

**Minutes of the Custer County Commission Meeting, Wednesday, January 8, 2025.**

**Members present:**

Commissioners Jim Lintz, Mark Hartman, Mike Linde, Michael Buszkohl, Craig Hindle and Commission Legal Counsel Aaron Davis and Dawn McLaughlin, Finance Officer.

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

**B. Newly Elected Officials**

1. Finance Officer, Dawn McLaughlin, presented Certificates of Election to 2025 elected officials and offered congratulations to Commissioners Mark Hartman and Michael Buszkohl; State's Attorney Tracy Kelley and Coroner Jim Sanders. These officials were sworn into office January 2, 2025.

**C. Adopting of the agenda**

1. Motion to approve Agenda made by Linde; seconded by Buszkohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

**D. Consent Agenda**

1. Vouchers approved as follows:

**PAYROLL:** Auditor \$4,306; Treasurer \$538.25; States Attorney \$538.25; Courthouse Building \$5,382.50; Director of Equalization \$1,614.75; Library \$1,076.50; Director of Equalization 16,147.50; Planning \$1,076.50; County Road & Bridge \$2,153.

**COMMISSIONERS:** Golden West Telecommunication \$34.20; SD Public Assurance Alliance \$56.37; Southern Hills Publishing \$496.93; Valhalla Legal \$2,540.

**TAXABLE/CUSTER CITY:** SD State Treasurer \$145.38.

**AUDITOR:** Golden West Telecommunication \$85.50; Southern Hills Publishing \$48.26.

**TREASURER:** Golden West Telecommunication \$88.66; Southern Hills Publishing 433.68.

**STATE'S ATTORNEY:** Golden West Telecommunication \$85.50; LexisNexis \$467.

**MAINTENANCE:** Black Hills Chemical \$861.52; Custer Ace Hardware \$16.34; Golden West Telecommunication \$27.10; Sander Sanitation \$22.80.

**DIRECTOR OF EQUALIZATION:** Golden West Telecommunication \$119.70; Southern Hills Publishing \$47.98.

**REGISTER OF DEEDS:** Golden West Telecommunication \$34.20.

**VETERANS SERVICES:** Golden West Telecommunication \$27.55.

**HUMAN RESOURCES:** Golden West Telecommunication \$27.55.

**INFO TECHNOLOGY:** Golden West Technology \$7,445.50; Golden West Telecommunication \$680; Schneider Geospatial \$14,196.

**IST:** Golden West Telecommunication \$53.59; Schneider Geospatial \$7,893.

**SHERIFF:** FedEx \$18.93; French Creek Supply \$42.06; Golden West Telecommunication \$171; Rushmore Communications \$292.50; SD Police Chief's Association \$360.71.

**PRISONER CARE:** Linda Nohr \$75; Monument Health Client Billing \$48.36; Satellite Tracking of People \$32.50.

**AIRPORT:** Brenden Hendrickson \$4,458.33; Golden West Telecommunication \$115.13.

**SEARCH & RESCUE:** Golden West Telecommunication \$99.95.

**NURSE:** SD Department of Health \$2,957.40.

**EXTENSION:** Golden West Telecommunication \$137.80.

**WEED & PEST:** Golden West Telecommunication \$17.10.

**PLANNING:** Golden West Telecommunication \$68.40.

**COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE:** A&I Distributors \$311.45; Black Hills Energy \$92.20; Butler Machinery \$1,204.71; Custer Ace Hardware \$32.97; Forward Distributing \$531.45; French Creek Supply \$58.75; Golden West Telecommunication \$235.92; Great Western Tire \$887.30; Nelson's Oil & Gas \$643.80; SD DOT Div of Finance \$497.49; Truenorth Steel \$67,590.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:** Golden West Telecommunication \$46.18.

**EMERGENCY LINE:** Golden West Telecommunication \$498.67; Range \$24.75.

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

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

**F. Reorganization of Board per SDCL 7-18-15**

1. Selection of Board Chairman—Motion to select Jim Lintz as Commission Board Chairman made by Hindle; seconded by Hartman; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

2. Selection of Board Vice-Chairman—Motion to select Mark Hartman as Commission Board Vice-Chairman made by Busskohl; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

**G. Annual Designations**

1. Set Commission rate of pay for 2025 as follows: Jim Lintz \$16,875.29 plus \$1,200 travel expenses; Mark Hartman \$16,875.29 plus \$1200 travel expenses; Mike Linde \$16,875.29 plus \$1200 travel expenses; Craig Hindle \$16,875.29 plus \$1200 travel expenses; Michael Busskohl \$16,875.29 plus \$1200 travel expenses; Motion to approve made by Busskohl; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

2. Resolution 2025-03 Set Elected Officials rate of pay for 2025 as follows: Dawn McLaughlin, Custer County Finance Officer \$92,947.20; Tracy L. Kelley, Custer County State’s Attorney \$128,997.12; Teri L. Morgan, Custer County Register of Deeds \$58,117.96; Marty Mechaley, Custer County Sheriff \$90,017.63; Jim Sanders, Custer County Coroner \$11,161.08. Motion to approve Resolution 2025-03 made by Hartman; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

3. Set mileage and meal rates for 2025 as follows: in-state meals-breakfast \$11.00; lunch \$19.00; dinner \$25.00; lodging \$75/in state; mileage \$.66/mile if personal vehicle is used and no county vehicle available; \$.30/mile if personal vehicle is used and county vehicle is available. Motion to approve made by Hartman; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

4. Set rate of pay for Planning and Weed & Pest/Conservation Boards for 2025 as follows: \$40/meeting; mileage \$.66/mile. Motion to approve made by Hindle; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

5. Designate legal newspaper and depositories for 2025 as follows: Custer County Chronicle as legal newspaper; First Interstate Bank, Edward Jones, South Dakota FIT, Sentinel Federal Credit Union, Highmark Federal Credit Union and Dakotah Bank and other guaranteed funds as legal depositories. Motion to approve made by Linde; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

6. Motion to approve Liaison/Committee/Board appointments for 2025 as follows made by Hartman; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

2025 Commissioner Liaison Appointments

Committee	Commissioner Liaison	Commissioner Alternate
4-H	Lintz	Hindle
Airport	Hindle	Busskohl
Conservation Board	Linde	Busskohl
Custer County Historical Society	Linde	Hindle
Equalization Department	Hartman	Hindle
Extension Board	Lintz	Hindle
Fair Board	Lintz	Hindle
Fire Board	Lintz	Hindle
Highway Department	Busskohl	Hartman
Housing & Redevelopment	Hartman	Hindle
Human Resources	Lintz	Hindle
Library	Hartman	Hindle
Planning Commission	Hartman	Hindle
Planning Department	Busskohl	Hindle
Public Safety	Hartman	Busskohl
Safety Committee	Hindle	Linde
Emergency Mgmt - Communications	Lintz	Busskohl
RCLD Commission	Busskohl	
Custer County School	Hartman	Busskohl
Solid Waste Board	Linde	Busskohl
Weed Board	Lintz	Linde
Western Juvenile Detention Board	Hartman	Marty
Western SD Community Action Board	Jim Olson	
SAR	Busskohl	Hindle
Veteran's Service Department	Linde	Hindle
Custer YMCA Board	Linde	Hindle
Department Head Review Board	Hindle	Linde
Maintenance Department	Hindle	Hartman
West County Wind Project	Hartman	Linde
Custer Senior Center	Linde	Hindle
City of Custer	Busskohl	Hindle
Town of Hermosa	Lintz	Linde
Towns of Buffalo Gap, Pringle, Fairburn	Hindle	Busskohl

7. Resolution 2025-04—A Resolution to Establish Wages of Election Workers for Custer County. Motion to approve election workers pay for 2025 at a rate of \$18/hour made by Hartman; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

8. The Commission acknowledged continuance of Resolution 2024-02—Certification of a Drug-Free Workplace for a Public Entity.

9. The Commission also acknowledged continuance of Resolution 2020-04—County Roads and Speed Enforcement.

#### **H. Planning**

1. Planning Director, Terri Kester, presented Final Plat of TRACT CAMP LAKOTA 1, LOCATED IN THE SE ¼ SE ¼ SE ¼ SE ¼ AND THE SE ¼ SE ¼ SE ¼ SE ¼ OF SECTION 15 AND IN THE NE ¼ NW ¼ NE ¼ NW ¼ AND THE NW ¼ NE ¼ NW ¼ OF SECTION 22, T6S, R3E, BHM, CUSTER COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA; Kirkland Ward Joint Revocable Trust, Parcels #011442, 011441, 011444 & 011443 for Commission approval. This was presented before the Planning Commission in November 2024, where approval was recommended. Motion to approve made by Busckohl; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

#### **I. Emergency Management**

1. EMS Director, Steve Esser, discussed the keycard lock system for the building and stated the upstairs portion of the project is complete. Esser noted this was expensed out of the Maintenance/Building fund and \$29,260.44 of the total \$32,292.05 is reimbursable by a Homeland Security grant.

#### **J. Raffle Request**

1. Raffle request was received from Elk Haven Horse Camp with proceeds to be used for camp improvements. Motion to table request until end of today's meeting made by Busckohl; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

#### **K. 4-H**

1. Finance Officer McLaughlin made request for Chairman's signature on 2025 MOU Addendum between SDSU and Custer County. The annual fee has increased from \$11,200 (Custer County did not pay in 2024 as no 4-H officer was in place) to \$11,525 for 2025. It is expected the vacant position will be filled by the end of January 2025. Motion to approve Chairman's signature made by Hartman; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

#### **L. Public Comment –**

1. LeaAnne McWhorter stated the Custer County Republican meeting was well-attended and went very well. She discussed the fire issue in California and said Custer County needs to revisit the issue, as well. EMS Director Esser briefly discussed the Community Wildfire Protection Plan and has spoken with a contractor for the plan, noting Title III and BLM Grant monies could be utilized for the study. Chairman Lintz shared concerns regarding drought conditions and access to residences during potential fires, stating access to many properties is limited. Michael Baldwin, Conservation and Weed & Pest Supervisor, noted there are cost-sharing grants available to help clear fuels around homes and properties.

#### **M. Liquor License Fees**

1. Commissioner Linde discussed raising 2025 Liquor License fees. He

would like to see these go into effect very soon. Michelle Zerfas, Deputy Auditor, stated she has been working with State's Attorney Kelley to propose a new plan, which should be ready to present at the January 22, 2025 meeting.

#### **N. Commission Legal Counsel**

1. Commission Legal Counsel, Aaron Davis, presented draft of proposed Resolution 2025-X Resolution on Transparency of Use of Public Funds. This pertains to entities receiving funds from Custer County. These entities would be required to allow an audit of funds received to show fiscal responsibility and accountability of how those monies are spent. As per codified law, ambulance and fire districts must already provide this information; others will be required once the resolution is in place. Rod Fortin, Legislative Audit, noted that if this is done by resolution, then it must continue annually. Finance Officer McLaughlin stated having a procedure in place will aid in transparency of how public funds are spent by the receiving entities. Custer County can ask for checking account information, paid invoices and cancelled checks during the annual audits. Failure to provide requested information can lead to withholding of Custer County funds. She noted that Search & Rescue, Fairburn and Folsom Fire Departments, as well as the Fair Board already provide the information annually. Commissioner Hartman had additional questions regarding the matter. Motion to table until before Executive Session made by Hartman; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

#### **O. Commission**

1. Mail call – funding request from Hermosa Connects, Inc. & Hermosa Area Growth and Development, Inc. was received. Funds would be used for childcare study, etc. McLaughlin requested response to be sent, asking for a presentation, etc. at budget time later in 2025.
2. Meeting Schedule – Fire Advisory Board meeting 1-9-25 at CSP Wildland Fire building. McLaughlin and Zerfas to present 2025 budget and answer questions regarding the fire fund allocation process. 2025 Commissioner workshop will be held April 9 & 10, 2025 in Pierre, SD. FAA meeting will be held 4-2-25 in Deadwood. It was noted that some future Commission meetings may need to be rescheduled.
3. Meeting Reports – Linde attended Historical Society, Planning, Custer City Council and Hermosa Town Board meetings; Busskohl attended Custer City Council, Planning and Custer County Republicans meetings.

#### **P. Raffle Request**

1. Motion to un-table Raffle Request and Resolution 2025-X re: transparency of funds made by Busskohl; seconded by Linde.
  - a) Motion to deny raffle request as per State's Attorney's review and comments regarding non-profit requirements made by Busskohl; seconded by Hartman; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.
  - b) Discussion was held to add verbiage to proposed Resolution 2025-X noting that Custer County can withhold funds until requested audit documents are received by entities who receive funding from Custer County.

**Q. Executive Session**

1. Motion to enter into Executive Session as per SDCL 1-25-21(1) Personnel made by Busskohl; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried. Executive Session entered into at 8:48 AM and concluded at 9:47 AM. No action taken outside of Executive Session.

**R. Adjourn**

Motion by Hartman and seconded by Busskohl to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 AM. The next meeting will be at 8:00 AM, January 22, 2025 in the Commissioner's Room in the Custer County Courthouse.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Lintz, Chairman

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

Barbara Cox, Custer County Deputy Auditor

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