

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MELLETTE COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA
May 21, 2026

The meeting of the Mellette County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner Brown in the Commissioner Room in the Mellette County Courthouse at White River, SD on May 21, 2026 at 9:04 am. Commission members present were Vernon Brown, Wes Schmidt, and Jr. Brandis; also present was Auditor Jenny Galbraith.

The pledge of allegiance was recited

All motions are to be considered unanimous unless otherwise stated.

A motion was made to approve the agenda by Schmidt, seconded by Brandis.

Open Visitors/Public Comment: Vanessa Hight, Brandi Schmidt, Katie O'Brien, Brandon Watson, Trevor Willcuts, Thomas Keller, Mickey Knecht, and Cassie Beckwith.

Vanessa Hight discussed concerns about the ambulance service and covering of rodeo's this summer.

Sheriff Resignation: Auditor Galbraith presented a letter of resignation from Sheriff Lafe Gildemaster stating that his last day would be June 6, 2026. Trevor Willcuts presented his resume for consideration of being appointed as interim Sheriff for the remaining term. Thomas Keller stated that he be considered to be appointed as Sheriff for the remaining term.

Executive Session in accordance with SDCL 1-25-2(1) re. personnel: Motion by Schmidt to enter executive session at 9:35 am, second by Brown. Brown declared executive session over at 10:24 am.

Commission discussed with potential candidates to fill the interim sheriff position for the remainder of the term their reasons for appointing who they decided to appoint. Motion by Schmidt to appoint Trevor Willcuts to fulfill the remaining term of Sheriff as interim Sheriff until December 31, 2026 with the stipulation that he may not terminate employment of any current staff or hire any new staff without the approval of the Commimssion, second by Brandis. Salary was discussed. Motion by Schmidt to set the salary at \$34,000 for the remainder of the year, second by Brandis.

Next meeting scheduled to be held on Friday, June 5, 2026 at 9:00 am.

Approved this 5th day of June 2026

Vernon Brown, Chairman, Mellette County Commissioners

ATTEST

Jenny Galbraith, County Auditor