

**Minutes of the Custer County Special Commission Meeting, Wednesday,
August 19, 2026**

Members present:

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

A. Commission Meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Adopting of the agenda

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

C. Conflict of Interest Declarations – none.

D. Sheriff

1. Sheriff Reifenrath requested Commission acknowledgement of resignation of Vernon Plenty Bull, effective 8-14-2026. The Commission so acknowledged.
2. Reifenrath requested authorization to hire for open deputy position. Motion to approve made by Hartman; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.
3. Reifenrath request Commission approval of Law Enforcement Contract between Custer County and City of Custer. Motion to approve contract and authorize Vice-Chairman's signature made by Busskohl; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried. The City of Custer signed the contract; Legal Counsel Davis reviewed and confirmed that the contract was the latest version sent to the City by the County, with no changes; Sheriff Reifenrath recommended Commission approval. Reifenrath thanked both the County and City for their hard work and concern for safety of all citizens. Reifenrath noted he currently has 4 FTO positions who can train new hires; the training takes 12 weeks. He discussed staggered hiring, if necessary.
4. Reifenrath requested authorization to hire an additional 6 deputies to fulfill the City of Custer Law Enforcement Contract. Motion to approve hiring of 6 additional deputies made by Hartman; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried. Reifenrath stated he will ask for authorization to purchase additional vehicles in the future. He noted there are 4 on order, with a build date of October; delivery by November.

E. Public Comment—none.

F. Commission

1. Dawn McLaughlin reminded the Commission of the SDACC Fall Convention to be held September 15 & 16, 2026 in Sioux Falls, SD. Discussion was held as to whether or not future Commissioners Mechaley and Sorenson could attend- McLaughlin with check with SDACC.
2. Deborah Hanagan invited the Commission to hold the September 9, 2026 Commission meeting at the 1881 Courthouse Museum. The Commission agreed.

G. Adjourn

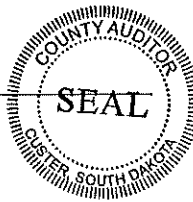
Motion by Busskohl and seconded by Linde to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 AM. The next meeting will be at 8:00 AM, September 9, 2026 in the upstairs courtroom at the 1881 Courthouse Museum.


Jim Lintz, Chairman

Attest:



Barbara Cox, Custer County Deputy Auditor



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