

AGENDA
Codington County Board of Commissioners
Codington County Court House, 14 1st Ave SE, Watertown SD
Commission Chambers, Room #114
9:00 a.m., Tuesday, September 01, 2026

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Call for public comments. Public comment may be submitted in person or via telephone at 605-882-6248 or 605-882-6297
3. Conflict of interest items
4. Action to approve September 01, 2026, agenda
5. Action to approve August 25, 2026, minutes of the Board of Codington County Commissioners
6. Public Hearing on 2027 Codington County Provisional budget
7. Monthly Reports
 - a. Veteran Service Officer
8. Discussion/possible action to approve amended lease with Crawford-Osthus Funeral Chapel
9. Note the Board will not meet on September 15th, 2026, due to SDACO/SDACC annual convention
10. Note office closures on Labor Day, Monday September 7th, 2026
11. Action to approve abatement applications
12. Action to approve claims for payment
13. Action to approve automatic budget supplements
14. Action to approve personnel changes
15. Action to approve travel requests
16. Public Notices – a possible quorum of Commissioners could be in attendance at:
17. Old Business
18. New Business
19. Open
 - a. Public Comments
 - b. Commission Comments
20. Action to enter into Executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2
 - (1) Discussion of personnel issues (SDCL 1-25-2(1))
 - (2) Consulting with legal counsel or reviewing communications from legal counsel about proposed or pending litigation or contractual matters (SDCL 1-25-2(2))
 - (3) Preparing for contract negotiations or negotiating with employees or employee representatives (SDCL 1-25-2(3))
 - (4) Discussion of pricing or marketing strategies when public disclosure may harm the competitive position of the county owned business (SDCL 1-25-2(4))
 - (5) Discussion of information pertaining to the protection of public or private property (SDCL 1-25-2(5))
21. Action to adjourn upon completion of agenda items.

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**Official Proceedings
County of Codington
Codington County Court House
14 1st Ave SE
Watertown, SD 57201**

September 01, 2026

The Codington County Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, September 01, 2026, at the Codington County Court House. Commission members present were: Lee Gabel, Tyler McElhany, Myron Johnson, Randall Schweer, and Troy VanDusen; Chair VanDusen, presiding. The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Gabel.

CALLS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST ITEMS

Chair VanDusen called for public comments to be taken up during the open portion of the meeting; none were offered. There were no conflict-of-interest items to note.

AGENDA APPROVED

Motion by McElhany, second by Schweer, to approve the agenda for September 01, 2026, as posted; all voted aye; motion carried.

MINUTES APPROVED

Motion by Johnson, second by Gabel, to approve the minutes of August 25, 2026; all voted aye; motion carried.

2027 PROVISIONAL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

The Board held a public hearing, as previously advertised, to allow any and all interested parties to comment on the 2027 Codington County Provisional Budget. Chair VanDusen opened the public hearing at this time. No comments were offered by persons present for this hearing. Chair VanDusen closed the public hearing at this time. The Board will conduct public hearings again, during their regular meetings, on September 8th and 22nd, 2026. The provisional budget will be adopted during the Board's regular meeting on September 22nd, 2026, at which time the budget may be amended upon action by the Board.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Veterans Service Officer, Jay Roberts, updated the Board: metrics for the month, 127 open claims (working claims) 49 pending action from VA, 202 completed (YTD), Hamlin 14 open (working claims) 7 pending from VA, 27 completed (YTD), currently working for 8 veterans and have completed 11 claims for veterans from outside our county; \$11,978 for the month August 2026, increase in monthly compensation for veterans or their dependents YTD monthly increase \$121,398; \$94,013 for the month of August 2026, retro-payment to bring a claim current to monthly compensation YTD retro-payments \$588,988; 0 veteran DAV transports in August, 3 - currently scheduled for August, we have one application for someone to become a VA volunteer as a driver; CURRENT - We are in our new office at 10 N Broadway "Executive Suites on Broadway" 104, we did help a veteran on our move in date and were completely open and ready to assist veterans and their dependents on August 25th, 2026; SDDVA 2026 annual benefits school in September, the office will be closed September 15-18th, 2026; FUTURE - meeting with the commanders on September 1, 2026, at the VFW; radio shows KWAT - 8:30 and KXLG - 9:05 on September 3rd, 2026; Nominations for Veteran of the Year are due from the local veteran's organizations, the Veteran of the Year will be presented at the Veteran's Day program in November 2026; November 7th and 8th, 2026, there will be a Veteran event and Veteran Family Camp, 9:00 a.m. arrival on the 7th with a luncheon being served at 11:30 a.m., this will take place at Joy Ranch.

AMENDED LEASE/RENTAL AGREEMENT WITH COKO PROPERTIES/CRAWFORD-OSTHUS FUNERAL CHAPEL

Motion by McElhany, second by Schweer, to authorize Chair to sign amended lease/rental agreement with COKO Properties/Crawford-Osthus Funeral Chapel, to increase the monthly amount from \$250.00 to \$350.00; Coroner, Terry Sorensen, informed the Board that the increase is due to an increase in electricity from adding an air conditioner, this is a month-by-month agreement; all voted aye; motion carried.

SDACO/SDACC ANNUAL CONVENTION

Note the Board will not meet September 15th, 2026, due to SDACO/SDACC annual convention.

LABOR DAY CLOSURES

The Board notes the Court House, and all County offices will be closed on Monday, September 7th, 2026, in observance of Labor Day.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Motion by McElhany, second by Gabel, to approve the following Personnel change: all voted aye; motion carried. Milo Ford, season Park Technician, Memorial Park, Grade BB/Step B, \$20.86 per hour, effective 8-31-2026.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Gabel mentioned that the 2027 commissioners' budget will cover the costs to renew the new Two Trees managed services contract.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Gabel updated the Board on the new jail build, he mentioned that there is a lot of interior work happening in Area A, also in Area A there is shell space that is currently gravel and looking at possibly to lay concrete so it can be utilized as storage; Tegra is getting proposals to hire a commissioning agent, there was \$70,000 in the budget for this.

OPEN

Commission comments - Commissioner Johnson announced that he will be attending the SD Retirement meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Johnson, second by Schweer, to enter executive session, per SDCL 1-25-2 (2) Consulting with legal counsel or reviewing communications from legal counsel about proposed or pending litigation or contractual matters (SDCL 1-25-2(2) at 9:16 a.m.; all voted aye; motion carried. The Board returned to regular session at 10:17 a.m. and no action was taken. Human Resource Representative, Natalie Remund, State's Attorney, Alison Trauba, SDPAA Attorney, Lisa Marso via phone call, Auditor, Brenda Hanten and Deputy Sheriff, Brent Solum, were present for executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon conclusion of all business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Gabel, second by McElhany, to adjourn at 10:18 a.m., all voted aye; motion carried.

ATTEST:

Brenda Hanten

Codington County Auditor

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