

**Minutes of the Custer County Special Commission Meeting, Wednesday, September 17, 2025.**

**2026 Budget Hearing**

**Members present:**

Commissioners Mark Hartman, Mike Linde, Michael Busskohl, Craig Hindle and Dawn McLaughlin, Finance Officer.

**A. Commission Meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**B. Adopting of the agenda**

1. Motion to approve Agenda made by Busskohl; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

**C. 2026 Budget Hearing**

1. Finance Officer, Dawn McLaughlin, presented the preliminary draft of the 2026 Budget, which totals \$13,289,102.14, which is a 1% (\$176,708.14) increase over the 2025 Budget. Based upon Commission recommendations, the Final Budget is \$13,037,867.00, which is a difference of \$251,235.14. Each department's request includes a 3% to 8% wage increase per employee based upon wage study completed by Human Resources. Aspire Empowered for Life is requesting \$720.00; RISE is a new request for \$5,000.00 in 2026; State's Attorney has requested to combine 441-444-445 accounts to the 441 account, eliminating the 444-445 accounts. Prisoner Care increased by \$200,000.00 per the Pennington County agreement.

Max Tax Calculations:

Custer County Consolidated (includes Courthouse) \$4,873,143.90—CPI 2.90%--MAX GROWTH 2.044%.

Secondary Roads \$763,830.98—CPI 2.90%--MAX GROWTH 2.224%.

Custer Firefighting \$350,066.52—CPI 2.90%--MAX GROWTH 1.852%

The following presented their budgets and answered questions:

- Maintenance \$432,925; Courthouse Building \$197,705; Building Principal \$285,211; the 101 budget overall increased 5%.
- State's Attorney \$407,778 requested; Commission recommended additional \$3,438.09 due to wage increase for a total of \$411,216.50; Mental Health \$26,750.
- Highway \$3,400,968 requested; Commission recommended decrease of \$100,000 in gravel funding for a total of \$3,300,968.
- Commission \$306,317; Contingency \$250,000.
- Auditor \$453,662; Indigent Support \$11,700.
- Election \$95,508.
- Treasurer \$453,662.
- Register of Deeds \$156,334; Modernization & Preservation \$50,380.
- Courts \$43,600 requested; Commission recommended \$41,600-witness/juror fees not approved; Court-Appointed Attorney \$133,000.
- Library \$396,629 requested; Commission recommended decrease of \$44,987.76 and removed creation of new position for a total of \$351,641.52.
- Veteran's Services \$54,947.
- Human Resources \$84,242.
- Department of Equalization \$446,196.
- Emergency Management \$158,133.

- Info Systems & Technology \$104,376 requested; Commission recommended additional \$1,127.99 for a total of \$105,506.02 based on office error re: health benefits; GIS-\$176,140.
- Coroner \$45,148.35 requested; Commission recommended additional \$3,724.62 wage increase for a total of \$48,872.97.
- Sheriff \$2,031,662; Prisoner Care \$520,500; 24/7 Sobriety \$69,772 requested; Commission recommended a decrease in overall budget of \$54,889.81 for a total of \$14,882.50; Communications 911 \$616,491.
- Weed & Pest \$164,034; Conservation \$30,713.
- Planning \$234,313.
- Airport \$175,190.
- Extension \$49,485.
- Custer County Housing \$14,000.
- Volunteer Fire Departments \$328,763.
- Black Hills Works \$5,000.
- 1881 Courthouse Museum \$41,000.
- Custer/Hermosa Sr. Citizens \$11,500.
- Search & Rescue \$51,790.
- Hermosa Arts & History \$2,500.
- Custer YMCA \$19,040 requested; Commission recommended decrease of \$2,040 for a total of \$17,000.
- Custer County Fair \$23,000.
- WEAVE \$10,000; CASA Child Advocacy \$4,000.
- BMS Behavior Management \$8,313.
- Developmentally Disabled-Aspire \$720 requested; Commission recommended no funding for a total of \$0.00
- Art Gallery \$250.
- Animal/Predator Control \$1,695.
- Senior Meals \$3,000.
- Prairie Hills Transit \$6,000.
- Civil Air Patrol \$1,000.
- Nurse \$23,725.
- RISE \$5,000 requested; Commission recommended funding this new request.
- Safety \$9,160.

**D. Adjourn**

Motion by Busskohl and seconded by Hindle to adjourn the meeting at 3:35 PM. The next meeting will be September 24, at 8:30 AM in the Commissioner's Room in the Custer County Courthouse.

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Jim Lintz, Chairman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Barbara Cox, Custer County Deputy Auditor