



4. Travel requests approved:  
a.) Dana Benjamin, Marlyn Campbell and new person (TBD) to attend Auditor's Conference in Pierre October 17-19, 2023 at a total cost of \$1,173.36

**Vouchers approved as follows:**

**PAYROLL:** 9-8-2023 Payroll: Commissioners \$5,201.34; Auditor \$10,033.70; Treasurer \$13,177.30; Info Systems & Technology \$3,159.03; States Attorney \$13,250.17; Courthouse Building \$7,991.88 Director of Equalization \$20,927.20; Register of Deeds \$5,323.30; Veteran's Services \$1,482.00; Human Resources \$2,918.10; Sheriff \$52,568.37; Coroner \$803.40; Nurse \$1,068.87; Library \$8,246.67; Conservation \$712.91; Weed & Pest \$3,819.63; Planning \$7,919.60; County Road & Bridge \$42,057.95; Emergency Management \$2,919.61; 24/7 \$2,101.54 ; Emergency Line F \$17,071.83

**COMMISSIONERS:** Golden West Telecommunication \$27.14; Valhalla, Legal, PLLC \$4,290.00; Amazon \$220.94; Verizon \$88.60; Verizon Fleet \$32.8

**ELECTIONS:** Amazon \$80.11

**AUDITOR:** Quill \$103.06; Town of Buffalo Gap \$10.00; Golden West \$135.95; Tyler Technologies \$1,377.50; Amazon \$170.49; A&B \$220.05

**TREASURUR:** Golden West Telecommunications \$135.95; A&B \$752.96

**GIS:** Golden West Telecommunications \$54.38

**STATE'S ATTORNEY:** Lexis Nexis \$444.00; Golden West Telecommunications \$135.95; Culligan Water \$44.50; RC Police Dept. \$180.00; A&B \$614.64; N Court Kittitas County Clerk \$21.99

**COURT APPOINTED ATTORNEY:** Southern Hills Law PLLC \$300.89

**MAINTENANCE:** Black Hills Electric \$438.31; Black Hill Energy \$3,912.70; Black Hills Chemical \$235.96; Sanders Sanitation Service \$21.09; Custer ACE Hardware \$132.02; A-Z Shredding, Inc. \$10.95; Verizon \$41.81; Verizon Fleet \$32.38; A&B \$75.39; Sams \$274.54; Amazon \$159.42; Mernards \$221.31

**DIRECTOR OF EQUALIZATION:** Quill \$41.18; Golden West Communications \$190.33; A&B \$160.47; gas \$6.19

**REGISTER OF DEEDS:** Quill \$361.52; Golden West Telecommunications \$54.38; A&B \$208.89

**VETERANS SERVICE:** Golden West Telecommunications \$27.15; A&B \$145.20

**INFO TECHNOLOGY:** Golden West Technologies \$4,856.51; Quill \$899.80; Golden West Telecommunications \$680.00; .Org & .Com Domain renewals \$45.34

**HUMAN RESOURCES:** Div. of Criminal Investigation \$129.75; Golden West Telecommunications \$27.15; A&B \$148.45

**SHERIFF:** S&B Motor Parts \$257.17; Golden West Telecommunications \$271.90; A&B Pure Water \$54.98; L&A Welding \$1,590.35; Sherburne County Sheriff \$160.00; Sturgis Responder Supply \$228.94; A-Z Shredding, Inc. \$6.45; Battle Mt. Humane Society \$1,083.00; Verizon \$709.26; Galls \$138.00; Amazon \$210.93; A&B \$259.38; Lexis Nexis \$86.50; Cabella \$164.60; Merrell Boots \$169.92; Brownell \$208.98

**PRISONER CARE:** City of Rapid City \$160.00; Pennington County Sheriff \$277.18; Pennington County Jail \$17,160.00; Correct RX Pharmacy \$11.34; Care Campus \$226.00; South Dakota Public Health Department \$80.00; Sandford Laboratories \$154.89; Linda Nohr \$75.00

**SEARCH & RESCUE:** Golden West Telecommunications \$93.95

**AIRPORT:** Custer Do It Best \$7.52; Golden West Telecommunications \$113.51; Amazon \$251.28

**MENTAL HEALTH CENTER:** New Trails Ministry \$300.00; Audra Hill Consulting \$800.43

**LIBRARY:** Golden West Technologies \$1,430.69; Mt Rushmore Telephone \$134.07; Golden West Telecommunications \$115.95; Vect Design \$28.25; Horatios Jumpstart grant \$45.77; Walk Wood- \$28.00; Amazon \$2,126.23

**EXTENSION:** Golden West Telecommunications \$117.41; Erin McGlumpy \$1,214.15; Quality Inn \$591.36; Wyndham Grand \$560.69; Verizon \$40.01; A&B \$149.82

**WEED & PEST:** Golden West Telecommunications \$27.15; Culligan Water \$13.00; Verizon Fleet \$32.38; A&B \$156.29; Warne \$372.42; Brown \$272.82

**PLANNING:** Golden West Telecommunications \$108.76; Verizon Fleet \$16.19; A&B \$185.81

**COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE:** A & B Welding, Inc. \$586.02; French Creek Supply Inc. \$837.82; Fastenal Company \$15.48; Godfrey Brake \$54.98; Mt Rushmore Telephone \$119.32; S&B Motor Parts \$1,992.46; Kieffer Sanitation \$271.70; Shoener Machine & Tool \$129.10; Servall Towel & Linen \$264.99; Town of Buffalo Gap \$73.00; Golden West Telecommunications \$220.02; Grossenburg Implement \$931.42; Culligan Water \$13.00; Consolidated Electrical \$1,914.00; Kevin Armbrust \$150.00; Nelson's Oil & Gas \$1,122.00; Great Western Tire, Inc. \$64.90; Dakotaland Auto Glass \$1,350.00; Pacific Steel & Recycling \$120.17; RC Journ Hwy Equip.\$335.00; Verizon Fleet \$372.37; A&B \$176.36; ECS \$56.29; Tractor \$799.47; Walmart \$107.49

**FIRE PROTECTION:** Argyle Volunteer Fire \$1,350.00

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:** Golden West Telecommunications \$44.56; Verizon \$64.26; A&B \$172.50

**COUNTY BUILDINGS:** Golden West Technologies \$9,215.33; Custer Ace Hardware \$219.00; Apex Electrical solutions \$3,302.20; Menards \$159.28; Smart Sign \$215.43

**EMERGENCY LINE:** Golden West Telecommunications \$762.14; A&B Pure Water \$54.97; A&B \$199.85; Range Telephone \$25.48

**NON- DEPARTMENTAL:** State Treasurer \$100.42; Dept. of Revenue \$250.00

**Motion to approve the Consent Agenda made by Hindle; seconded by Busckohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.**

**D. Conflict of Interest Declarations – None**

**E. Highway Department**

1. 8:00 AM – 8:30 AM Hearing/Presentation- 5-Year County Highway and Bridge Improvement Plan

Highway Superintendent Doyle introduced Tom Wilsey from Brosz Engineering whom was a key component in the development of this plan.

This plan is for future years and the County must have to qualify for bridge improvement grants. The most important element of this plan in the near future is the replacement of the bridge east of Buffalo Gap. This is the last bridge that we need to do a replacement or rehab. Due to Custer County being involved in this plan we have saved millions throughout the years.

Public input is required as part of the process for the Improvement plan.

Wilsey noted that 30% of neighboring counties bridges are in poor condition but Custer County has solid bridges.

The plan contains revenue projections and 5-year plan project listing of what has been done and what needs to be done.

Road conditions change due to harsh winters which alters the plan.

Wilsey reviewed the status of the bridge east of Buffalo Gap. The preliminary engineering work is done and in January they will apply for design for construction phase and then it will be up to the state if we get qualified. He is confident we will qualify. If we qualify it will be an 80/20 split for funding. We will get an estimate during this next phase. The approximate cost is over a million dollars or box culvert would be about \$600,000. Doyle will push hard for a box culvert since there is less maintenance and can last for up to approximately 100 years; which is much longer than a bridge.

Our share (20%) would be approximately \$700,000 or more and would take place in the next two years. Doyle noted that we have some reserves which will cover the next phase design but the 2025/26 budget would need to be increased for construction.

**There were no public comments**

2. Purchase of 2 Chevy Crew Cab work trucks

Superintendent Doyle addressed that he had previously spoke on two new pickup trucks that he would be purchasing. There is two available at this time and He is seeking permission to purchase the 2 trucks. He confirmed that this is within their budget.

**Motion to approve made by Linde; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.**

3. Approval and Authorize Chairman to sign the 5-Year Plan

**Motion to approve made by Hindle; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.**

**F. Auditor**

1. 2020-2021 Audit Results

Bruce Hintz State Auditor presented a “letter of representation”, a standard letter that occurs at the end of an audit. He reviewed the result of the Audit for 2020-2021. This has been about a 6 month process and now is complete, He noted he spent 560 hours the prior year and this time 530 hours with less time spent on cash. The financial annual report (2020) had not been done due to several cash issues from the prior audit so he did spend some extra time doing this with the Finance Officer.

This Audit report is similar to last time which had 6 comments this year there are 4 items to be corrected. 2 items were corrected so we do have improvement. We do have an issue on bid/purchasing in Highway Department but he is working with Superintendent Doyle on this tissue which has become problematic throughout the state with the vendor, Sourcewell.

Master Lead Schedule letter:

1. Addressed ongoing cash issues. He spent about 130 hours on cash but they will be putting together some general ledger journal entries in October this year to make 2022 corrections in December then reconcile cash. Have 3 months now before end of 2023, look in 2022 for variance so we can close in 2023 and make further adjustments if needed.
2. The PT-92 incomplete now is corrected.
3. Issues on some budget overdrafts not nearly the amount they had from the prior year.
4. The Annual Report was not submitted to their office or published. It was Hintz suggestion that Finance Officer McLaughlin should wait until we can get cash balanced with entries this fall. It is his hope that he can Audit 2022 and 2023 concurrently which would be a good process for staff new to annual financials.

Management Letter:

1. Bidding process issue with Sourcewell. A dozer was purchased through the Sourcewell bidding procedure without obtaining documentation from them to verify amounts paid by the County. State Auditor stated that all entities are having this problem and recommends the actual price of what you are getting it for is well documented. This problem has evolved throughout a couple of years. He will follow up and provide a website for the County.
2. Addressed statute for unclaimed check process to turn over to the State of South Dakota vs. administrate yourself (County)

McLaughlin is working on the Annual Report right now and will be sending it to the State.

\*Two additional items that are not in the report- working on COVID grants a miss calculation on the submittal- (prior staff) requested \$3,100 and it should have been \$31,000.

Rebate on Build America monies haven't been submitted for the rebates since 2016. Since that time the State Auditor determined that the County was overpaid by about \$230,000 several years prior. Hintz researched this and it looks like in 2019 what was overpaid was about a wash with the years that the county did not submit the rebates. It would be to the benefit of the County to submit rebates this year as there is probably money coming to the County at this point. He suggested to get a hold of bond council and possibly contact our States Attorney as she should have some information on this as well.

Commissioner Hartman stated that all of these issues are prior to the current Finance Officer McLaughlin appointment.

Hintz noted that Mclaughlin has a good attitude and wants to make things right.

**Motion to qualify the Auditor's opinion made by Hindle; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.**

**G. Planning Department**

1. Final Plat- re: Davis Tract of Swedlund Subdivision  
Planning Director Kester presented Final Plat re: Davis Tract of Swedlund Subdivision, located in the NW ¼ of Section 17, T3S, R4E, BHM, Custer County, SD

The owner is proposing lot consolidation. This request was reviewed by the Planning Commission and recommends approval.

**Motion to approve made by Busskohl; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.**

2. Planning Office Scanning

Director Kester addressed 5 filling cabinets full of permits, papers, etc. from years past. We are trying to scan them as time allows but shared concern that if something happened to this building they would be in trouble with original records possibly being destroyed.

She addressed this last year about possible getting temporary staff (from DOE) when they are not busy to come in our office for scanning a couple days a week a couple hours a day to get this completed.

Commission concurred with this idea.

**H. Sherriff's Department**

1. Acknowledge Letter of Resignation from Deputy Sheriff Seth Thompson, effective September 26, 2023.

Sherriff Mechaley announced the resignation of Sheriff Thompson. He is leaving for a non-law enforcement job. However, he will stay on as a Reserve Officer.

Mechaley noted that he is advertising now for Deputies. He stated that the pay is not in par compared to other counties, and is no longer sufficient for this area.

He noted that this problem is not going to go away as he will have upcoming retirements. He is seeking quality people before he leaves and suggests discussion on wages need to occur. This not unique to us other counties are going through the same struggles.

Commissioner Hartman noted that he thought HR Fish did a report and we spoke about reviewing a wage study. Sherriff Mechaley strongly encourage the Commission look further into these wages.

2. Office Swap

Sherriff Mechaley is looking at reorganizing our office to create more space as 24/7 clients come in twice a day for drug testing and we have civil files out in the open which is not a good thing and a confined space. So he has been work with Maintenance Supervisor Panza and EMS Director Esser on some office relocations.

They would like to move Deputy McMillin over to Steve Esser's office which is closer to dispatch which he oversees and free up the space for traffic in the Sherriff's office.

The cost would be minimal a cost for a desk. The Commission is onboard with these changes

**I. R-CALF USA**

1. Petition for Relief- Protect American Lamb project

Rick Fox, from Hermosa addressed that he is bringing forward a resolution to support the US sheep industry. Although Custer County doesn't have any sheep they are the coal mine for cattle producers. Imported sheep from various countries are creating a death of the sheep industry in the US. We are trying to get tariffs on imported sheep and they would like to see Custer County sign on.

They provided a sample resolution from Harding County that they adopted and is asking for support by way of Resolution.

**Motion to approve Resolution 2023-17 to support the sheep industry made by Hartman; seconded by Buszkohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.**

RESOLUTION 2023-17

WHEREAS, the U. S. sheep industry is being decimated by excessive imports with little or no tariffs on lamb and wool.

WHEREAS, the U. S. sheep numbers have decreased by 62% and the number of operators have decreased by 60% in the last 40 years.

WHEREAS, the U. S. sheep industry is an important part of the local and national economy.

THEREFOR, We, the Custer County Commissioners urge Governor Noem, Senator Thune, Senator Rounds, and Representative Johnson to urge the Administration and Congress to halt the injury to the U. S. Sheep Industry caused by the excessive imports and urge the establishment of tariffs and tariff quotas then will ensure the competitiveness of the domestic sheep industry.

Adopted this 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023

Signed:

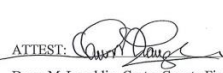
  
Jim Lintz, Chairman

  
Mark Hartman, Commissioner

  
Craig Hindle, Commissioner

  
Mike Linde, Commissioner

  
Michael Buszkohl, Commissioner

ATTEST:   
Dawn McLaughlin, Custer County Finance Director



## **J. Search & Rescue**

1. Automatic Budget Supplement for Homeland Securing Grant- \$18,588.80  
Director Smolnisky address that back in the spring they were awarded a Homeland Security grant for the purchase of additional radios to get into compliance. He is requesting a budget supplement to purchase them and then submit to Homeland Security for reimbursement. He will submit that bill from Rushmore Communications to the County and seek reimbursement to Custer County.

**Motion to approve made by Craig Hindle seconded by Buszkohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.**

Smolnisky stated they have been incredibly busy this year. Most years they receive 40-50 calls, but this year 107 to date. He commented that the Commission should be very proud of our team. The Commission shared their gratitude.

## **K. City of Custer**

1. Acknowledge Resolution 08-21-23A, Amendment to Custer City Comprehensive Plan



The Commission would like additional time to review  
**Motion to table this item until the next Commissioner's meeting made by Hartman; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.**

**L. Public Comment –**

1. Mayor of Hermosa, Jerry Styles – thanked Sherriff Mechaley for all their help bringing on a new Marshal. Hermosa is hiring their own Marshal, Slade Heeb. He also reported on the status of the sewer lagoon project.

**M. Executive Session-** entered into at 9:02 AM for Indigent Request as per SDCL 28-13.42 and for Legal SDCL 1-25-2(3); reconvened at 9:42 AM.

**Motion to approve Indigent Request made by Hindle; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried pending applicant complete the application in its entirety.**

**N. Commission**

1. Mail call –
  - a.) Black Hills Works Foundation announcing Sapphire 2023 Jubilee, October 13, 2023 at the Monument/ LaCroix Hall
  - b.) Library Flyer/Invitation to the Eastern County Building Informational Meeting, September 26, 2023 at 7:00 PM at the Beef Barn, Custer County Fair Grounds
2. Authorize the Chairman signature on SDOT- Required Certification due to Executive Order 2023-13 by the Governor.  
**Motion to authorize Chairman to sign the executive order made by Hartman; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.**
3. Meeting Schedule-  
Hartman attended the Housing meeting.  
Busskohl will attend the YMCA meeting next week.
4. Meeting Reports –  
Linde--garbage meeting got postponed to the September 28, 2023  
Hindle-had a meeting with appraiser at Airport with the Forest Service.

**O. Adjourn**

Motion by Hartman and seconded by Hindle to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 AM. The next meeting will be at 8:00 AM, October 4, 2023 in the Commissioner's Room in the Custer County Courthouse.

---

Jim Lintz, Chairman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Marlyn Campbell, Custer County Deputy Finance Officer

Published once at the total approximate cost of \_\_\_\_\_.