

SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Budget & Levy Hearing

December 15, 2025

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Regular Session December 15, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at the Government Center in Austin, Minnesota.

All members present, viz: Chair Polly Glynn, Vice-Chair Dan Sparks, Jerry Reinartz, Mike Ankeny and John Mueller. Also in attendance were County Administrator Matthew Verdick, Deputy County Administrator Valerie Sheedy and Finance Director Loni Swenson

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

County Administrator Matthew Verdick, Deputy County Administrator Valerie Sheedy and Finance Director Loni Swenson presented an overview of 2026 Budget and Levy recommendations.

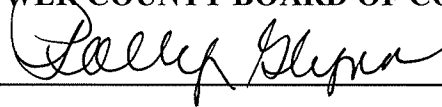
The recommended 2026 budget is \$72,403,657 and the levy is \$29,508,534. This reflects a \$3,255,996 increase (12.40%) over the 2025 levy.

Budget impacts that led to the levy increase include a reduction in County Program Aid, rising Workers' Compensation costs, increased professional liability premiums, state-mandated Paid Family & Medical Leave implementation, declining wind energy production tax revenues, lower investment income due to decreasing rates and the uncertainty of continued State and Federal funding. Long term financial planning efforts were outlined that include capital improvement scheduling, asset management, and intergovernmental partnerships aimed at reducing duplication and improving overall efficiency.

One person encouraged those present to support proposed legislative changes to Minn. Stat. 272.02 that would exempt property taxes for homeowners aged 65 and older who own and live in their homes. He stated that he has gathered signatures for the bill and asked Representatives Mueller and Dornick to introduce it in February. Three persons addressed the Board and were advised to talk to County Assessor staff for a review of their parcels. The County Assessor Michael Harvey addressed the assembly on how the mass appraisal system works and when and where they should bring their individual property valuation and classification concerns. One person inquired about the ransomware attack. One person challenged the Board to review the budget further for possible places to cut wants vs. needs in the proposed budget.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: 

Chairperson

Attest:

By: 

Clerk/Administrator