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PAYROLL: 7-21-2026: Safety Wages \$134.19; Commissioners \$5,724.65; Election \$1,046.39; Auditor \$10,904.17; Treasurer \$14,069.14; Info Systems and Technology \$3,536.99; State's Attorney \$15,292.68; Courthouse Building \$10,415.85; Director of Equalization \$12,453.55; Register of Deeds \$5,965.19; Veteran's Service \$1,860.96; Human Resources \$3,016.45; Sheriff \$50,428.12; Coroner \$1,068.82; Nurse \$626.96; Library \$13,026.27; Conservation \$825.87; Weed & Pest \$5,357.96; Planning \$6,018.59; County Road & Bridge \$37,363.89; Emergency Management \$3,081.77; Emergency Line F \$16,138.53.

COMMISSIONERS: Catastrophic Legal Expense Relief Program \$4,862; CNA Surety \$172; Golden West Telecom \$96;

AUDITOR: Golden West Telecom \$163.31; Tyler Technologies \$1,305;

ELECTION: McLeod's Printing \$17.19;

TREASURER: Golden West Telecom \$146.30

STATE'S ATTORNEY: Culligan \$32.85; Golden West Telecom \$139.59; Relx, Inc \$491; Southern Hills Law PLLC \$5,904.25; Thompson Reuters \$576;

LAW LIBRARY: Thompson Reuters \$576;

COURT-APPOINTED ATTORNEY: McCoy PC \$1,949.50;

SD DEPT REVENUE: \$138.88

MAINTENANCE: BHE Coop \$117.68; Custer Ace Hdwe \$31.12; Golden West Telecom \$22.94; Kieffer Sanitation \$229; L&A Welding \$1,034.75;

DIRECTOR OF EQUALIZATION: Golden West Telecom \$209.58;

REGISTER OF DEEDS: Golden West Telecom \$92.93; Riverside Technologies \$299;

VETERANS SERVICES: Golden West Telecom \$22.94;

HUMAN RESOURCES: Golden West Telecom \$22.94;

INFO TECHNOLOGY: Mitel \$1,683.24; Golden West Telecom \$680;

IST: Golden West Telecom \$46.66;

SHERIFF: A&B Pure Water \$54.98; Active 911 Inc. \$1,080; Battle Mt. Humane Society \$1,183; BHE Coop (east) \$56.08; Custer Ace Hdwe \$13.99; FedEx \$85.43; French Crk Supply \$39.98; Galls, LLC \$163; Golden West Telecom \$279.18; Innovative Office Solutions \$54.50;

PRISONER CARE: Correct RX \$317.87; Jacquelyn Nelson PBT ASCP \$200; Leslie Baccus \$100; Monument Health \$161.52; Pennington County Jail \$21,450;

MENTAL HEALTH: Audra Hill Consulting \$659.27; Dean Schaefer Court Reporting \$24;

MENTAL ILLNESS BOARD: Hustead Law Office, PC \$1,318.76

CORONER: Clinical Lab of the Black Hills \$3,159; Jim Sanders \$758.95; Monument Health \$500;

AIRPORT: BHE Coop \$517.39; Golden West Telecom \$115.17; Kieffer Sanitation \$55.71;

LIBRARY: BH Energy \$598.16; BH Library Consortium \$1,450.54; Custer Ace Hdwe \$251.90; Golden West Telecom \$22.94; Kieffer Sanitation \$125.83;

EXTENSION: Golden West Telecom \$91.84; McGas \$438.10;

NURSE: Golden West Telecom \$61.67

WEED & PEST: Angie Buckley \$22.53; BHE Coop \$102.38; Culligan Water \$6.95; Custer Ace Hdwe \$43.95; Dale Christensen \$598.81; Golden West Telecom \$22.94; Kieffer Sanitation; Linda Sukut \$120.47; Warne Chemical \$134;

PLANNING: Golden West Telecom \$116.26;

COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE: Bituminous Paving \$2,520; CBH Cooperative \$11,476.81; Culligan \$6.95; Fastenal \$174.22; Floyd's Truck Center \$485.94; French Crk Supply \$85.22; Great Western Tire \$370.95; Pop's Grocery Shoppe \$4.99; Servall Towel & Linen \$115.76; Tyler Technologies \$5,916; Walk-N-Roll \$139.51; Custer Ace Hdwe \$39.15; Golden West Telecom \$210.12;

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: BHE Coop \$57.76; Golden West Telecom \$46.22;

SEARCH & RESCUE: Custer Ace Hdwe \$168.30; French Crk Supply \$117.89; Golden West Telecom \$99.95; Kieffer Sanitation \$22.80

COUNTY BUILDINGS: Thyssenkrupp Elevator \$901.39 (1881 Museum);

EMERGENCY LINE: A&B Pure Water \$54.97; Golden West Telecom \$211.50;

ARGYLE VFD: \$13,000.

BUFFALO GAP VFD: \$7,000;

CUSTER VFD: \$42,500;

DEWEY FIRE DEPT: \$3,000;

FOLSOM FIRE DEPT: \$7,750;

HIGHLANDS FIRE DEPT: \$9,500;

PRINGLE FIRE DEPT: \$10,000;

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

D. Conflict of Interest Declarations – None.

E. Public Comment

1. Dale Ruzicka shared concerns re: Saddleback Road District and unpermitted trenching across Concho Trail, which violates ordinances. He has been waiting for a response from the Commission from a prior meeting; State's Attorney Kelley will reach out to him by week's end.

F. Finance Office

1. Finance Officer, Dawn McLaughlin, presented a financial update for June, 2026. She stated the end of month cash balance is \$7,816,819.34, with additional revenues deposited into the General Fund. as follows: PILT \$1,275,000; Claims Associates \$32K and Wildland Fire \$65K.

2. McLaughlin requested approval to advertise for Deputy Auditor and Election positions with updated job descriptions. These full-time, fully benefited positions have a starting wage of \$19.04/hour. Motion to approve made by Linde; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

G. Highway

1. Highway Superintendent Jesse Doyle, made request for approval of ROW Occupancy request from Golden West for fiber optic installation at 11818 Pleasant Valley Rd; S18 T4S R4E Custer County SD. Motion to approve made by Hartman; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

2. Doyle requested approval of ROW Occupancy request from BH Electric Coop for overhead power crossing on 18 Mile Road, S6S T4E R4, Custer County, SD. Motion to approve made by Linde; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

3. USFS Schedule A acceptance. Motion to table until after Executive Session made by Busskohl; seconded by Hartman; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

H. Polly Noser

1. Lane Noser spoke before the Commission to share concerns regarding the proposed Big Medicine Subdivision and stated he has spoken at prior Planning Commission meetings, as well as Commission meetings. He said he knows that water is a state issue but would like Custer County to pay closer attention. He has met with an attorney and knows laws are not being followed. Brett Noser read aloud a letter from Gunderson, Palmer, et al regarding War Bonnett Road that discussed several issues, including infrastructure, approaches, inadequate tax base to cover road maintenance, current road district and the proposed plat. Concerns regarding the potential number of homes in the subdivision were brought up. Noser stated that War Bonnett Road does not currently meet county specifications and would like the developer to meet with the Road District. Attorneys Tracy Kelley and Aaron Davis had no response to the letter, as they had not seen it before today's meeting. It was noted that Noser had not met with the developer of the proposed subdivision to discuss issues and concerns. Scott Jones, Renegade Pass Road District, stated he has asked to meet with the landowner of the proposed subdivision, as concerns regarding additional traffic will affect road maintenance. Planning Director, Terri Kester, stated that subdivision is currently being developed along Renegade Pass and no comments from that road district have been brought forward. Noser stated he will reach out to the developer.

I. Planning

1. Planning Director, Terri Kester, presented Preliminary Plat re: LOTS A THRU J OF BIG MEDICINE SUBDIVISION, LOCATED IN THE SE ¼ OF SECTION 22, THE SW ¼ OF SECTION 23, THE NW ¼ OF SECTION 26, AND THE NE ¼ OF SECTION 27, T3S, R3E, BHM, CUSTER COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA Parcel #011415 John Parker for Commission approval. This subdivision is proposing 10 5-acre (more or less) plots with access from War Bonnett Road and Renegade Pass. This was presented at the 7-7-26 Planning Commission meeting, where approval was recommended, contingent upon the Highway Superintendent's signature on the Mylar. Discussion was held as to whether or not signature needed to be on the plat before the meeting, and it was stated the Mylar shows only access to the plat. After further discussion regarding County road specifications, Highway Superintendent Doyle stated that Road Districts are learning about the cost of road maintenance and he encouraged Road Districts to use monies collected in lieu of secondary road tax for maintenance and not use them for tax savings, as roads will deteriorate. Doyle also stated that he would like a Resolution in place for the County to not assist Road Districts. Polly Noser stated there are 3 homes on her Road District that are self-maintained at \$50/lot as the County would not

maintain. She stated that if Custer County continued to “slam” the plat approval through, she will be moving forward with her attorney. Commissioner Hartman shared his disappointment with her comment, stating all plats are given proper consideration and research. Noser stated she does not appreciate the lack of concern shown by Custer County.

2. Kester presented Preliminary Plat re: LOT 8A AND LOT 8B OF HEARTLAND COUNTRY RANCHETTES SUBDIVISION, LOCATED IN THE SE ¼ OF SECTION 35, T3S, R7E, BHM, CUSTER COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA Parcel #10890 Brian & Shawn Weaver for Commission approval. This was presented to the Planning Commission on 7-7-26, where approval was recommended contingent upon the Highway Superintendent’s signature on the Mylar. Motion to approve made by Hartman; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

3. Kester also presented Preliminary Plat re: LOTS 5A AND 5B OF H.E.S NO. 528, LOCATED IN THE S ½ NE ¼ OF SECTION 31, T4S, R3E, BHM, CUSTER COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA Parcel #005676 Brian & Lois Carrico for approval. This was presented at the 7-7-26 Planning Commission meeting, where approval was recommended contingent upon the Highway Superintendent’s signature on the Mylar. Motion to approve made by Busskohl; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

4. Kester requested permission to send Town of Hermosa-Custer County ETJ Agreement (1-mile) to Aaron Davis and Tracy Kelley for review before presenting it to the Commission.

J. Human Resources

1. Tracy Kelley presented request for 2027 Budget Review work session with departments. She stated that she would like the Commission to schedule a work session before setting budgets in order to have a better understanding of the budget process and to meet with department heads regarding their expectations. Finance Officer McLaughlin will let the Commission know when the budget process begins.

K. Sheriff

1. Sheriff Reifenrath noted that at a recent meeting, the public remained after the 5:00 PM building closing and is seeking Commission guidance as to when to ask people to exit the building to continue their conversations. Derrick recommended a 30-minute time frame if after hours. The Commission thought this reasonable and agreed.

2. Reifenrath requested authorization to hire part-time as-needed deputies. He stated the need for additional staff for transporting prisoners. Jeffery McGraw has applied and is willing to assist part-time as needed and Reifenrath stated the time has come for additional assistance. It was noted reserves have been used in the past.

3. Reifenrath requested approval to hire Jeffery McGraw, part-time, as needed with no benefits at a rate of \$30.70/hour. He has spoken with HR regarding the rate of pay (which is the rate of the highest paid deputy) based upon Jeff’s experience. Motion to approve made by Linde; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

4. Sheriff Reifenrath requested Commission approval to hire a full-time deputy. He

stated since the end of the law enforcement contract with the City of Custer, his department has been working with 3.5 fewer deputies, while still covering the City of Custer. He said recent interviews were held for the school resource officer position. He interviewed both certified and non-certified candidates. Commissioner Hindle agreed there is a need for additional deputies. Motion to approve hiring additional deputy made by Hindle; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

5. Reifenrath stated he has had several conversations with the public regarding the current lack of contract with the City of Custer. He noted the approximate 1 year of negotiations and has reached out to both the mayor and city council and noted 2 options: 1) enter a contract between Custer County and City of Custer and 2) support the City of Custer creating its own law enforcement contract. He stated the City has sent a proposed contract to him, with steps to increase financially; however, the City is requesting 24/7 coverage. Reifenrath stated with the reduced staff on the current Sheriff's department, this would not be possible. He estimated an additional 6 deputies would be needed to be added to his department (6 dedicated to outlying areas of the county and 6 dedicated to the City of Custer). He cannot accept the current offer from the city with the 24/7 coverage requirement. Commissioner Busskohl agrees; Chairman Lintz stated this request is unrealistic with the City knowing that staff has been reduced; Commissioner Hindle has discussed this with the mayor and is hoping the matter can be worked through.

L. RESOLUTION 2026-10

1. **Resolution 2026-10—A Resolution Supporting the Classification of Custer County 911 Telecommunicators as Class B Members of the South Dakota Retirement System.** Sheriff Reifenrath provided a copy of the proposed Resolution at a prior meeting. He stated that Class B retirement is currently for first responders, judges and law enforcement and has a higher contribution percentage, which allows for an earlier retirement. 911 dispatchers are not currently included in Class B, but the job is difficult and stressful. He is asking Commission support for this resolution. Motion to approve made by Hartman; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

M. County Nurse

1. Amber Maidens presented current statistics for the county nurse services and noted some of the services provided: maternal/child health care, WIC, Bright Star programs, car seats, booster seats, oral, vision and hearing screenings, immunizations and school health activities.

N. Equalization

1. DOE Director, Scott Storms, requested Commission approval for Abatement in the amount of \$365.40 re: Parcel 015003, Carol Osborn. (2014-2025 total). The mobile home on the property is falling apart, and the City of Pringle is not willing to purchase to dispose of while a large tax lien is attached. After discussion, it was decided to leave

a \$1 tax lien balance so the mobile home could be purchased and disposed of. Sheriff fees will be waived. Motion to abate \$364.40 (leaving a \$1 tax lien balance) made by Hartman; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

O. Run Crazy Horse Marathon

1. Request was made for permission to place 2 porta posts on Custer County property at 4th and Washington Street on October 2-5, 2026. Motion to approve pending insurance coverage provided made by Hartman; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

P. Raffle Request

1. Raffle Request from Custer Rotary Club; ticket sales to run 9-1-2026 through 4-30-2027. Prize includes \$8K grand prize with proceeds to be used for scholarships, CHS annual fundraiser. Jason Ferguson stated this is lining up to coincide with the Kentucky Derby viewing at the Custer Beacon. Tickets are \$100. Motion to approve made by Linde; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

Q. Library

1. Library Director, Sarah Myers, requested approval of Hermosa Library closure for 8-7-26 for the Custer County book sale to be held at the Custer County Fairgrounds. Motion to approve made by Hindle; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

2. Myers discussed the ALA (American Library Ass'n) Transforming Communities Grant and stated she applied for the grant and was awarded \$10K for accessibility to the library. She is working with Joseph Panza to coordinate installation of new concrete. She also mentioned the library hosted an ice cream social for residents at the assisted living facility in Custer. Horatio's donated ice cream for the event.

R. Emergency Management

1. EMS Director, Steve Esser, requested approval of Chairman's signature on LEMPG Single Signature form. Motion to approve made by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

2. Esser discussed the countywide burn ban and stated that Monday, July 27th, the USFS stage 2 restrictions will be implemented, and he recommended that Custer County reinstate the burn ban to coincide with the USFS restrictions. He noted that fuels are at record dry levels. He read aloud Resolution 2026-12, which contains updated language, but cannot be acted upon with amendments at today's meeting as it was not specifically on the Agenda. There will be a special meeting held 7-24-26 to approve Resolution 2026-12 at 8:00 AM.

S. Commission Legal Counsel

1. Commission Legal Counsel, Aaron Davis, presented Second Reading and

approval of ORDINANCE NO 27., AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING A COUNTY GROSS RECEIPTS TAX AND A USE TAX FOR CUSTER COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA. Davis read the Ordinance aloud in its entirety. He stated that SB96 affects owner-occupied properties. Travis Hartshorn asked how the funds that are collected are held; there will be a separate Custer County account where funds will be deposited and sent to the State of SD, who in turn will send them back to the County. Administration fees were discussed, as well. Motion to approve the second reading made by Busskohl; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

T. Commission

1. HVAC—Joseph Panza met with Custer Heating and discussed outside units and electric strips in the air exchanger. Panza noted he is awaiting a response from JAM regarding the basement unit replacement vs. repair bid.
2. BHE relinquish territory to BH Coop for Argyle VFD—Hindle spoke with Casey Brazell and others at the Argyle VFD, and also spoke with BH Energy, who was accommodating in the request, as well as an adjacent homeowner regarding overhead energy. Hindle suggested holding off on drafting a formal request at this time.
3. Mail call – a) Invitation to BH Works Foundation annual gala to be held 10-2-2026; b) thank you from CASA for financial investment for 2026.
4. Meeting Schedule – Special Commission meeting 7-24-26 at 8:00 AM to approve Resolution 2026-12 Burn Ban; 7-28-26 Runoff Election.
5. Meeting Reports – Hindle attended HVAC, Argyle VFD meeting, FAA, Gold Discovery Days, Rhoden meet & greet; Linde attended HVAC; Lintz attended Fair Board, Weed Board; Busskohl attended HVAC, S&R, City Council; Hartman attended interviews for 911 dispatch and City Council.

U. Executive Session

1. Executive Session as per SDCL 1-25-2(4) Contract.

Motion to enter and exit Executive Session as per SDCL 1-25-2(4) Contract made by Busskohl; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried. Executive Session entered at 10:05 AM and concluded at 10:58 AM.

V. Actions Taken by Commission Outside of Executive Session

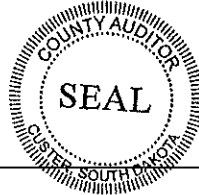
1. Motion to authorize State's Attorney Tracy Kelley to send proposed contract regarding city law enforcement with cover letter made by Busskohl; seconded by Hartman; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.
2. Motion to direct Commission Legal Counsel, Aaron Davis, to draft letter regarding Schedule A Agreement between USFS and Custer County and set up a meeting between Highway Superintendent, Jesse Doyle, and Meagan Buhler (USFS) regarding airport land transfer access made by Busskohl; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

W. Adjourn

1. Motion by Linde and seconded by Busskohl to adjourn the meeting at 11:01 AM. The next meeting will be at 8:00 AM, August 12, 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 _____.