

Minutes of the Custer County Commission Meeting, Tuesday, December 30, 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 Item under "F" Finance Officer, No. 4—RISE Opioid monetary request. Motion to approve as amended by Linde; seconded by Hartman; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

C. Consent Agenda

1. Approve Minutes of 12-10-25 Commission meeting.
2. Vouchers approved as follows:

PAYROLL: 12/10/25 Safety \$134.22, Commissioners \$7,690.82, Auditor \$11,706.37, Treasurer \$11,391.22, Infor System \$3,426.88, States Attorney \$15,837.40, Courthouse Building \$9,807.53, Director of Equalization \$11,070.72, Register of Deeds \$5,589.41, Veterans \$1,919.69, Human Resources \$2,874.74, Sheriff \$61,110.50, Coroner \$879.62, Nurse \$585.62, Library \$11,833.88, Conservation \$773.55, Weed & Pest \$3,269.13, Planning \$7,735.80, County Road & Bridge \$38,802.16, Emergency Management \$2,880.25, 24/7 Sobriety \$1,121.89, Emergency Line \$16,020.96,

PAYROLL: 12/23/25 Safety \$134.29, Commissioner \$7,312.55, Auditor \$10,920.12, Treasurer \$10,323.81, Info System & tech \$3,426.87, States Attorney \$15,392.26, Courthouse Building \$14,419.31, Director of Equalization \$11,079.63, Register of Deeds \$5,400.95, Veterans Service \$1,712.66, Human Resources \$2,639.41, Sheriff \$55,013.48, Coroner \$879.63, Nurse \$585.62, Library \$11,229.43, Conservation \$773.55, Weed & Pest \$3,507.19, Planning \$7,175.59, County Road & Bridge \$39,076.23, Emergency Management \$2,880.26, 24/7 Sobriety \$1,004.73, Emergency Line \$15,072.94,

AUDITOR: FedEx \$27.62,

STATE'S ATTORNEY: Tracy Kelley \$599.98,

MAINTENANCE: A-Z Shredding \$52.50, Black Hills Electric \$367.96, Black Hills Energy \$2,256.77, Custer Ace Hardware \$27.98,

DIRECTOR OF EQUALIZATION: Verizon Business \$31.90,

SHERIFF: French Creek Supply \$18.99, IDEMIA Identity & Security \$3,619.00, Karl Emergency Vehicles \$44,812.85,

AIRPORT: Rapid Equipment \$4,635.17,

WEED & PEST: Fall River County Weed and Pest Board \$171.00, Verizon Business \$31.90,

PLANNING: Verizon Business \$15.95,

COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE: A&I Distributors \$2,610.68, Black Hills Gravel \$142,500.00, Brosz Engineering \$387,116.78, Butler Machinery \$8,842.92, Culligan Water \$6.95, Custer Ace Hardware \$299.98, French Creek Supply \$783.50, Godfrey Brake \$48.36, Inland Truck Parts \$3,040.00, Interstate Batteries of Rapid City \$159.95, Newcastle Motors \$2,479.00, Parts One \$6.99, R.P. Lumber \$19.14, Richard Bickel \$150.00, CBH Cooperative \$5,985.40, Nelson's oil & gas \$1,313.87,

COUNTY BUILDINGS: Rock Solid Enterprises LLC \$4,591.72, Dark Canyon \$16,500.00,

SAFETY: Black Hills Electric \$52.10, RESPEC \$20,590.20,

COURT APPOINTED ATTORNEY: Colbath and Sperlich \$1,177.08,

ART GALLERY: Horkey Roxanne \$152.91,

MENTAL HEALTH: New Trails Ministry \$300.00.

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

D. Conflict of Interest Declarations – None.

E. 8:05 Public Hearing

1. Budget Hearing—2025 Formal Supplemental Budget:

General Fund Budgets from assigned fund 101-276.09
Commission Budget 101-141-429.00 \$525,000.00
(airport land purchase)

General Fund Budget from assigned fund 101-376.55
Search and Rescue- 101-111-435.00 \$41,869.02
(command van purchase)
Building Fund Budget from current year revenue 101-511
Building Fund- 250-425.97 \$152,529.68
(insurance monies received from Fairgrounds and Museum hail damage)

Fire Fund Budget from assigned fund 101-276.06
Fire Fund- 250-161-429.03 \$250,000.00
(to Argyle VFD)

Finance Officer, Dawn McLaughlin, read aloud Resolution 2025-28 Supplemental Budget 2025 and explained each entry. Motion to approve Board signatures made by Busskohl; seconded by Hartman; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.



Custer County Commissioners
439 Mt. Rushmore Rd.
Custer, SD, 57730
Phone: 605-673-6396

Resolution 2025-01

Supplemental Budget 2025

Whereas, it is necessary to supplement the 2025 Annual Budget for the support of Custer County and its existing public institutions, and WHEREAS, the adoption of proposed budget supplement was duly considered by the Custer County Commission on the 30th day of December 2025, at 8:05am, in the Commission Hearing Room pursuant to due notice;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following budget supplement is approved:

General Fund Budgets from assigned fund 101-276.00
Commission Budget 101-141-438.00 \$625,999.00
General Fund Budget from assigned fund 925-376.55
Search and Rescue- 101-111-435.00 \$41,888.00

Building Fund Budget from current year revenue 101-011
Building Fund- 250-429.97 \$152,829.68

Fire Fund Budget from assigned fund 101-276.00
Fire Fund- 250-151-429.00 \$250,999.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this supplement is necessary for the support of the county government and its existing public institutions, therefore this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon publication.

Dated this 30th day of December 2025.

ATTEST: (SEAL)
Dawn McLaughlin
Custer County Finance Officer



Jay Linde, Chairman

Mark Hindle, Commissioner

Chad Hartman, Commissioner

Michael Busskohl, Commissioner

**NOTICE OF HEARING ON ADOPTION OF SUPPLEMENTAL
BUDGET FOR CUSTER COUNTY**

NOTICE is hereby given that on the 30th day of December, 2025, at 8:05 a.m., the Board of Custer County Commissioners will be in session in the Commissioners Room in the Custer County Courthouse Building at 420 Mt. Rushmore Road, Custer, South Dakota, for the purpose of considering and establishing and adopting a Supplemental Budget to cover expenses of certain indispensable functions of County Government not adequately provided for in the Annual Budget for the fiscal year 2025, as follows:

GENERAL FUND

COMMISSION-ASSIGNED PURCHASE OF AIRPORT LAND - \$525,000.00

SEARCH & RESCUE- ASSIGNED FUNDS-VAN PURCHASE- \$41,888.02

FIRE FUND

ARYGLE FIRE DEPT- ASSIGNED FIRE FUNDING - \$250,000.00

BUILDING FUND

BUILDING-INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT- \$152,829.68

The funds for the above amounts are to be provided from unappropriated cash balances and estimated revenue in the designated funds.

At such time, all interested persons may appear, either in person, or by representative, and will be given an opportunity for a full and complete discussion of such supplemental budget.

DATED at Custer, Custer County, South Dakota, this 22nd day of December, 2025.


DAWN McLAUGHLIN
Custer County Finance Officer

Please Publish: December 24, 2025
Custer Chronicle

Published once at the total approximate cost of



F. Finance Officer

1. Finance Officer McLaughlin reviewed the 2025 Budget Supplement Contingency Transfers and requested approval of the following: From Contingency 101-4-112-429.00 to: County Commission \$25K for West Dam Donation 101-111-429; County Fair \$900 101-524-421; Mental Health Center \$3,000 101-444-429; Airport \$33,122.02 101-331-435; Animal Control \$800 101-166-429; Building Fund \$99,677.97 250-250-432.95; Search & Rescue \$18,588.80 101-227.435. Motion to approve made by Busskohl; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

2. McLaughlin requested approval for the following Grant supplements:

- a) from 234-334.00 Airport- Runway Improvement to 101-331-429. Motion to approve made by Hartman; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.
- b) from 226-331-23 Building-Security Grants \$19,177.97 to 250-161-429. Motion to approve made by Busskohl; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.
- c) from 226-331-23 Homeland Security-Search & Rescue \$18,588.80 to 101-227-435. Motion to approve made by Hindle; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

3. Approval of the 2026 Custer Calendar was requested. Motion to approve made by Hindle; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried. The 2026 Calendar will be posted to the Custer County Website.

4. RISE—Opioid Funds. Julianne Gramkow had previously requested Opioid funding for RISE. After discussion, the Commission decided to distribute the \$107K in 2026 as follows: \$20K to the Sheriff's Office for DARE, etc. programs; \$43,500 to RISE immediately; withhold \$43,500 to RISE until a later date, after operating review. Motion to approve \$43,500 to RISE made by Busskohl; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

G. Human Resources

1. HR Director, Amber Maidens, requested Commission approval of the 2026 Pay Scale, based on prior budget hearings.

Department Heads: Human Resources, Amber Maidens \$44,928.00; Veteran Service Officer, Todd Fish \$42,573.77; Weed& Pest /Conservation, Michael Baldwin \$61,448.88; Building Maintenance, Joseph Panza \$66,196.58; Planning, Terri Kester \$54,435.60; Library, Sarah Myers \$57,687.55; IST/GIS, Troy Schmidt \$66,067.99; Department of Equalization, Scott Storms \$69,680.00; Highway, Jesse Doyle \$78,343.76; Emergency Management, Steve Esser \$65,079.12.

Hourly Employee wages as follows:

Auditor's Office: McKinsey Scroggin, Lien Clerk \$19.09; Dana Benjamin, Deputy Auditor \$20.06; Barbara Cox, Deputy Auditor \$21.45; Michelle Zerfas, Deputy Finance Officer \$25.68.

Treasurer's Office: Walter Krol, Deputy Treasurer \$19.09; Bobbie Ludwig, Deputy Treasurer \$18.20; Natasha Ufen, Deputy Treasurer \$18.20; Kelly Holden, Deputy Treasurer \$21.31; Paula Arthur Deputy Treasurer \$22.62.

State's Attorney's Office: Cinda Jones, Legal Assistant \$23.06 plus \$2,000.00/year for Victim's Advocacy; Lela Larson, Office Manager \$28.03 plus \$4,000.00/year for Victim's Advocacy; Wendy McGowan, Deputy State's Attorney \$52.36.

Maintenance Department: Michael Sellevold, Custodian \$20.87; Nathan Benjamin, Maintenance Tech \$20.26; Keith Jatton, Deputy Maintenance \$23.54.

Department of Equalization: Steven Fair-Pingree, Uncertified Appraiser \$19.04; Marc Moore, Uncertified Appraiser \$19.04; Melissa Bradford, Appraiser \$20.87; Karen Whitney, Office Manager \$28.09.

Register of Deeds: Wanda Gramkow, Deputy ROD \$22.18.

Planning: Brandon DeNoma, Planning Technician \$20.68; Laura Rosane, Deputy Planner \$21.91.

Sheriff's Department: Stephen McMillin, Lieutenant \$37.35; Jeffery McGraw, Lieutenant \$36.63; Derrick Reifenrath \$35.15; David Clevenger, Sergeant \$32.82; Matthew Tramp, Deputy Sheriff \$31.73; Elizabeth Allen, Deputy Sheriff \$30.71; Stephen Yenulonis, Deputy Sheriff \$30.71; Matt Haugen, Deputy Sheriff \$30.71; Robert Steele, Deputy Sheriff \$30.71; Connor Kelley, Deputy Sheriff \$28.87; Nicholas Myhre, Deputy Sheriff \$28.87; Noah Tietz, Deputy Sheriff \$28.87; Jeremy Schuelke, Deputy Sheriff \$28.04; Tara Haswell, Administrative Assistant \$23.01.

Communications (911): Michelle Lyon, Dispatcher \$26.54; Hapsie Nutley, Dispatcher \$25.21; Sharon Bielmaier, Dispatcher \$25.21; Kourtnee Arndt, Dispatcher \$25.21; Tierney Sharp, Dispatcher \$25.21; Brianna Kringlie, Dispatcher \$24.73; Patricia Huber, Dispatcher \$22.84.

Library: Zoe Hayford, Library Assistant \$19.04; Jamie DeNoma, Library Assistant \$19.95; Sarah Christiansen, Library Assistant \$20.87; Roberta Phillip, Hermosa Branch Director \$21.51; Library Relief Staff \$18.00.

Highway Department: Kevin Treloar, Equipment Operator/Foreman \$30.10; Patrick Assmann, Equipment Operator \$28.97; Justin Neville, Equipment Operator \$28.37; JW Olson, Equipment Operator \$26.65; Mark Jurens, Equipment Operator \$26.65; Randy

Severson, Equipment Operator \$25.07; Richard Bickel, Equipment Operator \$24.59; Kevin Armbrust, Equipment Operator \$24.59; Cooper Reutter, Equipment Operator \$24.59; Kody Schonebaum, Equipment Operator \$24.59; Kevin Von Rump, Equipment Operator \$23.88; Dwayne Dolan, Equipment Operator \$23.88; Tanya Pollard, Office Coordinator \$19.34.

Emergency Management: Safety Coordinator \$3,000/annually.

Nurse: Lorrie Martinez, Nurse Assistant/Secretary \$18.20.

Airport: Brenden Hendrickson, Airport Manager \$55,105.00 annually.

Weed & Pest/Conservation: PT/Seasonal \$19.00 (2 Positions); Nathan Benjamin \$20.26 (60/40 split with Maintenance).

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

H. Highway

1. Highway Superintendent, Jesse Doyle, discussed and requested approval of BHG contract extension. (postponed from the 12-10-25 meeting). Doyle believes it is acceptable to piggyback from the current contract after communication from the SD Office of Procurement and Legislative Audit. By doing that, costs would remain the same and equipment is already in place. Commission Legal Counsel Davis expressed concerns regarding transparency and not having other bids received. Both Davis and State's Attorney Kelley feel this process is problematic as the current contract period has no extension clause. Davis stated that as it stands, it would be better to put out for bids, although that may result in the costs being higher. The Commission will stand by legal counsels' opinions. It would be beneficial in the future to add an "extension clause" to the contract.

2. Appointment for Jesse Doyle as Highway Superintendent for a two-year term; January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2027 as per SDCL 31-11-1. Motion to table until after Executive Session at the end of today's meeting made by Busskohl; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

3. Doyle requested approval of surplus vehicles, equipment and shop items, used cattle guards. There is no preference as to which auction service, but it was noted that Ramsey did a great job last time. Motion to approve made by Hartman; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

4. Acknowledgement of 2026 Highway Department work schedule was requested. The last week in December is flexible in scheduling. The Commission so acknowledged.

I. Planning

1. Planning Director, Terri Kester, requested approval of Final Plat of: GLEN ERIN CABIN TRACT OF H.E.S. #278, LOCATED IN THE S ½ OF SECTION 7, T4S, R5E, BHM, CUSTER COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA. Parcels 006196 & 006197 Scott Peters. This lot consolidation was presented to the Planning Commission on 11-4-25, where approval was recommended. Motion to approve made by Hartman; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

2. Kester also presented Final Plat of: MAKHA TRACT AND NELSON TRACT OF H.E.S 369, LOCATED IN THE SW ¼ OF SECTION 8 & NW ¼ OF SECTION 17, T4S, R3E, BHM, CUSTER COUNTY, SOUTH, SOUTH DAKOTA. Parcels 005603 & 005645 Tanner Nelson and Sean Mooney for approval. This proposed lot line adjustment was presented to the Planning Commission and approval was recommended. This is contingent upon approval of a USFS

easement. Motion to approve contingent upon USFS approval granting access made by Busskohl; seconded by Hartman; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

3. Kester presented approval of Final Plat of: SAGE AND PINE TRACT OF MORNING STAR RANCH SUBDIVISION, LOCATED IN THE SE ¼ OF SECTION 9, T6S, R3E, BHM, CUSTER COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA. Parcel 006356 Jesse Adams. This plat is correct previous errors re: acreage calculations. This was presented to the Planning Commission on 11-4-25, where approval was recommended. Motion to approve made by Hindle; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

4. Kester requested approval of Final Plat of: SHUPE TRACT NORTH AND SHUPE TRACT SOUTH, LOCATED IN THE NW ¼ SE ¼ OF SECTION 5, T6S, R4E, BHM, CUSTER COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA Parcel 015523 David Shupe. This proposed lot split of aliquot parcel was presented to the Planning Commission 9-9-25 where approval was recommended. Motion to approve made by Busskohl; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

5. Kester presented 2026 Fee and Permit Rates for approval. The Commission would like to see increases in building permit fees; .30/sq foot in 2026; .50/sq foot in 2027. Commissioner Hartman would support a small jump in fees. Motion to approve rates with .30/square foot for building permits and the rest remaining the same made by Hindle; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, Hindle, Busskohl and Linde aye; Hartman nay; motion carried.

6. Bruce Flaig contested late fees via telephone. Flaig did not obtain a building permit in 2022, when his building was place on his property. He stated that he is not guilty and feels that someone from the county should have come to him and told him a building permit was necessary and that this third-world country stuff is truly unfair. He said anyone could see what he was doing as he is close to the roadway. DOE Director, Scott Storms stated there are over 14,000 parcels to track and their staff cannot check with every place as they are driving past; it is up to the landowner to follow procedure, not the Commission or the Planning Department's responsibility. The Commission stated there are no options to alleviate, as all actions were done by Flaig. DOE Director Storms stated that since this building is not plated, it is a non-moveable structure and therefore, subject to taxation. It was also noted that as of 11-1-2025, the building is not plated, so taxes will be due. If Flaig licenses and plates the building, taxes will not be due in 2028. Storms stated that the past 3 years' taxes would have totaled \$3,709.02. Motion to pay fines and fees as stated (\$1,616) made by Busskohl; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

J. Raffle Request

1. Raffle request from Preserve French Creek Foundation, Inc. was presented for approval. Prize is a framed print by Kay Williams; 200 tickets to be sold. Proceeds to be used for Preserve French Creek Foundation, Inc. water study. Motion to approve made by Linde; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

K. Airport

1. Approval of Amendment Number 3 to the Custer County Airport Management Contract and Chairman's signature was requested. This amendment reflects Hendrickson's annual salary of \$55,105.00. Airport Manager, Brenden Hendrickson, thanked the Commission for their support over the past six years. The Commission thanked Hendrickson, as well. Motion to approve made by Hindle; seconded by Hartman; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

L. Sheriff's Dept/Communications

1. Approval of creation of Search & Rescue Director, salary and acknowledgement of Sam Smolnisky of S&R Director at an annual salary of \$15K was requested. Beginning 1-1-2026, S&R administrative dues will be under the Sheriff's Department. This is a non-benefitted position. Motion to approve made by Hartman; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.
2. Approval of new hire, Robin Martinez, as full-time dispatcher with a start date of 1-6-2026 at a rate of \$22.84/hour was requested. This is a fully benefitted position, and the Communications Department will now be fully staffed. Motion to approve made by Hindle; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

M. Search & Rescue

1. Approval to close CCSAR checking account at First Interstate Bank was requested. Motion to approve made by Hindle; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

N. Emergency Management

1. EMS Director, Steve Esser, presented update re: LEMPG reimbursement rates for 2025/2026. Esser noted that while working with FEMA, the State of SD has not yet received FEMA funding, which affects the wage reimbursement. (LEMPG wage supplement to the county). He noted that Custer County has fully budgeted for the EMS department.
2. Esser requested approval for supplement for French Creek Flood Scoping Project invoice from RESPEC Engineering in the amount of \$20,590.20. Esser will send this to Pierre and Custer County will be reimbursed as part of a \$400K FEMA agreement. He stated the study is moving forward and prioritizing projects.
3. Esser provided an update on damages caused by the recent windstorm. Cleanup on public roadways and safety is a top priority. He is proposing a potential Disaster Declaration and will present at the 1-7-26 Commission meeting. Esser said each county has a damage threshold to meet and noted that insurance claim numbers are not included in threshold figures. Chairman Lintz noted that if funds are received, those would not be for the public.

O. Public Comment –

1. Lea Anne McWhorter noted the legislative session begins 1-13-26 in Pierre. She said bills are beginning to be presented and those can be tracked at LRC online.

P. Commission

1. Mail call – Notification of Extension on Contract with Rapid City Fire Department re: ambulance services. Custer County will stay in contact with Rapid City Ambulance re: contract.
2. East Custer Ambulance Service- Tracy Kelley is working on time frame for elections and noted a resolution is needed from both Hermosa and Fairburn to include them on the ballot. Dana Benjamin, Deputy Auditor, is working on boundaries for the proposed Ambulance District. Aaron Davis, Commission Legal Counsel noted a shared template for municipalities to follow. Mike Bielmaier, Custer Ambulance, stated a resolution is very important. Commissioner Hindle would like a letter sent to the Town of Hermosa to see if they will contribute financially for ambulance services provided by Rapid City Ambulance.
3. Open Meeting Law Review as per SDCL 1-25-13. Legal Counsel, Aaron Davis, presented the required annual Open Meeting Law Review. Davis showed a Power Point

presentation and had printed material available. Davis noted that all official meetings will be open and posted to prevent secret meetings and decisions. He stated that when in doubt, meetings will be posted on the entrances to the courthouse building, the county website and Facebook. Public Comment is allowed at meetings, but not required for special purpose meetings and executive sessions. Executive sessions are used for specific categories: personnel, indigent or contracts and cannot be used as a slush for other topics. No official action may be taken during an executive session nor discussion may be held regarding other matters, if not previously stated. Other specifics were discussed, and any complaints are investigated by the Open Meetings Commission, who can only reprimand and not fine.

4. Meeting Schedule – Fire Advisory Board will meet 1-8-26 at 5:30 PM in the Annex Building.

5. Meeting Reports – none.

Q. Executive Session

1. Executive Session as per SDCL 28-13.42 Indigent

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

Motion to enter and exit Executive Sessions as per SDCL 28-13.42 and SDCL 1-25-21(1) made by Busskohl; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried. Executive Sessions entered at 9:33 AM and concluded at 10:16 AM.

R. Actions Taken by Commission Outside of Executive Session

1. Motion to approve Indigent request as per SDCL 28-13.42 made by Busskohl; seconded by Hindle; vote taken; Busskohl, Hindle and Linde aye; Hartman abstained; motion carried.

2. Motion to untable Item "H" #2 made by Busskohl; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

3. Motion to reappoint Jesse Doyle as Highway Superintendent as per SDCL 31-11-1 for a 2-year term running 1-1-26 through 12-31-2027 made by Linde; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, Linde, Busskohl and Hartman aye; Hindle nay; motion carried.

S. Adjourn

Motion by Linde and seconded by Busskohl to adjourn the meeting at 10:17 AM. The next meeting will be at 8:00 AM, January 7, 2026 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 _____.