

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MURRAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MURRAY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER - SLAYTON, MINNESOTA
July 7, 2026, 8:30 AM**

Pursuant to notice, the Murray County Board of Commissioners convened with the following members present in person: Commissioners; Loy Woelber, Jackie Meier, Mark Carlson, Dennis Welgraven and Roger Zins. Also Present in person were County Coordinator Sharon Giese, County Attorney Travis Smith, and General Assistant Renee Gleason.

BOARD CHAIR CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT APPROXIMATELY 8:30 A.M.

1.1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2.1. AGENDA ADDITIONS

Board Chair asked if there were any additions to the agenda. None were brought forth.

2.2. IDENTIFY ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Board Chair asked if there were any conflicts of interest with the agenda. No conflicts were brought forth.

A motion was made by Commissioner Welgraven, seconded by Commissioner Zins, and passed to approve the 07/07/2026 agenda with no conflicts of interest.

3.1. APPROVE MINUTES FROM 06/16/2026 AND 06/23/2026

Board Chair provided an opportunity for any questions or concerns with the 06/16/2026 and 06/23/2026 meeting minutes along with the Commissioner Warrants provided. None were brought forth.

3.2. COMMISSIONER WARRANTS

A motion was made by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Meier, and passed that all claims and meeting minutes as presented were approved for payment. The Board Chair was authorized to sign the Audit List dated July 1, 2026 with fund totals as follows and warrants numbered 180255 through 180312, ET 89965 for \$151,123.95:

General Revenue Fund	\$112,914.87
Road & Bridge	33,218.04
EDA	1,550.00
Self-Insurance	99.08
Sunrise Terrace	<u>3,341.96</u>
Total	\$151,123.95

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3.2.1. MURRAY COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER MONTHLY UPDATE

July County Commissioner Meeting
Tuesday, July 7, 2026
MCMC CEO Report



People

- Physical Therapy – We continue to recruit for full-time physical therapy staff. Our current travel PT, Courtney Konop's contract ended on July 2nd. We have been able to secure another travel PT, Cole Baumgartner, who started June 29th and potentially have another travel candidate to start in August.

Quality

- Community Health Needs Assessment Committee: Held a collaborative meeting on June 2nd with representatives from Southwest Health & Human Services Public Health Education. Numerous opportunities were identified that we could partner on to better meet the needs of our patients and community members.
- Linen Services – We currently contract out all our linen services. Our current vendor is going out of business, and we are exploring different replacement options currently.

Growth

- X-Ray Remodel Update – Our pre-bid meeting was held on Tuesday, June 9th for vendors interested in the project. Bid applications are due by Tuesday, June 23rd and recommendation will be coming to the board during our June meeting. Construction is estimated at 6-8 months.

Financials

- Rural Health Transformation – Held an application review meeting with MDH on Monday, June 29th. Once updated, the application will be submitted to CMS for their review and approval. Potential estimate for approval is August 1st. Year 1 grant funds need to be used prior to October 1, 2027.
- Additional Grant Opportunities:
 - MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation: Safety Grant Program
 - 2026 Workplace Safety Grant for Health Care Entities
 - Rural Health Transformation Program – Telehealth Access Points Grant
- ACO Placement – Each year, we elect a Medicare shared savings plan through our partnership with Wellvana. Traditionally, we have elected a no risk plan. This year, Wellvana is recommending an enhanced plan that does come with some risk with a higher potential for shared savings. Final placement decisions are due to CMS in July.

Misc.

- Community BBQ - Thank you to everyone that helped celebrate our 75th Anniversary at the BBQ on June 3rd. I appreciated all the staffs participation and the number of community members that attended.
- Foundation Golf Tournament – Friday, July 17th.

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Statistics

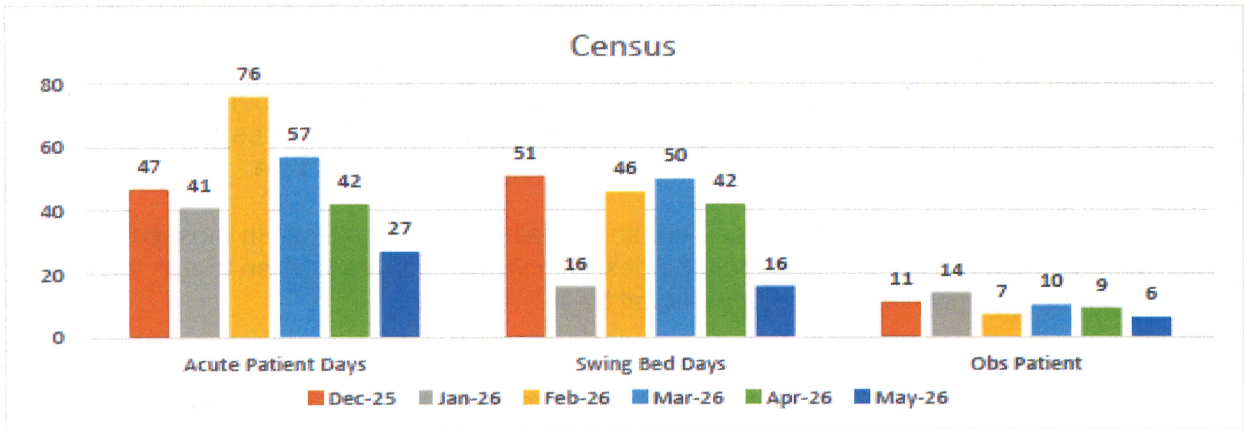
- Acute - 10 admissions for 27 total patient days. Compared to last May that was 6 less admissions and 24 less patient days. YTD shows 2 more admits and 8 more patient days
- Swing bed had 2 admits for 16 total patient days. Compared to last May that was 1 less admission and 48 less days. YTD, we have had 4 fewer admits and 66 less patient days
- Observation stays were at 6 patients compared to 10 last year. YTD are 12 less patients.
- Surgery procedures were at 42 for the month compared to 48 the previous year. YTD, we have done 38 more procedures.
- ER visits were 143, which was 21 more than last May. YTD we are down 11 ER visits
- Clinic visits were at 667. That is 58 less than last May. YTD, we remained down 234 visits.

Balance Sheet

- Our overall cash position decreased by \$133,461 We currently have a total cash available of \$9,806,950
- We saw an increase in patient receivables of \$375,998 and total receivables are at \$7,905,974
 - Net Patient Receivables (Amount we expect to collect) = \$4,283,619 or 52.1%
 - AR Days increased by 7.4 days and currently sit at 82.1 days. Goal is to be under 50 days

Income Statement

- Gross revenue was \$2,950,192 & above budget by \$199,848
 - Hospital IP revenue below budget by \$169,841
 - Hospital OP revenue above budget by \$373,577
 - Clinic revenue below budget by \$3,888
- Contractual adjustments higher than budget by \$165,167
- Expenses are lower than budget by \$29,751
- EBIDA (Earnings before interest, depreciation, and amortization) = \$121,476
- For the month we had a net income equal to \$79,488. YTD, we have a net income of \$520,932



3.3. WONDER WORLD UPDATE

Ashley Haken, Wonder World Board Secretary and Josh Malchow, City of Slayton presented an update on the developments of Wonder World's new facility.

There has been ongoing construction work on the new facility. Footers have been poured and the next phase is getting the plumbing roughed in. They hope to be framed by this fall and then proceed with interior construction during the winter months.

Wonder World needs to vacate their current building by July 31, 2027. Early June and July of 2027 they hope to complete inspections. The Wonder World Board has been diligent in ordering materials in advance to eliminate the possibility of delays in construction.

Fund raising continues to be ongoing with the \$2.1 Million budgeted project. To date they have collected/committed approximately \$1,933,000.00. There continues to be some small donations coming in and this is other potential funding that cannot be discussed publicly yet.

They hope to slowly build the larger daycare program and capacity once they are in the new facility.

3.3.1. DITCH BILLS

A motion was made by Commissioner Meier, seconded by Commissioner Carlson, and passed to approve the report of bills for payment of the Murray County Drainage Authority as follows:

Bolton & Menk

21-706-6260	CD 41	5,594.00	CD 41 Improvement - Engineering
	Subtotal	5,594.00	

Engbarth Directional Drilling, Inc

21-669-6290	CD 21	7,590.00	#2025-037	ok'd T. Radke on 6/22/2026
	Subtotal	7,590.00		

Parker & Sons, Inc.

21-791-6290	CD 89	1,877.75	#2025-038	Ok'd by T. Radke 7/1/2026
	Subtotal	1,877.75		

Rinke Noonan

21-667-6260	CD 20	183.00	CD 20 Repair - Legal
21-829-6260	JD 14	183.00	JD 14 Repair - Legal
21-829-6260	JD 14	1,860.50	JD 14 Partial Abandonment
21-868-6260	Admin	200.00	06/2026 Monthly Retainer
21-868-6260	Admin	427.00	FEMA Request
	Subtotal	2,853.50	

Total Ditch Bills 17,915.25

Copies of invoices will be available at the meeting or by calling Heidi Winter 507-836-1152

3.3.2. DITCH INSPECTION REPORT

A motion was made by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Welgraven, and passed in conjunction with the appointed ditch inspector, have examined and inspected of the foregoing described County and Judicial Ditches, for the purpose of determining what repairs are necessary and ordered said repairs to be made, by this report given.

Petition 2026-024	CD 42	Sec 6	Twp Belfast	Dist 1	Woelber
Petition 2026-025	JD 14	Sec 14	Twp Chanarambie	Dist 2	Carlson

Commissioner Welgraven inquired about JD 14 washout area from 2023. This was repaired and then washed out again. As per conversation with our ditch consultants, there is no funding for this repair until such time as larger re-design repair project becomes apparent. It wouldn't be prudent to plan a large project, just for this small repair at this time.

Commissioner Zins inquired about replacement and repair policy of the tiles. In most cases, Travis Radke pointed out the old tile should be destroyed/replaced/removed so that in the future there is no confusion on which tile the operational tile is.

3.3.3. VEHICLE PURCHASE

Heath Landsman stated for 2027 he is proposing we purchase the law enforcement vehicles vs. leasing. It makes economic sense for the county to own vs. lease. Enterprise will continue to procure and sell the law enforcement vehicles as a service.

It has been recommended we purchase this 2026 model vs. 2027 pickup model which will be an entirely redesigned model. If we wait for 2027, price increases, availability in question, and all the existing equipment will not fit.

However, if we purchase the 2026 model, no price increase, availability is certain and equipment in the existing squad can be re-installed. This 2026 squad would arrive in last quarter of 2026 but not put into service and paid for until 2027.

Motion was made by Commissioner Woelber, seconded by Commissioner Zins, and passed to purchase a 2026 Silverado Pursuit from Enterprise leasing for \$53,603.87, to be put into service in 2027.

3.3.4. HIGHWAY BAS CONTROLLER REPLACEMENT

The building automation system (BAS) at the Highway facility has experienced ongoing reliability issues, including controller lockups, communication failures, and intermittent loss of HVAC/mechanical system control. Despite multiple troubleshooting efforts and repairs, the issues persist. MCIT approved the County's insurance claim and issued payment of \$5,111.50 after the \$1,000 deductible.

It is recommended to proceed with G&R Controls/Siemens to integrate with the existing Siemens/Designo platform used at the Courthouse and Government Center. This transition will standardize controls across County facilities and improve long-term reliability and support. Net county cost after insurance proceeds will be approximately \$19,888.50. Highlighted by Commissioner Carlson, there are some options with less dollars but would not really be the long term solution because of the continued problems with this brand of controller.

Motion was made by Commissioner Meier, seconded by Commissioner Welgraven, and passed to approve the use of insurance proceeds from the highway building automation system claim and authorize staff to proceed with the Siemens/G&R Controls conversion at an estimated net cost of approximately \$19,888.50.

3.3.5. LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR NOBLES COUNTY CERTIFICATE OF NEED

As required by Minnesota Rule Ch. 9215, Nobles County Landfill (NCL) is submitting a Certificate of Need {CON} request for the years 2026-2035 to ensure the landfill has sufficient Mixed Municipal Solid Waste (MMSW) CON capacity to meet the needs of the counties in its waste shed. Because MMSW from your county has historically been delivered to NCL for management and disposal, they are requested a letter from our County Board. As part of NCL's previous CON request, Murray County was projected to dispose of 3,500 tons of MSW at NCL in 2024 and 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Woelber, seconded by Commissioner Welgraven, and passed to approve Board Chair signing the letter of support for Nobles County Certificate of Need Application.

3.3.6. FISCAL AGENT FOR STATE HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM (SHSP) GRANT

The State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) is a core grant managed by FEMA to assist state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) in efforts to build, sustain, and deliver the capabilities necessary to prevent, prepare for, protect against, and respond to acts of terrorism. Murray County has acted as the fiscal host for the grant in the past and has been asked again for this round of grants.

A motion by Commissioner Carlson, second by Commissioner Zins, and passed to approve **Resolution 2026-07-07-01** authorizing Murray County to serve as a fiscal agent for the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) Grant, retaining 4-5% of the total grant award to offset administrative costs.

3.3.7. DONATION OF FIRE TRAINING HOUSE ON WHEELS

Currie Fire Department purchased a new truck and with that new truck the storage was limited. Therefore, Currie Fire Department no longer has the capacity to store the Fire Training House on Wheels inside, which is a 5th wheel trailer. They would like to donate this equipment to Murray County. Murray County does have storage room at the recycling center and will be able to lend it out to area fire departments for fire prevention week and special events. There will be a very nominal increase to the county's liability insurance. Murray County thanks the Currie Fire Department for this donation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Zins, second by Commissioner Woelber, and passed to accept the Fire Training House on Wheels donated by the Currie Fire Department. Any Murray County fire department will be allowed to borrow it.

3.3.8. 2027 CITIZEN PER DIEM REVIEW

Several board members requested a full review of citizen per diems, ensuring that these per diems adequately promote volunteerism and fair compensation for those citizens. It is thought that it has been at least 8 years since the board has reviewed these per diems as a whole. It has been very difficult to find volunteers for these committee positions.

A motion was made by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Meier, and passed to approve **Resolution #2026-07-07-02** outlining a \$100.00 per diem for Murray County citizen committee representation for **calendar year 2027** as follows:

Committee	Per Diem	Mileage	Notes/Exceptions
Extension Committee	\$100.00	Current year's IRS Mileage Reimbursement Rate	
Fairgrounds Advisory Committee	\$100.00		
Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission	\$100.00		
Local Water Management Plan Task Force	\$100.00		
Comp Plan Committee	\$100.00		<i>**only active in years of plan review/require</i>
Sunrise Terrace Advisory Committee	\$100.00		
Shetek Area Water and Sewer Commission	\$100.00		
Economic Development Authority	\$100.00		
Planning Commission	\$100.00		
Board of Adjustment/Appeals	\$100.00		
SMOC (Southwest MN Opportunity Council)	\$100.00	Mileage & expense reimbursement processed and paid by SMOC	

The Board of Commissioners thanks all who volunteer their time and efforts to these committees.

Commissioner Zins also wanted it to be noted, we currently have (2) committee positions open to Murray County residents on the Southwest Minnesota Opportunity Council and Western Mental Health Board.

3.3.9. WAGE STUDY DISCUSSION: INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL?

Discussions have led to deciding if we are satisfied with the in-house wage study in process or whether a consultant should be hired to complete a wage study. Over the years, Murray County has done both in-house wage studies and consultant wage studies. The last time, hiring a consultant for a wage study, the county cost was at least \$50,000.00.

If doing an in-house wage study, Commissioner Meier requested that all surrounding District 8 counties should be surveyed for wage information. AMC provided the initial wage data but there were several District 8 counties not included. We should include the counties with missing data. It was also noted, each county's wage scales and job duties assigned are different, so it is somewhat difficult for direct comparison.

Commissioner Welgraven asked if the union would be okay with an in-house wage study because we have already promised a wage study would be conducted. The one union already consulted with, was only concerned that a wage study was conducted and action taken on the data.

A motion was made by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Carlson, and passed to proceed with an in-house wage study, not a consultant wage study, and should include data from the surrounding District 8 county's data.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS 6/07 - 06/20/2026

Board Chair noted on June 30, 2026 all EDA and Murray County Board Members attended a tour of Painted Prairie Vineyard. Painted Prairie recently introduced (2) "glamping" sites to the vineyard for overnight stays. No board business was discussed or conducted during this time. Shortly after touring it was recognized, prior notification to the public was not completed. However, it is making note of it today for the record and extends the board's apologies. Also stated, all EDA tours will be announced at the previously scheduled board meeting.

Meier

06/11 AMC Dist. 8
06/16 Commissioner
06/17 SWHHS

Zins

06/10 Personnel
06/11 Planning / AMC Dist. 8
06/15 Joint Powers / SMOC
06/16 Commissioner / Personnel / Board of Appeals
06/17 Personnel

Woelber

06/08 Audit / SAWS
06/15 Parking @ Lake Shetek
06/16 Commissioner / Board of Appeals

Welgraven

06/09 SRDC Tour with Rural Climate Partnership, curtailed energy generated into green ammonia
06/10 Extension
06/11 AMC Dist. 8 / SRDC
06/16 Commissioner / Board of Appeals
06/17 SWHHS Budget / SWHHS / Tour of Lyon County Landfill, cooking off PFAS
06/18 EDA

Carlson

06/08 SAWS
06/10 Personnel / Extension
06/11 AMC Dist. 8
06/15 Parking at Lake Shetek / Chief Elected Officials
06/16 Commissioner / Personnel / Board of Appeals
06/17 Personnel / Follow-up to Parking at Lake Shetek / Plum Creek Library

Highlights of discussion on parking at Lake Shetek meeting was provided with the overall intent of the meeting, long range planning of boat landings and parking in the Lake Shetek area. Solutions discussed were developing a new boat ramp, improvement of existing boat ramps, parking alternatives to Marsh's Landing, and development of additional parking in various locations.

Solutions were developed for parking in the short term for July 4th weekend with alternative parking, boat ramp phone app availability, etc. A public service announcement was distributed with short-term alternatives via interactive technology. Long range plans will continue to be discussed and brought forth as they develop.

BOARD CHAIR ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT APPROXIMATELY 9:42 A.M.

Board Chair also noted the Murray County Board of Commissioners Special Meeting to discuss the 2027 budget start at 10:00 a.m.

ATTEST:



Sharon Giese, County Coordinator



Mark Carlson, Board Chair