

August 26th, 2025, Steele County Commission Meeting

The Steele County Commission meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. Commissioners Brandon Oxtan, Perry Brown, Brandon Krueger, Richard Strand, and Chris Grandalen were present, as was Auditor Jana Flaten, DES Manager Ben Gates, Reed Oien, Interstate Engineering Engineers Mike Bassingthwaite and Tyler Birchem.

Mike and Ben gave a brief background on the flex funding, how the money will be distributed, and the September deadline. They then discussed what the county should apply for. Reed had gone out and talked with township officers to explain the program, and with the help of Interstate Engineering, they would need to apply for their own projects. The county discussed cost-sharing and agreed to 90/10. It was also noted that a list of culverts and bridges will be updated to ensure that the county and townships clearly distinguish between township and county-owned bridges and culverts. There was also a brief discussion about pavement projects with this program, and that it would be at least a 6–10-year project, as the state would only fund portions of the project at a time and would not always be approved for the money to fund the project.

Tyler discussed the townships and what they have reached out with on their lists. Hugo, Edendale, Melrose, Newburgh, and Beaver Creek had all expressed interest in bridge/culvert projects. Mike, Tyler, and Ben will collaborate with the townships to work on the list and applications for the state. Mike and Tyler will gather county information and start the application process. They will bring that information to the September meeting.

Ben brought the architect's contract to the commissioners; he asked them to accept it so they could start working on the scope for the courthouse while it is nice out. Commissioner Krueger made a motion to accept Bartlett West contract, seconded by Commissioner Grandalen. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

Brandon Oxtan

Jana Flaten