



**STEELE COUNTY
STEELE COUNTY BOARD MINUTES**

**Steele County Board Room - 630 Florence Avenue -
Owatonna, MN 55060**

**Steele County's Mission:
Driven to deliver quality services in a respectful and fiscally responsible way.**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026 at 5:00 PM - County Boardroom, Steele County
Administration Center**

Agenda

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Glynn at 5:00 pm. Members present were Commissioners John Glynn, Joshua Prokopec, James Brady, and Jim Abbe. Absent and not voting was Commissioner Greg Krueger. Also present were Robert Jarrett and Rebecca Kubicek.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approve Agenda

Motion by Commissioner James Brady, seconded by Commissioner Jim Abbe to approve the agenda. Ayes all.

Public Comment - If you wish to share your thoughts, please provide your name and address after being acknowledged by the Board Chair. Each speaker has two (2) minutes to express their remarks.

Steele County promotes respect in both its work environment and boardroom. Speakers should maintain dignity and show respect towards others. Comments should be directed to the entire Board, not to individual commissioners, officials, or staff. The Board Chair may limit comments if they are argumentative, disrespectful, or redundant. Please avoid name-calling or abusive language, as this may result in being asked to return to your seat or to leave the boardroom.

No action will be taken on items presented during Public Comment unless they are on the agenda. The Board may refer some inquiries to the County Administrator for follow-up.

County Attorney, Robert Jarrett presented the Public Comment statement. After the statement, he clarified that Public Comment is an opportunity for the public to provide their views to the Steele County Board. Any comments today regarding the east side corridor will not be considered as part of the formal comment period that took place from November 18 through December 31, 2025. He also stated that Steele County received documents requesting to have four County Commissioners recuse themselves from voting on the east side corridor. These documents were reviewed and none of the Commissioners have a direct conflict of

interest, according to state case law. Any of the Commissioners could vote on this matter tonight.

Consent Agenda - Items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and non-controversial by the County Board. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless requested by a member of the County Board.

Motion by Commissioner Jim Abbe, seconded by Commissioner Joshua Prokopec to approve Consent Agenda. Ayes all.

4. Approve January 6, 2026, Board Minutes

5. Approve Bills

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
7 Rivers Recycling LLC	4,072.00
Advanced Correctional Healthcare Inc	16,871.78
Association Of Mn Counties	2,825.00
Aurora Township	16,406.00
Barnum Companies Inc	2,058.09
Bob Barker Company Inc	3,234.52
Borneke Construction, Inc.	392,979.08
Cannon River Watershed Jt Powers Board	3,750.00
Central Farm Services	24,092.24
City Of Owatonna	61,908.53
Counties Providing Technology	9,515.00
Erickson Engineering Co LLC	3,715.00
Fidlar Technologies Inc	2,185.08
From the Ground Up LLC	31,660.00
Health Management Associates Inc	7,775.00
High Point Networks	19,433.00
ICS Consulting LLC	3,000.00
Jones Haugh & Smith Inc	3,593.70
Kibble Equipment	6,720.00
Kraft Mechanical LLC	6,736.00
League Of Minnesota Cities	2,160.00
MacArthur Co	17,807.00
MCAA	6,602.00
Metal Sales Manufacturing Corp	21,639.00
Midstates Equipment & Supply Inc	60,512.76
MN Dept of Labor & Industry	8,671.63
MN Sheriffs Assn	10,912.11
Moore Md/Kellyanna J	4,099.58
Nuss Truck & Equipment	12,328.33
Owatonna Eagles	3,959.48
Owatonna Public Utilities	73,735.44

Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc	9,424.50
South Central Drug Investigation Unit	14,000.00
Steele County Soil & Water Conserv Dist	9,287.50
Stewart Sanitation	2,745.11
Summit Food Services LLC	11,628.54
Thompson Sanitation	77,447.19
Thomson Reuters - West	3,225.91
Tri-M Graphics	4,885.13
UKG Kronos Systems LLC	3,476.64
Waseca County Land & Water Resources	3,280.38
Weinberg Construction LLC	9,130.00
136 Payments less than 2000	53,793.19
Final Total:	1,047,281.44

6. Approve Journal Entries
7. Approve Personnel Report
8. Adopt **Resolution 2026-10** to accept Special Deputy Donation from Janet Meilahn in an amount of \$50.00.

A copy of the Resolution is available in the office of the County Administrator and is made a part of this record by reference.

9. Appoint Amy Gillis to the Extension Advisory Committee.
10. Approve request to attend the National Association of County Engineers (NACE) Annual Meeting and Management & Technical Conference in Arlington, Texas.
11. Approve Certificate of Completion to Borneke Construction for Final Payment for Contract No. 242805; SAP 074-628-005; SAP 074-643-01 in an amount of \$1000.00.
12. Approve Certificate of Completion to KAMCO, Inc. for Final Payment for Contract 252501; 2025 Pavement Markings in an amount of \$13,302.78
13. Approve the purchase of a Western Star roll off truck.
14. Adopt **Resolution 2026-9** establishing an Absentee Ballot Board and UOCAVA Ballot Board for the 2026 Election Cycle

A copy of the Resolution is available in the office of the County Administrator and is made a part of this record by reference.

15. Authorize Staff to Submit 2026 Pay Equity Report

General Agenda

16. Adopt **Resolution 2026-11** approving the Record of Decision and the Negative Declaration on the Need for an Environmental Impact Statement for the East Side Corridor Project

EAW findings were presented.

Sam Ketchum spoke regarding Resolution 2026-11. The ESC required an EAW as it was over 1 mile (new) in length functioning as a collector roadway. Comments during the public open house were received by 67 members of the public. All comments are included in the record of the decision and publically available and completed on time. EQB rules provide a very specific timeframe of which a decision needs to be made in 30 days from the close of a public comment period.

Commissioner Abbe requested information on the difference between an EAW and EIS. The EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) is more robust than the EAW, it is not required in this case and very costly.

A letter was read by Rob Jarrett from Commissioner Greg Krueger (unable to attend) in support of accepting the EAW.

Motion by Commissioner James Brady to adopt the following Resolution No. 2026-11, seconded by Commissioner Joshua Prokopec. 4 voted in favor thereof, none voted against. Motion Passed. A copy of the Resolution is available in the office of the County Administrator and is made a part of this record by reference.

17. Adopt **Resolution 2026-12** approving the Steele County Solid Waste Management Plan

Motion by Commissioner James Abbe to adopt the following **Resolution No. 2026-12**, seconded by Commissioner James Brady. 4 voted in favor thereof, None voting against. Motion Passed. A copy of the Resolution is available in the office of the County Administrator and is made a part of this record by reference.

18. Approve CUP 444 (Hirsch Cannabis Operation) with 17 conditions based on the Findings of Fact.

Motion by Commissioner James Brady, seconded by Commissioner Jim Abbe to Approve. Ayes all.

19. Approve amendment to IUP 2024-01 (EESolar 33 LLC) with 18 conditions based on the Findings of Fact.

Amending Condition # 18 to reflect a new glare analysis. Both analyses have the same conclusion of no glare.

Motion by Commissioner Joshua Prokopec, seconded by Commissioner Jim Abbe to approve. Ayes all.

20. Approve renewal of IUP 2011-01 (Mathiowetz Construction - Jirele Pit) with 19 conditions based on the Findings of Fact.

The renewal has an expiration date of January 2031.

Motion by Commissioner Jim Abbe, seconded by Commissioner James Brady to approve. Ayes all.

21. Approve renewal of IUP 2020-05 (Ulland Bros - Aurora Pit) with 18 conditions based on the Findings of Fact.

The renewal has an expiration date of June 1, 2030.

Motion by Commissioner James Brady, seconded by Commissioner Joshua Prokopec to approve. Ayes all.

Thank you to the Planning Commission for the time and attention they dedicate to reviewing all the requests and documents.

Information Items

22. Public Works Committee Minutes
23. Land Use and Records Committee Minutes
24. Planning Commission Minutes

Commissioner Reports:

- County Attorney, Rob Jarrett has nothing to report.
- County Administrator was absent and not reporting.
- Commissioner Abbe reported his attendance at Rice/ Steele 911 JPB, Land Use and Records Committee, Dodge/Steele Community Health Board, Recognition party, and MNP.
- Commissioner Brady reported his attendance at Rice/ Steele 911 JPB, Land Use & Records Committee, Recognition party, SPERO, Joint Task Force, and the Childrens Mental Health Collaborative.
- Commissioner Prokopec reported his attendance at the Recognition party, Southeast Emergency Medical Services, Work Force Development Joint Powers Board, Finance Director Interviews, Public Works Committee meeting, SPERO, and Internal Central Services committee.
- Commissioner Krueger was absent and not reporting.
- Commissioner Glynn reported his attendance at the Recognition party, Public Works Committee, Internal Central Services, and the Community Corrections Board.

Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner James Abbe, seconded by Commissioner Joshua Prokopec to adjourn

to the Call of the Chair at 6:24 p.m. Ayes all.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST: _____
ADMINISTRATOR