

Clark County Commissioner meetings see changes in ambulance staffing

CLARK COUNTY
COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS
DECEMBER 29, 2025
APPROVED

The Clark County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, December 29, 2025 in the Commissioner Room of the Clark County Courthouse. Chairman Knock called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with the following commissioners present at the Courthouse: Wallace Knock, Francis Hass, Sara Gjerde and Terry Schlagel. Present via zoom Chris Sass. Auditor Tarbox also present.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS: None.
AGENDA: Motion by Schlagel, second by Gjerde to approve the agenda for December 29, 2025. Voting aye: Sass, Hass, Gjerde, Schlagel and Knock. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Motion by Hass, second by Sass to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2025 meeting. Voting aye: Sass, Hass, Gjerde, Schlagel and Knock. Motion carried.

TRANSPORT FUEL QUOTES: The following fuel quotes were presented to the board. Blended Diesel: Agwrx – No bid. Clark Community Oil – No bid. Vollan Oil – No bid. Farstad Oil – No bid. Stern Oil – \$2.57. Sioux Valley Coop - \$2.44. The board accepted the low quote and all quotes are on file in the Auditor's office at the Courthouse.

CONTINGENCY TRANSFER 1-25: Motion by Schlagel, second by Sass to approve contingency transfer 1-25 in the amount of \$121,260.00. Voting aye: Sass, Hass, Gjerde, Schlagel and Knock. Motion carried.

CONTINGENCY TRANSFER 1-25
Commissioner Schlagel moved that the following transfer be adopted.

Whereas an insufficient amount was appropriated for the county to meet its obligation and;

Whereas an appropriation was made in the 2025 budget of Clark County an amount for contingencies as provided by SDCL 7-21-6.2 and;

Whereas SDCL 7-21-32.2 authorizes the Board of Clark County Commissioners to transfer from this Contingency appropriation to any other appropriation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that \$121,260.00 be transferred from the Contingency appropriation to the following:

- \$34,250.00, Court System, 101-153-422
- \$15,250.00, Court System, 101-153-422.20
- \$16,200.00, Prisoner Care, 101-212-429
- \$42,000.00, Airport, 101-331-433
- \$100.00, Social Services for Aged, 101-433-429
- \$1200.00, Mental Illness Board, 101-445-422
- \$12,200.00, Weed, 101-615-434
- \$60.00, Domestic Abuse, 229-434-

429
Commissioner Sass seconded the motion that the TRANSFER be adopted. Upon roll call, the following Commissioners voted aye: Sass, Hass, Gjerde, Schlagel, Knock. All voting aye. Motion carried. Those voting nay: None.

Dated this 29th day of December, 2025.

/s/ Christine Tarbox
Christine Tarbox, Auditor
Clark County, South Dakota

RESOLUTION 27-25: It was moved by Gjerde, second by Sass to approve Resolution 27-25, Clark County Salary schedule for 2026. Voting aye: Sass, Hass, Gjerde, Schlagel and Knock. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 27-25
2026 SALARY SCHEDULE

Commissioner Gjerde presented the following resolution and moved for its adoption. Second by Commissioner Sass. Voting aye: Sass, Hass, Gjerde, Schlagel and Knock. Voting nay: None.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Clark County Board of Commissioners adopt the following wage and salary scale for Clark County employees to be effective January 1, 2026. This resolution, when adopted, will nullify all previous wage scales.

SALARY SCHEDULE ---January 2026
2% increase to staff, does not include ambulance shift employees. This increase will be effective January 3, 2026 and reflected in the January 20, 2026 payroll.

COMMISSIONERS.....	Salary/mo.....	704.66
Terry Schlagel, Francis Hass, Chris Sass, Wallace Knock, Sara Gjerde		
REGISTER OF DEEDS: Andrea Helkenn.....	Salary/mo.....	4,493.87
TREASURER: Carrie Reis.....	Salary/mo.....	4,397.48
AUDITOR: Chris Tarbox.....	Salary/mo.....	4,722.44
STATES ATTORNEY: Chad Fjelland.....	Salary/mo.....	4,195.86
Lisa Clausen.....	Pay/mo.....	1,725.57
SHERIFF: Sheriff – Tad Heaton....	Salary/mo.....	5,735.79
Deputy – Lindsay Stiefel.....	Salary/mo.....	4,143.50
Deputy – Peyton Hoffer.....	Salary/mo.....	3,867.50
BLOOD DRAW:..	Salary/draw..	121.69
Louann Streff, Gayle Wookey		
DIRECTOR OF EQUALIZATION – Jarvis Reidburn...Salary/mo....	4,347.41	
PLANNING & ZONING & Flood Plain: Jarvis Reidburn.....	Salary/mo.....	357.00
HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT – Ryan Eggleston...Salary/mo...5,444.93		
Secretary – LeAnn Johnson.....	Salary/mo.....	2,760.92

CUSTODIAN: Jimmy Marx.....	Salary/mo.....	3,931.43
CORONER: Louann Streff.....	Salary/call.....	182.52
Deputy Coroner:.....	Salary/call.....	182.52
Gayle Wookey, Lisa Lee		
VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER – Darin Lewis.....	Salary/mo.....	822.47
WELFARE DIRECTOR - Christine Tarbox.....	Salary/mo.....	486.71
EMERGENCY MANAGER...David Lewis.....	Salary/hr.....	23.26
AMBULANCE ADMINISTRATOR –		

Ambulance Administrator – Colleen Hohm....	Salary/mo.....	1,000.00
Ambulance staff - full time EMT.....	Salary/12-hr shift.....	130.63
Ambulance staff - John Birnell and full time EMT.....	Salary/24-hr shift....	261.26
Ambulance staff - Robert Koistinen - full time paramedic.....	Salary/24-hr shift.....	321.18
Ambulance staff - full time paramedic.....	Salary/12-hr shift.....	160.59
Weekend run.....	Salary per run.....	30.00
Full time Ambulance staff - Holiday Pay - double time with no extra pay per run.		
Holidays as defined by the Clark County Handbook.		

Ambulance shift staff		
Shift staff - EMT.....	Salary/24-hr call.....	260.00
Weekend run - shift staff.....	additional per run.....	40.00
Ambulance shift staff - Paramedic....	Salary/24-hr call....	315.00
Weekend run shift staff.....	Salary per run.....	40.00
EVOC Drivers.....	shift staff.....	100.00
EVOC Drivers.....	shift staff.....	60.00
Ambulance - shift staff - additional pay for holidays.....	additional per run.....	40.00
Holidays that qualify are New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.		

Clark Ambulance Station II (WL)....
Salary.....\$425.00/per run (split between the crew up to four crew members)

Weekend call or holiday run call... additional pay per run.....	40.00
Cody Forbes – Station II maintenance.....	200.00 per month
Weekend defined as: 7:00 a.m., Friday to 7:00 a.m. Monday	
Second Rig required.....	\$125.00/run/per person
Special Events...\$125.00 per person	
Medical Director of Ambulance.... Louann Streff.....	\$158.16/month

DEEDS,		
Carol Warkenthien, Mary Hurlbut		
Angie Graves.....	Pay/mo.....	3,235.38
Luvetta Nickels-Wicks.....	Salary/hr.....	19.52
4-H Youth Advisor Secretary/Weed Secretary.....	Salary/hr PART TIME EMPLOYEES.....	12.28
Salary/hr.....	WEED SUPERVISOR –	3,969.47
Salary/month.....	(58 percent of time weed from April 1 – October 31) (7 months).....	23.50/hr
Part time weed sprayers.....	19.52/hr	
WEED BOARD:...	Salary/mtg...22.28	
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES:		
Labor Grade.....	Wage rate/hr	
Grade No 1 - Steve LaFortune.....	24.28	
Grade No 2 –Roger Mitchell....	24.06	
Grade No 2 Asst –	23.43	
Grade No 3 -	22.83	
Jay Waldow, Todd Fiedler, David Borns, Brian Jenkins, Brad Furness, Dale Foiles, Dale Jones, Jimmy Dunbar, James Caulfield, Joshua Boysen, Joshua Mix, Andrew Carpenter and Ronald Gubin, Jr.		
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT PART-TIME EMPLOYEE		
(Based on Experience)		
.....	17.63	
.....	19.72	

All department heads, County Deputies, Clerk and Highway Department employees to receive \$40.00 per month for first five continuous years of service and \$40.00 per month for each five continuous years of service thereafter. Longevity will be paid one time, the first pay period in December.

Pay periods are from third through the 16th inclusive and the 17th through the second inclusive. Any extra hours worked will be paid in the earned pay period.

ATTEST:
(SEAL)

/s/ Wallace Knock
Wallace Knock, Chairman
Clark County Board of Commissioners

/s/ Christine Tarbox
Christine Tarbox
Clark County Auditor
Dated: December 29, 2025

SEARCH AND RESCUE: Motion by Sass, second by Hass to approve Codington County Search and Rescue Memorandum of Understanding for 2026 which will provide search and rescue services to Clark County of year 2026. Voting aye: Sass, Hass, Gjerde, Schlagel and Knock. Motion carried.

AMBULANCE: Motion by Knock, second by Gjerde to accept resignation of Jeremy Wellnitz as payroll/scheduler for ambulance department. Voting

aye: Sass, Hass, Gjerde, Schlagel, Knock. Motion carried.

AMBULANCE: Motion by Hass, second by Schlagel to hire Andrea Helkenn to do ambulance scheduling on an interim basis, with additional salary of \$100.00 per month. Voting aye: Sass, Hass, Gjerde, Schlagel, Knock. All ayes. Motion carried.

AMBULANCE: Motion by Gjerde, second by Schlagel to assign payroll duties to Interim Ambulance Administrator Hohm. Voting aye: Sass, Hass, Gjerde, Schlagel and Knock. Motion carried.

TREASURER: Motion by Gjerde, second by Hass to allow Treasurer Reis to purchase a new printer. Purchase price is \$1,150.00. Voting aye: Sass, Hass, Gjerde, Schlagel and Knock. Motion carried.

AUDITOR: Auditor Tarbox informed the board that the new computer for the Auditor office, that was approved at budget time has been ordered and will be set up in January.

AUTO SUPPLEMENT: Motion by Hass, second by Sass to approve auto supplement to TIF #2 fund. Funds are from Riverview Dairy in the amount of \$187,500.00. Voting aye: Sass, Hass, Gjerde, Schlagel and Knock.

VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER: Motion by Gjerde, second by Schlagel to approve the request for State Aid for salary of the County Veteran Service Officer. State will supplement salary in the amount of \$2,062.50 in 2026. Voting aye: Sass, Hass, Gjerde, Schlagel and Knock. Motion carried.

LOST CHECK: Motion by Sass, second by Gjerde to replace check in the amount of \$8,443.38 to South Dakota State Retirement fees for the month of November. Voting aye: Sass, Hass, Gjerde, Schlagel and Knock. Motion carried.

LOST CHECK: Motion by Gjerde, second by Schlagel to replace lost check to AFLAC Insurance Company in the amount of \$2,590.98 which has been lost in the mail. Voting aye: Sass, Hass, Gjerde, Schlagel and Knock. Motion carried.

CASH TRANSFER: Motion by Gjerde, second by Hass to approve cash transfer from General Fund to Emergency Management in the amount of \$3,950.00 due to anticipated grant revenue not received. Voting aye: Sass, Hass, Gjerde, Schlagel and Knock. Motion carried.

SURPLUS CASH: Motion by Schlagel, second by Hass to use surplus cash for miscellaneous expenses, repairs and maintenance. Voting aye: Sass, Hass, Gjerde, Schlagel and Knock. Motion carried.

CLAIMS: Motion by Sass, second by Gjerde to approve the following claims and allow Auditor to issue payment. All voting aye. Motion carried. COMMISSIONERS: AFLAC Dental, dental insurance, 406.39; AUDITOR: Office Peeps, envelopes

38.44; PMB-0112, user/access fees, 122.25; S.D. Retirement, 468.12; Two Trees Technology, bu/trend micro/support work, 579.50; TREASURER: Office Peeps, battery/cartridge 113.49; S.D. Retirement, 449.00; STATES ATTORNEY: Prairie Lakes Healthcare System, blood draw, 170.00; S.D. Retirement, retirement, 348.32; PUBLIC BUILDINGS: S.D. Retirement, 231.26; DIRECTOR OF EQUALIZATION: S.D. Retirement, retirement, 446.06; REGISTER OF DEEDS: Office Peeps, supplies 134.17; S.D. Retirement, retirement, 264.34; PREDATORY ANIMAL: Foxton Township, pocket gopher, 108.00; SHERIFF: S.D. Retirement, retirement, 1,064.84; WW Tire Service, flat repair, 31.00; 911 SERVICE: Tango Tango, services, 4,490.00; AIRPORT: Meade and Hunt, services, 5,000.00; AMBULANCE: S.D. Retirement, retirement, 951.24; EXTENSION: Office Peeps, supplies 93.91; SDAE, 4H, spring conference registration, 60.00; WEED: S.D. Retirement, retirement, 20.14; ROAD & BRIDGE: 212 Truck and Trailer Repair, repairs 935.26; AFLAC Dental and Vision, dental premium, 35.40; Beld Tree Service, tree trimming, 14,137.50; Fleetpride, parts, 989.94; LATC Corporate Education, CDL Class, 950.00; Mac's Hardware, supplies 327.12; Matheson Tri-Gas, supplies 121.33; Northwestern Energy utilities, 90.55; Office Peeps, supplies, 7.11; Overhead Door, door repair, 288.78; R.D. Offutt Company, repair, 10,583.31; R.D. Offutt Co., parts, 65.84; S.D. Retirement, retirement, 4,069.62; Sioux Valley Coop, fuel, 20,744.88; Spencer Quarries, chips/rip rap and Rock, 95,721.66; WW Tire Service, tire repair, 382.99; 911 SERVICE: City of Watertown, 911 surcharge, 5,212.87; CIVIL DEFENSE: S.D. Retirement, retirement, 120.44. TOTAL: 170,375.07.

ADJOURN: Chairman Knock declared meeting adjourned at 9:51 a.m. until next regular meeting Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. All voting aye. Motion carried.

ATTEST:
(SEAL)

Wallace Knock, Chairman
Clark County
Board of Commissioners

Christine Tarbox,
Clark County Auditor

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