

# IN A MINUTES NOTICE

# part one

## Kindle, Nelson lead list of local official salaries

**Editor's Note:** This is part one of a new *Observer* series titled "In a Minutes Notice." These articles will show the important information and news value in public notices published by newspapers. Part one lists top salaries earned by city, county and school officials in Yankton County. All information reported in this series is from meeting minutes published in designated official newspapers, as required by South Dakota Codified Law.

Yankton School District administrators earn six of the top 10 salaries among city, county and school officials in Yankton County.

Following are five facts to know before reading these four lists of 10:

- Acronyms used in this story include: YSD (Yankton School District), YCO (Yankton County), COY (City of Yankton) and G-V (Gayville-Volin School District).
- Only one county official is ranked among the 20 highest-paid local government officials. Chief Deputy States Attorney John Billings is No. 18 at \$77,392.
- In many counties, the States Attorney is the highest-paid official, but Rob Klimisch ranks fourth on the YCO list. His pay (\$69,780) is based on 80 percent of the work week, which allows him to devote 20 percent of the work week to his private practice.
- G-V Superintendent Jason Selchert's pay is broken down as \$79,393 for superintendent duties; \$11,236 as technology coordinator; and \$4,656 for classroom teaching.
- Most government bodies publish annual amounts paid to their officials. The City of Yankton publishes bi-weekly (every two weeks) amounts, so annual salaries were calculated by multiplying bi-weekly pay x 26.



Wayne Kindle



Amy Nelson

### Top salaries for school, county, city officials:

- 1) YSD Superintendent Wayne Kindle: \$133,686
- 2) COY City Manager Amy Nelson: \$105,774
- 3) YSD Business Manager Jason Bietz: \$103,646
- 4) YSD Student Services Dir. Kathy Wagner: \$96,423
- 5) COY Police Chief Brian Paulsen: \$96,042
- 6) G-V Superintendent Jason Selchert: \$95,285
- 7) YSD H.S. Principal Jennifer Johnke: \$92,299
- 8) YSD Activities Director Ryan Mors: \$91,787
- 9) YSD Lincoln Principal Paul Struck: \$91,483
- 10) COY Finance Officer Al Viereck: \$90,526.

### Yankton School District's top 10 salaries:

- 1) Superintendent Wayne Kindle: \$133,686
- 2) Business Manager Jason Bietz: \$103,646
- 3) Student Services Dir. Kathy Wagner: \$96,423
- 4) YHS Principal Jennifer Johnke: \$92,299
- 5) Activities Director Ryan Mors: \$91,787
- 6) Lincoln Principal Paul Struck: \$91,483
- 7) Stewart Principal Jerome Klimisch: \$88,117
- 8) YMS Principal Todd Dvoracek: \$82,536
- 9) Beadle Principal Carey Mitzel: \$79,940
- 10) Webster Principal Melanie Ryken: \$75,485

### Yankton County's top 10 salaries:

- 1) Chief Dep. States Atty John Billings: \$77,392
- 2) Sheriff Jim Vlahakis: \$71,425
- 3) Ambulance Director Steve Hawkins: \$70,482
- 4) States Attorney Rob Klimisch: \$69,780
- 5) Deputy States Attorney Eric Johnke: \$69,582
- 6) Highway Supt. Brian Gustad: \$60,259
- 7) Auditor Patty Hojem: \$59,310
- 8) Director of Equalization Lori Mackey: \$58,233
- 9) Register of Deeds Brian Hunhoff: \$58,024
- 10) Treasurer Patty Vavra: \$58,024

### City of Yankton's top 10 salaries:

- 1) City Manager Amy Nelson: \$105,774
- 2) Police Chief Brian Paulsen: \$96,042
- 3) Finance Officer Al Viereck: \$90,526
- 4) Development Director Dave Mingo: \$89,722
- 5) Parks and Rec Director Todd Larson: \$86,324
- 6) Information Services Dir. Duane Johnson: \$83,250
- 7) Fire Chief Tom Kurtenbach: \$83,066
- 8) Public Works Dir. Adam Haberman: \$78,119
- 9) Environmental Services Dir. Kyle Goodmanson: \$76,193
- 10) City Engineer Brad Moser: \$73,647

**Sources** - Published proceedings from the following public meetings: Jan. 17, 2017 minutes of Yankton County Commission; Jan. 9, 2017 minutes of Yankton City Commission; July 11, 2016 minutes of Gayville-Volin School Board; May 9, 2016 minutes of Yankton School Board. A complete list of each entity's employee wages was listed in those public notices.

## Onward Yankton announces 2017 Board of Directors

Onward Yankton announces a new member to its board of directors with the addition of Bernie Hunhoff.

The board is led by president R.J. Rieger, vice president Steve Sager, and treasurer/secretary Tabitha Likness. Other board members include Larry Olsen, Chris Ferdig, Carmen Schramm, and Gary Wood.

Rieger said he was thrilled to invite Hunhoff to join Onward Yankton's board of directors. Hunhoff was a leading force in developing the concept of Onward Yankton in 2014, when it began its 100-day search for Yankton's "Next Big Idea."

"Bernie Hunhoff has been a true champion of progress in Yankton over the years, and we are excited to have his experience and passion for the community on our side as we work toward improving Yankton," Rieger said. "We are also pleased to introduce new leadership on the board. Steve is a fantastic advocate for Onward Yankton and will help lead the organization forward as we seek to attract entrepreneurs to the community, revitalize our downtown, and foster education and training for entrepreneurs and leaders."

Onward Yankton is also seeking new members for its four committees: Marketing, entrepreneurship, downtown/creative district, and education.

Those interested in volunteering can contact Onward Yankton at [onwardyankton@gmail.com](mailto:onwardyankton@gmail.com). For more information, visit [www.onwardyankton.com](http://www.onwardyankton.com).

## ECOWATER

SYSTEMS OF YANKTON, S.D.

- Bottled Water
- Water Softeners

- Water Refiners & Conditioners
- Drinking Water Systems

209 E. 3rd St.,  
Yankton, SD  
1-605-665-7471  
Toll Free:  
1-800-500-7471

SINCE 1925  
Your Water. Perfected.™

*Insurance you can count on...  
...from people you can trust!*

Travis Devine

Whitney Devine

## Midwest

Insurance Agency, Inc.

Home • Farm • Auto

909 Broadway (in Yankon's Tripp Park Plaza) • 665-2389

## Make The Observer a weekly event!

The *Observer* is delivered to your mailbox every week - 52 weeks of news about people you know! Call us today to start your subscription. Don't forget about your friends and family - the *Observer* makes a great gift.

To renew your subscription, start a new one or buy a gift, return this coupon along with \$30 (S.D. & Neb.) or \$40 (other states) to:

**The *Observer***

• 308 Douglas •

Yankton, SD 57078

You can phone us at  
(605) 665-0484

to charge your subscription to  
Visa, MasterCard or Discover.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_