

Minutes of the Custer County Commission Meeting, Wednesday, February 5, 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. Adopting of the agenda

1. Amend to add item to mail call under Item "P" Commissioners: authorize Chairman to sign SDPAA annual property insurance renewal. Motion to approve as amended made by Hartman; seconded by Buszkohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

C. Consent Agenda

1. Minutes of 1-22-25 Commission Meeting
2. Vouchers
3. Travel Requests—Library; Sarah Myers to attend Legislative Appropriations Hearing in Pierre 2-3 – 2-4, 2025 at a cost of \$223.66.
4. Vouchers approved as follows:

PAYROLL: Commissioners \$5,697.09; Auditors \$12,854.76; Treasurer \$13,297.84; Info Systems & Tech \$3,426.89; States Attorney \$14,854.28; Courthouse Building \$9,385.70; Director of Equalization \$11,178.80; Register of Deeds \$5,589.41; Veterans Services \$1,957.31; Human Resources \$2,299.57; Sheriff \$55,233.76; Coroner \$879.64; Nurse \$560.46; Library \$11,837.19; Conservation \$783.99; Weed & Pest \$3,322.31; Planning \$7,888.80; County Road & Bridge \$43,978.12; Emergency Management \$2,880.26; 24/7 Sobriety \$750.84; Emergency Line \$20,222.85.

COMMISSIONERS: Southern Hills Publishing \$497.90; Steele Collision \$80; Valhalla Legal \$3,180.

COURT: Carol Johnson \$200.90.

COURT APPOINTED ATTORNEY: Colbath and Sperlich \$8,083.41; Jeffrey Fransen \$3,694.75; Grey & Eisenbraun Law \$1,114.60.

AUDITOR: Quill \$25.13.

TREASURER: Qualified Presort Service \$5,202.37.

MENTAL HEALTH: West River Mental Health \$1,400.

SEARCH AND RESCUE: Custer County Search and Rescue \$37,500.

MAINTENANCE: Black Hills Chemical \$527.14; Black Hills Energy \$2,328.40; City of Custer \$289.33; Custer Ace Hardware \$75.96.

CONSERVATION: Custer County Conservation District \$9,000.

HERMOSA ARTS AND HISTORY: Budget Request \$2,500.

INFO TECHNOLOGY: Quill \$233.70.

SHERIFF: Custom Badges \$35.50; Custer Ace Hardware \$7.59; French Creek Supply \$256.98; Innovative Office Solutions \$53.09; Murray Auto Repair \$167.21; Pheasantland Industries \$141.30; Rushmore Communications \$10.87; Smyth Automotive \$279.57; Sonnel Technologies \$12,734.94; Steele Collision \$31.86.

PRISONER CARE: Mary Seifert \$75; Monument Health Billing \$50.12; Rapid City Fire & Emergency \$309.80.

AIRPORT: Brenden Hendrickson \$4,458.33; Mead & Hunt \$387.32.

EXTENSION: R.P. Lumber \$47.98.

COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE: A&I Distributors \$311.45; Black Hills Coop \$375.65; Black Hills Energy \$83; Culligan \$6.95; Fastenal Company \$12.95; French Creek Supply \$215.84; Jesse Doyle \$150; Nelson's Oil & Gas \$1,140.14; Servall Towel & Linen \$89.69; Southern Hills Publishing \$14.86.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: S&B Motor Parts \$47.98; SDEMA \$50.

EMERGENCY LINE: Range \$24.75.

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

D. Conflict of Interest Declarations – None.

E. 8:00 AM Public Hearing

1. Public Hearing re: Brumbaugh/Buffington Parcel #002001 replat. Planning

Director, Terri Kester, presented request for this replat. Kester stated this public hearing notice was advertised 1-22 and 1-29, 2025. The Planning Commission recommended approval at the 1-7-25 meeting. There were no comments from the public.

2. Resolution 2025-05 Section Line Vacation re: Brumbaugh/Buffington Parcel #002001 replat. Motion to approve Resolution 2025-05 made by Hartman; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

F. Equalization

1. Scott Storms, DOE Director, presented the following abatement requests for approval:

a) Sanders Ranch; Thompson; O'Neill; Wolf re: 1.218 Acre Folsom Cemetery-Parcel 015887 in the amount of \$261.82. Storms stated this is a result of a parcel split and noted that cemeteries are exempt if certain qualifications are met. He stated this property will be exempt moving forward. Motion to approve abatement made by Busskohl; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

b) VFW Post 3442 Lot 3, Block 9, Custer City-Parcel 008045 in the amount of \$3,844.46. The parcel had a prior percentage exempted from tax; moving forward it will be fully exempt. Motion to approve exemption and abatement made by Hartman; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

c) Wayne Williams, Parcel 008950 in the amount of \$324.63. This abatement request is due to an error in valuation. Motion to approve made by Busskohl; seconded by Hartman; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

d) City of Custer, Parcel 015819 in the amount of \$407.38. The City of Custer purchased this property, and the abatement request represents the pro-rata portion of tax. Motion to approve made by Hindle; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

e) Dave Dietz, Parcels 011159, 011160, 011161 in the amount of \$2,675.79. This request is due to combining parcels. However, the November 1st deadline was not met and therefore, this request cannot be granted. Motion to deny made by Hindle; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

G. Sheriff

1. Sheriff Marty Mechaley requested Commission approval of new hire, Vernon Plenty Bull, as full-time Deputy Sheriff with full benefits at uncertified rate of \$25.43/hour. Anticipated start date of February 10, 2025. Mechaley stated that with this hire, his department is fully staffed. Motion to approve made by Hindle; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

H. Courthouse Safety Committee

1. Stephen McMillin presented an update regarding past and current projects,

noting the access control project on both floors of the courthouse building is complete. The first floor is a wireless system; the second floor is a proxy system. McMillin noted the proxy system works better and will check into the cost of revamping the first-floor system. In 2023, cameras and panic buttons were installed with the majority of the cost covered by grant monies. McMillin stated he would like future projects to include an onsite ID printer, roll-down windows, fire suppression in the IT room and discussed Homeland Security Grants and reimbursements.

I. Human Resources

1. Todd Fish noted the Safety Officer position opening, with one applicant so far. The opening will be advertised for a total of 30 days.

J. 4-H/Extension

1. Keri Cochran, Custer County 4-H coordinator, introduced herself to the Commission and stated she is eager to start her new position. Cochran has an elementary education background and has previously worked for the WVU Extension Service/4-H youth leader and shared she has a current vision of SD 4-H through mentorship and leadership. Cochran stated her children were 4-H members for 5 years and learned valuable skills, as well as various hobbies. Chairman Lintz recognized 4-H volunteers who have stepped up this year to help the youth of Custer County.

K. Custer Community Development Foundation

1. Lea Anne McWhorter and Bob Brown appeared before the Commission to present information regarding the current West Dam project. The CCDF is a new group that formed in December, 2024 and will be an on-going foundation that will seek to serve the Custer Community. It was noted that the Black Hills Foundation currently holds West Dam funds. West Dam is the first project addressed for the foundation and is broken down into 3 phases: dredging (completed), removal of materials (bids are out) and construction of the dam (anticipated Fall of 2025 start date). Funding for the project will be through donations and various fundraising events. Tim Goodwin has introduced a bill for \$1.5 million, which is the anticipated shortfall. A present, \$1 million has been raised, with another \$1 million in private donation to be matched. The West Dam will help the Custer Community with flood mitigation; provide a water source in the event of wildfire, as well as providing a recreational area. McWhorter requested funding, if available, from Custer County. Brown stated that Custer County could commit to future funding if monies are not available at this time. Donation forms and flyers were provided and are available on Facebook, as well as on the website. The Commission will investigate possible funding.

L. Public Comment

1. Sara Myers, Custer County Library Director, stated she had just returned from

attending the Legislative Appropriations Committee regarding education and noted no decisions have been made at this point regarding library funding. Myers stated there were approximately 50 librarians and supporters in attendance regarding HB1041.

M. Raffle Request

1. Custer American Legion Post 46 submitted request to conduct raffle beginning March 1, 2025 through November 11, 2025. Proceeds to be used for Community and Veteran's causes in the Custer area, within American Legion guidelines. Motion to approve made by Hartman; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

N. Battle Creek Fire District

1. 2025 Battle Creek Fire District Roster was presented for acknowledgement. The Commission so acknowledged.

O. Commission Legal Counsel

1. Commission Legal Counsel, Aaron Davis, presented proposed Policy Concerning Political Statements to the Public on County Property. The purpose of this common-sense proposed policy is for Custer County employees to project a neutral stance while at the workplace as to not alienate taxpayers. This policy will be further reviewed and discussed at the next meeting.

P. Commission

1. Surplus Commissioner iPads (3) at \$50/each. Motion to approve made by Busskohl; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.
2. Mail call –a) mail received from USFS re: Schedule A Road Agreements noting no funding is on hold at this time. This may affect PILT apportionment, as well as the airport. b) letter from SD DPS re: LEMPG Agreement matrix progress reports. c) letter from SD DPS Wildland Fire Division requesting Commission-appointed designee re: fire suppression assistance. It was decided to appoint Chairman Lintz to be that contact. d) request Chairman's signature on SDPAA insurance renewal. Motion to approve Chairman's signature made by Hartman; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.
3. Meeting Schedule – Fire Advisory Board Meeting 3-13-25 in the Pine Room at the Library; Workshop to be held in Pierre 4-9 & 4-10-25. Hindle, Linde, Lintz and Busskohl plan to attend.
4. Meeting Reports – Hindle attended HVAC meeting; Linde attended Fairburn FD, YMCA and Museum meetings; Busskohl attended legislative hearing in Pierre re: coroners/autopsy billings, Fairburn FD, Custer City Council, Planning, HVAC and Highway; Hartman attended Planning. Commissioner Linde noted that he received copy of Fall River County's resolution re: wilderness areas.

Q. Executive Sessions

1. Executive Session as per SDCL 1-25-2(3) Legal
2. Executive Session as per SDCL 1-25-21(1) Personnel

Motion to enter into Executive Sessions at 8:55 AM made by Buskohl; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried. Executive Sessions concluded at 9:55 AM.

R. Actions Taken By Commission Outside of Executive Session—none.

S. Adjourn

Motion by Buskohl and seconded by Hartman to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 AM. The next meeting will be at 8:00 AM, February 19, 2025 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 _____.

