

Official Proceedings of the Stutsman County Commission— March 31, 2026

At 8:15 a.m., Chairman Levi Taylor called the special meeting of the Stutsman County Commission to order. Ben Tompkins, Mike Hansen, Amanda Hastings, Chad Wolsky, and Levi Taylor answered roll.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

No public comments were presented.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Tompkins, seconded by Wolsky. Unanimous aye vote. Motion carried.

Taylor presented a request from Guthmiller Earthmoving for temporary access on County Road 39, which is currently closed, to retrieve materials.

Gene Guthmiller, Guthmiller Earthmoving, stated that he has gravel and other materials north of County Road 39 that he would like to gain access to before the ice is gone. He recently accessed the area where the materials are, going around the barricades, removed some of the materials and felt comfortable with his equipment crossing the road. Guthmiller agreed to build up 200 feet of the road, on St. Paul Township side, at no charge, to prove to the Commission that he could repair the road.

Shawn Lachenmeier, Chairman, St Paul Township, was under the impression that this road was closed in 2020 and turned over to the county. Mike May, Interstate Engineering, stated that there was a FEMA project done on the road in 2020, but that the road still belongs to the township. Lachenmeier stated that the township would be in favor of having the 200 feet of road being built up at no charge.

Jesse Christianson, Highway Superintendent, doesn't see the feasibility of completing the road while the water remains an issue and states concerns about public safety protocols and liability.

Bryan Behm, landowner, stated that landowners feel their requests and concerns regarding this road have been ignored and abandoned.

Russ Well, landowner, stated that he needs this road to be fixed to access his lands. He feels that the road is safe and questions why the county would not want to fix it. He encouraged the Commission to make the repairs, so the road is usable.

Guthmiller gave an approximate cost of \$200,000 to fix the entire stretch of road. He will provide the Commission with a cost, and with what portion would be charged to the county and township. He plans to have the 200-foot stretch completed within a day.

A motion to allow Guthmiller Earthmoving to obtain temporary access to County Road 39 to access his materials was made by Tompkins, seconded by Wolsky. Roll call vote: Tompkins, Hansen, Hastings, Wolsky and Taylor voted aye. Motion carried.

Taylor requested that road closed signs be in use during the process, and that Guthmiller stay in contact with the Commission and Christianson, as well as informing the Commission when the work is complete.

At 8:57 a.m., a motion to adjourn the special Commission meeting was made by Hastings, seconded by Tompkins. Unanimous aye vote. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Jessica Alonge
Auditor/COO

Levi Taylor
Commission Chairman