

## **Minutes of the Custer County Commission Meeting, Thursday, November 7, 2024.**

### **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. Election Board meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.**

### **B. Canvass Election**

1. Deputy Auditor, Dana Benjamin, presented election results for board canvass and approval, as well as reviewing the election process. He stated Custer County had a 76% voter turnout (6,079 ballots, of which 3,186 were absentee). He congratulated re-elected Commissioners Hartman and Busskohl and thanked all those who helped with the election, including ROD, DOE, Treasurers, Planning, Highway and Dispatch employees. Benjamin also thanked the Sheriff's office for speaking at election class and for their presence during the election. He thanked the citizens for helping, as well. He noted the Total Vote system (which verifies registered voters' status) went down statewide for approximately 3 hours; during which time misinformation was posted on social media. While awaiting instruction from the Secretary of State's office, Benjamin and staff used the poll pads to verify voter registrations. It was also noted there were more absentee ballots cast this election than during covid. A drawing was held to determine the races that will be hand-counted during the November 21, 2024 post-election audit. This is done to compare and verify the machine-tabulated results. The two races that will be hand-counted are: statewide race Amendment H; local race for Commissioner. The ballots to be hand counted will be specific to Precinct 5. A board will be selected to conduct the hand count and this process will be open to the public. Finance Officer, Dawn McLaughlin, commended her staff for their hard work and great team effort. She stated this election could not happen without it. Motion to approve election canvass results made by Hartman; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried. The approved election canvass will be sent to the Secretary of State's office.

2. Motion to adjourn as Election Board at 8:11 AM made by Hindle; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

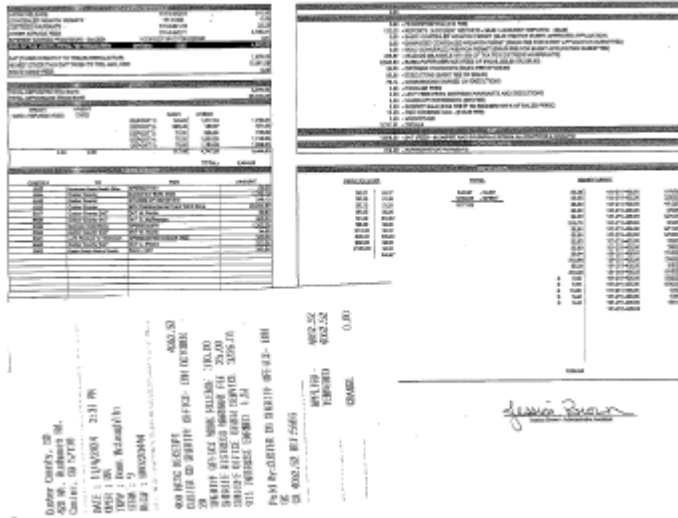
**\*\*\*CUSTER COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING\*\*\***

### **C. Adopting of the agenda**

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

**D. Consent Agenda**

1. Approve Minutes of the October 23, 2024 Commission meeting.
2. Monthly reports as follows:



3. Vouchers approved as follows:

**PAYROLL:** Commissioners \$5,450.80; Commissioners Longevity \$4,908.84; Election \$3,967.72; Auditor \$13,777.12; Auditor Longevity \$1,227.21; Treasurer \$13,014.25; Treasurer Longevity \$3,552.45; Info Systems & Tech \$3,310.41; Info Systems & Tech Longevity \$1,291.80; States Attorney \$14,815.94; States Attorney Longevity \$8,267.52; Courthouse Building \$ 9,515.62; Director of Equalization \$12,714.99; Director of Equalization Longevity \$3,875.40; Register of Deeds \$5,576.28; Register of Deeds Longevity \$2,325.24; Veterans Services \$2,046.80; Human Resources \$1,751.95; Sheriff \$55,688.88; Sheriff Longevity \$8,009.16; Coroner \$837.03; Nurse \$1,001.37; Library \$11,413.28; Library Longevity \$2,002.29; Conservation \$848.51; Weed & Pest Control \$3,551.15; Planning \$7,388.40; Planning Longevity \$1,550.16; County Road and Bridge \$46,226.09; County Road and Bridge Longevity \$10,076.04; Emergency Management \$2,796.36; 24/7 Sobriety \$989.89; Emergency Line F \$18,357.01; Emergency Line F \$2,454.42.

**COMMISSIONERS:** Black Hills Energy \$236.37; SDML Workers \$9,359; Selena Spring \$1,830; Southern Hills Publishing \$328.06; Valhalla \$1,220.

**ELECTION:** ES&S \$1,547.49; Southern Hills Publishing \$2,049.01.

**COURT APPOINTED ATTORNEY:** Southern Hills Law \$4,589.89.

**IST:** SDML Workers \$39.

**ANIMAL CONTROL:** SD Game Fish & Parks \$872.30.

**AUDITOR:** Golden West Technologies \$87.50; Quill \$78.57; SD State Treasurer \$126.17; SDML Workers \$156; Southern Hills Publishing \$124.51; Tyler Technologies \$40,302.64.

**TREASURER:** Quill \$25.58; SDML Workers \$195.

**STATE'S ATTORNEY:** Bridgette R. Banks \$395.20; Culligan Water \$39.80; Ione Wolf \$27; Relx \$467; SDML Wrokers \$280; State Bar of SD \$540.

**MAINTENANCE:** Black Hills Chemical \$1,394.64; Black Hills Energy \$3,738.97; City of Custer \$1,977.87; Custer Ace Hardware \$241.06; Hills Septic \$550; SDML Workers \$3,168; Thyssenkrupp Elevator \$397.84.

**DIRECTOR OF EQUALIZATION:** SDML Workers \$1,961; Splish Splash Car Wash \$10.

**REGISTER OF DEEDS:** Quill \$121.98; SDML Workers \$78; State of South Dakota \$47.25; Tyler Technologies \$6,253.47.

**VETERANS SERVICES:** SDML Workers \$39.

**HUMAN RESOURCES:** SDML Workers \$39.

**NURSE:** SDML Workers \$27.

**INFO TECHNOLOGY:** Golden West Technologies \$7,358.

**SHERIFF:** Creative Product Sourcing \$330.37; Fedex \$18.93; Great Western Tire \$796.36; Pheasantland Industries \$78.49; Pomp's Tire Service \$1,265.80; SDML Workers \$15,419.

**PRISONER CARE:** Mike Bielmaier \$225; Monument Health \$48.52; Pennington County Jail \$124.44; Sharon Bielmaier \$75; South Dakota Public Health Laboratory \$165.

**CORONER:** Monument Health \$2,000; SDML Workers \$55.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** New Trails Ministry \$300.

**AIRPORT:** Brendan Hendrickson \$4,315.50; R.P. Lumber \$17.97; SDML Workers \$862.

**LIBRARY:** SDML Workers \$278.

**FAIR:** Custer County Fair Association \$8,000; SDML Workers \$859.

**EXTENSION:** SDML Workers \$39.

**WEED & PEST:** Be Dog Gone \$100; Culligan Water \$13.90; Fall River County \$152.40; SDML Workers \$2,461; Tim Tennyson \$1,000.

**PLANNING:** SDML Workers \$801; Splish Splash Car Wash \$28.

**COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE:** Black Hills Energy \$65.29; Brosz Engineering \$12,420; Culligan Water \$6.95; Custer Ace Hardware \$31.58; Floyd's Truck Center \$1,236.63; French Creek Supply \$496.87; Great Western Tire \$11,769.70; Kieffer Sanitation \$308.38; Partsons NAPA \$36.16; SDML Workers \$22,394; Servall Towel & Linen \$103.01.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:** SDML Workers \$1,392.

**FIRE PROTECTION:** SDML Workers \$5,297.

**SEARCH & RESCUE:** SDML Workers \$765.

**24/7 SOBRIETY:** SDML Workers \$117.

**EMERGENCY LINE:** Headsets Direct \$298.02; Quill \$38.98; Range \$24.75; SDML Workers \$195; Splish Splash Car Wash \$20.77.

Motion to table approval of Consent Agenda until after Item "Q" Executive Session made by Busskohl; seconded by Hartman; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

**E. Conflict of Interest Declarations – none.**

**F. Sheriff's Department**

1. Sheriff Marty Mechaley presented 2024 Law Enforcement contract between City of Custer and Custer County for approval. He noted the amount has increased \$10K this year. Commissioner Busskohl asked that Commissioners be present at the next contract negotiation with Custer City. Motion to approve the contract made by Hartman; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

2. Mechaley stated that Pennington County would like to confer with both Custer and Fall River Counties regarding possible jail expansion. He said his department has had an opening for a deputy position for the past 4 months, but wages need to be higher to attract applicants. He said higher wages are also necessary to help prevent high turnover rates. The Commission will look into the matter.

**G. Maintenance**

1. Maintenance Supervisor, Joseph Panza, spoke regarding OMNIA Partners Program concerning the HVAC system. There have been earlier talks with Rod Fortin and Bruce Hintz regarding OMNIA and it was noted many counties have used this option. Panza stated he needs Commission input before getting final numbers for the HVAC system upgrade. Finance Officer McLaughlin also noted the BHCLG financing as well as refinancing through other government programs. Commissioners Hindle, Busskohl and Linde recommended moving forward with the process. Motion to approve moving forward made by Hindle; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

**H. Planning**

1. Planning Director, Terri Kester presented Final Plat of: LOTS 1 THRU 5 OF H.E.S NO. 477, LOCATED IN THE SE ¼ OF SECTION 10 AND NE ¼ OF SECTION 15, T5S, R5E, BHM, CUSTER COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA re: Ron Bradeen, applicant, for Commission approval. Kester stated the proposed 5 lots have already sold. This was presented to the Planning Commission on 9-3-24, where approval was recommended. Motion to approve made by Busskohl; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

2. Kester shared that there were 362 children who participated in the Merchant Trick or Treat. She thanked the Commission for their support and noted that "Woody" was a big hit with the trick or treaters.

**I. Christmas Party**

1. Teri Morgan discussed the December 13, 2024 Custer County Employee

Christmas Party. She stated that Crazy Horse is available to host the event at a cost of \$26.99 per person (same rate as 2023). Morgan said there were a total of 87 people at the party last year. Raffle items are available for viewing in the Register of Deed's office. (these items are paid for by employee donations). Motion to approve hosting employee +1 at Crazy Horse made by Hartman; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

## **J. Highlands VFD**

1. The Commission acknowledged the 2024 updated HVFD roster.

## **K. Airport**

1. Request for approval of payment of invoice from Dakota Appraisers, LLC. in the amount of \$8,000. Motion to approve made by Hartman; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

2. Discussion was held regarding conveyance of NFS lands to Custer County. Travis Hirshey from Mead & Hunt spoke to the Commission and proposed putting together a strategy to move forward with funding options. He noted possible FAA reimbursement with limitations. He would like to have a short workshop to align ideas and expectations. The purchase price of the NFS land has been reduced to \$550K for the 63.25 acre property; it was noted that \$500K was set aside in 2019 for this purchase. Further funding options were discussed and the Commission agreed they intend to move forward with the purchase.

## **L. Weed & Pest**

1. Weed & Pest Supervisor, Mike Baldwin made request for approval and Chairman's signature on letters regarding prairie dog complaints. In some areas, prairie dogs have moved from private properties onto public rights of way. The State's Attorney has reviewed the issue and recommended the board take action. The letters from the Conservation board pertain to voluntary compliance with time of action to be determined. Motion to approve Chairman's signature made by Linde; seconded by Busskohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

## **M. Emergency Management**

1. EMS Director, Steve Esser, presented 2025 LEPC Grant Agreement for Chairman's signature. Motion to approve signature made by Hartman; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

## **N. Public Comment**

1. Custer County Coroner, James Sanders, made a request for Executive Session during today's meeting.

## **O. Human Resources**

1. Todd Fish presented and requested approval of 2024 Performance Review and Bonus letters of instruction. He also discussed bonus submissions and noted that Legal Counsel Davis has reviewed and approved the letter formats. Fish stated that performance reviews will be conducted each year moving forward. If no annual reviews are presented to HR, then annual raises will not be received. Motion to approve Annual Performance Letter made by Hartman; seconded by Buszkohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

2. Fish noted that the Bonus letter allows for submission up to 30% of each department's employees. He stated that submission does not equate to guarantee of received bonus. Motion to approve Bonus letter made by Buszkohl; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

#### **P. Commission**

1. Mail call – none.
2. Meeting Schedule – McLaughlin referenced BH Association meeting to take place December 6, 2024 at Oglala. McLaughlin, Morgan and Lintz plan on attending; McLaughlin would like to discuss rescheduling of December's Commission meetings at the 11-20-24 meeting; post-election audit will be held 11-21-24 in the Commission room.
3. Meeting Reports –Linde attended Planning Commission; Buszkohl attended Pringle/Argyle VFD fundraiser; Merchant Trick or Treating; City Council and Planning Commission; Hartman attended Planning Commission and noted that these meetings are posted and are open to the public.

#### **Q. Executive Session**

1. Motion to enter into the following Executive Sessions made by Buszkohl; seconded by Linde; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.
  - a) Executive Session as per SDCL 1-25-21(1) Personnel.
  - b) Executive Session as per SDCL 28-13.42 Indigent

Executive Session entered into at 8:51 AM and concluded at 10:03 AM.

#### **R. Actions Taken By Commission Outside of Executive Session**

1. Motion to grant indigent request for cremation in the amount of \$2,000 with the caveat that the family also contribute \$400 made by Hartman; seconded by Buszkohl; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

#### **S. Consent Agenda**

1. Motion to approve Consent Agenda, excepting therefrom payment to Selena Springs until all files, presentations, any and all property paid for with Custer County funds regarding formation of Custer Fire District are returned to Custer County, at

which time payment will be released to Springs made by Buszkohl; seconded by Hindle; vote taken, all aye; motion carried.

**T. Adjourn**

1. Motion by Hartman and seconded by Linde to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 AM; vote taken, all aye; motion carried. The next meeting will be at 8:00 AM, November 20, 2024 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 \_\_\_\_\_.