

Minutes of the Custer County Commission Meeting

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

2026 Budget Hearing

Members present:

Commissioners Jim Lintz, Mark Hartman, Mike Linde, Michael Busskohl, Craig Hindle and Commission Legal Counsel Aaron Davis and Dawn McLaughlin, Finance Officer.

A. Commission Meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Approve Agenda

1. Amend to add to Item "F" Human Resources, #2, to discuss and approve Human Resources change in hours of operation.
2. Amend to add to Item "G", to discuss and approve Custer YMCA funding request. Motion to approve Agenda as amended made by Hartman; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

C. Conflict of Interest Declarations - None

D. Public Comment

1. Lea Anne McWhorter presented as an "fyi" for the Commission, the fact that Custer State Park (CSP) has 100 year lease for private cabins that were built before CSP began. That lease will be terminating in 2029. The total number of cabins affected is 35. McWhorter told how the property/land the cabins sit on is State land. Therefore, the cabin owners do not pay property taxes on the land, but they do pay property taxes on the cabins. She also stated, something to be aware of, is, at the end of lease, the cabin owners have to remove or tear down the buildings. McWhorter said as this issue is being looked at, she is wondering what happens with "our" relationship with CSP and how much will CSP be willing to fund "some of our things here." She said she understands there are contracts in place again this year, "\$9,400./\$9,600.?" which is less than \$40,000. That amount doesn't pay for a dispatcher, nor a vehicle...she had previously talked with Marty Mechaley who said that amount would only pay for 3 days. McWhorter reiterated the possibility of working with CSP to obtain "a little bit better payment." Hartman asked DOE Director, Scott Storms, to pull how much in tax is generated from the cabins.
2. Amber Maidens, Human Resources, said her and DOE Director, Scott Storms ask that everyone start thinking about the Custer County employee Christmas party, and mentioned placing it on the next agenda.

E. 2027 Final Budget Hearing: Dawn McLaughlin, Finance Officer, presented Referring to Provisional Budget for Custer County, SD, for year January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027:

	<u>Provisional</u>	<u>Final</u>
Commissioners:	\$321,885.	\$313,160.
Contingency:	same	\$250,000.
Election:	\$48,850.	\$36,050.
Court:	same	\$41,600.
Auditor:	\$378,356.	\$377,906.
Treasurer:	\$416,945.	\$416,745.
IST:	same	\$108,091.
ST Attorney:	same	\$425,075.
Court Appt Attorney:	same	\$133,000.
Courthouse:	same	\$451,105.
DOE:	same	\$469,200.
Register of Deeds:	\$165,312.	\$165,312.
Veterans Service:	\$55,967.	\$54,967.
Animal/Pred Control:	same	\$1,695.
Info Tech/Data Pro:	same	\$176,560.
Human Resources:	same	\$91,008.
Total General Govt		\$3,511,474.

	<u>Provisional</u>	<u>Final</u>
Sheriff:	\$2,659,967.	\$2,566,328.
Coroner:	\$50,332.	\$50,815.
Prisoner Care:	same	\$531,500.
Search & Rescue:	\$120,790.	\$116,790.
Civil Air Patrol:	same	\$1,000.
Safety:	same	\$11,313.
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY		\$3,277,746.

	<u>Provisional</u>	<u>Final</u>
Airport:	same	\$167,003.
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS		\$167,003.

	<u>Provisional</u>	<u>Final</u>
Indigent:	same	\$11,700.
Rise:	same	\$5,000.

Housing:	*removed	-
Nurse:	same	\$25,489.
Senior Meals:	same	\$3,000.
BH Works:	same	\$5,000.
Prairie Hills Transit:	same	\$7,500.
CASA/Child Advocacy:	same	\$4,000.
Mental Health:	same	\$25,500.
Behavior Mgmt:	same	\$8,318.
Total Health & Welfare		\$95,507.

*Busskohl wanted to cut Housing Final \$14,000. from the Budget. It was noted the City of Custer does not allocate funds towards housing. Linde, Hindle, Hartman agreed with Busskohl. Housing Final \$14,000. removed.

	<u>Provisional</u>	<u>Final</u>
Library:	same	\$380,245.
Museum:	same	\$41,000.
Hermosa Arts:	\$15,000.	\$2,500.
Senior Citizens:	same	\$13,500.
Custer Art/Glry Comm:	same	\$250.
Custer YMCA:	\$17,850.	\$17,000.
Custer Fair:	same	\$23,900.
Total Cult. & Recreation		\$478,395.

	<u>Provisional</u>	<u>Final</u>
Extension:	same	\$25,455.
Conservation:	same	\$32,105.
Weed & Pest:	\$170,506.	\$169,756.
Total Natural Resources		\$227,316.

	<u>Provisional</u>	<u>Final</u>
Planning:	\$242,877.	\$230,033.
TOTAL ECON. DEVELOPMENT		\$230,033.

<u>Provisional</u>	<u>Final</u>
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Capital Outlay		
Operating Transfers – OUT	\$786,592.	\$784,079.
 TOTAL GEN. FUND		 \$8,771,553.

	<u>Provisional</u>	<u>Final</u>
Weave Dom Abuse:	same	\$10,000.
Hwy & Bridge:	\$3,361,645.	\$3,261,645.
Fire:	same	\$648,763.
Emergency Mgmt:	\$147,662.	\$145,150.
24/7 Sobriety	same	\$8,000.
Building:	same	\$202,925.
Principal:	same	\$285,111.
ROD/MMP	same	\$57,680.
Communications/911	same	\$740,230.
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS		\$5,359,603.

TOTAL ALL FUNDS **\$14,131,156.**

2. Finance Officer Dawn McLaughlin stated Resolution 2026-14, is for the Adoption of the Annual Budget for Custer County. The County collects taxes in the General Fund, the Building Fund, Highway/Road & Bridge Fund, and Fire Fund. State Form "The Annual Budget for Custer County" and the adoption of the County's budget are sent to South Dakota Department of Revenue (SD DOR) so County levies can be calculated. Once the levies are known, they will then be advertised. McLaughlin mentioned that the SD DOR is very busy, so the Budget totals have not been verified with her as of yet. State law mandates the Budget be approved today. Because of this, some adjustments may need to be made on the Mill Levy before December 31, 2026, after approval from the State. A request for revision on the Resolution will need to be done. Motion to approve Resolution 2026-14 - 2027 Final Budget by Busskohl; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye motion carried.

F. Human Resources: Amber Maidens, Human Resources Director, presented

1. Maidens spoke, at the Commission's request, about the possibility of County Departments changing hours of operation. Based upon prior department request 8- 5, M-F, work schedule, the Commission wants to implement a process for considering department hours of operation on a case-by-case basis. This would take into account each department's responsibilities, staffing and public service needs. Each department would need to present their hours of

- operation changes to the Commission for approval. If the Commission agrees, departments could dictate their hours of operation.
2. Maidens asked for the Commission's approval to change Human Resources hours of operation to begin at 7:30am with departure times varying between 3:30pm to 5pm. Busskohl asked that Items 1 and 2 be put on the 10-7-2026 Custer County Commission Meeting Agenda for Motion.

G. Commission

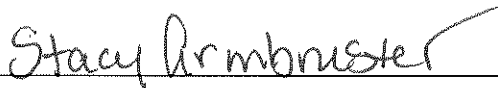
1. Connie Curry, Executive Branch Mgr, YMCA of Custer, presented Curry respectfully requested Custer County continue its ongoing support of the Custer YMCA at the current funding of \$17,000. for 2027. Curry said, reducing the YMCA's allocation to \$10,000., represents a 41% decrease in support for an organization that has maintained services and expanded its reach and impact across Custer County. She also mentioned how over the last few years, the YMCA has worked to serve residents beyond the City of Custer including youth development, childcare, wellness, workforce development and community programs. The YMCA has also recently strengthened its partnership with the Custer School District; as well as, broadened its presence in Hermosa. Curry said County funding plays a critical role in making these programs available and affordable. It also allows the YMCA to leverage additional resources including grants, charitable contributions, volunteer support and regional YMCA partnerships.
Linde asked Curry what is Custer YMCA's total budget, and what percentage of that is Custer County's contribution. Curry answered, \$700,000. to \$800,000. with the County's contribution being a small portion. Busskohl asked if it was 2-3 years ago that the County raised its portion from \$10,000.? Hindle thought it had been longer than 2-3 years. Terri Kester commented that as a parent with a child who participates in activities at the Custer YMCA, that it is nice when the YMCA has the extra funding; thus, making the financial impact less on the participating family. Curry expanded on this by saying they currently offer \$2,096.83 per month in financial aid, mainly in childcare, to 62 Custer County families. The financial aid amount can differ from month to month. The Custer YMCA has opened 0-5 years of age childcare in Hermosa in partnership with Custer School District. In addition, there are currently 42 children in after-school programs in Custer, with 93% capacity, and 63% capacity in Hermosa. Busskohl asked if the school puts any money into the YMCA. Curry responded "no," but it contributes by allowing them use space inside its facilities to operate YMCA programs. In conclusion, the Board agreed to reinstate Custer YMCA funding of \$17,000.
2. Discussion and approval of lifting hiring freeze.
Motion to approve by Busskohl; seconded by Hartman; vote taken, all aye: motion carried.

H. Adjourn

1. Adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Linde and seconded by Hartman to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 am.


Jim Lintz, Chairman

Attest: 

Stacy Armbruster, Custer County Deputy Auditor



Published once at the total approximate cost of _____.