

**County of Sibley
Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Proceeding
Wednesday, November 12, 2025**

The Sibley County Board of Commissioners convened in the
COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
in the City of Gaylord, MN on Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 9:00 AM pursuant to notice given as required by law. Members of the board present noted in Call to Order.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Present: Peter Koch, Christian Lilienthal, Keith Hennen, Steve Saxton, Lyle Grochow

3. APPROVE THE AGENDA AND ANY AGENDA ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Commissioner Peter Koch

SECONDER: Commissioner Lyle Grochow

AYES: Peter Koch, Christian Lilienthal, Keith Hennen, Steve Saxton, Lyle Grochow

4. CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Commissioner Christian Lilienthal

SECONDER: Commissioner Keith Hennen

AYES: Peter Koch, Christian Lilienthal, Keith Hennen, Steve Saxton, Lyle Grochow

1. Approve Regular Board Proceedings of October 28, 2025.
2. Approve Claims as submitted
3. Application for Gambling Permit - Time on the Water
4. CUP Renewals
5. EFT Report

5. INTRODUCTION

1. Welcome to Chloe Albachten, Registered Nurse - RN Family Health
Supervisor: Rachel Fruhwirth

Welcome to Chloe Albachten who started recently in the Public Health Human Services division. Chloe has joined the Family Home Visiting team as a Registered Nurse. Sibley County Board of Commissioners welcomed our newest employee to Sibley County.

Chloe Albachten received her RN in September and has a background in mental health, substance abuse, pediatrics and many other nursing aspects.

6. LEOTA LIND, SOUTH COUNTRY HEATH ALLIANCE

1. 9:10 AM South Country Health Alliance Presentation to the County Board

Leota Lind, CEO of SCHA, presented the Board with updates.

Strategic priorities -

1. Work collaboratively with DHS to solidify the role of County Based Purchasing (CBP) in delivery of Minnesota Health Care Programs. Reflects county priorities and unique needs. Implementation is scheduled for January 2027. Relationship with DHS has become more collaborative.
2. Work with other CBPs to educate legislators, County Commissioners about the unique value and health outcomes and economic impact of CBP as well as examples of successful legislative strategies they can support. How they work with and support counties.
3. Identify key messages for a marketing campaign to our members, the public, our partners, providers, and counties. Consider developing an alternative name to CBP that clarifies how we incubate and innovate. Launched broad focused marketing campaign. This created increased awareness among members, community and county partners.
4. Evaluate and develop programs and services offered to address Social Determinants of Health and Health equity to current members. Focusing on the needs of the counties - nutrition and behavioral health. Rite Bites for Life - focused on nutrition targeting members with diabetes and obesity. Provides dietitian support and meal delivery. Outcomes - improved health outcomes, cost-effectiveness, improved healthcare access. Doctor on Demand assists with behavioral health. Designed to improve access, especially in rural areas.
5. Work with MN Community Measurement to develop tools and measures that compare rural and urban health care data re: utilization, cost and member outcomes. Conducted in-depth research on healthcare disparities and narrowed focus on Medicaid member outcomes. Found that there is a gap with no existing source for county-level Medicaid outcomes. Will work to explore solutions and support development.

7. KLEA RETTMANN, PHHS DIRECTOR

1. Annual presentation on the County Connection, Adult Mental Health and Community Support Program

Klea Rettmann, PHHS Director, along with her team, presented the Board with their annual presentation on the County Connection, Adult Mental Health and Community Support Program. They spoke about ways that they are able to help our local community. Eligibility requirements for their programs are to be a Sibley County resident, be 18 years of age or older and have a mental illness. Through MRCI and state grants they assist in job searching, resume creation, helping to overcome barriers and assisting to enhance the participants' overall function in the community. As part of their program, they also have the County Connection Building, which is funded through the South Central Community Based Initiative (SCCBI). It is a drop-in center where eligible participants can go for support or just to have a safe place to visit. They also have nurses to help administer, teach and educate participants with medications.

8. JOHN WENNINGER, AG DRAINAGE MANAGER

1. 25-174 CD100/CD11 Cleanout

John Wenninger, Ag Drainage Manager, presented the Board for approval of CD100/CD11 clean out. Work would take place in late fall/early spring. Landowners have been notified of the potential repairs.

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Commissioner Peter Koch

SECONDER: Commissioner Keith Hennen

AYES: Peter Koch, Christian Lilienthal, Keith Hennen, Steve Saxton, Lyle Grochow

9. TIM BECKER, COUNTY ENGINEER

1. 2026-2030 Bridge Resolution

Tim Becker, County Engineer, presented the Board to approve the 2026-2030 Bridge Resolution. The bridges in the plan have LPI ratings less than 60, which qualifies them for repair.

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Commissioner Steve Saxton

SECONDER: Commissioner Peter Koch

AYES: Peter Koch, Christian Lilienthal, Keith Hennen, Steve Saxton, Lyle Grochow

2. Municipal maintenance agreements

Tim Becker, County Engineer, presented the Board to approve the 2026 Municipal Maintenance Agreements with Arlington, Gaylord, Gibbon, Green Isle, New Auburn and Winthrop. Towns in which CSAH roadways pass through, CSAH funds will go to them to assist with snow removal, salt application and other maintenance needs.

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Commissioner Steve Saxton

SECONDER: Commissioner Christian Lilienthal

AYES: Peter Koch, Christian Lilienthal, Keith Hennen, Steve Saxton, Lyle Grochow

3. New hire highway maintenance worker

Tim Becker, County Engineer, presented the Board to request approval to increase the starting wage for the open Maintenance Worker position at the Gaylord shop. He is asking to begin the position at a Step D, based on the candidate's previous experience. The two previous candidates rejected the position based on the wages that were offered.

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Commissioner Peter Koch

SECONDER: Commissioner Keith Hennen

AYES: Peter Koch, Christian Lilienthal, Keith Hennen, Steve Saxton, Lyle Grochow

4. Dryden Township - 447th Resolution of Support

Dryden Township is applying for 2029 & 2030 Protect Grant Funds from MNDot to address flooding issues along 447th Avenue. High Island Creek backwaters flood over 447th Avenue and land lock three residents. The County would assist Dryden Township in navigating the federal process. The grant money would assist in covering costs to raise the road, replace culverts and widen the shoulders of the road.

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Commissioner Steve Saxton

SECONDER: Commissioner Peter Koch

AYES: Peter Koch, Christian Lilienthal, Keith Hennen, Steve Saxton, Lyle Grochow

5. Apply for LRIP grant for CSAH 21

Tim Becker, County Engineer, presented the Board to adopt a resolution to apply for an LRIP grant. The grant dollars will be used for street and utility improvements on CSAH 21 from State Highway 5 to 1000 feet North of the new CSAH 10/CSAH 21 intersection, as well as CSAH 10 from the intersection to CSAH 10/CSAH 21 to approximately 700 feet to the west.

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Commissioner Christian Lilienthal

SECONDER: Commissioner Lyle Grochow

AYES: Peter Koch, Christian Lilienthal, Keith Hennen, Steve Saxton, Lyle Grochow

10. GEOFF BERANEK, PLANNING AND ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

1. Conditional Use Permit #1202 to allow for a temporary dwelling on an existing site in the C-Conservation & Agriculture district on the property located at 25239 361 Ave Henderson, MN 56044, PID #17.2001.010.

Geoff Beranek, Planning and Zoning Administrator, presented the Board to approve CUP #1202 to allow for a temporary dwelling on an existing site in Henderson. The dwelling is a park model that will be used for occasional occupancy to be removed within one year of being occupied.

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Commissioner Christian Lilienthal

SECONDER: Commissioner Keith Hennen

AYES: Peter Koch, Christian Lilienthal, Keith Hennen, Steve Saxton, Lyle Grochow

11. PAT NIENABER, SHERIFF

1. Upgrade to current Call Processing Equipment (CPE) which handles VOIP calls per Motorola Solutions Connectivity Service Order Agreement No. 4. E-911 Funds will be used to cover costs.

Pat Nienaber, County Sheriff, presented the Board to approve upgrade of current Call Processing Equipment. E911 funds will be used to cover costs.

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Commissioner Peter Koch

SECONDER: Commissioner Lyle Grochow

AYES: Peter Koch, Christian Lilienthal, Keith Hennen, Steve Saxton, Lyle Grochow

2. 2026-2027 Off Highway Vehicle Safety Grant Approval

Denley Kompelien, Chief Deputy Sheriff, presented the Board for approval of the off-highway vehicle safety grant for FY2026 and FY2027.

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Commissioner Keith Hennen

SECONDER: Commissioner Peter Koch

AYES: Peter Koch, Christian Lilienthal, Keith Hennen, Steve Saxton, Lyle Grochow

3. Consolidation of Axon camera contracts.

Pat Nienaber, County Sheriff, presented the Board requesting motion and approval for the ten-year consolidation option to consolidate multiple invoices to one annual invoice for cameras through Axon.

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Commissioner Christian Lilienthal

SECONDER: Commissioner Peter Koch

AYES: Peter Koch, Christian Lilienthal, Keith Hennen, Steve Saxton, Lyle Grochow

12. COUNTY BUSINESS

1. First Amendment to Purchase & Sale Agreement for Sibley Estates

We have not received a response recently from HUD regarding the sale of Sibley Estates. Our broker has recommended that we extend the HUD Approval Contingency Deadline to allow for an additional 120 days.

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Commissioner Christian Lilienthal

SECONDER: Commissioner Peter Koch

AYES: Peter Koch, Christian Lilienthal, Keith Hennen, Steve Saxton, Lyle Grochow

2. Designate AMC Voting Delegates

AMC has asked us to confirm the designated voting delegates from our county. It is recommended to appoint Lyle Grochow, Keith Hennen, Peter Koch, Christian Lilienthal, Steve Saxton, Klea Rettmann and Tim Becker, with the addition of Marilee Peterson this year.

Delegates are appointed annually by the County Board from among the officials and employees

of the county. Each delegate so appointed shall be eligible to vote at any meeting of the Association.

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Commissioner Christian Lilienthal

SECONDER: Commissioner Lyle Grochow

AYES: Peter Koch, Christian Lilienthal, Keith Hennen, Steve Saxton, Lyle Grochow

13. COMMISSIONERS' COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Koch

Commissioner Hennen

Commissioner Grochow

Commissioner Saxton

Commissioner Lilienthal

14. ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

1. Update regarding the Holiday Gathering and decision regarding timing.

Marilee Peterson, County Administrator, presented the Board to approve closing the county buildings on December 18th from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm for the annual Holiday Gathering. The Employee Recognition Committee and the Holiday Committee have developed a plan of employee recognition at the holiday party, removing the picnic that has been held in the summer the past several years.

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Commissioner Peter Koch

SECONDER: Commissioner Keith Hennen

AYES: Peter Koch, Christian Lilienthal, Keith Hennen, Steve Saxton, Lyle Grochow

15. CLEARING OF CALENDARS

November 25, 2025 - Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting 9:00 AM - Sibley County Courthouse, Commissioner's Room

November 25, 2025 - County Board Workshop - Capital Asset Tour

December 7 - 10, 2025 - AMC Conference

THURSDAY, December 11, 2025 - Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting 5:00 PM - Sibley County Courthouse, Commissioner's Room

December 11, 2025 - Truth in Taxation meeting 6:00 PM - Sibley County Courthouse,

Commissioner's Room

16. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

Marilee Peterson, County Administrator

Lyle Grochow, Board Chair