# Minutes of the Custer County Commission Meeting, Wednesday, July 9, 2025.

## **Members present:**

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

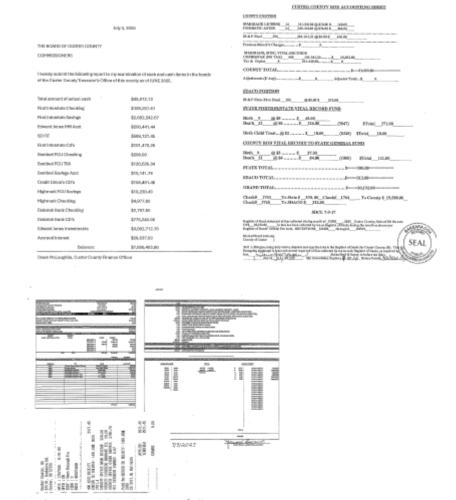
# A. Commission Meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

# B. Adopting of the Agenda

1. Amend to add Executive Session as per SDCL 1-25-21(1) to Item "S", #2. Motion to approve Agenda as amended made by Busskohl; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

# C. Consent Agenda

- 1. Approve Minutes of 6-18-25 Work Session and 6-25-25 Commission meeting.
- 2. Approve Monthly Reports as follows:



3. Approve Vouchers as follows:

**PAYROLL:** Commissioners: \$7,298.00; Auditor: \$11,816.21; Treasurer: \$13,357.11; Infor systems & tech: \$3,426.87; States Attorney: \$14,852.39; Courthouse building: \$10,138.85; Director of Equalization: \$10,809.84; Register of Deeds: \$5,589.41; Veterans Service: \$1,693.84; Human Resources: \$1,910.78; Sheriff: \$61,580.30; Coroner: \$879.63; Nurse: \$473.86; Library: \$11,945.14; Conservation: \$721.17; Weed & Pest: \$4,147.70; Planning: \$8,000.77; County Road & Bridge: \$36,618.56; Emergency Management: \$2,880.26; 24/7 Sobriety: \$280.93; Emergency Line F: \$19,772.35;

**COMMISSIONERS**: Golden West Telecommunications \$273.69; Southern Hills Publishing INC \$459.85; Valhalla Legal \$4,860.00;

**COURT:** Carol Niemann \$55.36; Lynn Jackson \$54.02; Melanie Schnose \$104.94; Terri Kester \$51.34; Thomas Birkholz \$76.80; Wayne Sorensen \$70.10;

<u>AUDITOR</u>: Golden West Telecommunications \$160.58; SD States Attorneys ASSOC \$337.57; Southern Hills Publishing INC \$43.60;

**TREASURER:** Golden West Telecommunications \$143.96; SD States Attorneys ASSOC \$59.92;

**STATE'S ATTORNEY:** Carol Johnson \$345.00; Golden West Telecommunications \$137.64; LexisNexis SA \$467.00; Noah Tainowitz \$20.00; SD States Attorneys ASSOC \$337.57; Thomson Reuters \$302.00; Violet Roghair \$34.70;

<u>MAINTENANCE</u>: Black Hills Energy \$3,982.67; City of Custer \$328.16; Custer Ace Hardware \$62.30; Golden West Telecommunications \$22.94; Kieffer Sanitation \$22.80; Nelson's oil & Gas \$427.20;

<u>DIRECTOR OF EQUALIZATION</u>: Golden West Telecommunications \$206.46; Scott Storms \$476.88; SD States Attorneys ASSOC \$59.92; SDAAO Treasurer \$1,800.00; Splish Splash \$33.00; Verizon Connect Fleet \$63.80;

**REGISTER OF DEEDS:** Golden West Telecommunications \$91.76; Quill LLC \$51.98; SD States Attorneys ASSOC \$89.88;

**VETERANS SERVICES:** Golden West Telecommunications \$22.94;

**HUMAN RESOURCES**: Golden West Telecommunications \$22.94;

**INFO TECHNOLOGY:** Golden West Technologies \$11,389.48; Golden West Telecommunications \$680.00;

**SHERIFF**: Golden West Telecommunications \$275.28; Custer Ace Hardware \$26.58; FedEx \$30.08; French Creek Supply INC \$48.93; Motorola solutions \$33.00; Pheasantland and Industries \$97.93; Sherry Weber \$128.00; South Dakota sheriffs Association \$387.15;

PRISONER CARE: Amber Odegard \$75.00; CMI Software Corp \$2,500.00; Correct RX Pharmacy Services INC \$365.35; Mike Bielmaier \$150.00; Monument Health Client Billing \$350.23; Pennington County Sheriff's \$35.00; Pennington County Sheriffs office addiction svcs

\$678.00; Ruth Airheart \$75.00; Satellite Tracking of People LLC \$81.25; Sharon Bielmaier \$225.00;

<u>AIRPORT</u>: Brenden Hendrickson \$4,458.33; Cityservicevalcon \$17,600.76; Golden West Telecommunications \$115.17; Mead & Hunt INC \$387.33; QT POD \$4,780.00;

**EXTENSION:** Golden West Telecommunications \$91.84;

<u>WEED & PEST</u>: Craig Bobzien \$195.21; Custer Ace Hardware \$27.98; Golden West Telecommunications \$22.94; Jeff Baird \$199.83; Leon Johnson \$59.50; Mark Hendrix \$485.26; Mike Linde \$469.40; Verizon Connect Fleet \$31.90; Wayne Urban \$72.93;

**PLANNING**: Golden West Telecommunications \$114.70; Splish Splash \$18.00; Verizon Connect Fleet \$63.80;

COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE: 3500-21 Electric LLC \$490.90; A&B Welding INC \$363.38; A&I Distributors \$664.09; A Royal Flush Portables LLC \$145.00; Black Hills Energy \$136.27; Butler Machinery Co \$7,707.11; Culligan Water \$13.90; French Creek Supply INC \$1,331.35; Golden West Telecommunications \$249.56; Great Western Tire \$ 814.30; Grossenburg Implement \$130.38; Inland Truck Parts \$217.34; MT Rushmore Telephone Company \$179.83; SD DOT DIV of Finance \$1,172.37; Servall Towel & Linen \$190.20; Southern Hills Publishing INC \$49.90; The Overhead Door \$252.20; Z & S Dust Control \$138,608.89;

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:** Bintel INC \$3,243.30; Golden West Telecommunications \$46.22;

<u>COUNTY BUILDINGS</u>: ADTECH-Rapid Fire Protection \$1,055.00; Custer Ace Hardware \$4.59; Custer heating & Air Conditioning \$508.16; Unified Power \$6,099.00; WL Hall CO Interior Service \$1,115.00;

**EMERGENCY LINE:** Golden West Telecommunications \$409.80; Range \$25.17;

**INDIGENT:** Chamberlain McColley's Funeral \$2,150.00;

**S&R:** Golden West Telecommunications \$99.95;

**NURSE:** Golden West Telecommunications \$61.67;

CAA: Hustead Law Office \$9,049.07; Southern Hills law PLLC \$4,557.49;

Law Library: SD States Attorneys ASSOC \$675.14; Thomson Reuters \$604.00;

Safety: Southern Hills Publishing INC \$50.39;

**Behavior Management:** West River Mental Health \$1,400.00;

Motion to approve vouchers 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. Retail on-sale liquor license application from Custer Hospitality, LLC dba Buffalo Ridge Camp Resort Tract C 245 Centennial Drive, Custer, SD public hearing was held. Mike Tennyson spoke on behalf of Custer Hospitality and explained the former Rock Shop location will be the site of a deli and bar; noting that he currently holds a liquor license for the Camp Resort, located within city limits. The requested location (Tract C) is within the county, not annexed into city limits and, therefore, requires a separate license. There were no comments from the public. Motion to approve license made by Hartman; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

# F. Courthouse Security

- 1. Steve McMillin appeared before the Commission to update courthouse security projects that have taken place; 1<sup>st</sup> floor access control completed June, 2024; 2<sup>nd</sup> floor access control completed December 2024 and lighting/utility fence completed December 2024. Total cost of these projects: \$80,016.75 with \$65,112.14 reimbursed through grants. Projects for 2025 include roll down security doors for State's Attorney, Clerk of Courts and Sheriff's Office; 1<sup>st</sup> floor access control update and west door repair; total \$25,570.62 with \$19,177.96 reimbursed. Projects that are on hold include ID printer and IT room fire suppression.
- 2. McMillin addressed the courthouse door unlock schedule and noted that at present, the main doors unlock at 8:00 AM for the public. The possibility of earlier public access via appointment was discussed. McMillin asked the Commission for its input regarding opening earlier on Commission days (7:30 AM). Motion to unlock doors at 7:30 AM on Commission meeting days; 8:00 AM on all other days made by Hartman; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

### G. 24/7 Sobriety

1. Request for acknowledgement of retirement of Alan Dubbelde as part-time 24/7 Sobriety technician was made. The Commission so acknowledged. Jim Lyon has been hired as a part-time, non-benefited employee to fill the position.

#### H. Maintenance

1. Maintenance Supervisor, Joseph Panza, requested Commission approval to update a maintenance position title and wage increase. Panza explained he would like for the new position include more technical repairs, rather than hiring additional contractors for smaller jobs. This new position will fill a current position that will become available within the next couple of months. The new position will have a starting wage of \$22/hour. Finance Officer, Dawn McLaughlin, noted this can be added to the pay scale for review during the 2026 budget process. Panza will create a job description for Human Resources to advertise the position. Motion to approve the \$22/hourly start wage, job description and for HR to advertise made by Hindle; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

#### I. Highway Department

1. Highway Superintendent, Jesse Doyle, requested approval for Chairman's signature to the 2026 calendar year Mag Agreement with SD GFP/CSP. This concerns mag water application to 4 access roads and is not to exceed \$70K. Doyle stated the 2025 application is completed, billed and awaiting payment. Motion to approve Chairman's signature made by Hartman; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

- 2. Doyle requested Commission acknowledgement of retirement of employee, David Minzel. Minzel's retirement date is 7/4/2025. The Commission so acknowledged.
- 3. Doyle requested Commission approval of new hire, Tonya Pollard as Office Coordinator. This is a 32-hour per week, fully benefited position at a rate of \$18.25/hour. Motion to approve at the \$18.25 hourly rate made by Busskohl; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion taken.

#### J. Planning Department

Planning Director, Terri Kester, presented the following Cell Tower Modification requests for Commission approval:

- 1. Crazy Horse Cell Tower Modification-AT&T Parcel #000060. This request is to remove old radios and antennas and was presented before the Planning Commission 7-1-25, where Commission approval was recommended. Motion to approve made by Busskohl; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.
- 2. Mt. Coolidge Cell Tower Modification-AT&T Parcel #006758. This request is to remove and replace antennas and was presented to the Planning Commission 7-1-25, where approval was recommended. Motion to approve made by Hartman; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.
- 3. Retreat Drive Cell Tower Modification-AT&T Parcel #015239. This request to replace antennas was presented to the Planning Commission 7-1-25, where approval was recommended. Motion to approve made by Busskohl; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.
- 4. Kester discussed Hunsaker Section Line Improvement refund request regarding Parcel #002747. She stated that Hunsaker has been granted an access easement from his neighbor (currently has letter from neighbor; easement to be drafted by attorney) and thus, Hunsaker is requesting paid fees be refunded to him. It was noted that Custer County has paid advertising and other related expenses in this matter. Commissioner Linde asked if the County issues refunds if proposed matters do not follow through and stated he is not in favor. No action taken.
- 5. Kester presented Variance request re: Parcel #015621 Dennis Van Laecken. This request is to add a third approach to the property to access a 45' x 26' shop 15' from the property boundary line. Van Laecken feels the other two approaches are not feasible for accessing the shop. Address points are not a problem for the new proposed approach, and this was presented before the Planning Commission 7-1-25. Discussion was held regarding multiple variance requests on one form; this makes it difficult to either approve or deny some requests on the same form. Request was made to update the form to accommodate only one request per form. The question was asked regarding where the County sets the limit on the number of approaches per property. Motion to approve Variance request made by Hartman; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, Hartman, Hindle and Busskohl aye; Linde nay; motion fails to reach 2/3 majority for Variance request.
- 6. Kester discussed the previously presented Variance request re: Park Tract Deed Restrictions/Nielsen. The lot size is .29/acre; "Park Tract" name will be changed to either "Unbuildable Lot" or "Non-Buildable Tract" with deed restrictions attached. State's Attorney Kelley stated she approves of the changes. Motion to approve Variance request upon name change on plat & deed restrictions in place made by Busskohl; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

# K. Custer VFD

1. The Commission acknowledged updated 2025 Custer VFD roster.

#### L. Human Resources

- 1. Human Resources Director, Amber Maidens, presented updated Bereavement Leave policy to include stepfamily members. Motion to approve made by Hartman; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.
- 2. Maidens made request to establish a wage committee, to include department heads. Current members of the committee include Dawn McLaughlin, Teri Morgan and Joseph Panza. A committee meeting is scheduled to be held Tuesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM in the Commission room. A work session to discuss wages will be held 7-23-25 immediately following the Commission meeting.

# M. Raffle Request

1. Raffle request from the Custer County Democratic Party was submitted for approval. Drawing will be held 9-27-2025 at the Buffalo Roundup Arts Festival. Prizes to include gift card for bison meat; cash prizes. Proceeds to be used for organizational activities. Motion to approve made by Linde; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

#### N. Public Comment -

- 1. Kevin Baumberger shared his concerns regarding his property on Hwy 40, noting this private drive was accidently turned into a public roadway. He stated the road is deteriorated and a neighbor is requesting an additional approach. Baumberger feels the existing approach is fine and that a second approach would allow for additional traffic and would be dangerous. He shared concerns about his neighbor's plan to put in a commercial building, along with a second approach, citing safety issues. He urged the Commission to deny his neighbor's request when it is brought before the board.
- 2. Mark Nielsen asked the Commission's opinion regarding variances for central public water and wastewater systems for future duplexes/affordable housing. Planning Director Kester said that if State approval is given, then Custer County cannot deny the variance. State's Attorney Kelley stated this goes back to the policy of variance requests for building on lots less than 1-acre lots, noting that these variance requests should be rare—not routine. If these are routine, then the policy should be changed so that requests are limited. Commissioner Hartman requested that Kester provide more information for discussion at the 7-23-25 meeting. Peg Ryan, City of Custer, stated requests within city limits are discussed on a case-by-case basis.
- 3. Kevin Reindl shared safety concerns regarding Medicine Mountain Road. He inquired about rebuilding the roadway.
- 4. Lea Anne McWhorter stated that republican gubernatorial candidate, Toby Doeden will appear the Custer VFW this evening, 7-9-25 at 6:00 PM. To date, there are 3 candidates.

### O. Black Hills Works Foundation

1. Andrea Serna appeared before the Commission on behalf of the Black Hills Works Foundation to make annual funding request in the amount of \$5,000 for 2026. JoAnne McPherson, whose daughter works at Crazy Horse thanked the Commission for its support in helping to provide transportation for workers. She noted the van transports her daughter from Hill City to Crazy Horse and stated having employment at Crazy Horse gives workers a sense of self and purpose. Serna both thanked and stated her gratitude to the Commission for nearly 30 years of support and noted the positive impact it has in the community.

# P. Emergency Management

1. Motion to un-table bid award from the 6-25-25 Commission meeting made by Busskohl; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried. Legal Counsel, Aaron Davis, stated he has reviewed the bids for the French Creek Flood Mitigation Scoping Project and stated that both bids are solid proposals. The 2 bids received are as follows: Benesch \$402,838.01; Respec \$429,198.00. EMS Director, Steve Esser, stated that based on Respec's previous work on French Creek flooding projects he recommends awarding the bid to Respec. Motion to table award until after today's Executive Session made by Busskohl; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

## Q. Commission Legal Counsel

- 1. Legal Counsel Davis stated he made minor revisions to the current lease form in use to add terms regarding raising rates based on CPI; when and who would oversee raising rates and added language regarding liability insurance and responsibilities. Airport Manager, Brenden Hendrickson stated he was in favor of the new lease template. Commissioner Linde recommended basing CPI increases in years ending in "0" and "5". Commissioner Busskohl is in favor or longer-term leases. Motion to approve use of new private hangar lease template made by Hartman; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.
- 2. Davis presented updated airport monthly rental agreement for review. He asked the Commissioners to look over and will vote on approval at the 7-23-2025 Commission meeting. Hendrickson stated there are 3 county-owned hangars and nightly rentals vary and are weather-dependent.

#### R. Commission

- Mail call a) invitation from City of Custer to attend open house commemorating Custer City's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday. b) letter from DANR re: 401 Certification 15-day public notice/ clean water act.
- Meeting Schedule Fire Advisory Board 7-10-2025 @ 6:00 PM CSP Wildland Fire Building; Black Hills Ass'n 7-11-25 in Ziebach County. Chairman Lintz said the State of SD will need to address the ambulance situation in small communities statewide; Hartman said the State has a summer study taking place regarding this issue.
- 3. Meeting Reports Hindle attended an FAA, Mead & Hunt, DOT meeting with Brenden Hendrickson via Zoom re: runway expansion and flight zones; Linde attended Argyle VFD fundraiser; Lintz attended Fair Board & noted bids for hail damage will be opened here in the Commission room on the published date of 8-6-25 @8:30 AM; Busskohl attended Planning Commission; Custer City Council and Argyle VFD fundraiser; Hartman attended ambulance meeting with Hermosa economic group and Argyle VFD fundraiser. Chairman Lintz reiterated the need for ambulance service in the Hermosa area and discussed various options, noting the Rapid City ambulance service in that area will discontinue at the end of 2025. District creation via resolution or petition was also discussed.

#### S. Executive Session

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

Motion to enter Executive Sessions made by Linde; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried. Executive Sessions entered at 9:24 AM and concluded at 10:47 AM.

# T. Actions Taken by Commission Outside of Executive Session

- 1. Motion to un-table bid opening (EMS—2025 French Creek Flood Mitigation Scoping Project) made by Busskohl; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.
- 2. Motion to award bid to Respec with fee estimate of \$429,198.00 made by Busskohl; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

# U. Adjourn

Motion by Linde and seconded by Busskohl to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 AM; vote taken, all aye; motion carried. The next meeting will be at 8:00 AM, July 23, 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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| Published once at the total approximate cost of |  |