

**OGLALA LAKOTA COUNTY UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF MARCH 12, 2026**

The Oglala Lakota Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on March 12, 2026. Present: Allyssa Comer, Art Hopkins, Wendell Yellow Bull, and Sue Ganje, County Auditor. Anna Takes the Shield (Dubray) via telephone. Ramon Bear Runner was absent.

The meeting was called to order at 1:12 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 with the amendment of paying \$100.00 to the appraisers who appraised the value of the new county Hwy shop.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to approve February 26<sup>th</sup> and March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, meeting minutes.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to set the equalization meeting to be April 23, 2026.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to move the policy discussion for unused leave time until the next meeting.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to approve Bear Runner, Comer, Hopkins and Yellow Bull to attend the BHACC/O meeting in Sturgis on March 13, 2026.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to approve Comer, Hopkins and Yellow Bull to attend the DANR - Board of Minerals & Environment meeting located in Pierre, SD on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. Central time.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to give \$100.00, plus mileage to each of the three people who appraised the new county Hwy shop.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to have Lance draft a letter for HB 1082 to take to the Black Hills District.

Ramon Bear Runner arrived at 1:34 p.m.

Everett Dossey, Director of Equalization, met with the Board.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to approve travel for Morgan Erickson, Director of Equalization office, to attend USPAP at a cost of \$375.00 for registration in Pierre, SD on the dates of May 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 2026, and for \$139.00 per night plus per diem.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to approve travel for Morgan Erickson, Director of Equalization office, to attend mandatory training for the SPAAO Conference

at a cost of \$300.00 for registration, in Sioux Falls, SD on the dates of June 2<sup>nd</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026, and for \$110.00 per night for one room, plus per diem.

Lynx Bettelyoun, Highway Superintendent, met with the Board to provide updates.

Discussion regarding appraisal was held on the proposed land purchase. The appointed appraisers - Donald Buffington, David E. Cuny and Mark Donovan met on 3/10/2026 and agreed on the value of \$300,000.00.

Jerlene Arredondo, VSO, met with the Board and presented February information and monthly report.

Motion made by Bear Runner, seconded by Yellow Bull, to accept the VSO monthly report for February 2026.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Bear Runner, to move the Sheriff to the next meeting.

Bobbie Janis, Auditor Administrative Assistant, spoke regarding the leave time policy and suggested updates to it.

There was no public comment.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Bear Runner, to approve the bills as follows:

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>		
ANGEL ARMOR	SERVICE UNIFORM SUPPLIES	\$4,934.34
ARREDONDO, JERLENE	MILEAGE TO/FROM COMM	\$70.00
AT&T MOBILITY	WIRELESS SERV/LEO,HWY, VSO	\$204.20
BEAR RUNNER, RAMON	MILEAGE TO/FROM MTG	\$277.20
CENTURY BUSINESS	XEROX/FAX/EMAIL/PRINTER	\$502.32
CLINICAL LABORATORY OF	AUTOPSY CHARGES	\$2,867.00
TAKES THE SHIELD, ANNA	MILEAGE TO/FROM COMM	\$70.00
HOPKINS, ARTHUR L	MILEAGE TO/FROM COMM	\$148.40
HOPKINS, ARTHUR L	MILEAGE TO/FR MTG & MEAL PER DIEM	\$323.40
HUSTEAD LAW OFFICE, P.C.	COURT APPT ATTY FEES	\$955.72
LINCOLN FINANCIAL GROUP	INSURANCE PLATFORM	\$150.09
LYNN'S DAKOTA MART	COMM MTG SNACKS	\$45.83
MASTEL, BRUCE	DATABASE & MONTHLY UPDATES	\$35.00
NATIVE SUN NEWS	COMM MINUTE PUBLICATIONS	\$256.20
QUADIENT FINANCE USA, INC	FEB 2026 POST ACCT	\$241.89
PAYLOCITY	PAYROLL PLATFORM	\$677.01
SDAAO	USPAP COURSE	\$375.00
SDPAA	LIABILITY INSURANCE	\$10,386.47
SD DEPT OF REVENUE	FEBRUARY 2026 REMITTANCE	\$120.00
SIoux FUNERAL HOME	AUTOPSY TRANS	\$485.00

THOMSON REUTERS - WEST	ONLINE LAW SUBSCRIPTION	\$342.66
AKICITA LAKOTA VETERANS	VSO RENTAL MAR 2026	\$100.00
YELLOW BULL, WENDELL	MILEAGE TO/FROM COMM	\$91.00
YELLOW BULL, WENDELL	MILEAGE TO/FR MTG & MEAL PER DIEM	\$280.00
COMER, ALLYSSA	MILEAGE TO/FROM COMM	\$134.40
COMER, ALLYSSA	MILEAGE TO/FR MTG & MEAL PER DIEM	\$296.80
COMMISSION	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$380.78
VET'S	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$1,906.93
SHERIFF	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$6,401.21
	<b>TOTAL FOR GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$33,058.85</b>
<b>COUNTY ROAD &amp; BRIDGE FUND</b>		
AT&T MOBILITY	WIRELESS SERV	\$96.05
BUFFINGTON, DONALD	MILEAGE & APPRAISAL	\$198.00
CULLIGAN	BOTTLED WATER	\$6.95
CUNY, DAVID	MILEAGE & APPRAISAL	\$198.00
LINCOLN FINANCIAL GROUP	INSURANCE PLATFORM	\$250.15
LACREEK ELECTRIC ASSOC	ELECTRICITY	\$428.65
MARTIN AUTO PARTS	PARTS/TOOLS/SUPPLIES	\$511.03
MCI COMM SERVICE	LONG DISTANCE PHONE	\$54.80
SDPAA	LIABILITY INSURANCE	\$12,908.00
DONOVAN, MARK	MILEAGE & APPRAISAL	\$119.60
CRBR ADMIN	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$10,627.40
	<b>TOTAL FOR COUNTY ROAD &amp; BRIDGE FUND</b>	<b>\$25,398.63</b>
	<b>TOTAL FOR BILLS PAID BETWEEN 02/27 AND 03/12/2026</b>	<b>\$58,457.48</b>

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Bear Runner, to adjourn the meeting at 2:34 p.m.

/s/Allyssa Comer  
Allyssa Comer, Chairwoman  
Board of Oglala Lakota County Commissioners

ATTEST:  
/s/Sue Ganje  
Sue Ganje  
Oglala Lakota County Auditor



**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

**February-26**

DATE: March 17, 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 February 28, 2026

Total Balances of Checking/Savings Accounts	1,532,944.44
Total Outstanding Deposits	6,683.46
Schwab Treasury	3,196,756.05
NSF Checks:	
Deaton, Tyler	110.10
Total Treasurer's Change Fund	15.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,736,509.05</b>

Audited By: Stacy Schmidt

**Oglala Lakota Co Auditors Office**

weeks in advance by the employee to their supervisor. Every effort will be made to ensure that all employees are treated equally and fairly. In some instances, it may not be possible to grant all leaves requested during busy times or emergency situations; however, every effort will be made to grant requests.

An employee anticipating a leave of absence is encouraged to apply for such leave as soon as possible. Appointed Officials must submit paper leave slips to be signed by the Commissioners for all sick and vacation leave time.

**6.3.2 Sick Leave:**

**Sick Leave:** Full-time employees in their first year of employment shall be entitled to a half (1/2) day per month, six (6) days per year, after completing sixty (60) days of employment are allowed to start using their sick leave balance. In their second year of employment, the employee shall be entitled to one (1) day per month, six (6) days per year. Sick leave accrual is calculated as follows: Sick leave may be used for doctor, dentist, chiropractor, or other health care provider visits, include travel time, but is not allowed for personal errands. Sick leave requests must include a letter from a physician if out for more than three (3) days. Employees may not take FMLA concurrently with sick leave when the FMLA policy and the FMLA policy.

**6.3.3 Vacation:**

**Vacation:** Full-time employees are eligible for vacation leave on their annual anniversary of hire date. Hours are based on years of service as follows:

- After one (1) year of service .....
- After two (2) years of service .....
- After five (5) years of service .....
- After ten (10) years of service .....
- After fifteen (15) years of service .....Twenty-One (21) days [168 hours]
- After twenty (20) years of service .....Twenty-Four (24) days [192 hours]

*Upon Comm approval, the remainder above 120 may be paid out.*

Vacation will be prorated upon the discharge or dismissal of the employee. Employees in their probationary period are not eligible.

Unused vacation time of 120 hours is allowed to be carried over on employee's anniversary date, or it may be paid out on their paycheck.

**6.3.4 Funeral Leave**

In the event of a death in the immediate family, employees will be allowed to take up to five (5) days of funeral leave a year. New employees need to wait until they are out of their probationary period. An employee may, upon approval of their supervisor, take additional annual leave or leave without pay. For the purposes of defining 'immediate family' is defined as: spouse (partner), son, daughter, hunkapi (adopted) children, mother, father, mother-in-law, father-in-law, stepchildren, sister, brother, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, grandparents, grandchildren, step-grandchildren, stepparents, aunt, uncle, niece,

*History Note on the bottom of when the change*

weeks in advance by the employee to their supervisor. Every effort will be made to ensure that all employees are treated equally and fairly. In some instances, it may not be possible to grant all leaves requested during busy times or emergency situations; however, every effort will be made to grant requests.

An employee anticipating a leave of absence is encouraged to apply for such leave as soon as possible. Appointed Officials must submit paper leave slips to be signed by the Commissioners for all sick and vacation leave time.

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**Sick Leave:** Full-time employees in their first year of employment shall be entitled to a half (1/2) day per month, six (6) days per year, after completing sixty (60) days of employment are allowed to start using their sick leave balance. Beginning with the second year of employment, the employee shall be entitled to one (1) day per month, twelve (12) days per year. Sick leave accrual is calculated and credited at the end of each pay period. Sick leave may be used for doctor, dentist, chiropractor, counseling, etc. appointments, to include travel time, but is not allowed for personal business. The County may request a letter from a physician if out for more than three consecutive days. Eligible employees may take FMLA concurrently with sick leave when the reason for leave qualifies under both this policy and the FMLA policy.

**6.3.3 Vacation**

**Vacation:** Full-time employees are eligible for vacation. Vacation is available on the annual anniversary of hire date. Hours are based off an eight (8) hour workday.

After one (1) year of service .....	Nine (9) days [72 hours]
After two (2) years of service .....	Twelve (12) days [96 hours]
After five (5) years of service .....	Fifteen (15) days [120 hours]
After ten (10) years of service .....	Eighteen (18) days [144 hours]
After fifteen (15) years of service .....	Twenty-One (21) days [168 hours]
After twenty (20) years of service .....	Twenty-Four (24) days [192 hours]

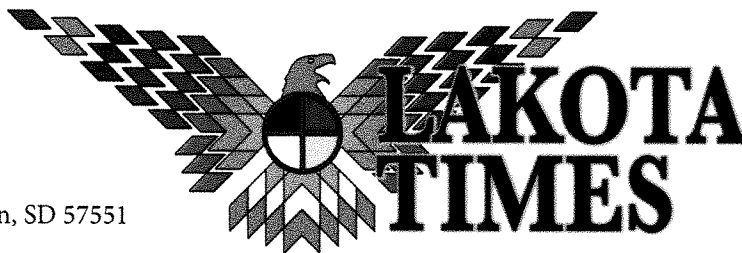
Vacation will be prorated upon the discharge or dismissal of the employee. Employees in their probationary period are not eligible.

Unused vacation time of 120 hours is allowed to be carried over on employee’s anniversary date. Upon Commissioner approval the remainder of vacation leave above 120 hours may be paid out on their paycheck if requested. Update 02/26/2026 and approved on 03/12/2026.

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605-685-1868  
ads@lakotatimes.com  
29263 HWY 73, Martin, SD 57551



FAX: 605-685-1870  
www.lakotatimes.com  
PO Box 386, Martin, SD 57551

## INSERTION ORDER

Advertisement Name: ANY AND ALL ADS

Advertiser: OGLALA LAKOTA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Contact Name: WENDELL YELLOW BULL

Billing Address: ON FILE

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Volume: 22

Issue: \_\_\_\_\_

Ad Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Ad Cost Per inch: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sub Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Runs: \_\_\_\_\_

Discount: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

AD PRICES FOR ALL ADS IN LAKOTA TIMES WILL  
REMAIN THE SAME AS IN THE LAST 15 YEARS, THERE  
HAS BEEN NO PRICE INCREASE,

**AD TYPE:**    Broadsheet    Business Directory    ✓ Display Classified    ✓ Classified Line Ad    Inserts

**CONTRACTS: MONTH • YEAR**    Contract Start: \_\_\_\_\_    Contract Stop: \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT: BILL • CASH • DEBIT CARD**    PO#: \_\_\_\_\_    Requisition#: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please sign below and RETURN by fax or email • Your signature allows us to print your ad.*

Digitally signed by Connie L Smith  
Date: 2026.03.16 10:22:00 -06'00'

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lakota Times Signature / Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Advertiser Signature / Date

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**Oglala Lakota County Highway Department**  
**Monthly Report: Feb 11,2026 to March 19,2026**

**Blading Road(s)**

02/11/26	# 15, 16, 11, 7	completed by: Sam, Kelly, Doreen
02/12/26	# 15, 2, 9	completed by: Sam, Kelly
02/17/26	# 2	completed by: Sam
02/18/26	# 15, 7	completed by: Sam, Kelly
02/23/26	# 16,16A, 7	completed by: Sam, Doree, Kelly
02/26/26	#16, 2, 7	completed by: Sam, Kelly, Doreen
03/02/26	#16, 11	completed by: Sam, Kelly
03/03/26	# 16, 16A	completed by: Sam, Kelly, Doreen
03/04/26	#2, 4, 15, 17	completed by: Sam, Kelly, Doreen
03/05/26	# 17	completed by: Sam, Kelly, Doreen
03/12/26	# 16, 2, 7	completed by: Sam, Kelly, Doreen
03/16/26	# 16A, 2	completed by: Sam, Kelly
03/17/26	# 16, 4	completed by: Sam, Kelly, Doreen
03/18/26	# 16	completed by: Sam, Kelly, Doreen

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### Equipment

02/12/26	BL07	oil change	completed by: Sam, Kelly
02/25/26	BL06, BL07	change cutting edged	completed by: Sam, Kelly, Doreen
03/02/26	BL04	fixed 2 tires	completed by: Lynx
03/03/26	PK03	fixed tire	completed by: Lynx
03/09/26	Side D	replaced air line	completed by: Kelly, Lynx
03/09/26	Ken	fixed air gauge sensor	completed by: Lynx
03/19/26	BL06, BL07	change cutting edges	completed by: Sam, Kelly
03/19/26	BL06	changed oil	completed by: Sam, Kelly

### Reshaping Rds

03/05/26	# 17	completed by: Sam, Kelly, Doreen, Lynx
03/09/26	#17	completed by: Sam
03/10/26	#17	completed by: Sam, Kelly, Lynx

Oglala Lakota County Highway Department

To: Oglala Lakota County Commissioners

Fr: Lynx Bettelyoun/\_\_\_\_  
Oglala Lakota County Highway Superintendent

Re: Budget Proposal

Here is the budget proposal for, the Fencing Project for the new Oglala Lakota County Highway Department property.

Consultant: 24hrs @ 125.00 per hr. 3,000.00

Laborers: 160hrs @ 17.25 per hr. 2,760.00  
2,760.00 x3 laborers = 8,280.00

Grand total: \$ 11,280.00

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**RE: Lincoln Financial Enrollment Form**

1 message

**Roger Risty** <rristy@ristybenefits.com>

Tue, Mar 24, 2026 at 9:57 AM

To: "payroll@olcounty.org" &lt;payroll@olcounty.org&gt;, Donna Arens &lt;darens@ristybenefits.com&gt;

I have asked and searched for different carriers - I do not believe we are going to be able to allow commissioners to join the Lincoln financial plan because of there are not enough hours worked.

Sorry - I was sure we could get this done for you

## Celebrating 20 Years!!!



*Roger R. Risty*

**Founder/Consultant**

Risty Benefits, Inc.

1324 S. Minnesota Ave

Sioux Falls, SD 57105

c: 605-351-9515

p: 605-338-1489 ext. 111

f: 605-338-2823

e: [rristy@ristybenefits.com](mailto:rristy@ristybenefits.com)

[www.ristybenefits.com](http://www.ristybenefits.com)

All in the town were still asleep, when the sun came up with a shout and a leap. In the lovely streets unseen by man, a little dog danced as the day began. Begin each day with joy.

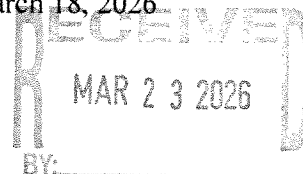
\*Notice of Confidentiality: This email and any of its attachments may contain Risty Benefits Inc. proprietary information, which is privileged, confidential, or subject to copyright belonging to Risty Benefits, Inc. This email is intended solely for the use of the individuals to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this email, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, copying or action taken as relation to the contents of and attachments tot his email is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender immediately and permanently delete the original and any copy of this email and any printout. Thank you.



File Code: 1560

Date: March 18, 2026

Allyssa Comer, Chairwoman  
Oglala Lakota County Commissioners Office  
906 North River St  
Hot Springs, SD 57747



Dear Allyssa Comer:

Thank you for your Formal Comment on the October Jinx Project #67625 in your letter dated March 3, 2026, and received at Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands Supervisor's Office in Chadron, NE. In summary, your letter expresses concerns with the project including ground water contamination, disturbance to sacred site, and damage to cultural and historical resources of the Oglala Lakota County's residents and their ancestors. Additionally, you state Oglala Lakota County opposes the project and requests that the Forest Service complete an Environmental Impact Statement.

Please note, the October Jinx Project #67625 is administered under the Black Hills National Forest. The proposed project information is posted at:  
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r02/blackhills/projects/67625>

Comments will be accepted at any time. However, comments posted after the close of a designated comment period may not be able to be given full consideration and will not provide the commenter standing for administrative review.

Questions and comments about this project should be sent to:

**Jonathan Manning**

Hell Canyon Ranger District  
1019 N 5th Street , Custer, SD, 57730  
[Jonathan.Manning2@usda.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Manning2@usda.gov)

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your comments and participation.

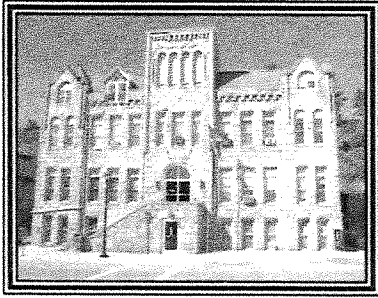
Sincerely,

*Amanda Gehrt*  
Digitally signed by  
AMANDA GEHRT  
Date: 2026.03.18  
09:51:33 -06'00'

AMANDA GEHRT  
Acting Forest Supervisor

Enclosure: Scan of Original Letter  
cc: Jonathan Manning





**OGLELA LAKOTA COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS OFFICE  
COURTHOUSE  
906 NORTH RIVER ST  
HOT SPRINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA 57747  
PHONE: (605) 745-5130 FAX: (605) 745-6835**

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March 3, 2026

Forest Supervisor  
Nebraska National Forest  
125 N. Main Street  
Chadron, NE 69337

Re: October Jinx Project #67625 Formal Comment

Dear Forest Supervisor:

Thank you for the opportunity to make this Formal Comment concerning the Jinx Project Proposal. Oglala Lakota County has a duty to protect the environment of the citizens of Oglala Lakota County and the ancestral home of the Lakota People.

The Cheyenne River watershed drains the proposed Jinx Project area and forms part of the boundary of Oglala Lakota County, adjacent to the Town of Red Shirt, South Dakota. The Jinx Project plans to use 130,000 gallons of water in the process of drilling into the adjacent aquifers. This process could very well result in contamination of the groundwater of the area and harm the Cheyenne River through seepage, and subsequently, Oglala Lakota County's residents.

Craven Canyon is a sacred site for the residents of Oglala Lakota County, as there are many cultural, historical carvings made by the ancestors of residents of Oglala Lakota County. The South Dakota State Historical Preservation Office has noted existing concerns with the project because of the close proximity of the drilling and disturbances that will result from the Jinx Project very near to Craven Canyon. These ancient carvings should be protected for posterity. No project can be justified if there is any possibility of disturbance of this irreplaceable site.

The numerous drillings of wells into aquifers containing radioactively contaminated material that will be extracted to the surface through noncontaminated aquifers presents a myriad of possible problems that cannot be reversed. These contaminated materials may very well pollute the atmosphere after being extracted from the areas hundreds of feet below ground where it has been undisturbed for a millennia.

Thank you for your serious consideration of Oglala Lakota County's concerns and this formal opposition to the October Jinx Project. The Oglala Lakota County Commission, at a minimum, respectfully request that the Forest Service complete an Environmental Impact Statement, as the Commission believes that the National Environmental Policy Act Planning documents prepared by the Forest Service are inadequate and violate the Act.