

Minutes of the Custer County Commission Meeting Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Members present:

Commissioners Jim Lintz, Mark Hartman, Mike Linde, Craig Hindle, Travis Bies and Commission Legal Counsel Susan Anderson. Finance Officer, Dawn McLaughlin, was not present. Barbara Cox, Deputy Auditor, took minutes.

A. Commission Meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Adopting of the agenda:

- 1) Amend to add Dept. of Equalization to discuss land values.
- 2) Amend to add ROW occupancy for Golden West.

Motion to amend the Agenda as requested and approve the agenda as amended made by Linde; seconded by Bies; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

C. Consent Agenda

- 1) Motion to approve Minutes of the January 26, 2022 minutes and the consent agenda items made by Hindle; seconded by Bies; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.
- 2) Travel requests approved: Jesse Doyle and Kevin Treloar to attend SD Association of County Highway Superintendents in Deadwood on March 24-22, 2022 at a cost of \$200.00. Todd Fish to attend SDDVA Conference in Sioux Falls on March 15-19, 2022 at a cost of \$667.00.
- 3) Vouchers approved as follows:

PAYROLL: 2/20/22 Payroll: Commissioners \$8158.74; Election \$326.98; Auditor \$5474.68; Treasurer \$13,927.26; Info Systems & Technology \$3005.26; State's Attorney \$13,301.76; Courthouse Bldg \$7065.32; Dept. of Equalization \$11,873.26; Register of Deeds \$4689.22; Veterans' Service \$1707.13; Human Resources \$2493.03; Sheriff \$40,534.44; Coroner \$657.45; Nurse \$264.23; Library \$9767.02; Conservation \$505.56; Weed & Pest \$2022.22; Planning \$7941.03; County Road & Bridge \$36,387.40; Emergency Management \$2762.99; 24/7 Sobriety \$1241.73; Emergency Line F \$13,503.79.

COMMISSIONERS: Southern Hills Publishing \$216.28; CLERP \$548; Tyler Technologies \$2080;

ELECTION: Southern Hills Publishing \$48.84; Golden West Telecom \$27.03

COURT: 605 Therapy \$3900; Carrie Moore \$24.84

AUDITOR: Quill \$58.39; Golden West Telecom \$136.23; Tracy Fish \$2508;

TREASURER: Southern Hills Publishing \$19.90; Quill \$62.30; Golden West Telecom \$290.24

STATE'S ATTORNEY: LexisNexis \$359; SD Public Health \$120; Golden West Telecom \$136.13

COURT APPOINTED ATTORNEY: Garland Goff \$911.25

COURTHOUSE BUILDING: Golden West Telecom \$27.03

DIRECTOR OF EQUALIZATION: Golden West Telecom \$189.18

REGISTER OF DEEDS: Golden West Telecom \$54.05; Quill \$66.99

ROD PRESERVATION: Microfilm Imaging Systems \$380.

VETERANS SERVICES: Golden West Telecom \$27.03

INFO TECHNOLOGY: Golden West Telecom \$64.05; Golden West Technologies \$7783.51; Quill \$759.60

HUMAN RESOURCES: Golden West Telecom \$27.03; Evergreen Office \$53.51

SHERIFF: BH Energy \$86.22; Southern Hills Publishing \$100.10; Defensive Edge Training \$450; French Creek Supply \$368.96; S&B Motor Parts \$53.98; Verizon Connect \$178.09; Pheasantland Industries \$311.44; Sherry Weber \$36; Innovative Office \$12.10; Golden West Telecom \$453.32; Steele Collision \$6583.86; Mike Lewis \$485; Great Western Tire \$127.66

PRISONER CARE: Satellite Tracking \$126.75

SEARCH & RESCUE: BH Energy \$514.12; Custer City \$69.26; Sander Sanitation \$17.36; Custer Ace Hdwe \$16.77; Golden West Telecom \$95.95

AIRPORT: Amerigas \$415.41; Brenden Hendrickson \$3850; Golden West Telecom \$113.02

CUSTER COUNTY HOUSING: Water Main Line Project \$150,000.

MENTAL ILLNESS BOARD: Garland Goff \$571.30

LIBRARY: Mt. Rushmore Telephone \$135.69; Golden West Telecom \$117.69

1881 MUSEUM: 2022 Budget Funds \$30,000.

CULTURE/RECREATION: Lynn's Dakotamart \$45.41

EXTENSION: Golden West Telecom \$119.21; Fall River County \$1990.90

CONSERVATION: 2022 Budget Funds \$9000.

WEED & PEST: Golden West Telecom \$27.03

PLANNING: Southern Hills Publishing \$50.58; Golden West Telecom \$108.11

911 OPERATING TRANSFERS: Custer Ambulance Service \$1000.

COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE: A&B Welding \$71.03; BH Energy \$83.67; Southern Hills Publishing \$178.56; Floyd's Truck Center \$9044.76; French Creek Supply \$294.54; Fastenal \$424.77; Prairie Auto Parts \$237.51; Mt. Rushmore Telephone \$120.94; S&B Motor Parts \$663.86; SD Dept of Transportation \$144.65; Summit Signs \$1580; Servall \$124.32; Custer Ace Hdwe \$17.98; Golden West Telecom \$218.92; Runnings \$1357.53; Sturdevants Auto \$7.99; Matco Tools \$44.65; Great Western Tire \$2642; Federal Safety Compliance \$298.50

FIRE PROTECTION: Custer Volunteer Fire Dept \$1000; Pringle Fire Dept. \$4547.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: BH Energy \$29.30; Verizon Connect \$16.19; Golden West Telecom \$44.07; BH Council \$2894.56

STATE GRANTS-GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

BUILDING: BH Energy \$5397.16; Custer City \$399.40; McGas Propane \$1505.35; Sander Sanitation \$3847.43; Custer Ace Hdwe \$66.95; A-Z Shredding \$433.94

EMERGENCY LINE: Southern Hills Publishing \$196.90; Quill \$49.99; Golden West Telecom \$302.27; Mt. Plains Audiology \$70.

D. Conflict of Interest Declarations – None

E. Highway:

- 1) Superintendent Doyle recommended approval of ROW occupancy permit applications from Golden West Telecommunications for telecommunications facility on Bowman Road and Beaver Creek Road.
- 2) Doyle recommended approval of ROW occupancy permit applications from Midco for utility installation on Tayler Trail; Fairgrounds Place; White Tail Ridge Road; Paradise Road; Coolidge Creek Drive; Retreat Drive; Hidden Valley Road; Gumbo Lily Lane and Shorb Road. Motion to approve all ROW permit applications made by Hindle; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.
- 3) Superintendent Doyle requested the Commission approve the full-time hire of Randy Severson at a rate of \$21/per hour. Motion to approve made by Hartman; seconded by Bies; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.
- 4) Bid opening took place at 8:30 AM by Superintendent Doyle and witnessed by Legal Counsel, Susan Anderson, for ¾" road base gravel and for mag chloride. One bid was received by Rosane Construction, LLC for mag chloride at a rate of 0.959/gallon. Motion to award mag chloride contract to Rosane Construction, LLC. made by Hartman and seconded by Bies; vote taken, all aye; motion carried. Bids for ¾" road base gravel were received and opened from Croell, Inc. and Black Hills Gravel for the Pringle area project and the Elk Mountain area Project. Black Hills Gravel submitted a bid for \$6.39/ton for both the Pringle and Elk Mountain project; Croell, Inc. submitted a bid of \$5.00/ton for the Elk Mountain project. Superintendent Doyle requested the Commission to table awarding the gravel

contract upon further review. Motion to table awarding the gravel bid awards to the February 26, 2002 commission meeting made by Linde; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

- 5) Doyle updated the Commission on progress with CSP projects. The South Dakota GF&P agreed to supply mag chloride to be installed on Lame Johnny Road and Lower French Creek Road to SD Highway 79 to mitigate dust due to heavier traffic flow utilizing Custer County roads to access Custer State Park. The State of SD would like to use cameras on Lower French Creek Road to determine if the heaviest traffic using the road is from local residents or from CSP visitors.
- 6) Doyle informed the Commission that he, Linde and Hindle attended a USFS meeting regarding gravel crushing and stockpiling at the USFS Stapp Pit. It is preferred that the contract be extended longer than 1-year as it would keep the price lower than a short-term contract. He noted that the USFS would like to piggy-back off of Custer County's bid and stockpile gravel for their own use, as well.
- 7) Doyle read a letter to the Commission that he received regarding road maintenance in Buffalo Gap during the December 11, 2021 snowstorm. He stated that all of the concerns contained in the letter are already addressed in the published snow-removal policy that is available on the county's website. He noted that there were several abandoned vehicles during that snow event that were causing unnecessary hazards and additional drifting in the roadway. He noted that this was a dangerous storm and travel was extremely hazardous; SD DOT had suspended operations due to dangerous conditions. Doyle remained at the Buffalo Gap Shop overnight to assist should there be an emergency that warranted additional plowing and that the north entrance between SD Hwy 79 and Buffalo Gap remained passable.

F. Maintenance

- 1) The Commission noted that there was a change in the Maintenance Department Liaisons. Commissioner Bies made a motion to appoint Craig Hindle as new liaison and Mark Hartman as alternate; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; Motion carried.

G. Sheriff

- 1) Lt. Stephen McMillin requested the Commission to accept and sign the new USFS Patrol contract. Motion to accept and authorize the Chairman to sign the contract was made by Bies; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

H. Department of Equalization

- 1) Director of Equalization, Leah Vissia, spoke before the Commission regarding current land values in Custer County. She stated that in order for non-ag land to be assessed to market a tiered system per acre may be implemented. She presented the Commission a draft of the tiered system by township and range. Vissia reported that based on the market, current values in Custer County are at 65.3% without any changes. Lea McWhorter informed the Commission that last year the tax committee researched the possibility of implementing taxation similar to California's Prop 13, which insures that homeowners will not be taxed out of their homes. Chairman Lintz led a discussion on the state school aid formula situation in

South Dakota

- 2) Vanguard held a zoom meeting with the Commission regarding possible complete reappraisal of Custer County properties. A discussion ensued. The Commission will put this matter on the February 23, 2022 meeting agenda to make a final decision on reappraisal.

I. ARPA

- 1) Leah Berg and Dan Holsworth, Hermosa engineer and city chairman, appeared before the Commission to request funding through the County's ARPA grant. They presented an overview on the WRT treatment system; informing that is a common treatment for water systems containing radium and that it is the most cost effective way to get the well back online. They reported that the WRT system can fit into the current operation while maintaining an affordable water source for the residents of Hermosa. Todd Fish recommended the request for WRT funds in the amount of \$500K fits into the parameters of the ARPA Grant guidelines. The estimated total for the entire Hermosa water project is \$2 million. Commissioners Hartman and Hindle voiced their support for this project and Holsworth asked for their commitment. Fish stated that all of the ARPA funds need to be obligated by 4/30/22 in order to receive the second half of the grant funds. Motion by Bies to obligate—not commit--\$500K of the County's ARPA Grant funds to Hermosa for the WRT costs; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

J. Hermosa One-Mile Extraterritorial Area Policy

- 1) Dan Holsworth discussed the One-Mile Extraterritorial Area Policy between Hermosa and Custer County with the Commission. Hartman stated that he would like to table discussion until further research and review with the planning commission could take place.

K. Safety Officer

- 1) Sam Smolnisky requested that the Commission appoint him as Safety Officer and that the \$3,000 annual stipend would be from the Emergency Management budget. Commissioner Bies requested an update on Safety Committee's activities. Motion to appoint Sam Smolnisky as Safety Officer made by Hartman; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

L. Search & Rescue

- 1) Larry Voecks and Jessica Brown appeared before the Commission on behalf of Custer County Search & Rescue and presented a proposal for a monetary stipend in the amount of \$9K annually for the SAR Director. Voecks and Brown noted that administrative duties require approximately 20 hours per week. Discussion was held regarding what budget account the requested funds should be allocated from; S&R would prefer to receive funds beginning in April, 2022 and that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the request (\$6700) come from recent surplus auction funds; next year's stipend could be added as an annual budget request. They informed the Commission that there are currently 21 active staff and that 25 would be the maximum number of staff members.

Commissioner Hindle has been working with the Search & Rescue advisory board on financial checks and balances. Motion to approve and allocate funds for 2022 made by Hartman; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

M. Public Comment -

- 1) Lea McWhorter encouraged those present to contact Rep. Tim Goodwin regarding House Bill 1320; this bill could allocate \$2 million in funds for the West Dam project. McWhorter urged constituents to send emails, calls, etc. in favor of the bill.
- 2) Moritz Espy of the Hermosa Water Users Association spoke briefly and requested to speak at greater length at the next scheduled Commission meeting.

N. Old Business

- 1) The second reading of the revised Ordinance No. 23 occurred. The revised Ordinance No. 23 was published on February 9, 2022.

O. Commission

- 1. Mail call - Custer YMCA Childcare Fundraiser Invitation was sent to the Commissioners for events on March 12, 2022 to be held at the Custer Beacon.
- 2. Meeting Schedule - None
- 3. Meeting Reports - Lintz reported attending the Fair Board meeting. Hindle reported on attending a meeting with the USFS on various topics. Linde reported attending an insurance coverage update from the SDPAA.

P. Adjourn

Motion by Linde and seconded by Hartman to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 AM. The next meeting will be at 8 AM on February 23, 2022 in the Commissioner's Room in the Custer County Courthouse.

Jim Lintz, Chairman

Attest: _____

Barbara Cox, Custer County Deputy Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost of _____.

