

**Minutes of the Custer County Commission Special Meeting, Wednesday,
April 29, 2026**

Members present:

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

A. Commission Meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Consent Agenda

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

C. Rescind Countywide Burn Ban

1. Commissioner Hartman stated that the state-issued burning permits expired in March and rescinding the countywide burn ban does not approve burning piles. EMS Director, Steve Esser, reminded that dropping this ban does not reopen all burning (slash piles) and the same rules and regulations remain in place. Esser noted the current burn ban needs adjustment and improvements. Esser stated that he has spoken with most of the VFDs and fire districts and received their approval to lift the ban. Hartman stated moving forward, the process will be streamlined and at the 5-13-26 Commission meeting, policy guidelines will be set. The Commission can implement or rescind the ban as needed. A release will be sent to the Chronicle regarding burn piles and implementing fines if rules are violated. Esser is working with Dawn Murray, Custer Chamber, to draft an informational flyer to give to campgrounds regarding allowable fires. Pat Conway urged the Commission to extend the ban until mid-May until more moisture is received. Commissioner Buszkohl noted the ban can be improved at this time in Ordinance 20 and be in effect when reinstated. Esser said the people have been patient with the ban, especially campgrounds and east county ranchers. Esser noted that outdoor fire pit permits will be revoked if rules are violated. If the ban needs reinstatement before the 5-13-26 Commission meeting, another special meeting will be called. Motion to approve rescinding the countywide burn ban made by Buszkohl; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

D. Adjourn

Motion by Hartman and seconded by Busskohl to adjourn the meeting at 11:14 AM. The next meeting will be at 8:00 AM, May 13, 2026 in the Commissioner's Room in the Custer County Courthouse.



Jim Lintz, Chairman



Attest: 

Barbara Cox, Custer County Deputy Auditor

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