

BOARD MEETING AS POSTED

BECKER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DATE: TUESDAY, March 17, 2026 at 8:15 am

LOCATION: Board Room, Courthouse

1. Meeting was brought to order by Chair Jepson. Commissioners in attendance: Jepson, Hansen, Meyer, Vareberg and Nelson, County Administrator Carrie Smith, and minute taker Peggy Martin.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda/Minutes:

1. Agenda – Motion and second to approve the agenda (Meyer, Nelson) carried.
2. Minutes – Motion and second to approve minutes of March 3, 2026 with the requested changes (Nelson, Meyer) carried.

Consent Agenda

1. Motion and second to approve and accept the following Consent Agenda Items:
Auditor-Treasurer: Regular Claims, Auditor Warrants and Claims over 90 Days, License renewals for the following: Combination On/Off Sale w/Sundays – Renewal – Tri-Lakes Roadhouse – Gabe Line – Cormorant Twp, Jack Pines Resort – Jacob Prouty – Carsonville Twp, Toad Lake Store – Cynthia Knoll, On Sale w/Sundays – Renewal – Zoo on 22 – Jennifer Goering – Lake Eunice Twp, Hotel Shoreham – Cole Hanson – Lake View Twp, Osage Bait & Tackle – Peggy Branstrom – Osage Twp, Pit 611 – Mike Williams – Lake Eunice Twp, We Fest – Richard Mithun – Lake View Twp, Detroit Country Club – Thomas Dolby – Lake View Twp, Off-Sale – Renewal – Seven Sisters Spirits – Brad Malmstrom – Lake View Twp, 3.2 Off-Sale Renewal – Osage Bait & Tackle – Peggy Branstrom – Osage Twp, Resolution 03-26-2B – Cormorant Lions Club at Cormorant Community Center in Cormorant Twp on August 15, 2026, Human Services: Regular Claims, Public Health, & Transit, Region IV Interagency Early Intervention Committee \$500 Donation, Highway – Resolution 03-26-2C – MnDOT LRIP Agreement SP 003-622-040 & SP 117-090-002, Land Use: NRM – Approve Spring 2026 Timber Auction Tracts, Environmental – Permit Reissuance for Solid Waste Permit SW-311, Resolution 03-26-2D – Supporting PLMSWA Capital Project (Meyer, Hansen) carried.

Commissioners:

1. Open Forum:

- None.
2. Reports and Correspondence: Reports were provided on the following meetings:
 - Commissioner Nelson – MRC, AMC, Joint Meeting.
 - Commissioner Meyer – RAC, AMC, Dancing Sky, Historical Society.
 - Commissioner Hansen – RAC, MRC, AMC, Opioid Advisory Council.
 - Commissioner Vareberg – Joint Meeting, Human Services, NRM.
 - Commissioner Jepson – AMC, Opioid Advisory Council, Human Services, EDA Housing.
 3. Appointments.
 - Motion and second to approve the following to the Planning & Zoning Board of Adjustments thru December 31, 2026: Del King (District 1), Kohl Skalin (District 4), Roger Boatman (District 5) and Larry Knutson (Member at Large) (Vareberg, Hansen) carried.
 - Motion and second to approve the following to the Planning Commission thru December 31, 2026: Harvey Aho and Nancy Bachmann (District 1), Tommy Ailie (District 2), John Okeson (District 3), Dave Blomseth (District 4), Jeff Moritz and Kim Mattson (District 5) (Nelson, Meyer) carried.

Public Hearing: Auditor-Treasurer: Elected to Appointed Position.

1. Motion and second to open the Public Hearing at 9:02 am (Meyer, Hansen) carried.
2. Public Hearing Testimony.
 - The following voiced their support for maintaining the Auditor-Treasurer as an elected official: Dave Knoph, Gerry Schram, Sue Sonnenberg, Bill Henke, Marty Solmon, Sandy Gunderson, Roger Winter, Nicole LeDoux, Lowell Deede, Roger Boyce, Perry Bertek, Tom Bergren, James Jirava, and Joe Knoph.
 - Letters and emails received in the Administration Office showing support for maintaining the Auditor-Treasurer as an elected official: Becker County Township Association Board of Directors, Toad Lake Township Supervisors, and Walworth Township.
 - Comments submitted via the Online link: 41 total comments, 36 in favor of keeping the Auditor-Treasurer and elected position and 5 in favor of making it an appointed position.
3. Motion and second to close the Public Hearing at 9:31 am (Meyer, Nelson) carried.
4. Discussion regarding the pros and cons of elected vs appointed auditor-treasurer.
5. Motion and second to keep the Auditor-Treasurer an elected position (Nelson, Meyer) carried.

Becker Soil & Water Conservation District – presented by Karl Koenig and Brandon Gill.

1. AIS Program Update.
 - Last full payment in December.
 - Reduction in funding but still maintaining administrative costs at 20%.
2. Motion and second to approve the Delegation Agreement for Watercraft Inspections 2026 (Nelson, Meyer) carried.
3. County Ag Inspector Update.
 - Weed Free Gravel Pit Program Update – since 2009 over 75% reduction in noxious weeds.
 - Goals for 2026 – Increased local week inspector involvement, increase cost share herbicide recipients, collaborate with Mitch Lundeen, heightened focus on noxious weeds.

County Administrator: presented by Carrie Smith.

1. County Commission Notification-City of Detroit Lakes-Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District No 1-1: Lincoln Apartments – presented by Hope Williams.
 - Motion and second to waive the 30 days’ notice for the TIF District No 1-1: Lincoln Apartments (Meyer, Vareberg) carried.
2. Report.
 - Beckerbay opens at noon.
 - Kudos to Stacey Cresswell – DMV Supervisor, for being helpful to the public, and to Jona Jacobson – Highway Superintendent, for plowing for an emergency medical situation outside of working hours.
 - Landfill Road: Firming up final numbers for fencing and gates.
3. Resolution 03-26-2A – Make the Position of County Auditor-Treasurer appointed rather than elected. No action taken. Position stays elected.
4. Joint Governance Meeting April 7 at 7:00 am hosted by the Chamber of Commerce.
5. Work Session April 14th at 9:30 am.

Being no further business, Board Chair Jepson adjourned the meeting at 11:01 am.

<u>/s/</u>	Carrie Smith	<u>/s/</u>	Erica Jepson
	Carrie Smith		Erica Jepson
	County Administrator		Board Chair