

OGLALA LAKOTA COUNTY UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2026

The Oglala Lakota Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on January 22, 2026. Present: Allyssa Comer, Art Hopkins, Wendell Yellow Bull and Sue Ganje, Auditor. Anna Takes the Shield (Dubray) Via telephone. Ramon Bear Runner was absent.

The meeting was called to order at 1:18 p.m. by Chairwoman Comer. The agenda was reviewed for conflicts. ALL MOTIONS RECORDED IN THESE MINUTES WERE PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE, UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to approve the agenda as written.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to approve January 8th, 2026, meeting minutes with. Hopkins asked that the board remove the motion on SD Retirement each January in the future.

OGLALA LAKOTA COUNTY PAYROLL 2026			
Arredondo, Jerlene	Veteran's Service Officer	\$43,077.00	per year
Bear Runner, Ramon	Commissioner	\$600.00 a month plus \$50.00 per attended meeting	
Bettelyoun, Lynx	Hwy Superintendent	\$64,551.72	per year
Rojo, Derek	Sheriff Deputy	\$26.75	
Comer, Allyssa	Commissioner	\$600.00 a month plus \$50.00 per attended meeting	
Ferguson, Doreen	Hwy Department	\$20.04	per hour
Ferguson, Kelly	Hwy Department	\$23.22	per hour
Hopkins, Artthur	Commissioner	\$600.00 a month plus \$50.00 per attended meeting	
Martinez, Audrey	Hwy Secretary	\$19.48	per hour
Martinez, Audrey	Coroner	\$385.00	per call
Black Bull, Daylon	Sheriff	\$59,924.76	per year
Takes The Shield (Dubray), Anna	Commissioner	\$600.00 a month plus \$50.00 per attended meeting	
White Face, David	Hwy Department	\$27.53	per hour
Yellowbull, Wendell	Commissioner	\$600.00 a month plus \$50.00 per attended meeting	
Paid out of the Victim's Assisstance Fund			
Boche, Carol	State's Attorney's Office	\$3,000.00	per year
Two Bear, Lynn	State's Attorney's Office	\$3,000.00	per year

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to approve the Auditor's Account with the treasurer for December, 2025 as follows:

Office of the Oglala Lakota County Auditor
 Sue Ganje, Auditor
 Stacy Schmidt, Deputy Auditor
 906 North River Street
 Hot Springs SD 57747
 Phone 605-745-5130 email: sue.ganje@state.sd.us

December-25

DATE: January 21, 2026

TO: Oglala Lakota County Board of Commissioners

From: Stacy Schmidt, Deputy Auditor

Auditor's Account of the Treasurer

Per SDCL 7-10-3 Monthly verification of treasurer's accounts - Report to county commissioners

To the Oglala Lakota Board of Commissioners; I hereby submit the following report of my examination of the cash and cash items in the hands of the County Treasurer as of December 31, 2025

Total Balances of Checking/Savings Accounts	1,581,442.05
Total Outstanding Deposits	696.50
Schwab Treasury	3,133,311.87
NSF Checks:	
Deaton, Tyler	110.10
Total Treasurer's Change Fund	15.00
TOTAL	4,715,575.52

Audited By: Stacy Schmidt

Oglala Lakota Co Auditors Office

Lynx Bettelyoun, Highway Superintendent, met with the Board.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to approve the payout of 108 hours of vacation for David Samuel Whiteface, as he was unable to use them.

ATTEST:

Oglala Lakota County Board of Commissioners

/s/ Sue Ganje

Sue Ganje, Auditor

Oglala Lakota County Auditor's Office

Tyler Gunhammer and Rebecca Terk, Interveners in the uranium exploration issue, met with the Board to advise that the support letters from Fall River County and the City of Hot Springs were not accepted due to the date received. The appeal was held with the DANR chairman Glenn Blumhardt, who denied the appeal. Gunhammer and Terk are asking for the full board to hear the request for a change of venue.

Reno Red Cloud, Intervener - Oglala Sioux Tribal Natural Resources, spoke of this being a significant issue for Treaty lands. It would be helpful for the citizens of the tribe to come to Hot Springs, rather than Pierre. Gunhammer suggested that the County sign yet another letter. He will mail out the letter himself.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to approve letter of support as follows:

Glenn Blumhardt, Chair

Board of Minerals & Environment

Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources

523 E Capitol Avenue

Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Honorable Chair,

Last spring, Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources (DANR) published notice of proposed uranium exploration (EXNI 453) in Fall River County, near Craven Canyon. Publication of the notice provided for public comment and petitions to intervene in the decision-making process. It also provided for a venue change request from an affected county.

In a letter dated May 14, the Oglala Lakota County Commission timely and properly submitted our request to hold the hearing in Pine Ridge, Hot Springs (our county seat), or Rapid City.

SDCL 45-6D-27 states, in part, "The board of county commissioners of a county containing affected land may request that the hearing on the application for a uranium exploration operation permit be held in that county."

At an August, 2025 pre-hearing on the matter, Board of Minerals & Environment Hearing Chair Bob Morris denied our request as improper because it did not come from the county in which the exploration would be sited. **However, SDCL 45-6D-27 states that the request may come from a county "affected" by the project, not simply the county in which the project is sited.**

As duly-elected commissioners of a county situated downwind and downstream from the proposed site, we are aware that our lands have been affected by previous exploration and

mining activities in Fall River County. We believe that further exploration or mining activities will create further impacts.

The Fall River County Commission and Hot Springs City Council also wrote in support of our timely & proper venue change request. Those additional requests were also denied in a December 21st ruling from Hearing Chair Morris, citing the earlier deadline that Oglala Lakota County did, in fact, meet.

Pursuant to ARSD 74:09:01:08, the Oglala Lakota County Board of Commissioners respectfully requests reconsideration of our venue change request by the full Board of Minerals & Environment, and to grant our request to relocate the hearing on EXNI 453 to Pine Ridge, Hot Springs or Rapid City.

Respectfully,

/s/ Allyssa Comer

Allyssa Comer
Commission Chair

/s/ Art Hopkins

Art Hopkins
Commissioner

/s/ Wendell Yellow Bull

Wendell Yellow Bull
Commissioner

Everett Dossey, Director of Equalization, met with the Board, to discuss possibly having town hall meetings in different communities in the county to explain the valuation process along with programs for taxpayers, at later this summer. Dossey then asked if there would be somewhere to meet for the meetings, Yellow Bull suggested somewhere in the Town of Batesland.

Hopkins questioned services from MASA health. The county will reach out for a representative to be at the next meeting.

Teresa Pullen, County Treasurer, met with the board to discuss a tax payment plan for Debra Black Crow.

Motion made by Hopkins, seconded by Yellow Bull, to approve payment plan for Debra Black Crow, in the amount of \$200.00 per month.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to have a 1st draft drug policy written by States attorney for next meeting.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to accept the bills as follows:

Buche - \$55.99 INV 250265/1 GUIDE BAR 20", \$41.99 " " 33RS3 72E SAW CHAIN, \$7.99 " " NIPPLE GALV 2"X3", \$14.99 " " COUPLE GALVSTEEL 2"

Bomgaars – \$484.99 INV 49764982 TRANSFER PUMP, \$99.99 " " MULTI TOOL KIT, \$25.99 " " OSCILLATING SET, \$12.99 " " CAULK GUN, \$14.99 " " MAGNETIC TRAY, \$36.99 " " LOADED BALL MOUNT, \$549.99 " " TANK, TRANSFER, NARROW

Butler - \$9,158.40 INV 06PS0723891 CUTTING EDGE X 40, \$1,201.38 INV 06PS0724267 10W HYDR 55G, \$947.69 " " 30W TRANS 55 GAL

Great Western - \$10,170.00 INV 1-669924 175R25 RECAPX6, \$90.00 "TIRE P 25" ORINGS, \$10.00 " " FUEL CHARGE

Martin Auto Parts - \$6.62 INV 202063315 QT MAG 1 HYDRAUL, \$19.59 " GL MAG 1 POWER STEER, \$97.57 " " WELD-ON PIPE MNT SWV, \$18.46 INV 202063707 AIR FILTER KIT, \$40.00 " " LABOR, \$38.52 " " SNOWDRIVER, \$12.84 "SNOWDRIVER, \$51.36 " " SNOWDRIVER, \$5.77 " " 1/2 DR 6 PT STANDARD, \$37.14 " " GL RAIN-X

Menards - \$42.42 INV 91752 2PK RETRAC TIE DOWNS, \$7.26 " " HEFTY US 13 G 40 CT, \$14.44 INV 92521 SIEMENS 4OZ 2P BRKR, \$136.85 " " GR WIRE, \$37.31 " " WHITE POLE BARN SCREW, \$5.26 " " HEX WASHER, \$5.26 " " HEX WASHER, \$5.26 " " SELF DRILL HEX, \$6.03 " " HEX HEAD SDS, \$5.26 " " SELF DRILL HEX

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to approve VSO monthly report.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Takes the Shield, to adjourn the meeting at 2:21 p.m.

/s/Allyssa Comer

Allyssa Comer, Chairwoman

Board of Oglala Lakota County Commissioners

ATTEST:

/s/Sue Ganje

Sue Ganje

Oglala Lakota County Auditor