

**MEEKER COUNTY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
REGARDING PROPOSED ORDINANCE FOR
DEER HUNTING FIREARM REGULATIONS**

For publication: Weeks of February 2 and 9, 2026

Pursuant to MN Statutes 97B.031, Subd.7, the Meeker County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing regarding County authority to limit firearms for deer hunting, during a board meeting on February 17, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room, Level 2, at the Meeker County Government Center, 114 North Holcombe Avenue, Litchfield, MN. The public is invited at this time to give their views either in person or in writing. A copy of the proposed ordinance is available on the County website at www.co.meeker.mn.us under the "County News" heading, or by contacting the Meeker County Administrator's Office at 320-693-5200.

Dated: January 6, 2026

/s/ Andrew Letson
Meeker County Administrator



During the 2025 legislative session, the legislature repealed the “shotgun zone” for deer hunting, allowing rifles to be used throughout the state starting with the 2026 hunting season, but gave counties authority to keep the previous restriction in place.

The Meeker County Board of Commissioners ***has not decided what it will do*** and is seeking information, opinions, and facts on the issue from the community. A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the County Board Room at the Government Center (114 N. Holcombe Avenue, Litchfield).

If the County Board decides to retain limitations on the types of firearms that can be used during the deer hunting season, it must adopt an ordinance outlining those regulations. A draft ordinance reflecting these regulations is available for review. If the County Board decides to allow rifles to be used for deer hunting, it would not need to take any formal action.

Your input is important! If you are unable to attend the public hearing and would like to submit written comments, you can do so by emailing the County Administrator at andrew.letson@co.meeker.mn.us no later than 4:30 p.m. on February 17, 2026.

**Meeker County
Ordinance No. 2026-01**

ORDINANCE IMPOSING FIREARM LIMITATIONS FOR DEER HUNTING IN MEEKER COUNTY

THE MEEKER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Subd. 1 Statutory Authorization and Intent

- 1.01. This Ordinance is enacted under the authority to limit the type(s) of firearms that may be used to hunt deer within Meeker County pursuant to Minn. Stat., § 97B.031, subd 7.
- 1.02. It is the intent and purpose of this Ordinance:
 - A. To promote the health, safety and welfare of residents, guests, and hunters within Meeker County,
 - B. To mitigate incidents of potential trespass by discharge of firearms or entry onto another's land, and
 - C. Preserve the ability to responsibly manage deer populations in Meeker County.

Subd. 2 Definitions

- 2.01. "Shotgun Use Area" is defined as the entire territory within the boundaries of Meeker County, State of Minnesota.
- 2.02. Other terms used in this Ordinance related to boating are defined in Minn. Stat. § 97B.031

Subd. 3 Shotgun Use Area and Firearms Limitation

- 3.01. During the regular firearms deer hunting season in the shotgun use area, only legal shotguns loaded with single-slug shotgun shells, legal muzzle-loading long guns, and legal handguns may be used for taking deer. Legal shotguns include those with rifled barrels.

Subd. 4 Enforcement

- 4.01. The Meeker County Sheriff and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources conservation officers have authority to enforce the provisions of this Ordinance within Meeker County.

Subd. 5 Penalty

- 5.01. A person guilty of violating any provision of this Ordinance shall be punished for offense by a fine of up to \$1,000, imprisonment of not more than ninety (90) days, or both.

Subd. 6 Effective Date

This Ordinance shall be effective upon passage by the Meeker County Board of Commissioners and shall remain in effect until modified or repealed as provided in Minn. Stat. 97B.031 subd. 7.

ADOPTED by the Meeker County Board of Commissioners on this _____.

Beth Oberg,
Meeker County Board Chair

Attest: _____
Andrew Letson,
County Board Clerk

DRAFT