

Wells County Commissioner's Special Meeting Minutes

August 25, 2026

A special meeting held Tuesday, August 25th, was called to order by Chairman Dockter at 8:00 AM. Present at the meeting were Stan Buxa, Dennis Dockter, Bryan Lutt, Danny Maxwell, Brian Miller, Lydia Gessele, and Daniel Stutlien.

WC Auditor Daniel Stutlien presented information regarding cost scenarios for 2027 salaries and benefits as well as potential FTE savings through attrition. Also discussed was the 3.00% cap implemented in the 69th ND Legislative Assembly, a letter to McHenry County regarding benefits for shared States Attorney Oliver Bromke, and a prospective longevity plan for consideration for employees who are no longer on the salary scheduled and have more than 20 years of service to WC. Lastly, Auditor Stutlien stated his goal, in light of the passage of an 11 mill increase for the Road Dept. on the June ballot, was to take 0% of the available 3% cap space this year for WC. Unused cap space can be accessed in part or in whole over any of the next five budget cycles.

During discussion of departmental budgets, BL (M), DM (S) to reduce the Sheriff's salary by 20% due to unwillingness to communicate with the Commission. The stipulation would require the ongoing communication to restore it to its pre-budgeted level. Motion Failed.

The consensus of the Commission was to grant 3.00% in the salary schedule (COLA), grant 12.5% for declining FTE savings and departmental duty consolidation, \$250 (*single*) and \$125 (SPD) infusions for personnel who take less than family health insurance, and a longevity payment of \$425 (21-25 years), \$325 (26-30 years), \$225 (31-35 years), and \$125 (36+ years).

WC Auditor Daniel Stutlien will have the budget prepared for the September 8th meeting of the Commission, and the budget hearing will be scheduled as the first order of business of the Commission meeting Tuesday, October 6th, at 8:00 AM.

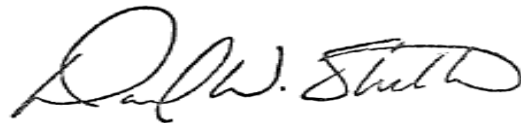
The regular September WC Commission meeting will be Tuesday, September 8th, 2026 at 8:00 AM, and will be held in the WC Courtroom due to a scheduling conflict with the KTL Building. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:19 AM.

Approved:



Dennis T. Dockter,
Wells County Commission Chairman

Attest:



Daniel W. Stutlien,
Wells County Auditor