

**STANLEY COUNTY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 29, 2026**

The special meeting of the Stanley County Commission was called to order at 5:00 p.m. (CT) by Chairman Iversen, with Commissioners Mike Kenzy, Sonny Harrowa, Craig Heller, and Gary Grittner present. Also present was Emergency Manager Dustin Baxter, Casey Tibbs Rodeo Center Board Members Bryan Hanson, Steven Kost, Kalyn Bergeson, Rapid City Pierre Eastern Railroad Tyler Van Asperen, A.G.E. Andy Johnson, Core Engineering & Consulting Inc. Patrick Engels and Auditor Philena Burtch. The meeting commenced with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA: Motion by Sonny Harrowa, second by Mike Kenzy, to approve the Agenda. All voted Aye. Motion Carried.

Canvass of July 28, 2026 Primary GOP Runoff Election: Upon review of the Canvass, Motion by Craig Heller, second by Sonny Harrowa, to approve the Canvass of the Primary GOP Runoff Election of July 28, 2026. All voted Aye. Motion Carried.

Draw for Post Election Audit: Gary Grittner drew Precinct 01 statewide contest for Governor will be audited during the August 17, 2026 Post Election Audit.

Emergency Management Services – Hill Slide: Dustin Baxter informed the Board that SD Department of Transportation and the state geologist were on site to access the hill slide. Andy Johnson did install pins to monitor movement. The State has a plan set if the hill slide impacts US Highway 83, traffic will be diverted to Deadwood Avenue. Tyler Van Asperen stated that the trains have been instructed to slow their speed in case of debris on the tracks, they have time to stop. Multiple agencies are working to figure how to slow the slide, the consensus is to bring the hill down to a 5 to 1 slope to stabilize the hill, need to figure out how much dirt needs to be moved.

Early stages of the slide were not caused by the vibration from the trains; the trains do not create enough vibration to do this type of shift.

Dustin explained that after the hill shifted the electrical lines feeding the Casey Tibbs Rodeo Center were stretched, so the city extended the power line to prevent lost of power to the Center. The County's generator is ready to hook up, if needed.

Why is the hill shifting now? Patrick Engels explained that time and deterioration. The balance within the shale structure has shifted. The sensible strategy is to lay both sides of the hill to a 5 to 1 slope, toward the railroad and toward Verendrye Drive, while making sure Casey Tibbs Rodeo Center remains stable. Movement has been accelerating since monitoring began.

Dustin explained that FEMA does not fund this type of a project due to the fact that the hill is undeveloped, just left natural. Dustin is looking at other funding options since Casey Tibbs Rodeo Center is a non-profit museum and the railroad has limited funds.

The Commissioners discussed the regional significance of the issue and the need for both the City and County to receive the same information before considering any future actions. The consensus was to request a joint special meeting with the City of Fort Pierre. No decisions regarding mitigation were made.

The Commission directed Emergency Manager Dustin Baxter to facilitate the meeting request and act as the information-gathering entity as well as to look for any potential funding sources or opportunities for the city, county, or private entities affected to mitigate the slide danger.

ADJOURN: Motion by Gary Grittner, second by Craig Heller, to adjourn at 6:22 P.M. All voted Aye. Motion Carried.

ATTEST:

(SEAL)

Philena Burtch, Auditor

BOARD OF STANLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Dana Iversen, Chairman