1,639.00.

Joe Falkenburg left the meeting which was via phone. At Motion made by Allen, seconded by Wahlert to take a break and pay the following bills:

GENERAL FUND		
BANGS MCCULLEN	COURT APPT ATTY FEES	\$1,200.40
BLACK HILLS CHEMICAL	SUPPLIES/CLEANING SUPPLIES	\$215.57
\$45.25 INV 308015A 12-16 GAL BLK BAGS, \$45.42 INV 308684 1-16 GAL BLK BAGS, \$36.99 " " 45 GAL 250 CT BAGS, \$7.99 " " SHIPPING, \$79.92 INV 296078A 30 DAY CH UR CAKES		
CENTURY BUSINESS LEASING	COPIER LEASE/USAGE	\$1,308.95
CHEYENNE SANITATION	SOLID WASTE COLLECTION	\$387.00
CONSOLIDATED ELECTRICAL	GENERATOR SERVICES	\$300.00
COUNTY DRUG	INMATE PHARMACY	\$0.93
CORRECT RX PHARMACY SERV.	INMATE PHARMACY	\$4.76
DUFFY LAW FIRM, PROF. LLC	COURT APPT ATTY FEES	\$422.90
FBI-LEEDA ATTN MEMBERSHIP	2026 ANNUAL DUES	\$50.00
FED EX	EVIDENCE SHIPPING	\$20.51
FALL RIVER COUNTY HERALD	PUBLICATION	\$670.96
GALLS	UNIFORM ALLOWANCE	\$401.60
\$60.00 INV 034026611 BOOTS/OTTESON, \$6.63 " " SHIPPING, \$109.98 INV 034026226 POLO X 2/CB, \$200.00 " " APEX PANT X 2/C BLESSING, \$24.99 " " SHIPPING		
GOLDEN WEST TECHNOLOGIES	TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT	\$7,219.70
HEALTHCARE SERVICES INC	INMATE MEALS JANUARY	\$11,616.00
HOT SPRINGS ACE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES/CLEANING SUPPLIES	\$73.36
\$17.09 INV 366510 W&P RYL INT SG UWB, \$15.29 INV 366430 JAIL RAGS PAP 12X10, \$6.83 " " JAIL BLEACH BATH CLNR, \$15.29 INV 366671 JAIL RAGS PAP 12X10, \$13.47 " " JAIL DAWN ULTRA DISH SP 18, \$5.39 " " JAIL FORMULA 409 32 OZ, \$8.99 INV 366558 PLASTICWELD SYRINGE		
CITY OF HOT SPRINGS	MONTHLY WATER UTILITIES	\$584.68

HUSTEAD LAW OFFICE, P.C.	COURT APPT ATTY FEES	\$2,982.26
MASTEL, BRUCE	MONTHLY HOST DATABASE	\$35.00
MICROFILM IMAGING SYSTEMS	SCAN EQUIP MONTLY LEASE	\$90.00
PENNINGTON COUNTY JAIL	INMATE HOUSING JAN 2026	\$7,590.00
PENNINGTON COUNTY JAIL	INMATE TRANSPORTATION	\$316.76
SD DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	LABORATORY FEES	\$485.00
SD DEPT OF REVENUE	JANUARY 2026 REMITTANCE	\$60.00
SDSU EXTENSION	2026 4H ADVISOR SALARY	\$43,220.00
SERVALL	RUG SERVICES	\$594.02
SOFTWARE SERVICES INC	ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE	\$1,260.40
STEVENS AUTOMOTIVE	REPAIRS/SERVICE	\$243.23
\$4.99 INV 59940 OIL FILTER/1J, \$5.77 " " SYN OIL/1J, \$18.00 " " SUV PICK UP SERVICE/1J, \$104.47 INV 59818 BRAKE PADS/1J, \$110.00 " " LABOR/1J		
HASKVITZ, LAREE	BLOOD DRAW TECH SERVICES	\$75.00
STURDEVANT'S AUTO VALUE	WINDSHIELD WASH FLUID	\$7.58
\$7.58 WINDSHIELD WASHER FLUID		
THOMSON REUTERS	ONLINE LAW SUBSCRIPT	\$342.66
FEES, IRMA	BLOOD DRAW TECH SERVICES	\$75.00
MILES, SASHA	BLOOD DRAW TECH SERVICES	\$75.00
	TOTAL FOR GENERAL FUND	\$81,929.23
COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE FUND		
BLACK HILLS ELECTRIC	ELECTRIC UTILITY	\$106.12
BOMGAARS	SUPPLIES/TOOLS	\$199.97
BUTLER MACHINERY CO.	SERVICE/PARTS	\$698.18
-\$219.82 INV 06CA0070814 CREDIT/RET MER, \$419.00 INV 06CT0001527 CAT 950 PARTS, \$499.00 INV 06CT0001526 0918 PARTS		
EXCEL TRUCK & TRAILER REP	REPAIR/PARTS '06 ST	\$2,921.55
\$48.95 INV TA6169 MERITOR TIE ROD LH, \$48.95 " " MERITOR TIE ROD END RH, \$1,552.49 " " 14-19372-000 STEER GEAR, \$8.10 " " POWER STEERING COVER GASK, \$22.11 " " POWER STEERING FILTER, \$49.60 " " MOBILE DELVAC TRANS ATF X4, \$28.83 " " 3/4" PU PWR ST RET HOSX2.5, \$3.32 " " LOCK NUT 3/4", \$5.38 " " #10-HD SIL HOSE CLAMP X2, \$1.48 " " 14"-15" CABLE TIE, \$4.28 " " CLEANER, \$336.42 " " 17-17299-000 DRAGLINK, \$1.64 " " COTTER PIN X2, \$810.00 " " LABOR		
FALL RIVER AUTO SUPPLY	PARTS	\$166.78
FALL RIVER HEALTH	RANDOM DRUG TESTING	\$345.00
FALL RIVER COUNTY HERALD	PUBLICATION	\$61.18
FALL RIVER CTY TREASURER	T & REG VIN 1TKD0433	\$28.70
GODFREY BRAKE SERVICE	PARTS/TOOLS	\$1,307.25

\$178.32 INV 01P135141 CAMSHAFT LH X 3, \$179.19 " " CAMSHAFT RH X 3, \$80.01 " " CAM KIT X 3, \$729.48 " " FEATURE ASA X 6, \$140.25 " " AUTO SLACK ADJ PULLER		
GOLDEN WEST TECHNOLOGIES	TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT	\$27.50
HOT SPRINGS ACE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES/PARTS	\$36.96
\$18.99 INV 366451 COM SWVL MNT LIGHT, \$17.97 INV K66265 PLUG THREADED 4"PVC		
CITY OF HOT SPRINGS BULK	BULK WATER	\$419.02
CITY OF HOT SPRINGS	MONTHLY WATER UTILITY	\$25.74
KIEFFER SANITATION	SOLID WASTE COLLECTION	\$177.81
LARRY'S DIESEL SERVICE	NON-PHYSICAL REPAIR	\$390.00
MCDANIEL	REPAIR/PARTS	\$2,205.40
\$46.85 BATT DIS SWITCH, \$12.50 VALVE STEM, \$22.50 BATTERY NUT X 3, \$687.50 LABOR, \$30.77 MISC, \$252.15 6RP31 BATTERY, \$487.20 STARTER, \$625.00 LABOR		
MIDWAY SERVICE/VOLLAN OIL	DYED DIESEL FUEL	\$22,202.78
NEWMAN SIGNS INC.	WIND DAMAGED SIGN REPLACEMENT	\$525.10
\$497.86 INV TRFINV065564 RD SIGNS X 22, \$27.24 " " FREIGHT		
NORTHWEST PIPE FITTINGS	SUPPLIES	\$39.90
\$39.90 INV 1618450 3 STD BLK CAP		
STURDEVANT'S AUTO VALUE	PARTS/TOOLS/SUPPLIES	\$439.19
\$29.02 INV 831043916 HD FLEET, \$27.02 " " HD FUEL FARM, \$9.89 INV 831043869 6 POLE MALE PLUG, \$23.99 INV 831043917 5QT 5W30 SYNTH, \$6.49 " " QT 5W30 SYNTH, \$2.56 " " UL ELECTRICAL TAPE, \$8.81 " " ENGINE OIL FILTER, \$28.59 INV 831043926 AIR DOMESTIC, \$79.99 INV 831043956 PREM 30/30 LONG, \$107.88 INV 831043871 QT HUB OIL, \$114.95 INV 831043888 EX LG BLOW LED H		
	TOTAL FOR COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE FUND	\$32,324.13
911 SURCHARGE FUND		
SD DEPT OF PUBLIC SAFETY	TELETYPE SERVICES 1ST HALF	\$3,340.00
	TOTAL FOR 911 SURCHARGE FUND	\$3,340.00
EMERGENCY MGMT FUND		
GOLDEN WEST TECHNOLOGIES	TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT	\$18.50
	TOTAL FOR EMERGENCY MGMT FUND	\$18.50
24/7 SOBRIETY FUND		
SD DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	LABORATORY SERVICES	\$220.00
	TOTAL FOR 24/7 SOBRIETY FUND	\$220.00
COURTHOUSE BUILDING FUND		
HOT SPRINGS ACE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES/CLEANING SUPPLIES	\$8.99
	TOTAL FOR COURTHOUSE BUILDING FUND	\$8.99

	TOTAL FOR BILLS PAID BETWEEN 02/06 & 02/19/2026	\$117,840.85
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Harley Miller, County Resident asked for an abatement

- Motion made by Allen, seconded by Wahlert, to accept the request for abatement for Agricultural status for \$3,700 for 25' pay 26' tax

Public comments were heard by Deb Russell about a meeting she attended in reference to the airport. The City of Hot Springs will need zoning control in order to receive grants. There will be a MOU in the future.

Sue Ganje, County Auditor-

- Motion made by Wahlert, seconded by Cope, to approve the 2026 Abatement and the 2025 Refund:
Parcel #12000-00706-271-50, '24 pay '25, refund in the amount of \$1,173.81 for Rodney Watts; Parcel #12000-00706-271-50, '25 pay '26, abate in the amount of \$1,107.45 for Rodney Watts.

Commissioners-

- Motion made by Cope, seconded by Allen, to send a letter opposing Argentine Beef imports.
- Motion made by Wahlert, seconded by Allen, to approve a policy procedure for public comment.

Motion made by Wahlert, seconded by Allen, to enter into Executive Session per SDCL 1-25-2 (1) personnel, and (3) legal at 10:21am.

The Board came out of executive session at 10:30 am. No action was taken.

Vice-Chair Russell declared the meeting adjourned at 10:31 am.

/s/ Deb Russell
Deb Russell, Vice-Chair
Board of Fall River County Commissioners

ATTEST:

/s/ Sue Ganje
Sue Ganje
Fall River County Auditor's Office