Draft Minutes of the Custer County Commission Meeting, Wednesday, October 21, 2026

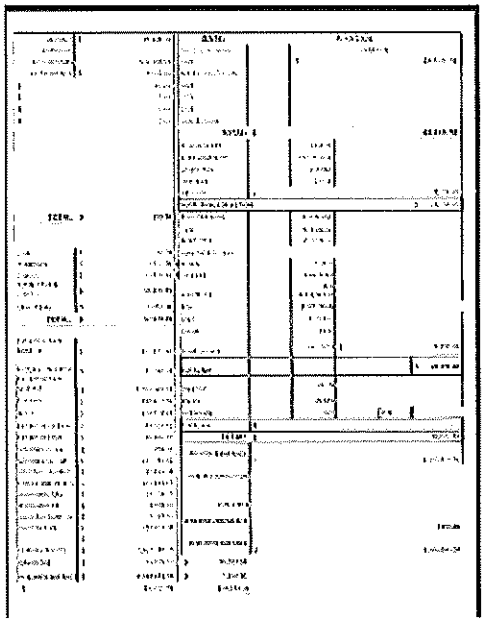
Members present:
Commissioners Jim Lintz, Mark Hartman, Mike Linde, Michael Busskohl, Craig Hindle and Commission Legal Counsel Aaron Davis and Dawn McLaughlin, Finance Officer.

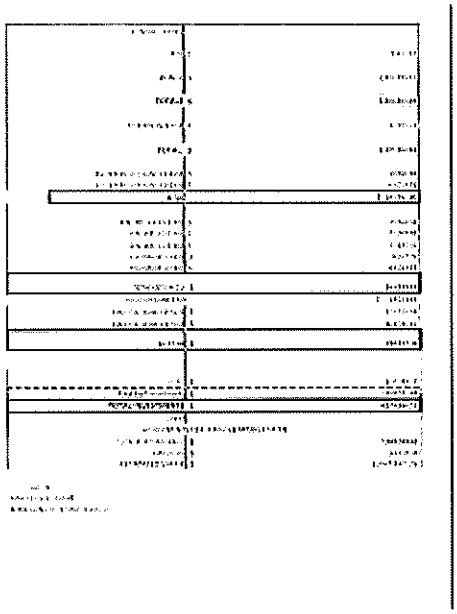
A. Commission Meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

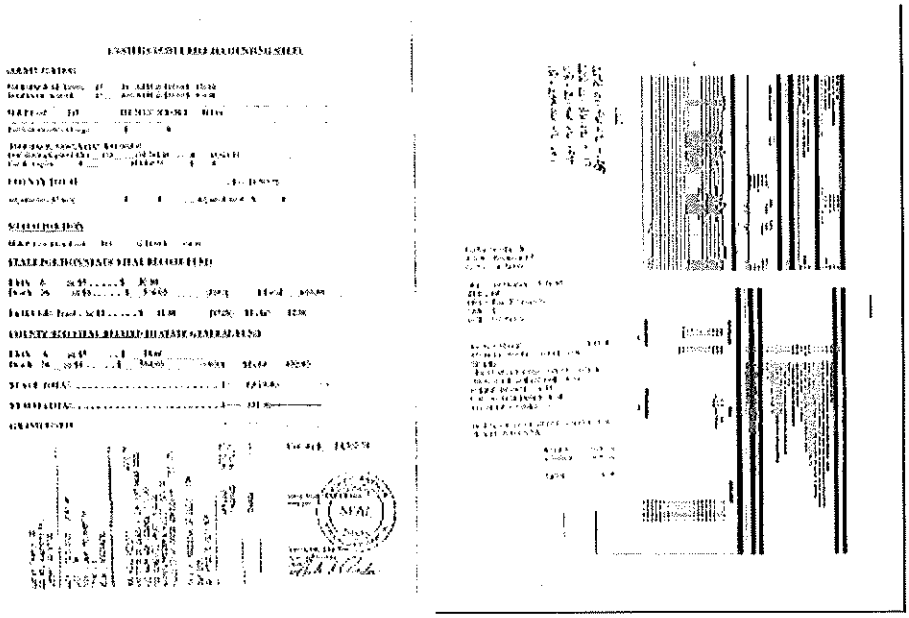
B. Adopting of the agenda
Motion to approve Agenda made by Busskohl; seconded by Hartman; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

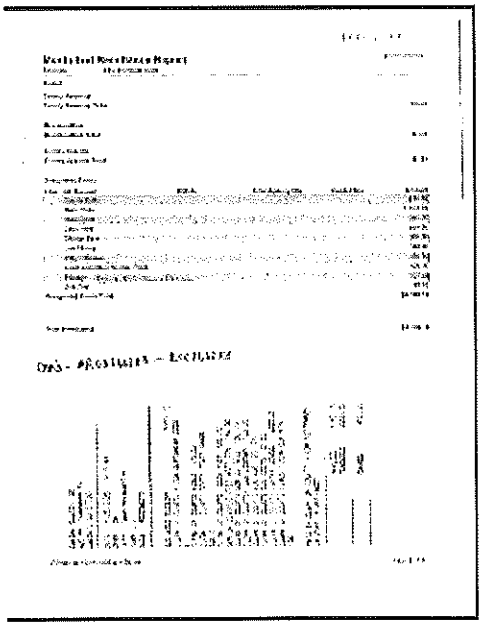
C. Consent Agenda

1. Motion by Busskohl to approve Minutes of the 10-7-2026 Commission meeting; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.
2. Approve Monthly Reports as follows:









3. Vouchers approved as follows:
PAYROLL: Safety $133.71; Commissioners $5,720.20; Election $343.93; Auditor $13,159.42; Treasurer $13,934.98; Info Systems & Tech $3,537.; State's Attorney $15,292.68; Courthouse Building $10,388.23; Director of Equalization $13,010.85; Register of Deeds $5,965.19; Veterans Service $2,826.36; Human Resources $3,016.45; Sheriff $60,667.43; Coroner $1,068.84; Nurse $783.70; Library $12,133.97; Conservation $825.88; Weed & Pest Control $3,805.66; Planning $5,970.84; County Road & Bridge $36,718.26; Emergency Management $3,081.76; Emergency Line F $16,673.58.

COMMISSIONERS: A&B Business $150.78; Golden West Telecom $96.25; Pitney Bowes/Purchase Power $3,095.68; SD Assoc of County Officials $1,194.60; SD Assoc of County Commissioners $3,131.89; Southern Hills Publishing INC (Monthly Chronicle $476.36); Verizon Connect Fleet $31.90.

AUDITOR: Golden West Telecom $160.58; Southern Hills Publishing INC (Monthly Chronicle $115.34.); State of South Dakota (Notary Stamp, JH $30., SA $30.).

TREASURER: Golden West Telecom $146.31

STATE'S ATTORNEY: Bridgette R. Banks $386.20; Culligan $39.80; Golden West Telecom $137.64; LexisNexis SA $516.00; MASTERCARD: Amazon (State Atty Supplies $164.88; State Atty Postage $31.60).

MAINTENANCE: Black Hills Electric Coop (Storage Electric $114.40) (E SO Electric $82.36) (Weed & Pest Electric $76.18); Custer Ace Hardware (Library Supplies $24.98, Dishwashing Liquid $6.99) (Courthouse Supplies-DSH Spray/Sprayer $32.55, Wasp/Hornet $8.00, Dishwashing Liquid $13.98, Slnt Clr $9.99, V-Belt $8.99); Golden West Telecom $22.94; Southern Hills Septic (Hazelrodt Picnic Area $200.) MASTERCARD: Amazon (Library Supplies $49.57; Library Repairs $927.10, Maint Supplies $207.94, Courthouse Repairs/Maint $32.50, Courthouse Supplies $27.98, Courthouse Improvement $29.99)

DIRECTOR OF EQUALIZATION: Golden West Telecom $208.44; Quill LLC (Pens $46.78) (Pencils $43.39); Verizon Connect Fleet $31.90; MASTERCARD: Travel/Conf – Oasis Pump n Pak $54., Cedar Shore $995.54.

REGISTER OF DEEDS: Golden West Telecom $91.76

VETERANS SERVICES: Golden West Telecom $22.94

HUMAN RESOURCES: Golden West Telecom $22.94; Southern Hills Publishing (Monthly Chronicle $518.90)

INFO TECHNOLOGY: Golden West Technologies $2,496.53; Golden West Telecom $680.; Western Stationers $399.90

GIS: Golden West Telecom $45.88

ARGYLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT: 2026 Quarterly Budget Payment $13,000.

BUFFALO GAP FIRE DEPT: 2026 Quarterly Budget Payment $7,000.

DEWEY FIRE DEPT: 2026 Quarterly Budget Payment $3,000.

FOLSUM FIRE DEPT: 2026 Quarterly Budget Payment $7,750.

HIGHLANDS FIRE DEPT: 2026 Quarterly Budget Payment $9,500.

PRINGLE FIRE DEPT: 2026 Quarterly Budget Payment $10,000.

SHERIFF: A&B Business $54.98; Battle Mountain Humane Society $1,183.; Golden West Telecom $276.98; Law Enforcement Systems, INC $153.; McLeod's Printing $375.; OnScene Dynamic – (Six, Responder Patrol Upfit @ $13,423.39 each – Total $80,540.34); Phoenix Uniforms & Tactical (Tiesorte Shirt $84.99) Sherry Weber (Sheriff Uniform – resew patch on shirt, hem pants $40.); Smyth Automotive (Oil change, 2025 Tahoe $134.55); Southern Hills Publishing (Monthly Chronicle $234.32); Tri-Tech Forensics (Sterile Water Ampoules $127.57); Vanway Trophy & Award (Name Tag $16.25); MASTERCARD: Amazon (Tactical Gear $344.96, Sheriff Other Expense $15.99, 911 Other Expense $39.98, Axon Taser School $950.49); JB – Amazon (Sheriff Uniform/Zero9 Holsters/Tactical Gear $2,204.02, Supplies $1105.15, Sheriff Other Expense $116.26, Sheriff Other Expense -$13.68, 911 Other Expense $137.81).

SEARCH & RESCUE: Golden West Telecom $99.95

DISPATCH: A&B Business $54.97; Golden West Telecom $412.07

PRISONER CARE: Pennington County Jail (Prison Care Prisoner/Medical-Sheriff $242.82), Inmates (D Dean $990.) (T Debter $220.) (M Doherty $1,430.) (J Dominguez $110.) (P. Nielsen $3,300.) (T Popkes $3,300.) (G Regan II $110.) (D Sporrer $330.) (J Wickre $220.); Pennington County Sheriff's Office-Addiction SVCS (C Miller, M Rosa $452.); Sharon Bielmaier (Sheriff Blood Draw $150.); South Dakota Public Health Laboratory (Sheriff Sept. Labs $315.);

MENTAL HEALTH: SD Human Services Center (Dean, Fox, Norlin $3,007.06)

CORONER: Monument Health Client Billing (HC Morgue – G. Carr $500.)

NURSE: Golden West Telecom $61.67

POOR: Behrens-Wilson Funeral Home $2,150.

HIGHWAY/ROAD & BRIDGE: Custer Chamber of Commerce (Airport Advertising $325.); Golden West Telecom $210.12; Southern Hills Publishing (Monthly Chronicle $15.12); A&B Welding Supply LLC (25' Battery Charge/Jump Start Cables w/Power Supply $575., Welder $38.32); Auto Value (Hyd Coupling Mega Crimp $16.61); Brosz Engineering INC (Big Grant-Proj Mgmt Final/Prelim Design $1,890.); Butler Machinery Co INC (Repair Hydr Control Valve Leak $993.70); Culligan Water (5 gallon Drinking Water $6.95); Custer Ace Hardware (Shop Supplies $135.43) (Maintenance Supplies $4.74); Fastenal Company INC (Shop Supplies $563.05); Floyd's Truck Center – Rapid

City (Hood Latches for #0526 $120.68); French Creek Supply (Shop Supplies $547.98) (Maintenance Supplies $146.55); Grossenburg Implement INC (Maintenance Supplies $172.96) (Equipment Repair In-shop $2,215.04); MG Oil Company (9,190 gallons Ultra L5 #2 Dyed Diesel $49,528.83); Pheasantland Industries (911 & Road Signs $451.91); RP Lumber (Shop Supplies – Refund -$16.99) (Shop Supplies $39.05) (Servall Towel & Linen $112.72); Time Equipment Rental & Sales (Thunderstruck Elite Bumper for #0342 $1,595.); Town of Buffalo Gap (BG Hwy Water/Sewer $90.92); Trav's Outfitter (Randy Severson Boot Allowance $150.) MASTERCARD: Mt. Rushmore Telephone – Hermosa $180.04; Amazon (PVC Suction/Discharge $290.40, 12V Solenoid $74.58; Fastenal Shop Supplies $338.19; Kieffer Sanitation – Hermosa Shop $162.69; Lamb's Chevrolet $150.; Harbor Freight $871.29; Amazon (Parts for # 342 – Maintenance $235.48, Shop Supplies $96.88; Black Hills Electric COOP - (Elk Mtn Hwy Electricity $59.28; E. Hwy Electricity; Hwy Electricity $484.64); Black Hills Energy (Buffalo Gap – BG Hwy Electricity $55.86); Amazon Paper Products (Shop Supplies $42.05); Kieffer Sanitation – Custer Shop $216.11; Golden West – Buffalo Gap Shop (Road & Bridge Utilities $40.32)

AIRPORT: Black Hills Electric Coop $579.53; Golden West Telecom $115.17

ELECTIONS: Election Systems & Software $2,583.23

LIBRARY: Golden West Telecom $22.94; MASTERCARD: Faronics Tech Com $133.; Amazon (Books/Print Material $910.94; Library Supplies $202.64, Electronic Material $301.09, Annex Print Material $176.14, Library Pro Fee & Service $21.24)

EXTENSION: Golden West Telecom $91.84

WEED & PEST: Dave Busskohl $1,000.; Golden West Telecom $22.94; Gordon Cleveland $22.62; Kim O'Connor $480.; Monty Bradeen $856.; Nutrien AG Solutions $5,018.46; OFLP Properties $611.52; Ozum, LLC $152.61; Rick Vee $89.82; Verizon Connect Fleet $31.90; Victoria Fuller $31.95; MASTERCARD: Weed & Pest (Ramada - Travel/Conf $131.19, Dakota Battery $201.10).

PLANNING: Golden West Telecom $114.75; Splish Splash Car Wash $16.00; Verizon Connect Fleet $15.95; Amazon (Supplies $46.26)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Black Hills Electric Coop $57.92, Golden West Telecom $46.22; MASTERCARD: SDEMA Conf $150., icloud+ $1.05, Office Max $83.94.

D. Conflict of Interest Declarations – None

E. Public Comment

1. Lou Raisler commented about an "unsightly" property, that he can see from his home on Wildcat Lane, which is located across Sidney Park Road, on Harbaugh

Lane. While Raisler does not have any personal issues with the owner of the property, he is concerned the property maybe "a health hazard." Raisler approached the City of Custer regarding this issue, and was told Harbaugh Lane is Custer County property. Raisler also contacted the Sheriff's department and was told there is not an ordinance in place to deal with such properties. Raisler continued by asking for Commission consideration to "take a look at the property" and see if there is anything that can be done. Raisler brought up the possible annexation of the Bearded Buffalo to the City of Custer, and strongly encouraged the Commission to consider annexing Harbaugh Lane to the City as well. Hindle said he and Raisler had spoken on the phone; to which Raisler said he had called Hindle, and that Hindle had been kind enough to return his call. Hindle said he had given Raisler "the honest truth" and there is not really anything the County can do because there is not any County zoning. Hindle said the annexing idea was not too popular with the City. Busskohl confirmed the City was not interested in annexing at this time based on a recent discussion. Raisler responded "so, it's a dead end?" Hindle said "it probably is." Raisler further commented that the problem is "not only is it unsightly, but it's growing." Hindle said they have consulted with State's Attorney, Tracy Kelley when this situation has happened in the past, but that he doesn't expect much to come of it. Hindle did say the question of the property possibly being a health hazard, "might be something to go on."

2. Lea Anne McWhorter announced Monday, October 26, 2026 at 10:00am, Governor Rhoden and Marty Jackley will be having a "Meet & Greet" at Calamity Jane's.

F. <u>Custer County Fire Services</u>

1. Chairman Jim Lintz acknowledged Klinton and Shannon Rittberger for their exemplary, volunteer, work for the Fire Service. Lintz said the Rittbergers deserve recognition for going beyond what is expected in their time and work for Custer County. Lintz presented each Rittberger with an appreciation award.
2. Approval of Fire Funds distribution to fire departments: Klinton Rittberger spoke on behalf of the Fire Advisory Board stating that the fire departments are asking for their full amount of the Fire Opt-Out funds. He gave an idea on what the funds will be used for: extrication equipment ex. JAWS of Life, PPE ex. Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), many vehicle replacements ex. Type 3 & Type 6 Engines, a UTV with fire apparatus and Rescue Type 2 Engines. One department will be using part of their funds for Paid per Call Situations for their volunteers. K. Rittberger said "with that type of equipment coming into the County" he wanted to give acknowledgment to the departments regarding how they are going to improve; with better equipment, better response. "The County, will be in better hands." K. Rittberger expressed appreciation on behalf of the fire departments to the Commission for its willingness to support and initiate the Opt-Out. Busskohl extended thanks and appreciation to the Rittbergers stating "we could not have done it without you." Finance Officer, Dawn McLaughlin asked K. Rittberger if he had the breakdown of Opt-Out funds. K. Rittberger

answered: $28,800. per Fire Department x 5 departments; Argyle, Buffalo Gap, Folsum, Highlands and Pringle; Custer $176,000. Motion to approve by Hartman; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

G. **Treasurer** – Dawn McLaughlin, Treasurer

1. Discuss and approve Bank Signer updates. McLaughlin stated the Bank Signer updates are necessary due to the departure of Deputy Auditor, Barb Cox.

	REMOVE	ADD
Dacotah Bank (CKG, 2 CDs)	Barb Cox	Michelle Zerfas
Edward Jones	Barb Cox	Michelle Zerfas
First Interstate (CKG, SVG, 2 CDs)	Barb Cox Dana Benjamin	Stacy Armbruster Jerrica Henrichs
Highmark Credit Union (CKG, SVG, 2 CDS)	Barb Cox	Michelle Zerfas
Sentinel (CKG, SVG, 3 CDS)	Barb Cox	Michelle Zerfas

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

H. **Finance Office:** Dawn McLaughlin, Finance Officer
McLaughlin presented the September 2026 Financial Update. Revenues $841,237.05; Expenses $753,922.64; Overall Surplus $87,314.41; Register of Deeds $14,702.75; Sheriff $3,071.96; Clerk of Courts $8,569.15; Motor Vehicles (41.8% of registrations) $102,384.64; Treasurer's checks written $304,281.11; End Cash Balance $6,588,643.04

I. **Planning:** Terri Kester, Planning Director

1. Borderlands Road Bond Request
Plat of: LOTS A, B, C & D OF BORDERLANDS SUBDIVISION, LOCATED IN THE SE ¼ OF SECTION 24, T3S, R7E, BHM, CUSTER COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA; **Current Parcel ID: #**013983, Michael Devine & Stephanie Surring-Devine. Applicant is requesting a road bond for his proposed plat. Wagon Trail Rd is 66' wide public access & utility easement dedicated on the plat. Applicant has provided a $48,000. check for the Road Bond. Documents were sent to the Highway Superintendent for his review and approval on October 14, 2026. Motion to approve by Busskohl; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

2. Borderlands Subdivision
REQUEST**: Final Plat of:** LOTS A, B, C & D OF BORDERLANDS SUBDIVISION, LOCATED IN THE SE ¼ OF SECTION 24, T3S, R7E, BHM, CUSTER COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA; **Current Parcel ID: #**013983, Michael Devine & Stephanie Surring-Devine. Devine is purposing a 4-parcel Subdivision. Lots A, B, C & D will each be 24.69 +/- acres. Access to the LOT is from Mielke Place which is a 66' wide dedicated public ROW. Access to LOTS A, B, C, & D

is from a new 66' wide public access and utility easements dedicated with this plat. Road name will be Wagon Trail Rd. which was approved by Troy Schmidt. This plat was sent out for comments to Internal Review Committee in August. Request was presented and approved by Planning Commission on September 1, 2026.

3. Eastman Variance Request
   Variance request from Scott & Kelly Eastman; **Parcel ID** #004448. Applicant, Johnny Couch. Deed Holder, Scott Eastman. Applicant is requesting a variance from Ordinance #2 setback requirements from the Right of Way boundary. Applicant would like to build a garage, with an apartment, 6' from the Right of Way boundary, Fobaire Ranch Rd, which is a 33' Public Right of Way. The variance request was sent out to the Internal Review Committee for comments. Request was presented and approved by Planning Commission on October 6, 2026. Planning Commission recommends the Board grant final approval. Linde asked Kester what the reason was for the variance. Kester said there is an issue with the topography – a small hill, with an existing septic on the bottom part, and a rock outcropping. Kester said "it is a tight lot." Hindle said he knows the place and said the variance is justified. Motion to approve by Hindle; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

4. T-Mobile Cell Tower Modification
   Western Wireless; **Current Parcel ID** #006754. Applicant, T-Mobile, submitted an application to Co-Locate on an existing wireless tower and have provided all necessary documentation required by Ordinance #15. Request was sent out to the Internal Review Committee in September. Request was presented and approved by Planning Commission on October 6, 2026. Planning Commission recommends the Board grant final approval. Motion to approve by Hartman; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye.

5. 2027 Planning Commission Meeting Schedule:
   Time: 4pm for all dates listed.
   Dates: January 5, February 2, March 2, April 6, May 4, June 1, July 13, August 3, September 14, October 6, November 2, December 7. Busskohl acknowledged.

J. **SIEM Cybersecurity Layer:** Aaron Davis, Legal Counsel

Davis began by saying, at the last Commission Meeting, Custer County's level of cybersecurity had been discussed. Davis mentioned Golden West has said the County's cybersecurity is good, but adding the SIEM layer would strengthen it. He went on to explain how certain cybersecurity layers only look at threats coming in and only deal with them at that time. Davis said what appears to have happened with the Pennington County cybersecurity breach, was, they may have had an issue that had been there for months. He explained the viruses/hackings are coming into

systems and not immediately acting. "They get in there. They look around. They see what the weaknesses are, and they basically calculate when is the most operative time for us to jump out and do something;" ex. when money is coming into the County/company. By adding the SIEM Layer, threats would not only be detected when they were coming in, but it would also be "looking at existing systems within the structure to see if there are artifacts, or if there's something in there already, and detecting that." Davis said that is just one aspect of the SIEM Layer. The second being the ongoing training to detect threats for people in the County. One of the ways these threats can come in is by someone "clicking on" something they shouldn't. Part of the training would be tests to see if a person can detect a threat such as phishing email, etc. There would also be random, mock emails sent out to people in the system to see if they can spot the threat. Davis said "with the AI that has come in and the sophistication of the bots and the viruses they are throwing at things now; what can we all do, not just the County, to protect ourselves?" One of the best things to do would be to make the County's "system as airtight as it can possibly be." Golden West quoted $726./month, roughly $7./user/month which includes training and 2 layers of cybersecurity. The setup fee would be waived with a 3-year/36 month commitment by the County. Davis is also looking to see if having the added layers of cybersecurity would help with the County's insurance rate. Hindle asked Davis if he had spoken with Sheriff Derrick Reifenrath about this. Davis said Reifenrath had been present at the Golden West presentation and that he had spoken with him, and Reifenrath agreed the added cybersecurity was a good idea. Busskohl also agreed, but wanted to revisit the issue at the 11-5-2026 Custer County Commission Meeting when key people who could not be present at today's meeting could attend. Busskohl asked Finance Officer, Dawn McLaughlin if funding for this was in the County's budget. McLaughlin said it would have to be supplemented.

K. <u>Sheriff's Department</u>

Acknowledge the hiring of Lacey Airheart as a full-time, uncertified dispatcher with a start date of 10-28-2026 at a starting wage of $22.84. Busskohl acknowledged.

L. <u>Bearded Buffalo Housing Development</u>: Trent Bruce, DGR Engineering

Bruce was at today's meeting to address concerns regarding the Bearded Buffalo Housing Development (BBHD). Bruce said the BBHD being in a flood plain was one of the concerns. He stated that a "flood plain development permit" had been applied for and was granted, and that the proposed development of this area has been included in Custer County's Flood Mitigation Plan that is being worked on through RESPEC Engineering with the help of DGR Engineering. Bruce said this proposal

was first presented in early 2022. Soon after, the City of Custer agreed to a TIF (Tax Increment Financing) process to facilitate a multi-family housing concept for the development. The TIF was contingent on the development being for multi-family housing. Bruce said the ownership of the development is different from the ownership of the Bearded Buffalo Campground. Bearded Buffalo, LLC is selling the proposed parcel to Buffalo Preserve, LLC. Transition of the land and final financing/funding are awaiting final plat approval. Bruce further stated as a condition of the TIF process, The City of Custer required the developer (Bearded Buffalo) to install a new lift station, which Bruce says, is the only lift station the City owns. The lift station was built at an elevation that would allow for new, gravity-sewer infrastructure to be extended to the west, to Granite Heights Drive, assisting with possible culvert replacement in the future. Bruce said he had worked with Highway Superintendent Jesse Doyle to obtain the plans for the culvert replacement; at which point, the culverts had already been purchased. Bruce worked with Banner, who had done the plans for "the crossing." He also obtained all the elevation sets to ensure the sewer elevation was below the culverts. Bruce and Doyle spoke in regards to waiting on the new culverts until the Flood Mitigation Study is complete. Bruce mentioned he had talked with Sheriff Reifenrath regarding concerns over sight-distance and increased traffic volume. Bruce said "you would be looking at about another 100 vehicles in movement per day." "In engineering terms that's 50 cars one way or the other;" roughly the amount that can be expected from a 36-unit apartment complex. Bruce stated "when the DOT redid the highway 15 years ago, they actually moved the access from Mineral Drive to the west; for 2 purposes: to get it higher on the hill and to separate it from Boot Hill by 1,320' which is the minimum access requirements." Bearded Buffalo Campground met with the Rich Zacher and Tim Wicks with the DOT to see what criteria they may have to meet to move forward with the project. After concerns were presented by the Custer County Commission, the DOT stated they did not have any concerns and that requirements had been met. Busskohl complimented Bruce's thoroughness in addressing the City and Commission's concerns. The Commissioners said things had been made much clearer since the last Commissioners Meeting.

M. <u>Library</u>: Sarah Myers, Library Director

Myers wanted to recognize the renewal of The Custer County Library's Exemplary Accreditation awarded by the South Dakota State Library. The Exemplary is the highest of the State Library's 2-year accreditation levels; a standard, Myers added, that the Custer County Library (CCL) has maintained for a number of years. The CCL is currently 1 of only 9 libraries in South Dakota accredited at this level out of over 100 libraries. Standards for the accreditation look at the library as a whole,

including governance, administration, access, collections and resources, staffing, technology and public relations. Myers said that even though the accreditation takes place every 3 years, meeting these standards is on-going work. She concluded with a "thank you" to the CCL staff and board members for the work they put in throughout the year to help maintain the CCL's current level of service, and to the Custer County Commission for its ongoing support as well.

Hindle and Myers discussed the use of the Pine Room for the AARP tax volunteers. Further discussion and approval will be on the Agenda for the 11-5-2026 Custer County Commissioners Meeting.

N. Custer County Christmas Party: Scott Storms, DOE Director

Cost per person from Crazy Horse is the following: 2 meat options is $32.99 per person and for 3 the cost is $37.99 which includes tax and tip. Last year there were 100 meals that were paid for at a cost of $2969. Storms asked the Commission if it wanted to have the "employee plus one" option, the 2-meal or 3-meal option, and if it wanted to cover the cost of the party. The Commission approved "employee plus one," the 2-meal option, and it will cover the cost of the party. Storms said a tentative date of December 11, 2026, had been set. Busskohl asked if anyone else had any comments. No one did. Motion to approve by Busskohl; seconded by Hartman; vote taken, all aye.

O. Custer Area Chamber of Commerce: Dawn Murray, Executive Director

1. Murray asked for approval, from the Commission, for the Custer Area Chamber of Commerce (CACC) to conduct various fundraising events to benefit the annual Custer July 4th fireworks. Murray stated in the Chamber's letter to the Commission, the approximate cost of the fireworks was listed as $28,000. Since then the cost has increased to $29,000. Murray went on to list the different fundraising events; such as:

A. Firecracker Bingo at the Gold Pan Saloon
Beginning October 27, 2026, and continuing through May 2027, we plan to host **Firecracker Bingo every Tuesday evening at 6:00 p.m. at the Gold Pan Saloon.** These fun community bingo nights will include various rounds, prizes, and opportunities for participants to support the annual fireworks display. Half of the proceeds from the bingo activities will be dedicated to the fireworks fund; with the other half going to the bingo participants.

B. Community Donation Buckets

At various times throughout the year, the Chamber will also place clearly identified donation buckets at participating businesses and community locations throughout Custer. These buckets will provide residents and visitors with an easy opportunity to contribute directly to the fireworks fund. Donation locations may vary throughout the year based on participating businesses and community events.

C. Quilt Raffle

The Chamber also plans to conduct a raffle for a handmade quilt, made by Lynette Merritt and quilted by Jody Tomac. The proceeds going directly toward the cost of the Fourth of July fireworks display. **Quilt raffle tickets will be $5 each or five (5) tickets for $20.** The drawing will be held at a designated time prior to the fireworks celebration. The raffle will be conducted in accordance with all applicable South Dakota laws and regulations.

D. Fourth of July Fireworks Raffle

In addition to the quilt raffle, the Chamber would like to conduct a special fireworks-themed raffle in which participants have the opportunity to win the unique experience of **pushing the ceremonial button to start the annual fireworks display.** Tickets would be sold for $5 each or five (5) tickets for $20, with the drawing taking place prior to the fireworks on July 4, 2027.

Motion to approve by Busskohl; seconded by Hartman; vote taken, all aye.

2. Murray requested the Use of Way Park and Adjacent Parking Areas for the Capitol Christmas Tree (CCT) Whistlestop Event. She said the CCT is coming from Idaho on its way to Washington D.C. and will be stopping in Custer on Tuesday, November 10, from approximately 4-6 pm. As part of having the CCT stop in Custer, "a ceremony of sorts" is required; thus, the request to have the use of Way Park and the parking areas for that day. The DOT, Forest Service, and Sheriff's Department have been contacted regarding the matter. Murray said the City of Custer has already approved the use of Way Park and the coinciding parking areas.

P. <u>Custer County Historical Society</u>: Deborah Hanagan, Director, 1881 Courthouse Museum

Hanagan gave a quick summary regarding repairs made to the 1881 Courthouse museum. She began by thanking the "County" for the support it gave when it came to all the repairs. The Museum received new guttering, repairs to soffits and fascia, the post and rails on the widow's walk in the front portico were

replaced, all 50 exterior windows were cleaned and painted, new insulation in the attic, and a few shingles replaced on the roof. In the interior, the courtroom floor and wainscoting were refinished, the crumbling walls in the basement were repaired. County monetary support paid for half of the total cost of repairs; several grants and a special fund-raising effort bv the Museum and Historical Society paid for the rest. Total number of visitors was 5,933 and they came from 49 U.S. states and 16 foreign countries. The Museum's special events were spectacular successes. They counted 1,133 visitors at the Old Time Country Fair/4th of July and about 450 participants at the Music on the Lawn series. The special Storytime, conducted in collaboration with the Library, focused on Revolutionary Era heroes and was well attended with 43 kids and parents. The Constitution Bee was a success with standing room only in the Courtroom during the event. In addition, the Museum continued to serve as a venue for road district meetings and a variety of history lessons.

Hanagan said the Museum will be participating in the Merchants' Trick or Trick by having 6 people dressed in costumes on the Museum's front steps. It will also be open for Veterans' Day with special exhibits displaying a large collection of military uniforms going back to the Civil War. Hanagan concluded by saying they will be open on November 10th to participate in the Capitol Christmas Tree Whistlestop Event with themed trees throughout the Museum. The Museum will be open the first 3 Saturdays of December for further viewing of the themed trees.

Q. Commission

1. HVAC – Joe Panza said Dennis Supply Company had quoted an equipment cost estimate of approximately $60,000. to JAM and Custer Heating & AC. The equipment cost estimate does not include any of the line sets. Panza spoke with Joe from JAM and was told the line sets will need to be done. They did discuss the possibility of being able to clean and reuse the line sets, but that would only be a temporary solution. Panza has not had the opportunity to speak with Bob from Custer Heating & AC regarding the line sets.
2. Amber Maidens, HR Dir.; Discussion and approval of 2027 Calendar.
   December 23rd – ½ day off; December 24th – full day off
   Motion to approve by Busskohl; seconded by Hartman; vote taken, all aye.
3. Meeting Schedule – Meet & Greet 10-26; Flu Shots 10-26 at Custer County Courthouse; Election 11-3; Custer County Commissioners Meeting 11-5
4. Meeting Reports – Hindle, City of Custer Awards Banquet; Custer City Council Meeting at City Hall regarding the Granite Heights issue. Linde, Custer City Council Meeting; Senior Center Meeting. Lintz, Weed Board Meeting; Fair Board Meeting; Fire Advisory Meeting. Busskohl, Search & Rescue; Fire Advisory Meeting; Custer City Council Meeting; Sit-down with Custer City Mayor Brown and a couple of City Council people to discuss the Bearded Buffalo & Granite Heights issue. Hartman, sat in on Custer County Sheriff Deputy interviews.

R. Executive Session

Motion to enter and exit Executive Sessions as per SDCL 1-25-2(3) Legal SDCL 1-25-21(1) Personnel; SDCL 28-13-42 Indigent made by Busskohl; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried. Executive Session entered at 9:15 AM and concluded at 10:17 AM.

S. Actions Taken by Commission Outside of Executive Session

None

T. Adjourn

Motion by Busskohl and seconded by Hindle to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 AM. The next meeting will be at 8:00 AM, Thursday, November 5, 2026, in the Commissioner's Room in the Custer County Courthouse.

Jim Lintz, Chairman

Attest: Stacy A. Armbruster

Stacy Armbruster, Custer County Deputy Auditor

COUNTY AUDITOR SEAL CUSTER, SOUTH DAKOTA

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