

August 5th, 2025, Steele County Commission Meeting

The Steele County Commission meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. Commissioners Brandon Oxton, Perry Brown, Brandon Krueger, Richard Strand, and Chris Grandalen were present, as was Auditor Jana Flaten.

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

The Steele County Park Board meeting began at 8:16 a.m.

The Steele County Commissioner Meeting was reconvened at 8:30 a.m.

Jeff Nelson came to discuss his land, which he wants to parcel out. He is looking to get approval from the Commissioners, which Golden Lake Township has already approved. Nelson's land taxes are up to date. Commissioner Brown moved to approve the new parcels, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Reed Oien updated the board on the new dike/dam that Fugleberg would like to have installed by Jacobson. The drain/culvert previously discussed with the commissioners and SC Water District is scheduled to be placed by the county in September, with Interstate Engineering there on the day it is installed. The commissioners want to make sure that Fugleberg is taking proper steps with the Water District, and the county doesn't want anything done with the County right of way, which is 65 feet on both sides from the center line. Commissioner Strand moved to approve Fugleberg's request if it complies with Sc Water and County right way, seconded by Commissioner Brown. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Oien gave a gravel update: KRB is done, and the county and Lakeside are still working and plan to get done soon. Chip seal will start on August 18th.

Ben Gates reviewed the flex fund and grants for townships, bridges, and county items. Tyler Birchem with Interstate Engineering was on via Zoom and went over the bridge list and the plans for the next few weeks to get the paperwork and the list to the state by the end of August. Reed and Interstate Engineering plan to get the paperwork together and meet with township officers to review items for the flex funding. There will be a special meeting on August 26th at 8:15 a.m. to review the township's findings and finish the paperwork.

The Budget hearing is scheduled for September 4th at 7:00 p.m. Correction: the budget hearing needs to be held after September 7th. The new date is September 9th at 8:00 a.m., and a regular commission meeting will follow.

Wildlife Explorer members came to discuss the addition of a Rainbow bridge on the courthouse side lawn. This will be a bridge for anyone to use and a place to remember lost pets. They hope to finish it by the end of August and will continue to upkeep the bridge throughout the years. Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the bridge, seconded by Commissioner Grandalen. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

At 9:14 a.m., Commissioner Brown moved to take a 5-minute recess, seconded by Commissioner Grandalen. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

9:20 a.m. meeting reconvened

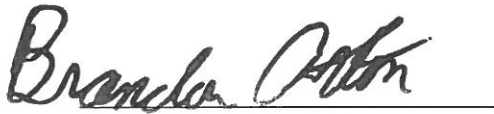
A county delegate is needed for the upcoming fall conference. Commissioner Brown went last year and said it is a good conference to attend. Commissioner Brown was selected again for this year.

The 2026 budget was discussed, and Portfolio holders would like to meet with the Department heads to discuss salary and get a brief update on the offices. The portfolio holders, along with Flaten, will get this set up. Commissioner Brown approved the preliminary 2026 budget, seconded by Commissioner Strand. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

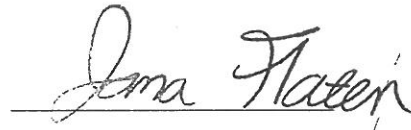
Commissioner Strand moved to approve the bills, seconded by Commissioner Brown. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Commissioner Brown 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 9:52 a.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brandon Oxtan", written over a horizontal line.

Brandon Oxtan- County Chairman,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jana Flaten", written over a horizontal line.

Jana Flaten -County Auditor