Hanson & Davison Ambulance District Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: 06/25/2026
Meeting Time: 7:00 PM CST
Meeting Location: Alexandria Courthouse, Alexandria, South Dakota

Board Members Present: Kyle Baker, Sara Jorgensen, John Millan from Davison County; Don Huber, Heidi Berg, and Brian Leitheiser from Hanson County

Board Members Absent: Jared Nesheim in the at-large seat

Guest Attendance: Jim Davies, Rhonda Baker, Kathy Hofer, Owen Keitz, Travis Hostler, Dennis Waldner, Randy Waldner, George Waldner, Toby Wipf, Judy Wipf, Matt Baker, Bob Berg, David Estabrook, Brandon Winger

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Meeting Agenda: Sara Jorgensen moved to approve the meeting agenda for the Hanson and Davison Ambulance District meeting held on June 25th, 2026. The motion was seconded by Brian Leitheiser. The motion carried.

Previous Meeting Minutes: John Millan moved to approve the minutes of the Hanson and Davison Ambulance District Meeting held on June 8th, 2026. The motion was seconded by Sara Jorgensen. The motion carried.

Public Input: During public input, a letter from attorney Melissa Jelen of Cadwell Sanford Deibert & Garry LLP was submitted to the Board on behalf of TMT Rentals, LLC, and Ryan and Rhonda Baker. The letter objected to the special assessment and to any general tax levy or special assessment alleged to violate South Dakota statutory and constitutional law. The letter further stated that Melissa Jelen had been authorized by TMT Rentals, LLC, and Ryan and Rhonda Baker to pursue an appeal and take legal action, if necessary. The letter was read into the record, received by the Board, and placed on file as an exhibit. Board legal counsel, Jim Davies, addressed the Board and members of the public regarding the matters raised in the letter.
Matt Baker addressed the Board, stated his support for the current special assessment, and thanked the Board for its work.
Travis Hostler addressed the Board, expressed his support for the current special assessment, and thanked the Board.
Bob Berg addressed the Board and thanked the Board for its work.
Toby Wipf addressed the Board and thanked the Board.

Board legal counsel Jim Davies provided the Board with a handout titled *Conducting the Public's Business in Public* as a reference guide. Jim Davies also informed the Board that revisions to South Dakota's Open Meetings Law and executive session requirements will take effect on July 1, 2026. Additional information and education were tabled for next meeting.

Financial Report: The Treasurer reported a checking account balance of $726,861.90 as of June 23, 2026. The Treasurer further reported that, according to Hanson County Auditor Lisa Trabing, there is no penalty or interest for late payments of special assessments; penalties and interest apply only to levied taxes.

Kyle Baker moved to approve the financial report. John Millan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Kyle Baker moved to authorize payment of $700,000 to the City of Mitchell. Sara Jorgensen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sara Jorgensen moved to pay the outstanding balance of the line of credit, including accrued interest, to Security State Bank. Brian Leitheiser seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Kyle Baker moved to authorize the Board's initial payment of $15,000 to Jim Davies for legal services. John Millan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-03
A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2027 ANNUAL BUDGET
WHEREAS, the Davison-Hanson Ambulance District Board has reviewed the proposed budget for the 2027 fiscal year; and
WHEREAS, the Board finds that the proposed budget provides for the anticipated revenues and appropriations necessary to conduct the business and operations of the District during the 2027 fiscal year;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Davison-Hanson Ambulance District Board hereby adopts the following budget for the 2027 fiscal year:
2027 APPROVED BUDGET

INCOME DESCRIPTION
Special Assessments: $825,000.00
Grants: $0.00
Interest Earned: $0.00
Reimbursement: $0.00
Loans: $0.00
Donations: $0.00
TOTAL: $825,000.00
EXPENSE DESCRIPTION
Insurance (Bond/Board Insurance):$1,100.00
Miscellaneous - Mitchell Contract: $721,000.00
Publications: $4,000.00
Legal/Board Training & Education: $31,000.00
Board Salaries: $6,000.00
Revenue Yet to Be Realized: $57,000.00
Supplies/Postage and Printing: $4,900.00

TOTAL: $825,000.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the implementation of this budget for the 2027 fiscal year and authorizes expenditures in accordance with the appropriations contained herein.
Adopted this 25th day of June, 2026.
Kyle Baker moved to adopt Resolution No. 2026-03 approving the 2027 Annual Budget. John Millan seconded the motion. Upon a vote of the Board, the motion carried unanimously, with all members voting in favor and no objections.

Objections to the Ambulance Special Assessment: Objections submitted by TMT Rentals, LLC (2) were tabled for further review.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-02
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING NEGOTIATION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE RURAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the Davison-Hanson County Ambulance District Board entered into the Rural Emergency Medical Services Agreement with the City of Mitchell; and

WHEREAS, Section 4 of the Agreement establishes the amounts due to the City under the terms of the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that it is in the best interest of the District to seek an amendment to the payment schedule set forth in Section 4 of the Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Davison-Hanson County Ambulance District Board that Board President Don Huber is hereby authorized to work with the leadership of the City of Mitchell to negotiate an amendment to the Rural Emergency Medical Services Agreement modifying the payment schedule under Section 4 so that payments are due on **July 1** and **December 1** of each year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any negotiated amendment shall be presented to the Board for review and approval prior to execution, unless otherwise authorized by subsequent Board action.

Adopted this 25th day of June, 2026.

Motion by John Millan, seconded by Kyle Baker, to adopt Resolution No. 2026-02. Upon a vote of the Board, the motion carried unanimously, with all members voting in favor and no objections.

Following Board discussion, consideration of public input, and consultation with legal counsel, it was moved by John Millan and seconded by Kyle Baker that the following resolution be adopted:

RESOLUTION No. 2026-01

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the "Davison-Hanson Ambulance District" that the district finds and determines the following:

A. That the income producing (taxation method) means for supporting the ambulance district will be done by special assessment on properties within the district;

B. That the property which will be assessed with the special assessments receives the following unique benefits from the district:

1. Ambulance services are a healthcare medical service for the people in need thereof;

2. The residences and businesses within the district are the properties that have the largest numbers of people frequenting them and using them;

3. Non-business and non-residential properties have a significantly less frequent anticipated need for medical services;

4. Ambulance responses will be to assist people, not property;

5. A special assessment paid by the businesses and the residential locations is the best way for the district to apportion the cost of the ambulance service in direct relationship to the services that will be provided within the guidelines and requirements of South Dakota law and covering where services will most frequently be needed;

6. The board finds that the special assessment considers the character of increase services provided;

7. The board finds that the special assessment considers the situation in which the services are provided;

8. The board finds that the special assessment considers the condition and situation of the surrounding properties;

9. The board finds that the benefits are local to each property; and

10. The board finds that the value of calls to the property assigned for special assessments exceeds the value of the calls to other properties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the special assessment properties will be assessed a cost of $247.52 each as their portion of the fees to be paid for the ambulance healthcare services to be provided under the contract.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a complete listing of the properties subject to the special assessment will be kept in the office of the district located at 720 5th St., Alexandria, SD 57311, in the office of the Hanson County Auditor at the Hanson County courthouse, where it will be available for viewing during normal business hours.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a listing of the properties referred to herein will be posted on the district's website tabs at the Davison County website at: https://www.davisoncounty.org and at the Hanson County website at https://www.hansoncountysd.gov/, where it will also be available for public viewing.

JUSTIFICATION FOR RESOLUTION:

a. This process directs the costs of the district to the sources of the most benefit therefrom.

b. This process maintains the fiscal responsibility status of the district.

c. This process maintains equity in the taxing processes for support of the district.

d. This means and processes in the best interest of the citizens, residence and taxpayers of Davison and Hanson County to provide a means to support this district.

Votes for: 6
Votes against: 0
Motion carried.

Next Meetings:

Kyle Baker moved to schedule the next Board meeting for December 1st 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Alexandria Courthouse. Brian Leitheiser seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adjournment: Kyle Baker moved to adjourn the meeting, and Brian Leitheiser seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.