

November 4th, 2025, Steele County Commission Meeting

The Steele County Commission meeting was called to order at 8:16 a.m. Commissioners Brandon Oxton, Perry Brown, Brandon Krueger and Chris Grandalen, Auditor Jana Flaten, and State Attorney Charlie Stock, were present.

Commissioner Brown motioned to approve the October minutes, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

One addition to the agenda- Upcoming holiday hours and employee appreciation night.

Reed Oien came to discuss the bid for the Hope Shop. F3 hasn't turned in all necessary paperwork and has been asked by Oien a few times. Oien would like to get the project done before winter. Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the Hoffman bid to get the work done, which Commissioner Grandalen seconded. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried. Hoffman has already turned in all paperwork and is ready to start. Reed will call both parties.

Oien also discussed the wind tower overweight permits and some concerns he was having. All items have been addressed, and he said they are now all in compliance with permit requirements. The crew is currently working on tree removal and mowing. Also gave an update on the Culvert Rd 6 and 8a gravel projects.

Charlie Stock gave a brief introduction to the new Clerk of Court/Recorder, Jessica Jordan. Discussed wage and probation period and will then evaluate for her full salary. Jessica has previous experience as the recorder/clerk at the Griggs County courthouse for a few years.

Auditor Flaten discussed the upcoming holiday hours. Commissioner Krueger made a motion to have the courthouse closed at noon on the 24th and all day on the 25th and 26th. Second by Commissioner Brown. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Commissioner Grandalen approved \$1,000.00 for the employee appreciation night. Second by Commissioner Brown. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Mike Bassingthwaite with Interstate Engineering – NE Bridge project waiting for the government to re-open to get that project going - looking at 2026.

Ben Gates brought an emergency declaration for the government shutdown and regarding SNAP benefits. The Steele County food pantry is fully stocked and anyone in Steele County can use it. The commissioners discussed that they would like to wait, as the food pantry is doing well, and the food pantry board feels comfortable with the stock and client usage. The declaration was tabled.

Hannah Zamora came to discuss some building issues she has been seeing. A few problems that need to be looked at: Handrails are getting loose, and there was water in the basement. There also seems to be a fly issue on the 3rd floor, with lots of dead ones. Stock will contact Midwest Pest to look at why there are so many flies up there. Grandalen will go look at the water issues in the basement and will discuss that, along with the handrails, with the architect to see if they have a solution.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the bills, and Commissioner Krueger seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Commissioner Grandalen moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 a.m.

Brandon Oxtan- County Chairman,

Jana Flaten -County Auditor