



County's Erskine Office Building combines historic sandstone, modern advancements

Welcome to your "new" Meade County Erskine Office Building that was originally built 110 years ago.

The Meade County Commission is pleased to report the remodeling project was completed with no increase in levies and no borrowing. The bid for the project was \$5,313,300, compared to a projected cost of \$5,882,608. Change orders resulted in a total final cost of \$5,421,977. This is slightly less than the cost of a similarly-sized new building built to the standards of the law enforcement building on Main Street, Sturgis. A new brick or stone building of the same size would have cost substantially more than the Erskine building's total cost.

In 2007, it became evident to the Meade County Commission there was need for additional facilities. This decision coincided with the Meade 46-1 School District's auction of its historic school which, through the decades, had educated thousands of our citizens. In 2008, the county purchased this sandstone building for \$400,000, hired architects, and began its plans to preserve, for another century, one of the oldest structures in the Black Hills.

The Meade County Commission is proud it was able to solve some building needs while preserving such a beautiful building. All the old sandstone buildings in the Black Hills are an important part of our



May 4, 2011 was the grand opening of this historic building which twice was almost destroyed.



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Combining historic and modern

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history and are made of hand-quarried stone which is not seen in new buildings. The Erskine building stands out, even among the region's other historic sandstone buildings.

First, unlike most other area sandstone buildings, it has two complementary colors of stone.

Second, the eastern portion of Erskine has arched windows and entrances. These and other building features place it in the Romanesque Revival style of architecture, including the front bell tower, the belt course of smaller stones at the top, and the rough outer surface on the stones.

The hip roof is another attractive architectural feature. Two entrance porticos have been added to the original structure to compliment its architectural style and give weather protection to its visitors.

Erskine is shaped like an "H", which gives it a much larger perimeter than a rectangular building, and thus, more windows and more stonework.

Some of the stones, especially in the belt courses, had to be completely replaced. Stones which the school district removed to install three fire escapes also had to be replaced.

The local quarries from which the original stones were taken are no longer in operation. New stones brought in from Utah quarries are a good match for both colors; additional stones for future repairs are stored in the basement. Crumbling mortar was also replaced, with mortar colored to match the original.

The building has some notable energy-saving features. One is the geothermal heating which has resulted in a lower heating cost per square foot than in the old building. Another is the light shelves you will see below the ceilings next to the windows on the sunny sides of the building. They are designed to bring natural light into the interior of the building which reflects window light, thus decreasing electrical usage.

All the floor coverings are

removable and replaceable squares in case any are damaged. They lie on top of a cavity, which contain some of the building's wiring and will make it easier to modify the electrical and computer wiring. The cavity under the floor pieces also makes the floor less rigid and more comfortable for county workers who stand at service counters for long periods.

The Erskine building is now outfitted with interior fire sprinklers, so the risk of a catastrophic fire is very small.

The register of deeds office, which has custody of irreplaceable paper documents, contains state-of-the-art vault cabinets which protect from both fire and water. Additionally, steel window covers are lowered during non-office hours.

The roofing material is steel, shaped to resemble wooden shingles, with an outer layer to add texture. It is rated very high for resistance to hail and has a 50 year guarantee.

The bell in the main lobby was the original school bell in the bell tower which had been located above the former school's main entrance. County employees refurbished it and built the oak pedestal for it. The bell's clapper has been disabled.

The antique leaded glass panel in the main lobby is also original. It was in a window in the bell tower.

The landscape plants are designed to provide year-round color and interest. Several species of conifers will provide greenery during winter. Ornamental grasses and flowering bushes and trees will be noticeable in spring and summer. Maple trees will give a splash of red in the fall season.

The second floor was of the Erskine building was opened to the ground level and features a "cat walk".





The art pieces you see at the north and south entrances to the building are not owned by the county. They are on loan from the artists.

The purpose of moving the commission, planning, equalization, auditor, treasurer, register of deeds and veteran's service offices to the Erskine building is to free up room in the old courthouse for court and state's attorney use. The Erskine building should serve the space needs of the offices it holds for several decades.

The commission has decided to place a time capsule in the cavity behind the lobby's glass panel, and is seeking your proposals for items to be included. They have to be small and resist decay. One item that will be included is material from this open house. If you have suggestions for consideration of inclusion in the time capsule please, forward that information to the commissioners' assistant, Jerry Derr. His office is on the second floor.

We hope everyone in the county will take the same pride in this building as we do. We believe it is a testament to the hard-

working, foresighted, public-spirited pioneers who settled in our county. We also believe it's a signal to ourselves and future generations that Meade County believes in beauty for its own sake, long-term investments in infrastructure, planned growth, and new ideas.

Meade County Commission 2011

Alan Aker, chairman

Doreen Allison Creed, vice chair

Gary Cammack

Robert Heidgerken

Linda Rausch

Former Commissioners who purchased the Erskine building, hired the architects and approved the building design:

Bob Mallow

Dayle Hammock

Dean Wink

Jim Schroeder

and Curtis Nupen

The Meade County Commission had this building designed to accent its historic character while providing modern day functionality for the staff and county residents for decades to come.

Meade County Erskine Office Building 2010

Meade County Commissioners

Robert Mallow, Chairman	Dean Wink
Dayle D. Hammock	Jim Schroeder
Gary E. Cammack	Curtis Nupen
Doreen Allison Creed	
Alan Aker	

Meade County Officials

Lisa Schaeffer - Auditor	Ken Strawn - Sheriff
Angela M. Ross (Act) - Register of Deeds	Frank W. Spitznagel - Sheriff's Attorney
Doreen A. Weaver - Register of Deeds	Kevin Summers - Sheriff's Attorney
Bryan Woodruff - Treasurer	Tracy Talley - Veterans Services Officer
Wes Cheater - Equalization & Planning	Steve Berry - Coroner

Architect / Engineers

Architect of Record	Williams & Associates Architects, Inc., Spaulding, MO
Structural Engineer	Leach Engineering, Inc., Springfield, MO
Mechanical Engineer	John W. Ray & Company, Rapid City, SD
Electrical Engineer	Electrical Design Consultants, Rapid City, SD

Construction

General Contractor
Alexander-Babbitt Construction, Spaulding, MO

Unique election decides county seat; 113 years later roads, bridges still on commission agendas

“Voters in eastern Lawrence County voted 690 to 29 in favor of segregating from Lawrence County to become Meade County. The vote in Sturgis was 359 to 3,” according to the Sturgis Weekly Record of Sept. 1887.

The landmass organized in 1877 as Lawrence County thus was divided in 1889. The eastern and largest part of the separation was named Meade in honor of the nearby cavalry post which had been established in 1877. Fort Meade was named by army authorities for Gen. George C. Meade, a union commander at the civil war battle of Gettysburg.

Today, Meade County covers more than two million acres, but when it was created in 1889 it included only the southern area of the county. Ten years later, two counties on the north, Scobey and Delano, were incorporated into Meade. Official county business must be documented in commission minutes that are on file for the public view in the Meade County Auditor’s Office.

This is the first entry written in longhand in “Book A” on March 25, 1889. In compliance with Section 3 of an act entitled, “To create and establish the County of Meade, and for other purposes passed by the Eighteenth Legislative Assembly, the Territory of Dakota, the commission appointed in Section 2 of said act, namely Max Hoehn, Daniel P. Flood and W.C. Burton, met at the city of Sturgis, Meade County at 2 o’clock p.m.”

The temporary commissioners were directed by the territorial government to

meet before the first Monday of April to issue a notice of election. Thus, that was the first official act of Meade Commissioners. May 7, 1889 was to be time to elect 12 county officers and select the location of the county seat.

Residents were to elect three commissioners, a sheriff, treasurer, register of deeds, county attorney, judge of probate, assessor, superintendent of schools, coroner and surveyor.

Newspaper reports indicate selecting the county seat was drawing far more interest than choosing the county’s first elected officials.

John Hall apparently was held in high esteem, even though he was not successful in getting Milford named the county seat. He was elected state representative from Meade County in 1902, 1906 and 1908.

The amount of bonds to be posted and wages were problems for the new county officers. Bonds were set at \$500 for the register of deeds; \$1,000 each for the judge of probate and the coroner; the sheriff’s bond, \$800; the assessor’s, \$2,500; and the treasurer’s bond was by far the highest at \$30,000.

The treasurer and register of deeds salaries were set at \$2,000 per year; the county attorney, \$600; superintendent of schools would earn \$200 a year.

The commissioners elected were Sam Martin, Bland Herring and Elliot Nichols. Meade County was now organized, officers elected, but there was no courthouse.

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Meade County was named after a union civil war general at Gettysburg. Fort Meade, which lies adjacent to the City of Sturgis corporate boundaries, was home to the Fourth and Seventh Cavalries.

Upper Main Street, Looking East, Sturgis, Black Hills, S. D.



Early day pioneers had a much harder existence.

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Max Hoehn, who had been appointed a temporary commissioner to organize the county, did not want the position then. Instead he ran for the clerk of courts office. During the following decade he would serve as the county's auditor and commissioner.

D.P. Flood, another appointed temporary commissioner, sought the treasure's position on Nov. 4, 1890 and served one term.

Sturgis officials cooperated fully in organizing county affairs. The first commission meeting was held at city hall. The county leased the upper floor of the city hall for \$1 per year. Later it rented another room in a building at Main and Second Streets.

Meade County's birth certainly was not without pain. The commission had many problems. There were liquor licenses to investigate, equipment to be purchased. There was a rash of petitions from all over the county

"praying" that this or that bridge or road be built or repaired. There were an almost equal number of petitions "praying" that certain roads be moved or closed.

As the county became fenced, roads which had indiscriminately followed the topographic lines of least resistance became nuisances and land owners petitioned that roads be moved to boundary lines.

Tax levies and petitions to lower taxes were unbelievably numerous. In 1889, commissioners were still receiving requests for property tax reductions levied ten years earlier.

In the minutes of the Lawrence-Meade county joint session of July 1889, Meade County debt was listed at \$156,851.12 and the 1889 assessed property valuation as \$3,391,950.

Expenses were carefully listed. A cord of wood for heating sold for between \$2.87 and \$3. The wolf bounty was \$3 per scalp.

Financial times also must have changed. On April 12, 1892, a resolution was passed discontinuing the wolf bounty. The reason: "Owing to the financial condition of the county, and it appearing to the board there was no money in the General Fund to pay the same, and that Legislature not providing any means by which a tax could be levied to pay the bounty on wolf scalps."

Today's commission still deals with liquor, road and tax issues like its predecessors did 113 years ago, but wolves are gone. Instead, agendas cover international pipe lines, unfunded state and federal mandates, energy, and planning and zoning issues.

Information for this article was gathered in part from the Sturgis Tribune, Aug. 3, 1966, Courthouse Open House Edition and the Sturgis Tribune/Black Hills Press Centennial Edition, Oct. 25, 1978.



The bid to remove 3,270 cubic feet of earth in 1894 was 10 cents a c/f.

Sturgis splits cost of first Meade courthouse built on high school site

Meade County has constructed three major courthouse/administrative buildings in the past century. The first was a stone building started in 1894 and used until the present “Courthouse” was built seven decades later. The most recent facility is the Erskine Office Building which is a completely renovated school.

A bit of pioneer history is reflected below in what it took to get the very first courthouse erected.

June 3, 1892 was the first recorded evidence that the Meade County Commissioners were planning a courthouse.

The Meade County Land and Improvement Co., represented by directors Max Hoehn, J.C. Millan, and Charles Francis, gave the county Lots 1-24 in Block 10 of Original Town to be used only as a site for the courthouse and jail. Part of the gift required the building must cost at least \$20,000; the group suggested Sturgis and Meade County each pay \$10,000 of the construction costs. Five years earlier, citizens estimated \$15,000 as enough to spend for the building.

PAGE 297, VOLUME A of the county commission proceedings details the courthouse construction agreement between Sturgis and the county. The main gist of the agreement was Sturgis would pay the county, on or before June 1, 1895, \$10,000 in quarterly payments. The first payment was due Sept. 1, 1892 and no quarterly payment could be less than \$500.

John Scollard, then Sturgis mayor; George Ladd, county auditor; E.T. Marshall, commission chairman; and Joseph J. Davenport, president of the Meade County Land and Improvement Co. negotiated the deal.

The last recorded hanging in Sturgis was September 19, 1902.

The original courthouse was built on land given to the county.



The official minutes have no record as to how many architects submitted plans and specific details about the courthouse were absent.

But Charles Moody, local newspaper publisher, devoted a substantial portion of the Jan. 1, 1893 newspaper to the plans. To quote Moody, ***“This is the county seat of Meade County. When Meade County was segregated from Lawrence County, Sturgis was chosen by popular vote.***

“In consideration of this, the city agreed to furnish \$15,000 for a courthouse, or place that much cash and collateral to the credit of Meade County to the erection of a courthouse. Thereupon a company was formed, and one full block purchased on a commanding site, and deeded to the county. Since that time a certain sum has been set aside quarterly by the county toward a fund for courthouse purposes, and the county decided to build a \$30,000 courthouse (which was 50 percent higher than the estimate six months earlier). In

2010 dollars, \$30,000 would equate into \$718,537.

The newspaper reported, “Plans have been accepted, showing a magnificent building, built of cut stone from the Sturgis quarries, and work on the basement excavation begins this year just as soon as the ground can be broken. It will take a year to complete.

Moody went on to explain, “The four-room high school of which the city was very proud, stood on the land of the proposed courthouse site. This school is heated by a furnace and has every convenience.”

On Nov. 15, 1893, bids were opened and the excavation contract went to William Perry and N.A. Hall to move 3,270 cubic yards of earth for 10 cents a cubic foot, and the excavation contractors posted a \$500 bond. Moving this much dirt had to be a daunting task without the convenience of modern day equipment. In today’s dollars, this work was performed for \$2.40 a c/f.

The bid of Michael Whalen and M.H. Hill was accepted to furnish all necessary material and erect the foundation for all the

mason work up to the water table. The Whalen-Hill bid was \$2.05 per perch and for the water table 75 cents per linear foot including furnishing and laying of stone.

Further courthouse construction specifications demanded: “All materials are to be purchased in Meade County except Boulder Canyon sandstone and that all laborers must be from the Meade County taxpayers list excepting only skilled workmen besides themselves (the contractors).”

On Feb. 23, 1894 contractors and commissioners were in a difficulty. The soil upon which the Meade County courthouse was to stand was found “to run very loose and gravelly”. The specified limestone walls were now out, a concrete foundation was imperative.

A bid of \$4.99 per cubic yard for the concrete work and \$1 per cubic yard for the necessary excavation was awarded.

Local engineer/hotel owner, Olaf Helwig, was appointed superintendent of all work and would be paid two percent of the contract.

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The first murder was committed by Baldy Ford on Oct. 28, 1878.

Construction in 1965 was well underway on the new courthouse. On the left, note the first courthouse appearing over the roof of the new facility.



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On April 2, 1894, the sealed bid of William Grams and Co. was accepted to furnish windows, door frames and gratings for the basement.

The cornerstone for the “magnificent structure” was laid during a June 4, 1894 public ceremony.

The Sturgis Weekly Record reports, “Well, the corner stone is laid. We gathered in squads, and companies, and bunches, and platoons and herds and couples and singles last Monday to see that Meade County had a courthouse with a properly laid foundation.”

The basement was completed in 1894 and construction might have proceeded on schedule but a mechanic’s lien against the concrete contractor for \$30.75 was lodged, pending foreclosure against the Meade County courthouse. No action was taken as the commissioners were advised by the state’s attorney that a mechanic’s lien could not be held against a public building. Nonetheless the legal complications slowed down construction.

Considering the size of the structure, progress on the building was fairly rapid. On April 5, 1895, a newspaper election notice read, “Shall the City of Sturgis issue and negotiate \$16,000 for 15 years, seven percent bonds to aid Meade County in construction of a courthouse?”

It passed and six bidders did their best to get the construction contract.

The lowest bid was from William Grams for \$15,712. Grams’ bond of \$8,000 was posted by Jacob Keffeler, who had served one term as Meade treasurer; H.O. Anderson, mortuary and hardware store owner; Edward Galvin, the first state senator from Meade County; and Max Blaff, James O’Neil and Joseph Arnold. Unlike today, banks and insurance companies did not post bonds. Contractors had to get assurances elsewhere that work would be completed.

Charles Francis, who owned quite a bit of Sturgis property, advanced \$9,000 for construction. He requested interest and individual bonds were given by commission chairman E.T. Marshall; John Wenke, a hardware store owner; John Scollard, hotel owner; Joseph J. Davenport, founder of the Water Co.; and others which guaranteed Francis the courthouse would be built by Grams and turned over to the county with no liens. It was on Sept. 26, 1896.

The original courthouse was torn down after the present courthouse was completed adjacent to it in 1965. Bob Gay, Rapid City, was the architect for the new courthouse and it was built by Brezina Construction Co., at a cost of approximately \$500,000.

Courthouse personnel moved into the new facility in November of 1965.

Today that facility houses the Meade County State’s Attorney office; the State of South Dakota’s Unified Court

System, which includes the clerk of courts and probation departments; and the Department of Health.

Information for article was gathered in part from the Sturgis Tribune, Aug. 3, 1966, Courthouse Open House Edition and the Sturgis Tribune/Black Hills Press Centennial Edition, Oct. 25

Train tidbits

The railroad reached Sturgis on Oct 20, 1887. It was an exciting and long awaited occasion for it meant “Sturgis was now connected with the outside world.”

The Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley line became the Chicago and North Western Railroad on May 3, 1903. The first shipment of freight was French plate glass for Mr. Cornwell’s new building.

The train would leave Rapid City at 8:35 a.m., arrive in Black Hawk at 8:55 a.m., Spring Valley at 9:10 a.m., Tilford at 9:25 a.m., Sturgis at 9:49 a.m. and Whitewood at 10:05 a.m.

The returning express left Whitewood at 3:55 p.m. made the same stops on the way back and arrived in Rapid City at 5:25 p.m. Although Whitewood was listed on the train schedule, it did not then have a turntable to switch the traffic.

Passenger service to and from Rapid City was discontinued in 1958.

Quick tidbits

Meade County is located in the ranching area of western South Dakota. It is mammoth in land mass encompassing more than two million acres making it not only the largest county in South Dakota, but the second largest in the nation. In fact, it surpasses the states of Delaware and Rhode Island in land size.

In addition, to the agriculture industry, Meade County can boast of having Ellsworth Air Force Base in its southern boundary which is home to the world's most strategic bomber, the B-1.

Just adjacent to its county seat of Sturgis, is the Fort Meade VA Medical Center. This federal facility annually addresses the medical concerns of tens of thousands of veterans. This VA facility transitioned from one of our country's earliest frontier cavalry posts which was home to both the Fourth and Seventh cavalries. It was at this military installation that the Star Spangled Banner was first required to be played; later it housed World War II German prisoners of war; and today it is also a national training facility for U.S. Army officers.

Although Meade County is 140 miles from its northeast corner to the southwest corner, it is sparsely populated. It has five organized municipalities. Sturgis and Box Elder are both classified as first class cities, based on population. The other three communities are Faith, Piedmont and Summerset. In addition there are numerous other small towns and post offices located in the eastern and northern portions of its border.

Each August nearly a half million tourists descend into the area to attend the world's largest motorcycle rally in the world, Sturgis.

Meade County Demographics

Land area: 3471 sq. mi.

Water area: 11.8 sq. mi.

Population density: 7 people per square mile

Dec. 2009 cost of living index in Meade County: 82.1 (low, U.S. average is 100)

Industries providing employment:

Educational, health and social services (20.3%),

Retail trade (14.2%)

Type of workers:

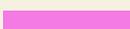
- Private wage or salary: 68%
- Government: 19%
- Self-employed, not incorporated: 12%
- Unpaid family work: 1%

Races in Meade County, South Dakota:

- White Non-Hispanic (91.6%)
- American Indian (3.4%)
- Two or more races (2.5%)
- Hispanic (2.1%)
- Black (1.5%)
- Other race (0.6%)

Median resident age:  33.4 years

South Dakota median age:  35.6 years

Males: 12,258  (50.5%)

Year	Population
1900	4,907
1910	12,640
1920	9,367
1930	11,482
1940	9,735
1950	11,516
1960	12,044
1970	16,618
1980	20,717
1990	21,878
2000	24,253
2010	30,434

2010 U.S. Census Meade County Population Centers

GEOGRAPHIC AREA	POPULATION	HOUSING UNITS TOTAL	HOUSING UNITS OCCUPIED	HOUSING UNITS VACANT
South Dakota	814180	363438	322282	41156
Blackhawk CDP	2892	1160	1127	33
Blucksberg Mountain CDP	462	205	189	16
Box Elder city	7800	2828	2443	385
Piedmont city	222	110	101	9
Sturgis city	6627	3154	2916	238
Summerset city	1814	707	655	52

The lone survivor of the Battle of Little Big Horn, the horse Comanche, was stabled at Fort Meade.

Commission has broad scope of responsibility

What do Meade County Commissioners do? South Dakota Codified Law Title 7 outlines county responsibilities. It's thousands of words in length but to briefly summarize approximately one-third of its duties:

- To institute and prosecute civil actions in the name of the county, for and on behalf of the county;
- To make orders respecting the care and preservation of all property belonging to the county;
- To construct and repair bridges; to open, lay out, vacate, and change highways; to purchase or acquire grounds for courthouse, jail or other building sites, locate or relocate the courthouse on such sites; to establish election precincts in the county and appoint the judges of election; and, as a board of equalization, to equalize the assessment roll of its county in the manner provided by law;
- To manage the fiscal concerns of the county;
- To regulate the transaction of business in alcoholic beverages, the use and consumption thereof, to establish the number of on-sale licenses which may be issued, all in accordance with the provisions of Title 35.
- To make ordinances prohibiting the sale or exhibition of any obscene matter in the unincorporated areas of the county;
- To provide office space, in addition to that provided in the county courthouse, for state's attorneys, appointed officials of the county and other employees;
- To receive and administer grants, loans and assistance and to enter into agreements for cooperative action, with or on behalf of any public agency or nonprofit organization, to establish, promote and support community development;
- To do and perform such other duties and acts as it is or may hereafter be required to do and perform by statute;

There are many statutory requirements that can arise from this last item. Often these requirements are "unfunded state and federal mandates". These are demands imposed on counties



Meade County Commissioners from left are: Gary Cammack, Union Center; Doreen Allison Creed, vice chair, Sturgis; Chair Alan Aker, Piedmont; Robert Heidergerken, Rapid City; and Linda Rausch, Piedmont. Aker, Creed and Cammack joined the board in 2009. Heidergerken and Rausch in 2011. The sculpture "Golden" by artist Parker McDonnell of Monticello, MN is on loan to the county.

without providing any funds to implement these programs. In such cases, the commissioners must find methods to pay for these commanded services using its limited property taxes. Commissioners also participate, monitor and lobby in the state legislative process because it is the primary rule maker under which the county must function.

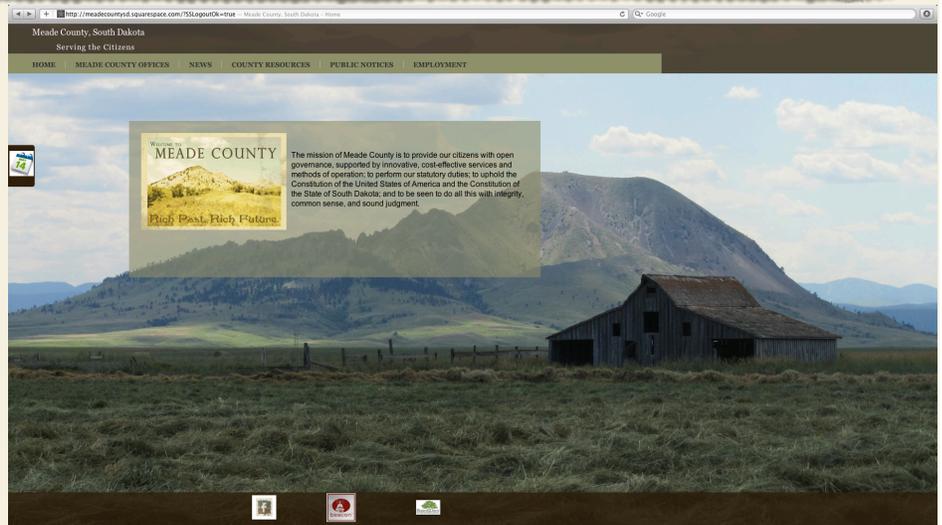
In the process of accomplishing these tasks, the board of county commissioners has an obligation to act in the best interest of the taxpayers and to more than \$1.6 billion dollars in valuation. But more importantly, Meade County has no debt.

The commission's regular meetings are the first Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. of each month. In addition it has special announced meetings throughout the month. Citizens requesting to appear before the commission may call Jerry Derr at 720-1625.

Agendas for upcoming and past commission meetings can be found at its web site www.meadecounty.org. The official county web site contains commission minutes dating back to 1998.

Commissioners are elected to four-year terms.

Meade County leads way in open governance via its informative, innovative, public access to agendas, meetings, documents through internet-based BoardDocs



County website opens its records to vital public information

Meade County is leveraging the power of the internet to radically improve its open governance process while saving time, tax dollars and affording its citizens near instant access to its elected Meade County Commissioners' meetings and Planning meetings.

Meade County is on the leading edge of this innovative, informative, transparent technology. Other county officials have heard of Meade's new method of increased open government and citizen participation and are planning on-site visits. In the meantime, Meade County is alone in being able to connect with any resident with computer or a smart phone. All one has to do is go the www.meadecounty.org and click on the BoardDocs link and follow in real time its government in action.

Under the decades old system used as recent as three years ago, only a scant agenda was available to commissioners and citizens prior to meetings. The commissioners' meeting packets were not distributed prior to meetings, and necessary resources and documents were lacking.

This new eGovernance initiative replaces the system put into place two years ago but even it was an ineffective, unresponsive, costly method of compiling, printing, binding and distributing paper agenda packets with relevant documents. So county officials searched for solutions and this digital answer which has been used in other parts of the country was discovered.

BoardDocs now enables the county to maximize the effectiveness of its board meetings with increased transparency, while providing a basis for better and more openness with the public, as it dramatically increases productivity and saves thousands in print and paper costs. BoardDocs now allows citizens to review information prior, during and after the meetings. Citizens can also take the opportunity to send commissioners emails while the meetings are in session.

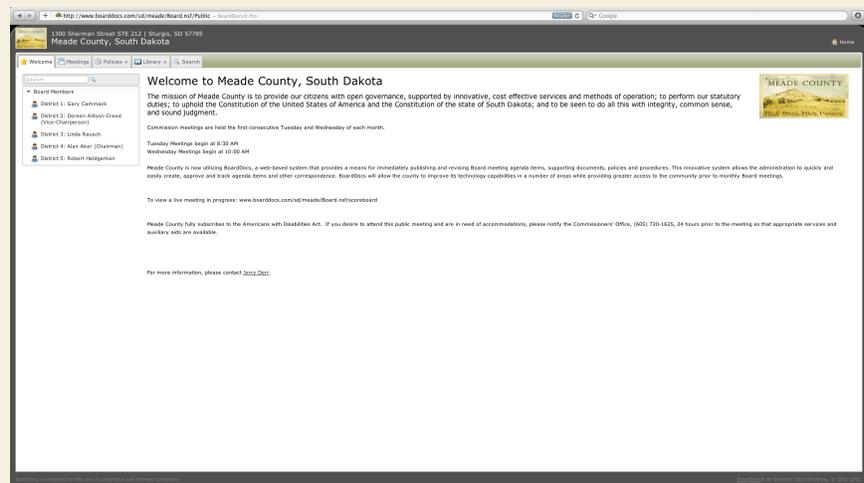
Citizens via the internet have access to relevant county ordinances, state laws by statute, financial data, reports from the register of deeds and treasurer's offices, all planning materials, including plats, maps etc. via the BoardDocs relative to each agenda item.

Commissioner motions and votes can be followed in real time via the scoreboard function of BoardDocs.

The Meade County Planning Board also uses BoardDocs for its monthly meetings. Access to this board's data is accessed in the same manner as the commissioners.

Not only does this system throw open the doors to local government, it saves tax dollars, employee costs and thousands in printing and paper expenses.

BoardDocs is just one of the cost-saving, employee productivity technology advancement that has been implemented throughout county departments. These actions have enabled the county to reduce the cost of government while increasing efficiency.



www.boarddocs.com/sd/meade/Board.nsf

Meade county executes diverse operations by merging expertise of elected officials, appointed department heads, and staff

The first official act of the appointed organizers of the newly formed Meade County on March 25, 1889 was calling for a county wide election to select three commissioners, a sheriff, treasurer, register of deeds, county attorney, judge of probate, assessor, superintendent of schools, coroner, and a surveyor.

Those dozen people set the stage for what would become an ever expanding scope, expertise and demands placed on Meade County employees.

Today there are five commissioners, each of whom are elected from specific areas of the county. Commissioners are: Gary Cammack, District 1, Union Center, (2009 to present); Doreen Allison Creed, Vice-Chairperson, District 2, Sturgis, (2009 to present); Linda Rausch, District 3, Piedmont, (2011); Alan Aker, Chairman, District 4, Piedmont, (2009 to present), and Robert Heiderken, Rapid City, (2011).

In addition to the commission, other elected officials are: County Auditor Lisa Schieffer; Sheriff Ron Merwin; State's Attorney Kevin Krull; Treasurer Susan Broadwine; Register of Deeds Denise Deaver; and Coroner Steve Barry. The position of school superintendent is now appointed by each of the school districts in Meade County.

The commissioners appoint several non-elected department heads: Kirk Chaffee leads two departments, equalization and planning; Kevin Forester is in charge of buildings and the extensive computer operations; Ken McGirr oversees the 1,041 miles on the county highway system; David Egermier heads the Veteran's Service office and Emergency Management; and Jerry Derr also wears two hats. He is the human resources director and commissioners' assistant.

The Weed and Pest Board appoints its supervisor, Nathan Jagim.

Three division heads work under the sheriff's office: Dave Muller heads the jail; Virginia Fitzpatrick is in charge of the city-county joint dispatch; and Kathy Grant is the emergency management director.

The Cooperative Extension Service is the major educational outreach arm of South Dakota State University.

The county supplies this department its own building of the courthouse. SDSU is

currently restructuring this division. Penny Nester is the livestock educator; Rebecca Poelstra, 4-H/youth development coordinator; and Cheryl Cross, office manager.

The State of South Dakota also hires personnel for the Community Health Services which provides public health services for all ages. The county supplies office facilities which are currently housed in the courthouse.

Meade County has the distinction of being honored by the Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce as the Employer of the Year. The following is what the Chamber board had to say in part about this honor at its April 2011 banquet.

"The Employer of the Year is most likely one of the oldest employers in the Sturgis area; it also has one of the largest bases in the region serving approximately 24,000 clients. This employer takes the prize of being in existence for over 12 decades, and they continue to be a strong active force within the Greater Sturgis Area.

"Employed are 150 active employees with an additional 62 individuals engaged in work on a part time basis to some degree during the year. The employees have an open office space concept covering 140 square miles in total.

"The payroll of this organization reaches beyond \$5 million making a significant economic impact on the community and region. The employees of this organization assist the citizens in a variety of ways - from taxes, weeds, roads, to law enforcement."



Shirley Gregory and Jerry Derr

Derr has dual HR/commission role

Jerry Derr has a dual role as commissioner assistant and human resources director. As human resources director, Derr assists employees with benefits and grievances; assists department heads with evaluation, improvement, recruiting, hiring, firing, and salary decisions for Meade County's employees.

As commissioner assistant, Derr oversees the commission agenda, completes research requested by commissioners, maintains committee rosters, fields communications from the public, works on the county website, and checks for compliance with commission decisions.

Derr recently revised the entire Meade County Employee Manual which was unanimously adopted by the commission at its January 2012 meeting. In addition, he has instituted the county's first computerized county-wide employee timekeeping and automated payroll systems.

Shirley Gregory is an assistant in the department working under the federal Experience Works Program which costs no county tax dollars. The county, however, donated \$500 to the program.

Meade County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Variety of state dictated duties dominate auditor's staff

The Meade County Auditor's office has been led by Lisa Schieffer since 1999. Schieffer was elected, without opposition, to a fourth term in November 2010. Three deputy clerks assist in the duties of this multi-faceted department.

The auditor's office is responsible for auditing all accounts and maintaining all financial records in and for Meade County. This includes processing payroll, accounts payable, vendor licensing, indigent assistance, and alcohol licensing.

The department is responsible for preparing the annual budget, establishing levies and apportioning all tax collections. In addition the auditor's office does monthly audits of all cash and cash items in the county treasurer's office and performs a verification of bank account balances. Annual financial reports are prepared indicating the receipts and expenditures, liabilities, equity and assets of the county.

The auditor is also the clerk for the board of county commissioners and keeps an accurate record of its official proceedings including the annual board of equalization hearings and preserves all documents, books, and records as required by law.

The election process is also a function of the auditor's



This is the framework of the "election" room which was added to the auditor's office..



The Meade County Auditor's staff has 56 years experience. Joining auditor Lisa Schieffer, back right, are deputies from left Marcy Larsen, Nancy Schneider and Carolyn Anders.

office. The auditor performs all the duties required by law relative to all county, state and federal elections held within the Meade County.

The staff also assists in city, school, sanitary/road district elections, along with acceptance of all referral petitions in the county. As a part of this process, the auditor supervises voter registration, cancellations and changes which are sent electronically to the State of South Dakota database. The auditor maintains all records of voter registration and election history.

Meade County has 38 voting precincts and 16 polling places which span three cities and seven different school districts. At the 2010 general election Meade County had 15,796 active registered voters. The electorate listed their affiliations as follows: Republican, 8,917; Democrat, 4,025; Liberal, 39; Constitutionals, 12; and Independent, 2,803.

Equalization staff provides government funding tax base

The Meade County Equalization Office has many different responsibilities including equalization, planning and zoning, GIS (Geographic Information Systems), and economic development.

Director Kirk Chaffee, who started as an appraiser in 1987, has grown with this department as its role in county government expanded during the past 20 years. Deputy Director Rhea Crane, who like Chaffee, has more than two decades experience has increased her expertise in this evolving department.

Deputy Planner Bill Rich authors many of the planning ordinances that originate from this department and heads the GIS division. His assistants are Jennifer Phillips and Chad Skinner.

Chief Appraiser Garet Hunt, who joined the department 12 years ago, supervises field appraisers, Rae Schneider, Jon Olson and Chase Smith. Office staff members, Shellee Kuper and Cindy Swenby, track the volumes of resulting documents that are generated in this office.

The primary responsibility of the equalization office is providing the tax base for funding all taxing entities in the county. Its staff members annually assess more than 19,000 property parcels and sends out assessment notices to all taxpayers notifying them of the value set for tax purposes. The assessment process is completed through sales analysis studies and property inspections of both existing and new construction. To date, the value of Meade County is upwards of \$1.7 billion.

The staff of 11, which has a combined 110 years experience in the field, assists the public in understanding the assessment procedures and policies, and aids local, municipal and county boards of equalization through the appeals

process. The many state assessment or tax reduction programs are handled through the equalization office, as well as tax exemptions.

Property ownerships are updated monthly, with an average of 95 transactions a month.

Mobile homes are registered and valued with the equalization office.

All temporary campgrounds in Meade County must be licensed in this office and staff assists transient vendor inspections during the Sturgis Rally.

The Planning and Zoning office is tasked with issuing building permits, code enforcement, planning procedures, and building inspections.

The staff in the equalization office is available to answer questions regarding property assessments. Any member of the public is welcome to inquire regarding their own property, or any property in the county.



Equalization and planning staff members are front, Rae Schneider; middle row from left, Rhea Crane, Cindy Swenby, Shellee Kuper, Jennifer Phillips, Chad Skinner; back row, Jon Olson, Kirk Chaffee, Chase Smith, Bill Rich and Garet Hunt. The seven members of the Planning and Zoning Commission are: San Monahan, Craig Shaver, Talbot Wiczorek, Bob Powles, Leota Quam, Bob Mallow, and Commissioner Alan Aker.

County/city GIS technology partnership saves tax dollars

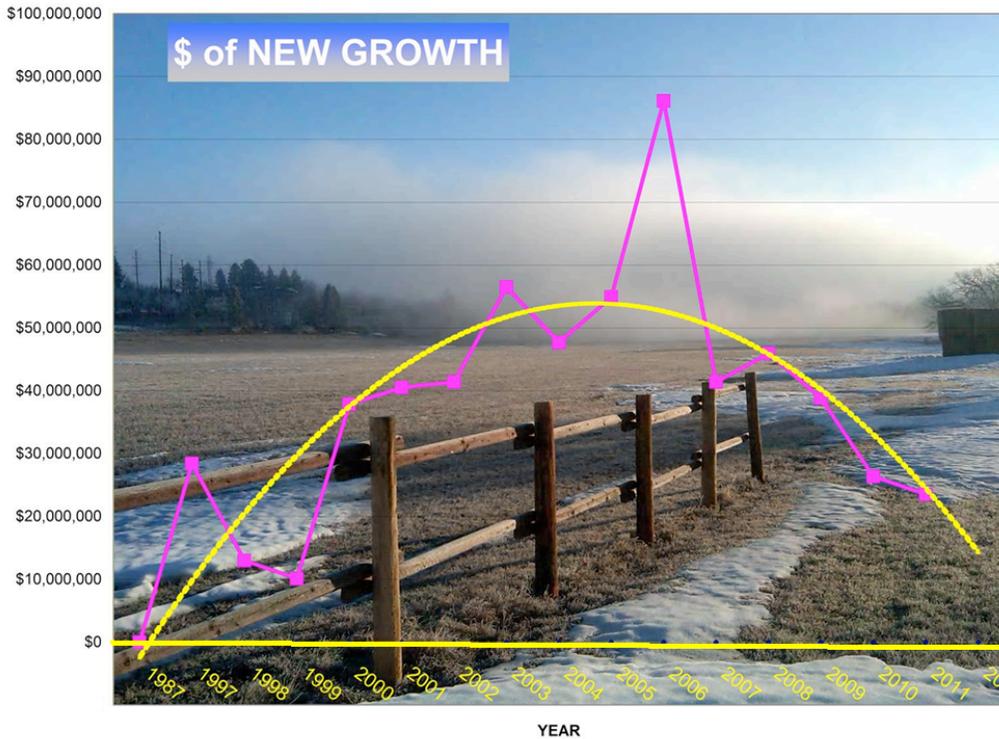
Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is a technology in which data in the form of points, lines, and polygons are connected to databases providing information about a geographical area. GIS is a digital map containing several layers of data, each layer containing specific information within the digital map. Parcels, flood data and street centerlines are a few examples of map layers.

Meade County GIS is a support service and is part of the equalization and planning department and its mission is to provide support to all Meade County departments and the general public. The county also has a GIS partnership agreement with the City

of Sturgis. It also is responsible for creating, updating and maintaining an efficient geographic information system or digital mapping in support of the board of commissioners.

Meade County GIS provides fast and easy access to accurate digital and hard-copy mapping data. GIS will continue to provide training, appropriate staff and public access to data to assist governmental entities.

The office also has a web site for internal and public use. Detailed GIS information is sold on a subscription basis as well. For more information call Meade County's GIS at (605) 347-3818.



Meade County is financially strong

In 1889 when Meade County was formed, it had a debt of \$156,851. How would that translate into 2010 dollars? The county would have a debt today of a \$3,756,780. The commission is fortunate to report to its taxpayers that the county does not have one cent of debt. It is financially strong even after completion of the Erskine Office Building.

The 1889 debt was very high, considering the tax base of the county at that time. In 1889, Meade County had an assessed valuation of \$3,391,950. In today's dollars, that would be \$81,241,434. In 2011, Meade's valuation is in excess of \$1.7 billion which demonstrates the county has had tremendous growth in real estate.

Partial distribution list of Meade County's 19,000 property parcels

YEAR	NEW VALUE	TOTAL COUNTY WIDE	NAC	NAC1	NAC1S	NACS	NAD	NAD1	NAD1S	NADS	structure count	%Diff
1987	\$	273,282,363	3,554	2,261			2,142	1,911			4,172	
1997	\$ 28,416,019	\$ 672,890,765	1,133	468	2,424	2,551	1,719	573	1,628	1,719	5,093	
1998	\$ 12,978,018	\$ 637,689,472	1,098	561	2,498	2,598	803	581	1,631	1,713	5,271	-5.23%
1999	\$ 10,132,629	\$ 672,890,765	1,090	589	2,703	2,713	740	563	1,702	1,744	5,557	5.52%
2000	\$ 37,834,904	\$ 826,088,598	1,151	608	2,808	2,803	691	538	1,723	1,761	5,677	22.77%
2001	\$ 40,515,693	\$ 887,160,429	1,166	609	2,929	2,925	648	504	1,757	1,789	5,799	7.39%
2002	\$ 41,400,113	\$ 933,868,322	1,156	646	3,038	3,047	590	460	1,747	1,788	5,891	5.26%
2003	\$ 56,502,831	\$ 984,327,667	1,272	713	3,211	3,230	578	462	1,753	1,799	6,139	5.40%
2004	\$ 47,674,693	\$ 1,010,428,472	1,195	754	3,392	3,430	623	444	1,780	1,833	6,370	2.65%
2005	\$ 54,907,054	\$ 1,195,279,722	1,112	831	3,426	3,509	849	463	2,035	2,105	6,755	18.29%
2006	\$ 86,099,859	\$ 1,404,699,428	1,209	944	3,523	3,649	1,042	602	2,111	2,184	7,180	17.52%
2007	\$ 41,392,169	\$ 1,488,009,684	1,091	982	3,638	3,786	999	587	2,199	2,273	7,406	5.93%
2008	\$ 45,937,283	\$ 1,550,819,044	1,799	1,315	3,970	3,929	1,713	571	2,384	4,063	8,240	4.22%
2009	\$ 38,823,984	\$ 1,600,594,232	1,712	1,396	4,056	5,401	1,712	609	2,558	4,232	8,619	3.21%
2010	\$ 26,378,931	\$ 1,662,772,219	1,605	1,233	4,136	5,419	1,653	816	2,663	4,339	8,848	3.88%
2011	\$ 23,525,248	\$ 1,729,330,440	1,498	1,447	4,196	5,185	1,591	831	2,571	4,233	9,045	4.00%

County NAC- Platted lot NAC1- Structure NAC1S- owner occupied structure NACS - owner occupied lot
 City NAD- Platted lot NAD1- Structure NAD1S- owner occupied structure NADS- owner occupied lot

November 1 is the assessment date for property



Meade County Sheriff officers take time during the 2010 rally for a group picture. The county has 24 hour law enforcement coverage. It is rare to have all officers in one place at a time

Sheriff's office is public safety, keep the peace

The Meade County Sheriff's Office consists of four distinct divisions as well as several layers within those divisions says longtime sheriff, Ron Merwin. The four divisions are law enforcement, jail, dispatch, and emergency management.

"All four operate independently of each other, but yet jointly to produce the same goal of public safety," said Merwin, who has been sheriff since 1990.

The members of each division and their lengths of service are detailed on the adjoining page. All toll Merwin is in charge of 56 employees.

State law details the many duties of a sheriff, but utmost is the sheriff shall keep and preserve the peace within his county, and he is empowered to call to his aid such persons or power of his county as he may deem necessary. He must pursue and apprehend all felons, and must execute all writs, warrants, and other processes from any court or magistrate which shall be directed to him by legal authority.

It shall be the duty of the sheriff to comply with all orders of the attorney general or his agents and at all times, whether on duty under the call of the attorney general or his agents or not, to see to it as far as may be possible that all the laws of this state and especially all laws relating to alcoholic beverages are faithfully executed and enforced.

The sheriff shall furnish to the attorney general or his agents from time to time any information regarding conditions in his county that may be required; and it is his duty to inform himself of all violations of the state criminal laws, notify the state's attorney to file criminal complaints or preliminary information, and to arrest and assist in the prosecution of persons charged.

Sheriff Department Statistics	Year 2010
Calls for Service	11,658
Pistol Permits Issued	814
Papers Served	2,502
Executions Worked (debts collected)	253
Distress Warrants Worked (taxes collected)	136
Warrants Issued	644
Warrants Served	708
Miles Traveled	381,162
Income Collected	\$67,193
Jail Statistics	
Total Inmates	2,648
Total Detention Days	16,748
Average Daily Population	45.88
Average Length of Stay	6.32
Income Generated from Housing Neighboring Counties ' Prisoners	\$285,720

Sheriff's Department	Hired
Arneson, John	6/11/11
Averill, Christopher	9/11/06
Bedford, Tenessa	4/11/11
Bostrom, Dustin	5/10/04
Crown, Darryl	12/2/08
Deyo, Caleb	10/5/02
Flesner, Mary	8/24/98
Ford, Susan	4/3/01
Humphrey, Patrick	5/23/11
Jensen, Teresa	2/1/93
Johnson, Craig	5/24/91
Johnson, Scott	4/29/04
Lehrkamp, Robert	2/29/88
Majzner, Stephanie	1/25/10
McCarthy, David	11/15/10
Merwin, Ron	1/7/91
Messner, Gary	3/7/07
Moore, David	12/31/91
Nasser, Richard	9/28/09
Regan, Quinn	10/23/92
Reimer, Steve	1/6/09
Rhoden, John	7/11/96
Urbaniak, Julie	12/1/08
White, Ron	3/25/99
Williams, Chris	5/10/04
Wilts, Tom	8/1/91

Dispatch	
Fish, Dianne	9/2/03
Fitzpatrick, Virginia	10/30/00
Hast, Kathryn	10/22/05
Knight, Teresa	12/4/07
Lemmel, Crysta	1/19/10
Masden, Anna	2/11/08
Ruff, Jodi	11/20/05
O'Bryan, Katie	8/17/09

Jail	
Alan, Carissa	4/8/02
Anderson, Linda	1/15/07
Aplan, Diann	10/6/03
Brengle, Matthew	7/5/11
Cross, Cheryl	11/14/11
Dennis, Cindy	7/26/04
Droppers, Monte	3/31/92
Finn, David PT	2/14/11
Frickel, Shannon	2/19/08
Harmon, Justin PT	1/23/12
Hendrickson, Michael	8/15/05
Huffman, Tina PT	6/11/11
Keszler, Linda	4/26/01
Keszler, Steve PT	5/30/09
Littleton, Teresa	2/14/11
McGee, Bill	7/23/04
Muller, David	10/16/06
Petersen, Jill	6/4/07
Rhoden, Kenneth PT	4/2/07
Schmunk, Lee PT	2/11/08
Schmunk, Virginia PT	11/9/11
Shoun, Teresa	11/10/97
Stansbury, Viki PT	4/22/10
Stephenson, Ronda	12/14/11
Sulzback, Daniel	5/1/01
Tift, Kyle	9/19/11
Townsend, Sarah	6/27/11
Tveidt, Bernard	10/10/96
Ulrich, Stacy	4/27/09
Vansickle, Marie	6/27/05
Weiland, Terry	7/27/06

Coroner	
Barry, Steve	1/1/01
Brennick, Randy PT	1/1/06
Matt, Cindy	3/1/06
Moncur, Dean	10/21/11

Joining Meade County Register of Deeds Denise Deaver, center, are from left, Lori Cleland, Kaye Andrews, Cheryl Weischedel and Rhonda Gerving.



If it needs filing, it's likely at the Register of Deeds

The Meade County Register of Deeds office records all transactions on real estate, such as deeds and mortgages. It also issues marriage licenses, certified copies of births, deaths and files burials.

The office also records fictitious business names and military records and discharges. It files state, federal and county liens in addition to hospital and mechanic's liens.

Pioneer horse thieves

Jan. 4, 1884: Some person is purporting for himself a hemp necktie and an oak tree suspension party.

Last Sunday, there were eight horses stolen from the stable of N.C. Hines, at the ranch about five miles beyond Shingle's. Men immediately set off for Dickson, on the Northern Pacific, where it is suspected the thieves have gone. Telegrams have also been sent to all points where they might go, and it is believed they will ultimately be captured.

The only trouble is that but two of the horses are branded, and none of them have the Hines' brand on them. Five of the animals are valuable, the other three being ordinary horses.

Horse stealing is the prevailing epidemic. Many minor deprecations have been heard of, but this is the first case of such magnitude. Eight horses lost is a considerable loss and there is no doubt that if the thieves are captured by the

5 Year Average	
Abstract Xerox	\$2,160
Coroner Records	\$155
Certified Birth	\$9,890
Certified Death	\$1,180
Certified Marriage	\$4,200
Certificate Record Document	\$91
Deeds-Transfer Fee	\$116,006
Deeds-Document Fee	\$14,364
Federal Tax Lien	\$800
Release Fed Tax Lien	\$388
Financing Statement	\$382
General Filings	\$64
Hospital Lien	\$20
Marriage License	\$8,000
Mortgages	\$64,686
Mechanic's Liens	\$240
Satisfactions	\$19,713
Recorded Copies	\$4,339
Fische	\$816
Xerox Copies	\$1,226
Fictitious Name	\$1,690
Plats	\$993
Misc. Recordings	\$12,366
5 Year Average Total:	\$263,770
5 Yr Avg Total of Documents:	\$9,346

Treasurer tracks money

Susan Boadwine, Meade County Treasurer, is the collector of taxes. It is her duty to receive all money belonging to the county from whatever its source and other money which by law is directed to be paid to the county. The treasurer's office is charged with collecting all funds listed on the tax lists and along with that has the list of all tax delinquencies on property.

It is the duty of the county treasurer to account for and pay into the treasury of the county all money, funds, and sums directly or indirectly received by virtue of the office and all sums received as interest or compensation for the use, deposit, or forbearance of any county money or funds in the county treasurer's hands or under the county treasurer's control.

All money received by the treasurer for county use can only be disbursed by a warrant of the county auditor drawn according to law. The county treasurer cannot deduct from any tax collected, any fee for the collection, and the full amount of tax collected shall be credited to the taxing district from which such tax is collected.

The treasurer's books, accounts, vouchers and all money, warrants, or orders remaining in the treasury are subject to the examination of the county commissioners.

The treasurer's office also handles title transfers and issues motor vehicle plates; issues temporary and permanent handicap permits; assists the elderly and disabled persons with the state assessment freeze and sales tax refunds.

No final land plat can be filed in the register of deeds office without the signature of the county treasurer confirming that all taxes have been paid on the property. In addition it issues kennel licenses; receipts monies from all county entities; and issues distress warrants on behalf of the state Department of Revenue and Department of Labor.



The treasurer's employees have more than 116 years of experience. The department is lead by treasurer Susan Boadwine, center. Deputies are from left Glenda Eixenberger, Sheri Harner, Robin Korth, Eileen Asheim, Sheila Huston and Lori Bratland.

	2009	2010	2011
Tax Collections (funds for county, all school districts, cities, townships, road districts)	\$26,778,082.28	\$28,630,414.55	\$28,504,483.16
Motor Vehicle Sale Taxes and License Plates	\$3,324,737.78	\$3,381,366.41	\$3,855,460.86
Motor Vehicle Title Transfers	10,277	10,690	10,933
Motor Vehicle Registrations	26,715	27,098	27,319
Duplicate Vehicle Titles	307	367	401
Liens Noted	652	818	719
Liens Released	1,539	1,463	1,254

Real estates taxes are due April 30 and October 31 of each year.

You name it - they fix and maintain it

Kevin Forrester joined Meade County's maintenance department 17 years ago. Since 1995 not only has the number of buildings under his direction changed, the computer revolution has altered how employees do business. Forrester has been on ground zero of the county's technology transformation and leads the Information Technology (IT) functions.

This department has a huge range of responsibilities. IT did the electrical wiring at the new Opal Highway Shop, installed the latest control consoles in the Sturgis-Meade Joint Law Enforcement Dispatch Center, and is on call to repair any of the county's 130 computers and mobile devices. On the custodial side of the department, there is daily cleaning which includes 72 restroom fixtures; annual cleaning; grounds keeping of 50,000 s/f of lawn; general building maintenance; and snow removal of at least 10 blocks of sidewalk, 8 sets of steps, and 240 parking spaces.

Ben Petrocco, a six-year department veteran, is the assistant director. Tony Cummins is one of the newest members of the department. He has years of experience in the IT field and is the "computer man". Jamie Blakeman and Kelly Cleland are maintenance technicians. Head Custodian Joyce Holzer directs fellow employees, Kathryn Lemmel and Kimberley Stansbury. Inmate labor augments many functions conducted by this department and are very visible performing outside and inside maintenance functions such as snow removal, lawn care, and window washing.



Kevin Forrester

Mechanical/Electrical:

- 7 permanently mounted generators
- 4 boilers, 3 furnaces, 61 heat pumps, 1 chiller
- 1 cooling tower, 4 air handlers
- 48 HVAC mixing boxes
- 2 digital HVAC control system
- 17 circulation pumps, 4 condensing units
- 15 ventilation fans
- 6 water wells, 12 water heaters
- 90 plumbing fixtures
- 3 yard irrigation systems
- 15 disaster warning stations
- 2 remote flood activation point systems
- 3 fire alarm systems, 1 fire sprinkler system
- Nearly 50 miles electrical/computer wires
- 43 electrical secure doors
- 1000's of lights/outlets
- 1 institutional kitchen
- 3 commercial clothes washers/2 clothes dryers
- 100's of tools and equipment
- 17 vehicles w/ police/camera equipment
- Dozens of fixed/mobile law enforcement communication devices

Technology:

- BoardDocs: Real-time computer internet interface with commissioners' meetings
- Miles of fiber optic wires, multiple servers
- 5 wired Ethernet networks
- 150 PC's and mobile devices
- 4 wireless networks/14 state networks
- 4 remote network connections (Blackhawk, Summerset, Box Elder, and Sturgis)
- Remote computer connections between Meade Co./City of Sturgis GIS depts.
- Upgraded 911 dispatch system in 2011
- Automated jail control system
- Several firewalls, data backup locations
- 72 video cameras/7 digital video recorders
- Printers/scanners/copiers/FAX
- 3 phone systems/1 intercom system
- 15 Microsoft/Apple software apps
- Panic alarm systems/emergency paging system
- 4 cash drawers
- 1 speed trailer
- 1 access control system

The Erskine Building is heated and cooled using the latest geothermal system. The two white pipes (right) are part of the underground system. There are 66 wells buried 200 feet below ground in this state-of-the-art system. The county was awarded \$100,000 in grants which partially funded the system.



Meade County Buildings		Sq feet	Sq feet
Courthouse	Built 1965		40,122
Law Enforcement Center	Built 1994		34,210
	Sturgis Police Dept	3,280	
	Jail	14,984	
	Sheriff's Office	6,213	
	Common Area	6,503	
	Garage	3,230	
Extension Building	Built 1950		2,970
	Extension Service	1,470	
	Community Area	1,500	
Maintenance Department	Built 2008		2,800
	Maintance Area	2,000	
	Sheriff/Equalization storage	800	
Erskine Office Building	Built 1901		33,275
Highway Department	Built in various years	18,298	
	Main shop	7,200	
	Grader Shed	2,304	
	Piedmont Shop	2,877	
	Hereford Shop	1,153	
	Union Center Shop	1,200	
	Red Owl Shop	1,080	
	Marcus Shop	1,248	
	Opal Shop	1,920	
	Elm Springs Shop	1,152	
Weed & Pest Department			3,200
TOTAL BUILDINGS			116,577

The Primary Building which adjoins the Erskine campus has been put in cold storage.

Highway department has 1,041 miles of roads, 118 bridges under county maintenance



The Meade County Highway department maintains and constructs approximately 1,000 miles of county roads. Roads built since about 1975, within newer subdivisions, are not maintained by the county. Along with those newer subdivisions, traffic counts on some of the roads the county does maintain has increased dramatically, and several roads have been paved to accommodate the increased traffic.

The Meade Commission passed a capital spending plan in 2010 which includes paving of all of New Underwood Road, paving streets serving the new Piedmont school, minor repair of Deadwood Avenue, and major repair to Peaceful Pines road east of the Black Hawk Exit, all by the end of construction season in 2012.

Along with gravel replacement, the department blades gravel, plows snow, sands icy roads, and mows road ditches.

The highway department is also responsible for 118 bridges that exceed 20 feet in length, asphalt repair, culvert repair and replacement, sign installation and replacement, gravel hauling and placing, drainage needs, bridge repair, tree trimming and removal, right of way maintenance, gravel surface maintenance, snow removal, and equipment repair are only some of the many Meade County needs accomplished directly by the department.

According to highway superintendent Ken McGirr, “We currently outsource our project engineering and our major road and bridge reconstruction. The diverse backgrounds and training of the employees create an adaptable, efficient and accomplished workforce.”

To serve the large land mass of Meade County required that in addition to the Sturgis location, seven outposts be spread throughout the county and eight employees work from those outpost.

It took the Meade Highway employees less than a day to demolish a house on Willard St. in Sturgis which the county purchased in March 2011. Highway superintendent Ken McGirr is at the excavator controls.

Highway Department	Hired
Bergland, David	8/10/98
Bergman, Steve	12/29/03
Bulau, Ed	6/8/93
Fischer, D'anna	7/23/07
Harmon, Greg	3/14/05
Hendricks, Joe	2/12/96
Hostetter James	1/21/93
Hunt, Charles	10/16/07
Hunt, Greg	11/12/93
Jensen, Larry	5/11/07
Julson, Jake	10/3/11
Keszler, Greg	10/17/05
Lippert, Lowell	11/27/06
McGirr, Ken	10/1/03
Meyer, Delbert	4/9/90
Oedekoven, Clinton	10/11/05
Scott, Randy	11/16/92
Seversen, Brad	10/1/01
Simons, Baily	3/1/11
Smith, Clinton	4/9/86
Smith, Earl	9/11/95
Woods, Todd	6/26/02

Prior to the paving projects scheduled to completed this year, only 70 miles of roads were paved.

Egermier's background brings military, emergency training to assume dual role in Meade County

As part of continually streamlining county government, the Meade County Commission combined the positions of Veteran's Service Officer and Emergency Management Director effective January 1, 2012.

State statute requires that the VSO officer be a military veteran and military personnel are trained to be aware of dangers, disasters, and equipment and personnel requirements to respond to an emergency no matter its source.

Assuming the dual role is Dave Egermier. Egermier is a retired U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sergeant with 24 years of active duty service. His career as a flight line operations superintendent, combat veteran, and as an instructor at the Air Force Senior Enlisted Academy and Naval War College have fully prepared him for the unique requirements of the combined positions. Egermier earned a Master's of Science in Safety and OSHA certification from the National Safety Council and is a certified Veteran's Service Officer.



Dave Egermier

Egermier's emergency management experience ranges from overseas safety and security compliance to numerous aircraft mishap investigations and Department of Defense level exercises. This uniquely qualifies him to oversee disaster response and recovery and Department of Homeland Security issues for Meade County residents.

The Meade County Office of Emergency Management coordinates with county, state and federal agencies in coping with emergencies, disasters, and potential terrorist acts. The office must satisfy the requirements mandated by the county, state, and federal governments pertaining to emergency preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery programs.

As a certified South Dakota Veteran's Service Officer, Egermier is an expert in working with the Department of Veteran's Affairs to acquire disability, health care, educational, and burial benefits for all veterans.

Additionally, Egermier's experience in Operations Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, instruction of all five military services, and vast knowledge of the military's regulations and requirements allows him to provide high quality assistance to Meade County's 3,300 plus veterans and their families.

Egermier, 44, was stationed at Ellsworth Air Force Base for 13 years.

Health department delivers many client services

The state's public health department delivers the following health services: WIC, well-child check-ups and screenings, baby care, post-partum services, immunizations for children and adults, school health screenings and teaching, link people to local resources and personal health services, educational programs, dietary guidance and doctor-ordered services.

The Community Health Service office relocated from the Meade County courthouse across the street to the Extension Office building in 2012. For appointments with the health nurse, call (605) 347-5650.



Public Health Nurse, Jennifer Mutizger (right) and Community Health Secretary, Wanda Reichert, handle a broad spectrum of community health services

State action forces drastic changes in 4-H

Drastic changes made by South Dakota State University's Department of Agriculture following state legislative funding cuts resulted in the complete realignment of a Meade County institution, its Extension Service and 4-H program. The state combined West River counties into regional offices located in Rapid City and Lemmon. Sturgis no longer has its office and its long time secretary Cheryl Cross was offered another position in the county.

Meade County Commissioners entered into a contract with SDSU and is continuing to fund its 4-H program, but regrettably at a reduced staffing level.

On the bright side, the state hired Jennifer Voigt as Meade County's 4-H director.

Voigt, the youngest of five children, was raised on a farm/angus ranch by Dante, SD where she was very involved in running the family operation.

"I have been a part of 4-H as long as I can remember," Voigt reflects, "Some of my favorite projects as a kid were showing cattle/swine, visual arts and foods and nutrition. I graduated from Wagner High School and went to college at SDSU and BHSU where I received a bachelor of science degree in early childhood development and a teaching certificate.

"My philosophy for 4-H is to keep kids involved and having fun with 4-H. I look forward to working directly with our 4-H clubs, after school programs and project days. Please feel comfortable to come to me with your concerns, thoughts, and ideas," she says.

"Before coming to Sturgis, I was an elementary teacher and coach in De Smet and Lake Preston for seven years. We moved to Sturgis for my husband Mike's job with South Dakota National Guard."

The Voigts have four children: Justine, 14, Delaney, 13, Michael, 7, and Miles, 4.



Jennifer Voigt

What is 4-H?

4-H is a community of young people across America learning leadership, citizenship and life skills. 4-Hers in Meade County participate in fun, hands-on learning activities supported by the knowledge and research base of South Dakota State University. You can experience 4-H by becoming a member of a 4-H club, attending a 4-H camp, or joining an after-school 4-H program. 4-Hers can compete with their projects in contests at the local, state, regional or national levels as well as attend conferences and events.

Who can Join 4-H?

Anyone 8 to 18 years of age can join Meade County 4-H. Those that are 5 to 7 years of age can join Meade County 4-H as a Cloverbud. You can live on a farm, or in a city, you can like working with animals or the computer, 4-H is for everyone!

What do kids do in 4-H?

It's up to you. You can go to camp, learn to shop wisely, give a demonstration, grow vegetables, hatch an egg, chat on a computer, make bread, shadow an adult at work, choose to eat healthy foods, give a speech, cure a ham, or conquer an obstacle course. You can perform in a skit, make a birdhouse, start a business, shear a sheep, take pictures, learn about electricity, judge livestock, barbeque chicken, or drive a tractor. You can decorate a room, ride a horse, rodeo, be a part of an international exchange, learn to sew, raise an animal, or protect the environment. And there's more! In 4-H, you will be working with other young people toward common goals. In short, you can build your 4-H activities around your own talents and interests.

County's mission to control bugs and pests

Meade County Weed and Pest is responsible for the implementation of an integrated management plan for invasive species throughout the county. This plan requires cooperation with private landowners, government and non-government agencies, and the Meade County Weed and Pest Board. The duties of Meade County Weed and Pest are to control the spread of invasive species on County Right-of-Ways and to assist private landowners and major stakeholders with proper management techniques and strategies. Only with full participation from all parties can we develop a strategic plan to limit the expenses we all endure due to these new and established invaders.

Work performed by Meade County Weed and Pest include managing invasive species infestations through biological, chemical, and cultural methods. These tasks include treating invasive plants along roadsides and waterways, managing prairie dogs to limit the spread of infestations and diseases, and the trapping, monitoring and treatment of mosquitoes throughout the county. Want weed and pest information? Email

meadeweed@meadecounty.org



Nathan Jagim is in charge of the weed & pest department.

For more 4-H news call Jennifer Voigt at (605) 347-2436

State's Attorney's Office annually handles hundreds of criminal cases; and is the county's legal advisor

The Meade County Commission appointed Kevin Krull as its state's attorney in September 2011 following the resignation of Jesse Sondreal. Krull joined the State's Attorney Office in 2010 after leaving the U.S. Attorney's Office.

The Meade County State's Attorney serves the citizens of our county and of South Dakota as the chief prosecutor of adult and juvenile crimes occurring in Meade County.

The state's attorney has the exclusive and statutory responsibility for prosecuting violations of the criminal laws of the State of South Dakota, as well as many other regulatory laws of the state and county including ordinances and traffic regulations.

While the principal responsibility of the office is the prosecution of adult and juvenile crime, the office has the duty of protecting children who may be living in abusive or neglectful homes. Additionally, the office is responsible for providing legal advice and representation to the Board of County Commissioners and other elected and appointed department heads and their staff.

Krull, a Watertown native, graduated from the University of Florida College of Law in 1997 with his Juris Doctorate Degree after having served our country as an aviation officer in the United States Army from 1987-1991.

He began his legal career in 1997

Court in Pierre, SD. After returning to Watertown, Kevin entered private practice and within a couple years commenced his career as a prosecutor for the citizens of South Dakota as deputy state's attorney for Codington County.

The Krull family moved to the Black Hills in 2003 where he furthered his desire to continue prosecuting by becoming a deputy state's attorney in Pennington County where he prosecuted major felonies ranging from homicide, sexual assault, and controlled substance crimes. He achieved the position of chief deputy state's attorney which included the supervision of 12 deputy state's attorneys and support personnel.

In 2008, the family moved to Pierre where he served as assistant United States attorney for the District of South Dakota and prosecuted federal law violations.

Krull directs the office administration



Kevin Krull

and staff of three deputy state's attorneys, and specializes in prosecuting the county's major criminal cases. Office staff includes deputy state's attorneys: Kenneth Chleborad, chief deputy; Kasey Sorensen, deputy II; Michele Morse, deputy I; and secretaries: Morgan Pickett, Holly Perkovich, and Penny Green.

Coroner responds to unattended deaths, accidents

Steve Barry has served as Meade County coroner since 2001, but he has a longer history with the county. He was a deputy sheriff for years. In Barry's elected position he is responsible for investigating all unattended deaths.

According to state law, the coroner shall cause the body of any deceased person he is called to view to be delivered to the person entitled to receive it, if there are any. If not, he shall cause it to be properly buried, and the expense paid from any property found with the body.

State statute states, "If sufficient property is not found on the body, the coroner shall forthwith give notice to the dean of the department of medicine of the University of South Dakota, specifying in such notice the probable cause of death; and upon the requisition of the dean of such department, he shall forward such body to the university at its expense, within 24 hours of the receipt of such requisition. If no such requisition is received within the time stated, it shall be the duty of the coroner to cause the body to be properly buried.

Within 30 days after an inquest upon a dead body, the coroner must deliver to the treasurer any money or other property found upon the body, not expended for burial expenses and unless its claimed in the meantime by the legal representative.

There are three assistant coroners who are called upon on a case-by-case basis in the event Barry is unavailable. They are Randy Brennick, Cindy Matt, and Dean Moncur.



Meade Commissioners in 1939 were James Lodge, J.D. Keffeler, M.C. Cordes, Nels Morell, and George W. Jenks. There would not be a woman elected to the board until 1990.

Women did not have say in exit vote, few held office for 60 years

Women were vacant from official standing in early Meade County's days.

The election in which Meade residents exited from Lawrence County was decided only by men because it predated women's suffrage. It was not until Aug. 18, 1920 when the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified that women were allowed to vote. South Dakota approved the amendment only six months earlier on Dec. 4, 1919.

It took 100 years before a female served on the Meade County Commission. Bear Butte Valley area resident Jeanne Bachand was the first woman elected a commissioner in 1990. Piedmont bar owner Carolyn Hansen was the second woman elected. She was elected in 1992 but was defeated in 1996.

It would take almost another two decades before another woman would join the board. Sturgis resident Doreen Allison Creed was elected to a four-year term in 2009. She is the granddaughter of the only woman to serve as mayor of Sturgis, Kate Soldat in 1950.

Piedmont resident Linda Rausch was sworn into office as a commissioner in

January 2011, thus bringing the male to female ratio to 3 to 2.

Throughout the county's history, men held virtually every elected position.

Records indicate until 1956 only one woman held office: Christine Westgate served four years as clerk of courts starting in 1928. The clerk of courts is now a state position reorganized under the state's Unified Court System.

It wasn't until 1956 that there was another woman elected as a county official. It was also the first time two women won election in one year when Helen Gigear was elected auditor, and Pearl Hoel was elected register of deeds.

Ironically a male has not held the auditor's position since. Hoel served in her position for four years. John Doran then became the register of deeds for the ensuing eight years. From 1968 onward the office has been held by a woman.

Tillie Iverson was the first woman elected county treasurer in 1972 and only females have been elected to the post since.

There has never been a female elected coroner or sheriff.

The office of state's attorney was first held by a woman in 1980. Judy Walker served one term. Jennifer Utter was the only other female to hold that position. She served from 1997 to 2000.

Strange fact: Chicken Louie

In very early days, a colorful character lived in a dugout in Alkali. His name was Lou St. Croix, but was also known around the country as Chicken Thief Louie.

He seemed to be a respectable citizen. He taught school and was a preacher. But Louie sold hundreds of chickens to Sturgis eating establishments yet he didn't raise chickens. He finally left the country when the chickens were gone.

First female elected to a county office was Christine Westgate.

County Officials since 1889

COMMISSIONERS

1889 – 1889...DANIEL FLOOD
 MAX HOEHN
 W. C. BURTON
 SAMUAL MARTIN
 BLAND HERRING
 ELLIET NICHOLS
 1890 – 1891...E. T. MARSHALL
 (1ST)
 J. W. ALLEN (2ND)
 J. A. RUFFNER (3RD)
 1892 – 1893...MAX HOEHN (1ST)
 JOHN W. ALLEN (2ND)
 GEO. W. PIERCE (3RD)
 1894 – 1895...MAX HOEHN (1ST)
 V. W. LAMBERTON (2ND)
 GEO. W. PIERCE (3RD)
 1896 – 1897...MAX HOEHN (1ST)
 V. W. LAMBERTON (2ND)
 CHARLES L WARD (3RD)
 1898 – 1899...M. F. HILL (1ST)
 JESSIE W. COX (2ND)
 CHAS. L. WARD (3RD)
 1900 – 1901...M. F. HILL (1ST)
 ROSCOE KEENE (2ND)
 GEO. W. SEVEY (3RD)
 1902 – 1903... C. P. MEYER (1ST)
 ROSCOE KEENE (2ND)
 JOHN M. STEVENS (3RD)
 1904 – 1905 ...C. P. MEYER (1ST)
 ROSCOE KEENE (2ND)
 JOHN M. STEVENS (3RD)
 1906 – 1907...JESSE BROWN (1ST)
 ROSCOE KEENE (2ND)
 1906 – 1907 (CON'T)
 W. A. SCOTT (3RD)
 1908 – 1909...JESSE BROWN (1ST)
 JOHN P. EVERETT (2ND)
 W. A. SCOTT (3RD)
 1910 – 1911...JESSE BROWN (1ST)
 DAVID J. BROWN (2ND)
 W. A. SCOTT (3RD)
 1912 – 1913...GEO. T. MINTURN
 (1ST)
 JOHN P. EVERETT (2ND)
 W. A. SCOTT (3RD)
 JOHN E TROY (4TH)
 GEO. W. JENKS (5TH)

JOHN H. BLACK (3RD)
 C. M. SIMONS (4TH)
 GEO. JENKS (5TH)
 1918 – 1919...GEO. T. MINTURN (1ST)
 WM PHILLIPS (2ND)
 L. B. JUDSON (3RD)
 JOSEPH BROWN (4TH)
 GEO. JENKS (5TH)
 1920 – 1921...GEO. T. MINTURN (1ST)J. L.
 BAKER (2ND)
 L. B. JUDSON (3RD)
 JOSEPH BROWN (4TH)
 Commissioners (con't)
 GEO. JENKS (5TH)
 1922 – 1923...J. N. HOYT (1ST)
 J. L. BAKER (2ND)
 W. A. SCOTT (3RD)
 PETER J. BAUER (4TH)
 GEO. W. JENKS (5TH)
 1924 – 1925...J. N. HOYT (1ST)
 ROY GLEASON (2ND)
 W. A. SCOTT (3RD)
 PETER J. BAUER (4TH)
 GEO. W. JENKS (5TH)
 1926 – 1927...JOHN S. KENOYER (1ST)
 ROY GLEASON (2ND)
 W. A. SCOTT (3RD)
 P. J. BAUER (4TH)
 W. H. PARSONS (5TH)
 1928 – 1929...JOHN S. KENOYER (1ST)
 ROY GLEASON (2ND)
 W. A. SCOTT (3RD)
 J. F. PRECOST (4TH)
 GEO. W. JENKS (5TH)
 1930 – 1931...ROY E. SPARKS (1ST)
 ROY GLEASON (2ND)
 W. A. SCOTT (3RD)
 JOSEPH F. PREVOST (4TH)
 GEO. W. JENKS (5TH)
 1932 – 1933...ROY E. SPARKS (1ST)
 HARRY BLAIR (2ND)
 W. A. SCOTT (3RD)
 JOSEPH F. PREVOST (4TH)
 GEO. W. JENKS (5TH)
 1934 – 1935...W. J. PHILIPP (1ST)
 HARRY BLAIR (2ND)
 M. C. CORDES (3RD)
 JOSEPH F. PREVOST (4TH)
 JOHN A OAKLAND (5TH)
 1936 – 1937...W. J. PHILIPP (1ST)
 J. D. KEFFELER (2ND)
 M. C. CORDES (3RD)
 NELS MORELL (4TH)

JOHN A. OAKLAND (5TH)
 1938 – 1939...JAMES LODGE (1ST)
 J. D. KEFFELER (2ND)
 M. C. CORDES (3RD)
 NELS MORELL (4TH)
 GEO. W. JENKS (5TH)
 1940 – 1941...EDWARD THOMPSON (1ST)
 J. D. KEFFELER (2ND)
 M. C. CORDES (3RD)
 NELS MORELL (4TH)
 E. B. CLARK (5TH)
 1942 – 1943...ANDREW VIG (1ST)
 J. D. KEFFELER (2ND)
 M.C. CORDES (3RD)
 NELS MORELL (4TH)
 GEO. ALT (5TH)
 1944 -1945- W. A. THURSTON (1ST)
 GEORGE MARCOTTE (2ND)
 M.C. CORDES (3RD)
 EARL MUCKLER (4TH)
 GEORGE ALT (5TH)
 1946 – 1947. W.A. THURSTON
 COLE N. BURTON
 M.C. CORDES (3RD)
 EARL MUCKLER (4TH)
 IRWIN V RICHARDSON (5TH)
 1948 – 1949...W.A. THURSTON
 COLE N BURTON (2ND)
 M. C. CORDES (3RD)
 EARL MUCKLER (4TH)
 IRWIN V. RICHARDSON (5TH)
 1950 – 1951. W.L. GRAMS (1ST)
 ENOS E. BLAIR (2ND)
 COLE N BURTON (3RD)
 EARL MUCKLER (4TH)
 JOE ISAACS (5TH)
 1952. – 1953. W.L. GRAMS (1ST)
 ENOS E BLAIR (2ND)
 COLE N. BURTON(3RD)
 CHAS. F HILD(4TH)
 JOE ISAACS(5TH)
 1954 -1955. W.L. GRAMS(1ST)
 ENOS E BLAIR(2ND)
 COLE N BURTON(3RD)
 CHAS. F HILD(4TH)
 JOE ISAACS(5TH)
 1956 – 1957. W. L. GRAMS (1ST)
 NAVARRE BACHAND(2ND)
 EDGAR HARRINGTON(3RD)
 CHAS. F HILD(4TH)
 JOE ISAACS (5TH)
 1958- 1959. W. L. GRAMS (1ST)
 NAVARRE BACHAND(2ND)

EDGAR HARRINGTON(3RD)
 CHAS. F HILD(4TH)
 JOE ISAACS(5TH)
 1960 – 1961 ... W.L. GRAMS(1ST)
 C.L. DONALDSON(2ND)
 EDGAR HARRINGTON(3RD)
 DELBERT STINSON(4TH)
 JOE ISAACS(5TH)
 1962 – 1963...ALLEN A LUSHBOUGH (1ST)
 C. L. DONALDSON(2ND)
 EDGAR HARRINGTON(3RD)
 DELBERT STINSON(4TH)
 JOE ISAACS (5TH)
 1964 – 1965...ALLEN A LUSHBOUGH (1ST)
 JOSEPH ROVERE (APPOINTED)
 EDGAR HARRINGTON (3RD)
 DELBERT STINSON (4TH)
 JOE ISAACS (5TH)
 1966 – 1967...VERNON OFFICER (1ST)
 JOSHEPH ROVERE (2ND)
 ADOLPH C ANDERSON (3RD)
 DELBERT STINSON (4TH)
 JOE ISAACS (5TH)
 1968 -1969...VERNON OFFICER (1ST)
 JOSEPH ROVERE (2ND)
 ADOLPH C ANDERSON (3RD)
 JOHN L SPEED (4TH)
 JOE ISAACS (5TH)
 1970 – 1971...VERNON OFFICER (1ST)
 JOSEPH ROVERE (2ND)
 ADOLPH C. ANDERSON (3RD)
 JOHN L. SPEED (4TH)
 ROBERT HLAVKA (5TH)
 ***NO RECORD BETWEEN 1972 – 1973**
 1974 – 1975...ROBERT HLAVKA
 ADOLPH C. ANDERSON
 VERNON OFFICER (DIED)
 JAMES W. DICKSON (APPT)
 1976 – 1977...JOSEPH ROVERE
 FLOYD STRONG
 1978 – 1979...ROBERT HLAVKA
 JAMES W. DICKSON
 ADOLPH ANDERSON
 1980 – 1981...WILLIAM GRAMS (DIED)
 LEONARD ALDEN APPOINTED, VELDON
 BLAIR
 1982 – 1983...JOHN OVERHOLT
 ADOLPH ANDERSON
 ROBERT HLAVKA
 1984 – 1985...JAMES R. REED
 VELDON BLAIR
 1986 – 1987...ROBERT HLAVKA
 JOHN OVERHOLT
 MELFORD VOORHEES
 1988 – 1989JAMES R REED
 CURTIS NUPEN
 1990 – 1991. MELFORD VOORHEES
 JOHN OVERHOLT
 JEANNE BACHAND
 1992 – 1993. . . CAROLYN HANSEN
 JAMES R. REED

VELDON BLAIR
 1986 – 1987...ROBERT HLAVKA
 1983-1997 John Overholt resigned '97
 1985-1994 James Reed
 1985-1988 Veldon Blair
 1987-1994 Melford Voorhees
 1989-1992 Curtis Nupen
 1991-1994 Jeanne Bachand
 1993-1996 Carolyn Hansen
 1995-2000 Neal Rowett resigned '00
 1995-2010 Robert Mallow
 1997-1999 Robert Short (death)
 1997-2008 Curtis Nupen
 1998-2002 Jack Wilson (1998 appt./1999 elected)
 2000-2000 Craig Shaver (5 month appt.)
 2000-2001 Merlin Ehlers (appt.)
 2001-2008 Jim Schroeder
 2003-2010 Dayle Hammock
 2003-2009 Dean Wink (resigned in 2009)
 2009-Present Gary Cammack (2009 appt./2011 elected)
 2009-Present Doreen Allison Creed
 2009-Present Alan Aker
 2011-Present Linda Rausch
 2011-Present Robert Heidgerken

ASSESSORS

1889 – 1890. . . GEORGE W SEREY
 1890 – 1891. . . J. C. SPARKS
 1892 – 1893. . . HARRY B. WHEELER
 1894 – 1895. . . FRANK E. WOOD
 1896 – 1897. . . ED BEAMAN
 1898 – 1901. . . B. E. FLATHERS
 1902 – 1903. . . P. J. SMOOT
 1904 – 1907. . . BAILEY MADISON
 1908 – 1909. . . JOSIAH H PIERCE
 1910 – 1913. . . JOHN H BLACK
 1914 – 1917. . . IRVING JOHNSON
 1918 – 1919. . . W.K. HUDDLESTON
 1920 – 1921. . . E. C. HERRICK
 1922 – 1923. . . JOHN SKALEIEDER
 1924 – 1925. . . E.C. HERRICK
 1926 – 1929. . . FARNAM JOHNSON
 1930 – 1931. . . SIDNEY C. VOORHEES
 1932 – 1933. . . AMOS BOVEE
 1934 – 1937. . . RAY GLEASON
 1938 – 1949. . . H.W. CATON
 1950 – 1955. . . FRANK COOPER
 1956 – 1959. . . ARTHUR MISCHKE(APPT)
 1960 – 1972. . . ALTON CALDWELL
 1973 – 1975. . . MAURICE HURD
 1976 – 1977. . . DAN REGAN
 1978 – 1978. . . MICHAEL BRITTON
 1978 – 1979. . . ALTON CALDWELL
 1980 – 1983. . . PAM ELA COWAN
 1984 – 1985. . . HARVEY KISTLER
 1986 – 1990. . . HARLEY WEYER
 1991 –PRESENT. . . KIRK CHAFFEE

AUDITORS

1889 – 1889. . . E.C.LANE
 1890 – 1891. . . GEORGE W. LADD
 1892 – 1895. . . WM. BRADLEY
 1896 – 1897. . . W.A. MICHAEL
 1898 – 1903. . . MAX HOEH

1904 -1905. . . J.G. HAER
 1906 – 1909. . .ARTHUR P. SCHNELL
 1910 – 1913. . . BURT BURTON
 1914 – 1917. . . FRANK J MURPHY
 1918 – 1919. . .HANS P HANSON
 1920 – 1923. . . JAMES G WILLSON
 1924 -1927. . . C. E. SINCLAIR
 1928 – 1931. . . C.E. PRESTON
 1932 – 1935. . .SIDNEY C. VOORHEES
 1936 – 1939. . . J.L. BAKER
 1940 – 1941. . .FRANK BURROUGHS
 1942 – 1945. . . C. E. PRESTON
 1946 – 1949. . .C.W.LINSTROM
 1950 – 1953. . . C.E. PRESTON
 1954 – 1955. . . J. L. BAKER
 1956 – 1959. . . HELEN GIGEAR
 1960 – 1965. . .PEARL HOEL
 1966 – 1973. . . DOROTHY BURNHAM
 1974 – 1998. . . ELIZABETH BESTGEN
 1999 – PRESENT. . . LISA SCHEFFER

CORONERS

1889 – 1891. . . J. B. CHENEY
 1892 – 1893. . . W. G. SMITH
 1894 – 1897. . . I. L. SANDERSON
 1898 – 1901. . . J. H. MCSLAY
 1902 – 1909. . . J. W. BRACKETT
 1910 – 1913. . . DR. F. A. BRANDT
 1914 – 1915. . . JOHN D BROOKS
 1916 – 1917. . .GEORGE T PAYNE
 1918 – 1924. . . FRED W LEONARD
 1926 – 1933. . . ALBERT ANDERSON
 1934 – 1935. . . GEORGE W. TISDALE
 1936 – 1939. . . F. O. JOLLEY
 1940 – 1943. . . OLIVER J. THOMAS
 1944 – 1957. . . ROBERT J. JOLLEY
 1958 – 1959. . . DR. L.L. MASSA
 1960 – 1961. . . DR. W.E. JONES
 1962 – 1965. . . ROBERT J. JOLLEY
 1966 – 1985. . . MARTIN L. JOLLEY
 1986 – 1992. . .RAYMOND ROGERS
 1993 – 2000. . . TOM WILTS
 2001 – PRESENT. . . STEVE BARRY

REGISTER OF DEEDS

1889 -1893. . . F. S. DUNHAM
 1894 -1895. . . S.H. KNEPPER
 1896 -1897. . .FRANK SHAW
 1898 – 1901. . . PHILIP J SMOOT
 1902 – 1905. . . FRANK SMITH
 1906 – 1909. . . MAX HOEHN
 1910 – 1913. . . JOHN KELLY
 1914 – 1917. . . HANS HANSEN
 1918 – 1921. . . BRYANT HALE
 1922 – 1925. . . JESSE BROWN
 1926 – 1929. . . SIDNEY VOORHEES
 1930 – 1931. . . GEORGE H. NORRIS
 1932 – 1933. . . JAMES KERPER
 1934 – 1937. . . AMOS BOVEE
 1938 – 1941. . . RAY GLEASON
 1942 – 1943. . . IRENE BROOKS
 1944 – 1945. . . IRENE HOBART
 1946 – 1949. . . C. E. PRESTON
 1950 – 1953. . . PEARL HOEL
 1954 – 1955. . . C.E. PRESTON
 1956 – 1959. . . PEARL HOEL

In early county history assessors were elected not appointed.

1954 – 1955 . . . C.E. PRESTON
 1956 – 1959 . . . PEARL HOEL
 1960 – 1967 . . . JOHN P. DORAN
 1968 – 1989 . . . BEVERLY SKINNER-FROST
 1990 – 2009 . . . ANGELA M. ROSS
 2009 – PRESENT. DENISE A.
 DEAVER(APPT)

TREASURERS

1889 – 1889 . . . E. T. HUFFMAN
 1890 – 1891 . . . D. P. FLOOD
 1892 – 1895 . . . GEO. W SEVEY
 1896 – 1897 . . . JACOB KEFFELER
 1898 – 1901 . . . FRANK W. SHAW
 1902 – 1905 . . . MATT FLAVIN
 1906 – 1906 . . . FRANK SMITH
 1906 – 1907 . . . J.N. HOYT
 1908 – 1911 . . . WILLIAM BRADLEY
 1912 – 1915 . . . M. J. KERPER
 1916 – 1919 . . .FRANK BURROUGHS
 1920 – 1923 . . . O.J. SHERMAN
 1924 – 1927 . . . JAMES WILLSON
 1928 – 1931 . . . C. E. SINCLAIR
 1932 – 1935 . . . J. L. BAKER
 1936 – 1939 . . . FRANK BURROUGHS
 1940 – 1943 . . . J. L. BAKER
 1944 – 1947 . . . L. D. JONES
 1948 – 1949 . . . WM L. GRAMS
 1950 – 1953 . . . J. L. BAKER
 1954 – 1957 . . . L. D. JONES
 1958 – 1971 . . . L. L. KINNEY
 1972 – 1987 . . . M. M. (TILLIE) IVERSON
 1988 – 2004 . . . HOPE SEPTKA
 2005 – PRESENT . . . SUSAN BOADWINE

SHERIFFS

1889 – 1890 . . . W. F. SOUTER
 1890 – 1893 . . . V.M. BEAVER
 1894 – 1897 . . . JESSE BROWN
 1898 – 1901 . . . JOHN F. SMITH
 1902 – 1905 . . . JESSE BROWN
 1906 – 1909 . . . THOMAS STEWART
 1910 – 1913 . . . JOSEPH COLLINS
 1914 – 1917 . . . ROY SKUTT
 1918 – 1919 . . . FRED WESTGATE
 1920 – 1923 . . . JOHN EMERSON
 1924 – 1927 . . . B. A. BARNES
 1928 – 1931 . . . WM. F. MAHER
 1932 – 1935 . . . JOHN EMERSON
 1936 – 1939 . . . FLOYD SCHRECKENGAUST
 1940 – 1943 . . . WALTER A. MILLER
 1944 – 1945 . . . C. L. DONALDSON
 1946 – 1949 . . . LEROY ANDERSON
 1950 – 1953 . . . CARLAGA
 1954 – 1986 . . . JOHN EGGER
 1986 – 1989 . . . FLOYD L. CLELAND
 1990 – PRESENT . . . RON MERWIN

STATES ATTORNEYS

1889 – 1889 . . . C.C. POLK
 1889 – 1889 . . . THOMAS HARVEY (APPT)
 1890 – 1891 . . . ALEX MCCALL
 1892 – 1893 . . . THOMAS HARVEY
 1894 – 1895 . . . MICHAEL MCMAHON
 1896 – 1897 . . . C.C. POLK
 1898 – 1901 . . . J.F. MCCLUNG
 1902 – 1904 . . . JAMES MCNENEY
 1904 – 1905 . . . WESLEY STUART
 1906 – 1909 . . . JOHN T. MILEK
 1910 – 1913 . . . CLAUDE C GRAY
 1914 – 1917 . . . ARTHUR P SCHNELL
 1918 – 1919 . . . JOHN T. MILEK
 1920 – 1921 . . . A. W. DEVERS
 1920 – 1921 . . . M. F. DUDLEY
 1922 – 1923 . . . M. F. DUDLEY
 1924 – 1927 . . . JOHN P. EVERETT
 1928 – 1931 . . . EARL V. MORRILL
 1932 – 1935 . . . JOHN P. EVERETT
 1936 – 1939 . . . EARL V. MORRILL
 1940 – 1943 . . . PERCY H. HELM
 1944 – 1947 . . . EARL V. MORRILL
 1948 – 1951 . . . RICHARD B. DENU
 1952 – 1953 . . . ROSEWELL BOTTUM
 1954 – 1957 . . . RUSSELL C. MOLSTAD
 1958 – 1961 . . . DALE MORMAN
 1962 – 1965 . . . HERMON B. WALKER
 1966 – 1969 . . . WM. H. COACHER
 1970 – 1971 . . . KEITH R. SMIT
 1972 – 1979 . . . WM. H. COACHER
 1980 – 1983 . . . JUDITH C. WALKER
 1984 – 1996 . . . MICHAEL JACKLEY
 1997 – 2000 . . . JENNIFER B. UTTER
 2001 – 2003 . . . GORDON D. (GORDY) SWANSON
 2003 – PRESENT . . . JESSE SONDRAL

Commission opens its chambers to the Sturgis City Council

One of the first official actions following the 2011 swearing in of new Meade County Commission members was taking formal action to make its facilities available to other governmental agencies and officials.

The commission noted that all taxpayers paid for county facilities and thus all governmental entities should be able to use this modern chamber.

It is equipped with the audio-visual equipment, Wi-Fi recording devices, security equipment, an overhead screen so that everyone can see all pertinent data, and a sound system that allows both officials and audience members to be heard.

For the first time since the late 1800s, the City of Sturgis and county are again using the same meeting room which is a tax savings for city residents.



Meade legislators also use the board room as a convenient location to meet with constituents to solicit opinions on pending legislation.

Committees combine citizens, staff, elected officials

There are several committees which are comprised of county employees and volunteer citizens who work together to accomplish the goals mandated by each committee's mission statement or state directive. Furthermore some county committee appointments are outside of the commissioners' responsibility. Membership in committees such as the weed board or conservation districts is mandated by specific provisions outlined in state statute. Most of these committees have additional memberships of individuals appointed by other governmental entities or independent committees established by state statute. Citizens can inform the Human Resource Department if they are interested in being considered for such appointments. Additional committee appointments will be made in March. In addition each county department head has a commissioner as a liaison person.

Black Hills Council of Local Governments

Commissioner Doreen Creed
Alternate - Commissioner Linda Rausch

Resource/Conservation Development RC&D

Commissioner Robert Heidgerken
Alternate - Commissioner Alan Aker

Juvenile Detention Center

Commissioner Doreen Creed
Sheriff Ron Merwin

Planning Board

Commissioner Alan Aker	Term Exp.
Alternate - Commissioner Creed	
San Monahan, Blucksberg	12/31/14
Leota Quam, Black Hawk	12/31/14
Talbot Wiczorek, Piedmot	12/31/15
Robert Powels, Black Hawk	12/31/12
Craig Shaver, Rural Sturgis	12/31/12
Robert Mallow, Black Hawk	12/31/12

Fire/Ambulance Hazmat/Communications

Commissioner Doreen Creed
Commissioner Robert Heidgerken
Sturgis Police Chief Jim Bush
Sturgis Fire Chief Ron Koan

Campground Committee

Commissioner Doreen Creed
Commissioner Linda Rausch
Sheriff Ron Merwin
Equalization Asst Director Rhea Crane
Commission Assistant/HR Director Jerry Derr

Faith Stock Show

Commissioner Gary Cammack
Arlie Hulm - President

Meade County Fair Board

Commissioner Robert Heidgerken
Kelly Keffeler - President
VP - Open
Tammy Keffeler - Treasurer
Vonda Anderson - Secretary
Leanne Schmidt
Rochelle Schultz
Jacque Lamphere
4-H Director Jenny Voight

Sturgis Chamber of Commerce

Commissioner Gary Cammack

Natural Resource Advisory Committee

Commissioner Robert Heidgerken
Commissioner Alan Aker
Ray Dvorak, Black Hawk
Alan Olson
Rick Duprey,

Metropolitan Planning Committee Executive

Commissioner Linda Rausch
Commissioner Robert Heidgerken

MPO Citizens Advisory Committee

Ray Dvorak, Black Hawk
Bob Burns, Piedmont

MPO Technical Coordinating Committee

Sheriff Ron Merwin
Highway Supt. Ken McGirr
Director of Equalization Kirk Chaffee
Meade Planner Bill Rich

Meade County Technical Transportation

Commissioner Alan Aker
Commissioner Linda Rausch
Sheriff Ron Merwin
Director of Equalization Kirk Chaffee
Meade Planner Bill Rich
Highway Supt. Ken McGirr

Sturgis Economic Development Corporation

Commissioner Doreen Creed
Alternate - Commissioner Gary Cammack
Director of Equalization Kirk Chaffee

Sick Leave Bank Committee

Commissioner Doreen Creed
Meade Auditor Lisa Schieffer
Commission Assistant/HR Director Jerry Derr

Grant Committee

Meade Auditor Lisa Schieffer
Commission Assistant/HR Director Jerry Derr
Meade VSO/Emergency Manager David Egermier
Weed and Pest Director Nathan Jagim

Community Action

Connie Burditt, Sturgis
Curtis Nupen, Piedmont

Elk Creek Conservation District

Commissioner Gary Cammack

Tri County Conservation District

Commissioner Gary Cammack
