

May 5, 2026

At 9:00 AM, on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, the Brown County Board of Commissioners met in Room #204 of the Brown County Courthouse located in New Ulm, Minnesota, 56073. Commissioners present were David Borchert, Anton Berg, Scott Windschitl, Brian Braun and Jeff Veerkamp, along with County Administrator Sam Hansen and County Attorney Charles Hanson.

Call to Order

1. Chairman Windschitl called to order the Regular Meeting at 9:00 AM. All present said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Review

2. A motion was offered by Commissioner Berg, and was seconded by Commissioner Veerkamp, to accept the printed agenda. This motion duly carried.

Consent Agenda Review

3. Previous Meeting's Official Proceedings and Synopsis Approval

4. General Government Claims

In accordance with MS 375.12, the following claims exceed \$2,000: AWS Software Systems Support \$6,685.00; Bridging Brown County \$3,800.00; Brown Co Agricultural Society \$16,500.00; Brown Co Historical Society \$56,429.00; Brown Co Humane Society \$6,000.00; Brown Co Library Board \$50,000.00; BROWN CO SOIL & WATER CONS DIST \$65,898.50; GEI Consultants Inc \$4,312.03; GOLDEN GATE CEMETERY ASSN \$3,000.00; Guardian Fleet Safety \$32,644.37; KAYLA ENTERPRISES \$2,275.40; LIBERTY TIRE RECYCLING LLC \$24,375.10; Mathiowetz Enterprises Inc 33,274.45; MN Valley Action Council \$3,317.00; MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS INC \$15,010.84; RON'S RECYCLING \$6,848.00; South Central MN EMS \$2,500.00; Southern Mn Initiative Foundation \$3,000.00; 61 payments less than \$2,000 total \$24,976.49. Final Total: \$360,846.18.

5. Plat Correction

6. Corrected DNR Electronic License System (ELS) Agent Contract

7. Staffing Report

A motion was offered by Commissioner Braun, and was seconded by Commissioner Borchert, to approve said Consent Agenda items. This motion duly carried.

New Business

8. Kelly Hotovec, Auditor-Treasurer, met with the County Board. A motion was offered by Commissioner Borchert, and was seconded by Commissioner Berg, to accept by Resolution No. 2026-13 the Tax-Forfeited Land Sale 2026 for properties forfeited to the State for non-payment of taxes establishing basic and minimum sale prices and terms of sale for Public Tax-Forfeited Land Auction to be held on June 25, 2026, at 10:00 AM in the Brown County Law Enforcement Center (LEC) Training Room and private adjacent landowner sale. This motion carried on a roll-call vote of 5-0.

9. Kelly Hotovec, Auditor-Treasurer, and Andrew Lang, Engineer, met with the County Board. A motion was offered by Commissioner Braun, and was seconded by Commissioner Veerkamp, to approve the following drainage repair request(s) and the payment of said repair(s):

System	Repair	Order	TWP	Section	Repair Type	Cost
CD 75	26-011	1	Milford	7	Cleanout	\$10,269.69
CD 57	25-009	1	Eden	9	Surface Intake	\$1,305.00
CD 57	26-006	1	Eden	13	Blowout	\$1,190.00
CD 57	26-008	1	Eden	13	Blowout, Surface Intake	\$1,190.00
CD 60	26-005	1	Prairieville	26	Slough, Blowout	\$1,553.00
JD 25 R&B	26-010	1	North Star	18	Blowout	\$866.00

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This motion duly carried.

10. Kelly Hotovec, Auditor-Treasurer, and Andrew Lang, Engineer, met with the County Board. A motion was offered by Commissioner Braun, and was seconded by Commissioner Berg, to award the contract for the CD 16 Branch 3 & 3-A Tile Replacement Repair Project to Ellingson Companies with a low bid of \$49,041.45. This motion duly carried.

11. A motion was offered by Commissioner Berg, and was seconded by Commissioner Windschitl, to award the contract for the Surface Rehabilitation Projects: SAP 008-602-019; CSAH 2; SAP 008-602-020; CSAH 2; SAP 008-608-045; CSAH 8; and CP 102-26; CR 102 to Duininck, Inc. with a low bid of \$4,578,579.50. This motion duly carried.

12. A motion was offered by Commissioner Berg, and was seconded by Commissioner Veerkamp, to approve the County Road/Street closure request from The Pig & Plow for CSAH 31 in Evan for Thursday night Roll-ins between 5:30 and 8:30 PM on June 4, June 18, July 2, July 16, July 30 and August 13, 2026. This motion duly carried.

13. A motion was offered by Commissioner Berg, and was seconded by Commissioner Borchert, to accept and order file the Highway Department Monthly Update for Construction and Maintenance Projects. This motion duly carried.

14. Jaden Sandgren, Zoning Specialist and Feedlots, and Amanda Lang, Assistant Zoning Administrator, met with the County Board. A motion was offered by Commissioner Veerkamp, and was seconded by Commissioner Berg, to approve the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) feedlot program 2025 Annual County Feedlot Officer & Performance Credit Report and authorize Board Chair to sign same on behalf of Brown County. This motion duly carried.

15. Robert Santaella, Planning and Zoning Director, and Amanda Lang, Assistant Zoning Administrator, met with the County Board. A motion was offered by Commissioner Berg, and was seconded by Commissioner Borchert, to recognize Amanda Lang, 2026 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award for the Minnesota Association of County Feedlot Officers (MACFO). This motion duly carried.

16. Mary Priebe, HR Director, met with the County Board. A motion was offered by Commissioner Borchert, and was seconded by Commissioner Windschitl, to table proceeding with the UKG Service request for programming UKG or online open enrollment until staff can see other counties that utilize the open enrollment software. This motion duly carried.

17. Sam Hansen, County Administrator, and Kathleen Backer, Mayor, met with the County Board. A motion was offered by Commissioner Berg, and was seconded by Commissioner Borchert, to approve the Miller Dunwiddie exterior preservation design and construction administration services proposal for the Phase 5: remaining exterior preservation project at the Brown County Historical Society with a maximum fee of \$23,710. This motion duly carried.

18. A motion was offered by Commissioner Berg, and was seconded by Commissioner Borchert, to approve the Brown County Historical Society Phase 5 low bid by ACME Tuckpointing & Restoration in the amount of \$275,200 contingent on a successful legacy grant approval to be submitted by Kathleen Backer that includes a \$95,000 County match (29% of total project cost). This motion duly carried.

At 10:01 AM, a motion was offered by Commissioner Borchert, and was seconded by Commissioner Berg, to suspend the rules and temporarily deviate from the adopted agenda to allow for public comment. This motion duly carried.

Brian Domeier, 19591 Grandview Rd., New Ulm, MN; Samantha Janni, 545 Mary Ln., Courtland, MN; and John Luepke, 44242 541st Ave., Courtland, MN, provided public comment regarding the public comment provisions contained in the Operating Rules and Procedures and pending litigation.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Berg, and was seconded by Commissioner Veerkamp, to resume the regular order of business. The motion duly carried.

Break

Other Business

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19. Commissioner Committee Reports: Commissioner Borchert reported on the MRCI Executive meeting; Commissioner Windschitl reported on the Enterprise North meeting and the AMC Nuts and Bolts training; Commissioner Braun reported on the JD 5 meeting and the UMN Extension meeting; and Commissioner Veerkamp reported on the Park Board meeting and MN Rural Counties meeting.

20. Calendars were coordinated for the next two-week period.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Windschitl declared the Meeting adjourned at 11:39 AM.



Scott Windschitl, Chair
Board of Brown County Commissioners
Brown County, Minnesota

ATTEST:



Sam Hansen
Brown County Administrator
Brown County, Minnesota

Resolution No 2026-13
Brown County Resolution

Brown County Tax Forfeited Lands Sale 2026
for Properties Forfeited to the State for Non-Payment of Taxes

The following Resolution was offered by Commissioner Borchert and moved for adoption at a regular board meeting held on May 5, 2026, at the Brown County Courthouse, New Ulm, MN:

WHEREAS, prior to managing tax-forfeited lands as otherwise provided in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 282, the county auditor must offer parcels forfeited after December 31, 2023, at a public auction to the highest bidder in a manner reasonably calculated to facilitate public participation, including by online auction.

WHEREAS, the sale under this section must occur within six months of either the filing of the certificate of forfeiture pursuant to section 281.23, subdivision 9, or the date the property is vacated by the occupant, whichever is later.

WHEREAS, notice of the sale under this subdivision must be provided by publication in newspapers, websites, and other forums that serve diverse communities in the county where the property is located at least 30 days before the commencement of the sale.

WHEREAS, at auction, the county auditor must calculate the minimum bid and make the figure available to those participating in the auction. The county auditor must also calculate and make available the initial price of the property, which is equal to the estimated market value, as determined by the most recent assessment. The property must not be sold for less than the initial price for 30 days after it is initially made available at auction.

WHEREAS, if no buyer is willing to pay the initial price, the price for the property must be reduced to the minimum bid.

WHEREAS, if no buyer is willing to pay the minimum bid, the State is deemed to have purchased the property through a credit bid and the parcels may be disposed of as otherwise provided in Chapter 282.

WHEREAS, any parcel of land forfeited to the State of Minnesota for non-payment of real estate taxes prior to 2024 have been classified and appraised as provided by law, considering the present use of adjacent lands, accessibility to established roads, schools, and other public services and the effect of their sale and occupancy on the public burdens,

WHEREAS, the Brown County Board of Commissioners does hereby determine that it is advisable to order the sale of the following described parcels of land at Public Auction, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Sections 282.005 and 282.01 et seq.:

Parcel	Legal Description	Address	Assessed Value	Specials Prior to Forfeiture	Specials After Forfeiture	Basic Sales Price	Minimum Bid
CITY OF NEW ULM							
001.001.069.02.020	NORTH OF CENTER LOT 2 BLOCK 9	307 Minnesota St N	\$48,600.00	\$896.42	\$77,932.71	\$126,532.71	\$97,958.96
001.002.036.04.040	SOUTH OF CENTER PT OF LOT 4 BLOCK 36		\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$134.31
001.143.005.04.040	DACOTAH WEST ADD LOT 4 BLOCK 5 .28 AC	2300 Benz Cir	\$51,600.00	\$25,922.00	\$14,992.45	\$15,992.45	\$15,992.45

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD							
003.000.002.04.040	ORIGINAL PLAT SPRINGFIELD LOT 4 BLOCK 2		\$4,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,800.00	\$595.06
MILFORD TOWNSHIP							
190.012.002.03.090	SECT-12 TWP-110 RANGE-31 4.77 AC SUBL 8 OF LOTS 4 & 5		\$7,600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,600.00	\$564.10

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Brown County Board of Commissioners hereby directs the Brown County Auditor-Treasurer to conduct a Public Auction Sale of tax forfeited lands on June 25, 2026, commencing at 10:00 a.m. in the Brown County Law Enforcement Center Training Room, located at 15 South Washington Street, New Ulm, Minnesota, 56073. The sale will be governed by the terms approved by the County Board. Detailed terms of sale are on file with the County Auditor-Treasurer's office or on the county website at www.browncountymn.gov. The purchaser is entitled to immediate possession.

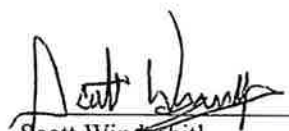
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, parcels not sold at the initial sale will be made available for over-the-counter purchase for a period of 30 days. At the conclusion of the 30 days, any remaining unsold parcels shall be offered for sale at the minimum bid through a sealed bid auction beginning on July 27, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, Minnesota Statute 282.01, allows a county auditor to sell certain parcels of tax-forfeited land that cannot be improved because it does not comply with local ordinances regarding minimum area, shape, frontage, or access at a private sale for adjacent landowner; and that the County Board of Commissioners of Brown County, Minnesota does hereby determine that it is advisable to order a private sealed bid sale to adjacent landowners for following described parcels of land, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Sections 282.01 et seq.:

Parcel	Legal Description	Address	Assessed Value	Specials Prior to Forfeiture	Specials After Forfeiture	Minimum Bid
CITY OF SLEEPY EYE						
002.105.016.01.010	BRACKENRIDGE 1 st ADDITION N 79' OF LOT 1 BLOCK 16	221 Water St SE	\$4,800.00	\$13,759.13	\$0.00	\$1.00
CITY OF EVAN						
006.020.008.08.080	RASMUSSEN ADDITION LOTS 8-10 BLOCK 8		\$2,100	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1.00
BURNSTOWN TOWNSHIP						
120.019.004.09.150	SECT-19 TWP-109 RANGE-34 2.00 AC LOT 2 OF SE4		\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1.00
HOME TOWNSHIP						
150.028.003.12.210	HILLCREST ADD SERVICE ROAD		\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1.00

Seconded by Commissioner Berg and the same being put to a vote was duly carried.
This Resolution shall become effective immediately and without publication.

Adopted by the following vote: Ayes 5 Nays 0.
Dated this 5th day of May 2026.


Scott Windschitl
Chairman, Brown County

CERTIFICATION

State of Minnesota
County of Brown

I, Sam Hansen, duly appointed, qualified and acting County Administrator for the County of Brown, State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of a Resolution with the original minutes of the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners, Brown County, Minnesota, at their session held on the 5th day of May, 2026, now on file in my office, and have found the same to be a true and correct copy thereof.

Witness my hand and official seal at New Ulm, Minnesota, this 5th day of May 2026.

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

Sam Hansen
County Administrator