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American citizens but other citizens as well.

Hoyer added: "We ought to carefully review our policies as a country.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee likely will hold hearings on U.S. drone policy, an aide said Tuesday, and Chairman Robert Menendez, D-N.J., and the panel's top Republican, Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee, both have quietly expressed concerns about the deadly operations. And earlier this week, a group of 11 Demo-cratic and Republican senators urged President Barack Obama to release a classified Justice Department legal opinion justifying when U.S. counterterror missions, including drone strikes, can be used to kill American citizens abroad.

Without those documents, it's impossible for Congress and the public to decide "whether this authority has been properly defined, and whether the president's power to deliberately kill Americans is subject to appropriate limitations and safeguards," the senators wrote.

It was a repeated request after receiving last June an unclassified Justice Department memo, which fell short of giving the senators all the information they requested.

First detailed publicly by NBC News late Monday, the memo for the first time outlines the Obama administration's decision to kill al-Qaida terror suspects without any evidence that specific and imminent plots are being planned against the United States.

"The threat posed by al-Qaida and its associated forces demands a broader concept of imminence in judging when a person continually planning terror attacks presents an imminent threat,' concluded the document.

The memo was immediately decried by civil liberties groups as "flawed" and "profoundly disturbing" — especially in light of 2011 U.S. drone strikes in Yemen that killed three American citizens: Anwar al-Awlaki, his 16-year-oldson and Samir Khan. Al-Awlaki was linked to the planning and ex-ecution of several attacks targeting U.S. and Western interests, including the attempt to down a Detroit-bound airliner in 2009 and the plot to bomb cargo planes in 2010. His son was killed in a separate strike on a suspected al-Qaida den. Khan was an al-Qaida propagandist.

White House spokesman Jay Carney, echoing comments Brennan made in a speech last April, called the strikes legal, ethical and wise and said they are covered by a law that Congress approved allowing the use of military force against al-Qaida.

'And certainly, under that authority, the president acts in the United States' interest to protect the United States and its citizens from al-Qaida," Carney said Tues-

day. "It is a matter of fact that Con-gress authorized the use of military force against al-Qaida,' Carney said. "It is a matter of fact that al-Qaida is in a state of war against us and that senior leaders, operational leaders of al-Qaida are continually plotting to attack the United States, plotting to kill American citizens as they did most horrifically on September 11th of 2001.'

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The final action calls on the commission to make inquiries concerning temporary assistance in the auditor's office while Jones is absent.

Jensen said it will be a challenge to find an available person who has knowledge of how the office works and can step in for an unknown amount of time.

Later in the meeting, Marchand told the commission that staff from other county departments had looked over Jones' incorrect tax figures and had an idea about why they might be wrong.

"If we work with Colleen (Skin-ner at the Department of Revenue), do we have your permission to (work on the taxes)?" she asked.

The commission declined the offer.

"I'd prefer the Department of Revenue come down here and fix it because I don't want anybody

"It has not been an uncommon occurrence for bills to be paid twice (by the auditor's office) or for bills (to be left) with out-standing balances," Vlahakis said. "There have also been instances where my budgets have been charged with expenditures from other departments. Usually, I catch those and make contact with the auditor's office to get them fixed.

"Another problem I'm running into is, I have federal grant monies that are time sensitive and require that money be spent at a certain time or we won't get reimbursement," he continued. "Without these (budget) reports, I can't make those notifications. I have a state grant check for \$16,000 that I received two weeks ago. I'm really hesitant to sign that check and turn it over because I don't have the budget to look at to determine where these monies need to go."

Vlahakis said he wanted the commission aware of the issue and the same concern was echoed later by Highway Superintendent Brian Gustad.

"I don't know when, and you probably don't know when, we'll receive those documents," Vlahakis stated.



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throwing anything at you or somebody else, for that matter," Commissioner Garry Moore said.

Marchand said she was OK waiting until the state can help but warned that it will reduce to about a week the amount of time to advise people whose taxes are paid via escrow accounts if their bills are going up.

"Right now, the Legislature is in session, or I think the Department of Revenue would be down here tomorrow morning," Moore stated. "They've got all their resources working through the legislative process. They know the issue is here, and my gut feeling is they are going to give people an extension on paying their firsthalf taxes.'

When Yankton County Sheriff Jim Vlahakis appeared before the commission, he shared that he has not received important budget documents from the auditor's office. He pointed out that state law requires that Jones, prior to Jan. 1 of the fiscal year, is to provide in writing to each of the department heads their annual budget as adopted by the County Commission.

"It is now February," Vlahakis said. "I have not received the final end-of-year budget documents from 2012, nor have I received my 2013 annual operating budget. I don't know if any other office has, either.

"As the sheriff, you know I am responsible for management of budgets in the neighborhood of \$2.3 million," Vlahakis said.

"Those are five different budgets - the sheriff's office, the jail, juvenile detention, the 24/7 Program and E-911. State law makes not only me but every other office and the department head of those offices in the county personally liable if we cannot manage within the appropriations budgeted to our offices.

In other words, if Vlahakis or any other department head were to overspend, they could be required to produce those additional funds out of their own pockets.

The sheriff said he does not know what bills have been paid from the end of 2012 or January. Based on past experience with the auditor's office, that concerns him.

Moore said he had heard similar worries from other departments.

We need everybody who is an officer in county government to work with us at this point in time," he stated. "We will get there and persevere. We will become a better county for it."

In other business Tuesday, the commission:

• was told by Dave Bartel, manager of the James River Water District, that his board may have its March meeting in Yankton so the organization can view the sedimentation problem at the mouth of the James River;

• instructed county Zoning Administrator Pat Garrity to establish a committee that can work on a comprehensive plan for the Highway 52 corridor;

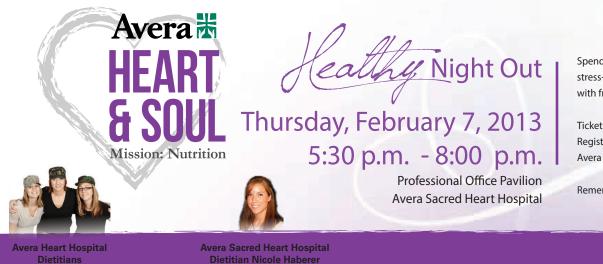
• was told by county Director of Equalization Lori Mackey that she will be taking a medical leave of at least six weeks beginning Thursday. Deputy director Matt Archer will manage the office while she is out;

• accepted the resignation of county Highway Department secretary Paty Davies, who has worked eight years for the county. The resignation will take effect March 6; and

• made a motion allowing the highway department to use trusty labor.

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