

# County

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hoff has assumed the duty of taking minutes at the commission meetings.

He has also been working to assemble minutes from past meetings that had not even been presented for commission approval.

That work began to come to fruition this week. Minutes from the commission's Dec. 18, Dec. 31, Jan. 3, Jan. 15 and Feb. 5 using notes and video footage from the meetings.

"I don't know if you guys realize how many hours (Hunhoff) has put in, going through the videotapes, finding notes, digging up everything he could find (to complete the minutes)," Commissioner Mark Johnson said. "Everybody in this building has stepped up and helped out when we've needed them. I appreciate it, and I think everyone in the community should."

Commission Chairman Bruce Jensen said after the meeting that he was glad the minutes will finally be made available to the public.

"Yes, they're late," he stated. "I think under the circumstances, if there was a punishment — well, whatever it is, it is. We're still going to publish them."

Though he has made repeated attempts to reach Jones, Jensen hasn't heard anything from her. Despite many rumors about her health, no official word has been released by Jones or her family.

With no idea when Jones might return, Jensen said contact has been made with the Clay County Auditor's Office for assistance in the meantime.

"They said they would be more than happy to come help us," Jensen stated. "(The employees in the Yankton County Auditor's Office) are under a lot of stress. They've done a good job, and we need to help them out."

Auditors from the state Department of Legislative Audit were at the Yankton County Government Center last week to help staff determine the finances of the county. As a result, Jensen said 2013 budgets were delivered to department heads this week.

The state auditors will return in the future to provide more assistance, he added.

"It was a little confusing, but they said we can get it worked out," Jensen said. "The whole key is, we're going to get it worked out eventually. We've got to know exactly where we're at and what's in the line items of the budget."

In other business Wednesday, the commission decided to:

- proceed with purchasing iPads to eliminate the need for so many paper documents at meetings;

- re-plot the property on which the old county Highway Shop is located;
- advertise for an administrative assistant that would serve both the Highway Department and the Office of Planning and Zoning; and
- seek candidates for three open seats on the Yankton County Planning Commission. Submissions must be received by the Planning and Zoning office by March 1.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at [twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage](http://twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage)

# Obama: Immigration Leak Didn't Hurt Senate Talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama sought Wednesday to mitigate any damage from the leak of an immigration bill being drafted by the White House, telling a Spanish-language TV network he didn't jeopardize negotiations with the Senate.

Leaks in Washington happen all the time, Obama said, and shouldn't prevent immigration reform from moving forward. He said negotiations are continuing at full speed.

Members of a bipartisan Senate group taking the lead on immigration reform were caught off-guard over the weekend when details of Obama's own bill were published on USA Today's website. Obama has in the past said he's prepping his own bill, but only as a

back-up in case congressional talks fail.

Some Republicans have questioned whether the leak of a competing bill tied makes it more difficult to strike a deal in the Senate. Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, one of the Republicans in the group, said Obama's plan injects partisanship into a tough process. And David Axelrod, a senior adviser to Obama's re-election campaign, acknowledged that it likely was a mistake for news of Obama's plan to be made public.

Obama said Wednesday he still prefers that Congress — not the White House — craft a viable law to overhaul the nation's immigration system, and that his standby bill doesn't intrude on the bill that senators are hashing out.

He said the ideas included in his bill are consistent with the immigration proposals he has advocated for the past several years, meaning they shouldn't come as a surprise to members of either party.

Obama's comments came in an interview with KWEX, San Antonio's Univision affiliate and one of eight local TV stations to sit down with Obama on Wednesday at the White House. KWEX aired the interview in Spanish with a translation of Obama's remarks.

While Obama and the Senate group differ on some key details, both sides are contemplating legislation that would provide a pathway to citizenship for most of the 11 million illegal immigrants already in the U.S.

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Chislic Served Last Wednesday of Month

# Ring

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year on it and were able to determine it was a Yankton class ring."

Because the year of the ring and the initials of the owner were inscribed, Hotzel decided to go to the Yankton High School to determine who the owner could be.

The only name from the class of 1969 that matched the initials was Watt.

Hotzel hopes that Watt or a member of her family will be able to claim the ring.

"At first sight, I thought, 'Oh cool, I've found about \$75 worth of gold,'" he said. "But when I cleaned it, I could see the initials and the year. The individual is about my mother's age. If it was my mother, I'd want someone to at least try to find her and return the ring, so I decided I would try to get some good karma and find the owner."

Hotzel said he will be working on the Gavins Point Dam project for another three or four weeks before returning to his home in Wisconsin.

He can be reached at (920) 412-8043.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at [twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage](http://twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage)

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