

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MURRAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MURRAY
COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER - SLAYTON, MINNESOTA
May 26, 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 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

- Private Industries Council - Internship Program and Introductions
(Agenda Item to be added first item immediately following the Regular Agenda.)

2.2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Board Chair asked if there were any conflicts of interest, none were identified.

A motion was made by Commissioner Meier, seconded by Commissioner Welgraven to approve today's agenda for 05-26-2026 with no conflicts of interest.

3.1. APPROVE MINUTES OF 05/19/2026

Board Chair Carlson asked approval of Consent Agenda with the minutes of 05/19/2026.

It was moved by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Meier, and passed to approve meeting minutes of 05/19/2026.

AGENDA ADDITION: PRIVATE INDUSTRIES COUNCIL - INTERNSHIP PROGRAM AND INTRODUCTIONS

(Agenda Item to be added first item immediately following the Regular Agenda.)

Introductions were made to the (3) interns currently serving in Murray County under this program. Carla Goettke, Chair for organization provided the following information about the importance of this program and the need for continued funding.

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Murray County Internship Snapshot

Southwest Minnesota Graduate Study - 38,154 Graduates Tracked

Key Findings:

- 🚶 20% of SW MN Grads leave the region
- 🍷 Students who stay connected to **local programs** - regional colleges, CTE, or career-connected learning - are **significantly more likely** to work in Southwest Minnesota.
- 🗣️ Students who pursue **college outside the region**, or who follow the traditional "leave to succeed" narrative, are **significantly less likely** to return.
- 🌱 Early employer exposure = strongest retention predictor

Interns:



■ Gov't ■ Non-Profit ■ Business

Intern Placement Mix - Years 1 & 2 (2024–2025)

73% Public / County-Funded (11)

- 🏥 Murray County Medical Center – 7
- 🏠 Southwest Health & Human Services – 1
- 🚓 Sheriff's Office – 1
- 🚔 Slayton Police Department – 1

27% Private (5) / Nonprofit (1)

If we want graduates to stay, we must give them meaningful local experiences early.

WHAT HOST SITES PUT INTO THE PROGRAM

THEIR COMMITMENT IS NOT THEORETICAL—IT IS OPERATIONAL, FINANCIAL, AND ONGOING.

- **STAFF TIME:** SUPERVISORS, TRAINERS, AND MENTORS INVEST HOURS EACH WEEK

- **WORKLOAD IMPACT:** DEPARTMENTS SLOW DOWN TO TEACH, OVERSEE, AND CORRECT

- **EQUIPMENT AND WORKSPACE:** COMPUTERS, SOFTWARE, DESKS, PPE, ACCESS CREDENTIALS

- **COMPLIANCE AND LIABILITY:** HIPAA, DATA SECURITY, SAFETY PROTOCOLS, BACKGROUND CHECKS

- **REPUTATION:** THE INTERN'S EXPERIENCE REFLECTS DIRECTLY ON THE COUNTY

THESE ARE REAL, MEASURABLE COSTS.

4.1. A.C.E. OF SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA 2025 ANNUAL REPORT AND PROGRAM UPDATES

2025

434 volunteers
donated
43,868 hours
of service at
56 locations

The task of putting a dollar value on volunteer time is a difficult one, because volunteers provide so many intangibles that cannot be easily quantified. Even so, the Bureau of Labor Statistics compiles yearly earnings data that is indexed by Independent Sector - a leadership network for nonprofits, foundations, and corporations - to generate a national rate for volunteer time as well as individual rates for each state. The National value of volunteer time in 2025 was **\$36.14/hour** and the Minnesota value of volunteer time in 2025 was **\$39.80/hour**. These estimates help quantify the enormous value of the services that volunteers provide.

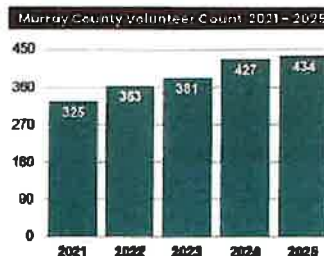
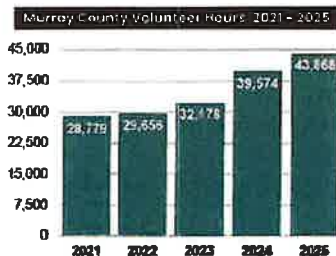
Using the **2025 National value** of Volunteer Time (\$36.14/hour),
A.C.E. of Southwest Minnesota volunteers donated **\$12,452,759** of service in 2025.

Using the **2025 Minnesota value** of Volunteer Time (\$39.80/hour),
A.C.E. of Southwest Minnesota volunteers donated **\$13,713,866** of service in 2025.

Our Mission

**Creating strong, involved communities focusing on
volunteerism and active living programs for adults 55
& above, and care partners of all ages.**

In 2025, Murray County had 56 volunteer stations (locations to volunteer at), where 434 volunteers actively donated 43,868 hours of service!



**2025
TOP
10**

1.	Friendly Visiting - Murray Co.	81 volunteers	5,783 hours	90 served/month
2.	Chandler Area Quilters	13 volunteers	4,198 hours	188 served in 2025
3.	Lake Wilson Quilters	14 volunteers	2,723 hours	188 served in 2025
4.	Hadley Lions	38 volunteers	2,586 hours	353 served/month
5.	Hospice of Murray Co.-Special Events	58 volunteers	2,480 hours	61 served/month
6.	St. Ann's Special Events	60 volunteers	2,320 hours	1,473 served/month
7.	Silverd Quilters & Friends	13 volunteers	1,919 hours	212 served in 2025
8.	Christ Lutheran Special Events	31 volunteers	1,802 hours	101 served/month
9.	Murray Co. Food Shelf	29 volunteers	1,767 hours	313 served/month
10.	Lake Wilson Clothing Center	9 volunteers	1,313 hours	92 served/month

A.C.E. of Southwest Minnesota is funded in part by AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP Program, Minnesota Board on Aging, MNRAAA, and United Way of Nobles County. It is also sponsored locally by Cottonwood, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, and Rock counties.

Volunteers have been serving the communities of Murray County for more than 50 years and we are looking forward to continuing that tradition. The AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP Program provides an opportunity for volunteers to share the skills and talents they have spent years perfecting, and to put their life experiences into motion for others, thereby benefiting our communities!



The following programs are offered through A.C.E. of SW MN:



Caregiver Respite

Trained and screened volunteers are available to relieve caregivers for a short period of time allowing them time for errands, socialization, or other enjoyable activities for usually 1 to 3 hours.



Caregiver Consultant - Family Meetings

Let us help guide you through the challenges of holding a family meeting, by increasing communication skills, finding solutions to problems, and promoting sharing of caregiving responsibilities.



Caregiver Support Group

Trained Support groups are a safe place for caregivers to meet and develop a mutual support system. Join us for our next meeting - call for more information.



Telephone Reassurance

Older adults at high risk of falling, sudden illness, or social isolation receive a daily call from trained volunteers. This service allows the participant to delay a move to assisted living and stay in their own home longer.



Friendly Visiting

Compassion, listening and presence are three hallmarks of a Friendly Visitor. Trained adult volunteers provide friendship and support through regular one-to-one visits. A visit can be a special gift during times of transition, loss, or social isolation.



Dementia Education, Services and Consulting

Do you have concerns about your memory? We can visit about the 10 Warning Signs of memory loss, what's normal and what is not, and connect you with information, services, and resources.



Powerful Tools for Caregivers

A six week series that helps participants learn skills to improve: self-care, communication, stress reduction and increase community resource use.



SAIL (Stay Active & Independent for Life)

SAIL is a strength, balance and fitness program for adults 65 and older. Performing exercises that improve strength and balance are the single most important activities that adults can do to stay active and reduce their chance of falling.



A Matter of Balance

An eight week series that helps participants learn to view falls and fear of falling as controllable; set realistic goals to increase activity; change behavior to reduce fall risk factors; and exercise to increase strength and balance.



CSFP - Commodity Supplemental Food Program (formerly known as NAPS) A FREE 35 lb. box of food for low income seniors. (age & income guidelines apply). To enroll call 1-800-365-0270.

4.2 MURRAY COUNTY CENTRAL OPIOID PROGRAM UPDATE

Greg Scheitel, LSW, Regional Mental Health Consultant, presented his background and work experience. He has been working with Emily's Hope in recent years to educate youth through awareness, education, and prevention in the opioid crisis.

Emily's Hope Substance Use Prevention Curriculum: Data MCC Schools

Total number of Students (seen that day)

• September	2025-	21 lessons = 517 students seen
• October	2025-	19 lessons = 437 students seen
• November	2025-	28 lessons = 749 students seen
• December	2025-	24 lessons = 536 students seen
• January	2026-	20 lessons = 482 students seen
• February	2026-	25 lessons = 412 students seen
• March	2026-	28 lessons = 422 students seen
• April	2026-	34 lessons = 357 students seen
• May	2026-	15 lessons = 198 students seen

Totals: **214 lessons taught, 4110 students seen** district wide an **Average of each student in the district seeing me 5.5 time throughout the year in a group or classroom setting.**

2026-27 School Year - We will need additional classroom/small group sessions as starting next year we have a mandate to educate 4-12th grader in Mental Health and for 6-12th graders to be educated in Cannabis Prevention.

Emily's Hope Substance Use Prevention

Curriculum: Impact Data

Average for those using Emily's Hope

- 21% average improvement in student evaluations
- 44.8% increase in understanding decision model
- 43.8% increase in dopamine identification

At MCC - 2024-2025 (last years data completed)

- 80% of students improved in student evaluations overall
- 97% of students understood the decision making model (PTA)
- 35% increase in dopamine identification

I will have 2025-26 data totals in June.

4.3. SHARED ENGINEER POSITION DISCUSSION

Recently, Commissioner Welgraven was approached by Cottonwood County about the open engineering position in Cottonwood County and Murray County too. Therefore, the Board Chair requested this be added as a discussion item to our agenda. We have currently received (1) application for this position. We are currently advertising this position in the newspaper, website, and Indeed website.

- Randy Groves has offered to assist where he can fill in any gaps for Murray County.
- Is there an opportunity for Cottonwood and Murray to share an engineering person? It is believed Cottonwood County has been looking for an engineer for about a year now. Could we increase the salary limits because they would be working for (2) counties? How would this person's time be allocated? Then being responsible for being at both locations when warranted? Will we be spreading this position too thin?
- Requirements for a licensed engineer is to work under someone for 5-years. Is there an opportunity to promote from within?
- There is local person we understand recently graduated with a civil engineering degree and is actively seeking employment.

The board will move forward with the following steps:

- Sharon Giese will expand advertising for this position.
- Commissioner Welgraven: Discuss further with Cottonwood County the possibility of a shared position. Also reach out to Pipestone County about sharing a position.
- Commissioner Zins will reach out to his engineering resources to understand possibilities for filling the engineering position or getting assistance from other engineers outside the county.
- Commissioner Carlson will reach out to the recent graduate for interest and recommendations on soliciting applicants.

4.4.1. DITCH BILLS

It was moved by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Welgraven, and passed to approve the report of ditch bills for payment of the Murray County Drainage Authority as follows:

<u>Murray County Auditor-Treasurer (reimburse ditch mailing costs)</u>			
21-829-6803	JD14/CD 20	145.70	Mailing costs for 6/16/26 hearing
	Subtotal	145.70	
Total Ditch Bills		145.70	

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

4.4.2. SET SPECIAL MEETING - 2027 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

A special meeting needs to be set to discuss the 2027 Departmental Budget. These special meetings are to meet with department heads and discuss 2027 budget requests. These typically take 1 1/2 - 2 days and take place in July. This allows time to prepare for setting the levy by the September 30, 2026 deadline. If for some reason, a department manager is not available, an alternative meeting can be scheduled.

It was moved by Commissioner Welgraven, seconded by Commissioner Carlson and passed to set special meetings on Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. and Wednesday, July 8, 2026, at 8:30 a.m., held in the Commissioner Board Room at Murray Government Center for the purpose of reviewing 2027 budget requests with department heads.

An additional comment: June 3, 2026, is the MCMC 75th Anniversary BBQ from 5:00 p.m.. to 7:00 p.m.

4.4.3. NEW COMBINATION ON/OFF/SUNDAY LIQUOR LICENSE-PUMP N PAK RV INC (DBA THE STORE)

Pump N Pak RV Inc (dba The Store) currently holds an "Off Sale" Liquor License.

- This application is to expand to an On/Off/Sunday Combination license.
- The initial license is for a partial year (for license period 6/15/2026 to 5/6/2027). They will renew for the full year in 2027 (5/7/2027 to 5/6/2028).
- Prorated License costs are recommended and has been done in the past:

	Full Year	Prorated	
Off sale	\$ 150.00	\$ -	(already paid)
On sale	\$1,000.00	\$ 916.67	11 months
Sunday	\$ 200.00	\$ 183.33	11 months
	<u>\$1,350.00</u>	<u>\$1,100.00</u>	

It was moved by Commissioner Carlson, seconded by Commissioner Zins and passed to approve a Combination On/Off/Sunday Liquor License for Pump N Pak RV Inc (dba The Store) for the license period 6/15/2026 to 5/6/2027 (partial year), further moving to prorate the license fee for the partial year and current off sale license held.

4.5.1. DECLARE VEHICLES SURPLUS

Through Enterprises Leasing, the sheriff's department needs to classify the following units as surplus to be sold through Enterprise Leasing.

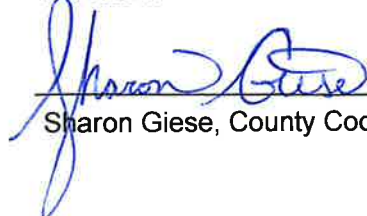
- 4.5.1.1. Unit #123: 2012 Dodge Durango
- 4.5.1.2. Unit #158 2019 Chevrolet Silverado
- 4.5.1.3. Unit #159 2020 Chevrolet Silverado
- 4.5.1.4. Unit #166 2021 Chevrolet Silverado
- 4.5.1.5. Unit #167 2021 Chevrolet Silverado

Heath Landsman, stated in the future we probably want to discuss the possibility of leasing vs. ownership of these vehicles. In most cases, it may be more beneficial if we owned these vehicles and then coordinate with Enterprise Leasing for sale when surplus. In addition, Our regular maintenance is all done locally. When vehicles are sold, a new law was passed, unsure of the date passed, but all police equipment must be stripped from the vehicles.

A motion was made by Commissioner Zins, seconded by Commissioner Woelber and passed to approve declaring units 128, 158, 159, 166, 167 as surplus and authorize their sale via auction through Enterprise Leasing Company.

BOARD CHAIR ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY OTHER AGENDA ITEMS. NONE WERE BROUGHT FORTH, THEREFORE BOARD CHAIR ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT APPROXIMATELY 9:41 A.M.

ATTEST:


Sharon Giese, County Coordinator


Mark Carlson, Board Chair