

## **Minutes of the Custer County Commission Meeting, Wednesday, January 7, 2026**

### **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 under "R" Commission, Item #5—Board to request Aaron Davis to draft letter to Hermosa & Fairburn to request them to contribute financially to cover Ambulance coverage from Rapid City Ambulance. Motion to approve as amended made by Hindle; seconded by Hartman; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

### **C. Consent Agenda**

1. Approve Minutes of 12-18-25 Special Commission meeting.
2. Approve Vouchers approved as follows:

**COMMISSIONERS:** Chamberlain McColley \$2,165; Golden West Telecom \$96.00; Quill \$10.59; Southern Hills Publishing \$448.84; Valhalla Legal, LLC. \$3,340;

**AUDITOR:** Golden West Telecom \$160.58; Southern Hills Publishing, Inc. \$664.63;

**TREASURER:** Golden West Telecom \$143.96;

**STATE'S ATTORNEY:** Culligan \$39.80; Golden West Telecom \$137.64; RELX, Inc. \$491;

**MAINTENANCE:** Black Hills Chemical \$398.94; Custer Ace Hdwe \$9.99; Golden West Telecom \$22.94;

**DIRECTOR OF EQUALIZATION:** Golden West Telecom \$206.46; Southern Hills Publishing \$65.91

**REGISTER OF DEEDS:** Golden West Telecom \$91.76

**VETERANS SERVICES:** Golden West Telecom \$22.94

**INFO TECHNOLOGY:** Golden West Telecom \$725.88

**SHERIFF:** Custer Ace Hdwe \$46.98; French Creek Supply \$9.99; Golden West Telecom \$275.28; LexisNexis \$210; Motorola \$33; Murray Auto Repair LLC \$262.55; Southern Hills Publishing \$117.85

**PRISONER CARE:** City of Rapid City Finance \$120; Correct RX \$29.59; Jacquelyn Nelson, PBT \$75; Mary Seifert, BAC \$75; Mike Bielmaier- PBT \$75; Monument Health \$59.73; Pennington County Sheriff's Office \$226;

**AIRPORT:** Golden West Telecom \$115.17

**LIBRARY:** Black Hills Chemical \$132.98; Golden West Telecom \$22.94;

**HUMAN RESOURCES:** Golden West Telecom \$22.94; Quill \$133.74

**EXTENSION:** Golden West Telecom \$91.84

**WEED & PEST:** Golden West Telecom \$22.94; SD Assoc. County Weed & Pest Supervisors \$75;

**PLANNING:** Golden West Telecom \$114.70

**COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE:** BHE Buffalo Gap \$85.20; Brown's Small Engine \$949.98; Culligan \$6.95; Custer Ace Hdwe \$61.99; French Creek Supply \$244.61; Golden West Telecom \$210.12; Grimm's Pump Service, Inc. \$126.06; Tyler Technologies, Inc. \$5,916;

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:** Golden West Telecom \$46.22

**COUNTY BUILDINGS:** BHE Carport \$37.91; BHE Courthouse \$5,352.74; City of Custer \$154.37; McGas-Library \$440.03

**EMERGENCY LINE:** BHE \$27.55; Golden West Telecom \$199.80; Mountain Plains Audiology \$35

**SEARCH & RESCUE:** BHE \$710.76; City of Custer \$96.11; Golden West Telecom \$99.95

**NURSE:** Golden West Telecom \$61.67

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

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

**E. Reorganization of Board as per SDCL 7-18-15**

1. Selection of Board Chairman. Motion to appoint Jim Lintz as Board Chairman made by Hartman; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried. Chairman Lintz stated this would be his last year serving on the Board and he will not be seeking re-election for the next term.

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

**F. Annual Designations**

Finance Officer, Dawn McLaughlin presented the following for approval:

1. Set Commission Rate of Pay for 2026 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 Linde; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

2. Set Elected Officials Rate of Pay for 2026 (**Resolution 2026-01**) as follows:

Dawn McLaughlin, Custer County Finance Officer---\$95,735.86

Tracy L. Kelley, Custer County State's Attorney---\$128,997.12

Teri L. Morgan, Custer County Register of Deeds---\$62,186.22

Marty Mechaley, Custer County Sheriff---\$92,718.16

Jim Sanders, Custer County Coroner--\$14,955.85

3. Set Mileage and Meal Rates for 2026—in-state meal reimbursement \$11 breakfast; \$19 lunch and \$25 dinner; mileage .70/mile if personal vehicle is used and no county vehicle is available; .31/mile if personal vehicle is used and county vehicle is available. Motion to approve made by Busskohl; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

4. Set Rate of Pay for Planning and Weed & Pest Boards for 2026—\$40 per meeting, plus mileage. Motion to approve made by Linde; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

5. Designate Legal Newspaper and Depositories for 2026— 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 Hartman; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

6. Motion to approve Liaison/Committee/Board Appointments for 2026 made by Hindle; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

2026 Commissioner Liaison Appointments

Committee	Commissioner Liaison	Commissioner Alternate
AH	Linde	Hindle
Airport	Hindle	Busskohl
Conservation Board	Linde	Busskohl
Custer County Historical Society	Linde	Hindle
Equalization Department	Hindle	Hartman
Extension Board	Linde	Hindle
Fair Board	Linde	Hindle
Fine Board	Linde	Hindle
Highway Department	Hartman	Linde
Housing & Redevelopment	Hartman	Hindle
Human Resources	Hindle	Busskohl
Library	Hartman	Hindle
Planning Commission	Hartman	Hindle
Planning Department	Busskohl	Hindle
Public Safety	Hartman	Busskohl
Safety Committee	Hindle	Linde
Emergency Agent - Communications	Linde	Busskohl
BC&O Commission	Busskohl	
Custer County School	Hartman	Busskohl
Solid Waste Board	Linde	Busskohl
Weed Board	Linde	Linde
Western Juvenile Detention Board	Hartman	Marty
Western SD Community Action Board	Jim Olson	
WAF	Busskohl	Hindle
Victim's Service Department	Linde	Hindle
Custer WICA Board	Linde	Hindle
Department Head Review Board	Hindle	Linde
Maintenance Department	Hindle	Hartman
West County Well Project	Hartman	Linde
Custer Senior Center	Linde	Hindle
City of Custer	Busskohl	Hindle
Town of Herkness	Linde	Linde
Towns of Buffalo Gap, Pottsville, Fairburn	Hindle	Busskohl

7. Set Election Worker Pay for 2026—(**Resolution 2026-02**). Motion to set election worker pay at \$18/hour plus mileage made by Linde; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

8. **Resolution 2024-02** Certification of a Drug-Free Workplace Act for a Public Entity—acknowledge continuance thereof. Commissioner Busskohl read the Resolution aloud in its entirety. It was noted the Resolution contains some incorrect addresses. Motion to approve continuance with address corrections made by Hindle; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

9. **Resolution 2020-04** County Roads and Speed Enforcement—acknowledge continuance thereof. Commissioner Busskohl read the Resolution aloud in its entirety. Motion to approve continuance made by Hindle; seconded by Hartman; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

#### **G. Finance Office**

1. Finance Officer, Dawn McLaughlin, requested approval of authorized signers on depositories and provided a listing of those signers. She also noted deletion of signers who are no longer employees of Custer County. Motion to approve authorized signers made by Hartman; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

#### **H. Auditor's Office**

1. McLaughlin requested approval of new hire, Madelyn Lardner, as full-time Deputy Auditor with a start date of 1-6-2026. This is a fully benefitted position at a starting rate of \$19.04. Motion to approve made by Hindle; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

2. Request for approval of cancellation of Guardian Dental benefit effective 3/1/2026. It was noted there are two employees currently on the plan. Motion to add this to the 1-20-26 Agenda after checking with those employees made by Busskohl; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

#### **I. Elections**

1. Approval and authorization of Chairman's signature on Combined Election Agreement between Custer County and Town of Hermosa was requested. Motion to approve made by Hartman; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

2. Approval and authorization of Chairman's signature on Combined Election Agreement between Custer County and Custer School District No. 16-1 was requested. Motion to approve made by Hindle; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

#### **J. Emergency Management**

1. EMS Director, Steve Esser, presented Disaster Declaration re: December 2025 Windstorm and requested approval and Chairman's signature. Esser read the declaration aloud and noted he is working with Fall River County and Pennington County. He noted that disaster thresholds should be able to be met and reminded the Board that Custer County may not received disaster funds, even though a Declaration is in place. Chairman Lintz stated that large landowners are encouraged to call the Farm Services Agency in Hot Springs to be added to a list in the event funds become available for disaster relief. Motion to approve Disaster Declaration and Chairman's signature made by Busskohl; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

#### **K. Planning**

1. Planning Director, Terri Kester, requested approval of Final Plat of: MILLS TRACT NORTH AND MILLS TRACT SOUTH OF CROOKED CANYON ESTATES SUBDIVISION, LOCATED IN THE SW ¼ NW ¼ OF SECTION 36, T2S, R7E, BHM, CUSTER COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA. Parcel #004037 Michael & Morgan Mills. She stated this proposed lot split was presented to the Planning Commission on 9-9-25, where approval was recommended. Motion to approve made by Hindle; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

#### **L. Sheriff's Office**

1. Sheriff Mechaley requested Commission acknowledgement of retirement of Jeffery McGraw, effective 1-20-26. Mechaley stated McGraw has been a great asset to Custer County. The Commission so acknowledged.

**M. Fairburn VFD**

1. Approval of updated 2026 roster was requested. Motion to approve made by Busskohl; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

2. Raffle Request approval for annual coyote shoot to be held 1-10-26 was requested. Motion to approve made by Hartman; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

**N. Custer VFD**

1. Approval of 2026 VFD Roster was requested. Motion to approve made by Hindle; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

**O. Library**

1. Library Director, Sarah Myers, presented Library Board recommendation of Tracy Fish to become a member of the Board of Trustees. Motion to approve made by Hindle; seconded by Hartman; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

2. Myers requested acknowledgement of 2026 Library Board of Trustees. The Commission so acknowledged.

**P. Human Resources**

1. HR Director, Amber Maidens, presented CHRI Policy for discussion and approval. Motion to table until after Executive Session made by Busskohl; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

**Q. Public Comment – none.**

**R. Commission**

1. Authorize extension of contract with Pennington County/Rapid City Ambulance re: ambulance coverage for 2026. McLaughlin stated the contract amount for 2026 is \$59,270 and is not in the budget. She stated this amount can come from the Commission Contingency fund. Commissioner Busskohl noted this is not truly a county expense, but the proposed ambulance district issue does need to be on the ballot. If the issue is voted down, the county would be done with coverage. Motion to approve 2026 contract made by Hindle; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.
2. Mail call—letter from DANR re: Notice of General Air Quality Operating Permit for Concrete Plants Operating in South Dakota
3. Meeting Schedule – Fire Advisory Board meeting 1-8-26 at 6:00 PM in the Pine Room; Commission meeting will be held Tuesday, 1-20-26.
4. Meeting Reports – Hindle attended Museum walk-through; Hartman attended Museum walk-through, Planning Commission; Busskohl attended Custer City Council and Planning Commission. It was also noted the new Search & Rescue building is progressing.

5. Authorize Aaron Davis to draft letter to Town of Hermosa and Fairburn to request financial assistance for Rapid City Ambulance coverage. Motion to authorize Davis to draft letter made by Busskohl; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

**S. Executive Session**

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

Motion to enter and exit Executive Session as per SDCL 1-25-21(1) made by Linde; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried. Executive Session entered at 8:43 AM and concluded at 9:17 AM.

**T. Actions Taken by Commission Outside of Executive Session**

1. Motion to untable CHRI Policy made by Busskohl; seconded by Hartman; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

2. Motion to postpone CHRI Policy discussion until the 1-20-26 Commission meeting and approve Legal Counsel Davis to review made by Busskohl; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

**U. Adjourn**

Motion by Linde and seconded by Hindle to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 AM. The next meeting will be at 8:00 AM, Tuesday, January 20, 2026 in the Commissioner's Room in the Custer County Courthouse.

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Jim Lintz, Chairman

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

Barbara Cox, Custer County Deputy Auditor

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