

Hand County Board of Commissioners
Miller, South Dakota
Commission Chambers (video via Facebook Live)
October 6, 2020

Chairman Jim Jones brought the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. with commissioners Greg Palmer, Gib Rodgers and Luke Wernsmann present. Commissioner Jim Eschenbaum appeared by video link.

The consent agenda items were approved upon motion of Palmer/Rodgers (passed). These items included: Changing fall and winter commission meetings to 1 pm beginning in November, approval of the minutes from September 1 and September 23, 2020, review of building permits from the zoning office, review of the Register of Deeds statement of fees, setting of Zachory West's (deputy sheriff) pay at \$18.30 per hour, receipt of the library board minutes and financial report, declaring the following county property surplus (SDCL 6-13-1) as it is no longer useful: 1986 IHC F1954 [VIN: 1HTLKVR7GHA56728, Asset # GEN00372], 1995 Ford Lt8000F Strait Truck [VIN: 1FDYU82E7SVA44903, Asset # GEN00799], used bridge decking, scrap iron and used tires, and approval to employ Charles Fawcett at \$16 per hour when working in place of the emergency manager.

Ann Price, 4-H Director, met with the commissioners to provide a report on recent activities. Price said the fair, in its modified form went well. A modified 4-H banquet is also being planned. Price also informed the commissioners that Mike Moncur resigned from the Hand County Leaders Association. Stephanie Cavenee and Suzanne Keck will run that association for now.

Shane Croeni, sheriff, requested a classification change for Colleen Peterman, moving her from part-time, up to 19 hours, to part-time working up to 24.75 hours per week. This will allow her to cover during emergencies, special call in situations and when others are absent. The change was approved on motion of Palmer/Rodgers (passed).

Croeni also asked the board to approve the hire of Joshua Zweber as a part-time deputy sheriff, up to 19 hours per week. Croeni requested Zweber be paid \$19.85 per hour as a certified officer. It was moved by Palmer/Rodgers (passed) to employ and pay Zweber as requested.

The Iowa bid contract for the 2021 Chevy Tahoe was received and filed. The order to delivery date is still unknown.

Doug DeBoer, auditor, requested the board take action on the proposed policy changes related to: Revised Funeral Leave, Revised Annual Leave, payment of accumulated leave upon separation, accumulated leave by type / class of employee, sick leave definitions by employee type/class and formal adoption of a previous policy change moving the use of accumulated sick and annual leave to 6 months instead of 12 months. These policy changes were approved by motion of Wernsmann/Palmer (passed).

DeBoer requested that the commissioners authorize him to offer eight "Automark" tables to another governmental entity along with 2 canvas and aluminum voting booths. If the items go unclaimed; they may be destroyed. The request was approved by motion of Palmer/Rodgers (passed).

Lastly, DeBoer informed the commissioners that he had applied for and was approved for a grant to purchase election equipment and supplies in the amount of \$5,000 from the Center for Tech and Civic Life. The program is called CTCL Covid-19 Response Grant program. It was moved by Wernsmann/Palmer (passed) to participate in the program / grant.

Kecia Beranek, On Hand Development Corp, met with the board to brief them on recent activities and programming. A program of interest is an incentive program to help recruit new employees to local businesses and to list employment opportunities on their website.

In the absence of Veteran Service Officer David Johnson, auditor Doug DeBoer presented the written agreement that Hyde County provided for the joint office to serve both counties. It was moved by Rodgers/Wernsmann (passed) to approve the agreement and work out the operational details at a later date.

The library director, Mary Brietling, secured a pair of grants to provide funding in the amount of \$5,000 for computer equipment, \$1,619.99 for wages, and \$172.60 for computer peripherals [\$6,793 total] from the South Dakota Humanities. The second funding mechanism came from the State of South Dakota in the amount of \$2,000. It was moved by Palmer/Wernsmann (passed) to accept the grant funds, and to have the auditor transfer the unexpected revenue into the library's expenditure account.

The agenda item related to the future operation of the rubble site was deferred to an executive session as the main topic would center on qualifications of the manager. No action was taken on the advertising of the position, setting of wages, and dumping fees.

Will Page, custodian, provided a written summary of activities. Most notably was the interest of Midwest Construction and Pierce and Harris Engineering in being general contractors for the elevator project. It was agreed that the conversation would be better with Page present. No action was taken.

Jeff Hargens, highway superintendent, met with the board on various topics, the first being the receipt of Bob LeGrand's resignation which was filed in the auditor's office. LeGrand then filed a letter stating that he did not want to resign. Because the documents had been filed, auditor DeBoer requested that the board decide what action to take. It was the consensus of the board that no action would be taken given that the request is now neutral.

It was moved by Rodgers/Wernsmann (passed) to approve the purchase Hargens previously made to buy a Landpride 84 Angle Broom (SN: 731861) from Mid-Dakota Rural Water for \$3,500.

Hargens provided updates on the following projects: The bridge replacement in Burdette Township is nearing completion. It was moved by Palmer/Wernsmann (passed) to approve True-North Steel's request for payment in the amount of \$176,680.43 on that project. It was moved by Wernsmann/Palmer (passed) to approve the transfer the unexpected revenue from the Federal DOT grant to the highway expenditure budget to cover the project costs.

Hargens also reported that the bridge on the Green Valley Road south of 208th Street (carried over from last month) was remeasured and found to be 19' 8" and thus too small to remain on the county inventory. It was agreed that the bridge needs repairs and that a mechanism is in place for the township and county to co-op in the improvements. Hargens said all of the other issues between the landowners and the township are being handled by the attorney for the South Dakota Association of Towns and Townships. Dennis Fawcett, township board member, confirmed that is the current plan.

Hargens said the by-pass around the flooded township road in Harrison Township was ready for traffic but little progress had been made on a by-pass for the flooded road in Plato Township. Hargens said he must meet with the land owner and an engineer to develop the plan.

Hargens said the Pearl Creek dike had received a temporary repair. The creek is mostly dry and the crops had been harvested around the dike. More permanent repairs are to be made. Discussion turned to establishing an agreement with the land owner(s) on who would take over the dike after the final repairs are made. Hargens is to speak with the land owner(s) involved.

Hargens presented a royalty request from Lee Alan Teveldahl for gravel mining in Bates Township. Teveldahl asked for \$2.70 per ton. Hargens said the going rate was \$1.50. The commissioners took no action on the item. The commissioners suggested Hargens attempt to negotiate a more equitable price.

Hargens asked the commissioners to approve the hire of Calvin Novacek as an equipment operator and set his wage at \$17.85 per hour. Novacek already has his Class A commercial license. It was moved by Wernsmann/Palmer (passed) to approve the hire.

The commission discussed the concept of employing or promoting someone to the position of Assistant Highway Superintendent. It was agreed that the person hired would work to promote field operations so Hargens could devote more time to administration, or in the alternative, have someone work more on administration and Hargens can focus on operations.

Hargens was given the approval to inform his employees of the position and see if any of them are interested in applying and interviewing with the commission.

A personnel issue related to the employees at the highway department was deferred to the previously mentioned executive session.

Commissioners moved to discussion of the proposed wheel tax. The wheel tax has been an agenda item for nearly 12 months. The discussion over that time focused on a requirement of counties to have a wheel tax in place so they could access the funds in the state's "Bridge Improvement Grant" dubbed the "BIG Fund". The BIG Fund was created by legislative action in 2015 to provide seven million dollars in funding to local governments for improvements. The money comes from a tax imposed on license plate fees. These fees have been on Hand County title actions since adoption but Hand County cannot apply for funds unless a wheel tax and five-year road improve plan are in place. A link to view the BIG Fund program and Hand County wheel tax ordinance can be found at <http://hand.sdcounties.org/commission/public-content>

It was moved by Wernsmann/Rodgers (passed unanimously) to enact Ordinance 2020-06 entitled "AN ORDINANCE TO ENACT A WHEEL TAX OF \$5.00 FOR EACH WHEEL WITH MAXIMUM OF \$60.00 FOR EACH VEHICLE AND PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND COLLECTION THEREOF", this being its first reading.

Discussion followed as to when to have the 2nd reading of the ordinance. It was concluded by the commissioners to have the second reading at the November 5th regular meeting to give residents sufficient time to read about the ordinance in the Miller Press and formulate questions. John Page of the Miller Press was asked to report on the pending wheel tax so the public could understand what the commissioners have been working on and discussing. [The information will also be published on the county's Facebook page.]

The commission, upon motion of Wernsmann/Palmer (passed) to convene in executive session to discuss personnel and qualifications of employees related to the rubble site manager and assistant highway superintendent positions. Jeff Hargens and Doug DeBoer were also present. [10:56 A.M.]

At 11:56 a.m. it was moved by Wernsmann/Palmer (passed) to leave executive session and reconvene the open meeting. It was moved by Wernsmann/Palmer (passed) to promote Rodney Gortmaker Jr. from season to regular full-time and to change his wage from \$16 to \$17.85 per hour retroactive to October 1, 2020.

Despite extensive discussion on the rubble site operation and re-creation of the assistant highway superintendent's position, it was determined more investigation was needed in creating job descriptions and finding suitable wages, therefore it was decided to take no action in changing any current personnel except that Jeff Hargens may inform his staff of the pending change and those interested can complete an application or submit a resume. If no one is promoted, the position will be published in the Miller Press.

It was also noted that the vacancy left in promoting Gortmaker to full time leaves an opening in the seasonal position. Hargens was given authority to fill based on recent advertisement for hired help.

At 11:59 it was moved by Wernsmann/Palmer (passed) to adjourn the meeting.

[The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2020 at 1 p.m. The auditor will publish a legal notice of the alternate meeting date.]

Claims submitted for payment: For: BOARD OF COUNTY COMM		
CONNECTING POINT	BACK UP (2)	40.00
ON HAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	MONTHLY SUPPORT	2500.00

		2540.00
For: ELECTIONS*****		
CARDMEMBER SERVICES	ELECTION SUPPLIES	69.99
CK WELDING & REPAIR LLC	DROP BOX FOR BALLOTS	324.33
ELECTION SYSTEMS &	BALLOTS	852.23
OFFICE PEEPS, INC.	ENVELOPES	473.78
SCOTT GIBSON CONSTRUCTION	ATTACH DROP BOX IN ENTRY	52.08
THE MILLER PRESS	DDROP BOX SIGN	4.00

		1776.41
For: JUDICIAL SYSTEM*****		
SDACC	CATASTROPHIC LEGAL EXP FUND	3636.00

		3636.00
For: AUDITOR*****		
A & B BUSINESS, INC.	COPIER MAINTENANCE CONTRACT	34.21
BEST WESTERN RAMKOTA HOTEL	ROOM AT FALL CONVENTION	199.98
CONNECTING POINT	REPROGRAMMING FOR INTERNET	46.25
DOUGLUS DEAN DE BOER	MILEAGE	89.76
MCLEODS PRINTING & OFFICE SUP.	TAX NOTICES (SPLIT)	143.46
PITNEY BOWES	POSTAGE METER LEASE	321.84

		835.50
For: TREASURER*****		
CONNECTING POINT	REPROGRAMMING FOR INTERNET	46.25
SHERRIL K. KOECK	MEALS	179.18
MCLEODS PRINTING & OFFICE SUP.	TAX NOTICES (SPLIT)	143.46

		-----	368.89
For: STATES ATTORNEY*****			
ELTON ANSON	MILEAGE		37.80
ANSON LAW	RENT		325.00
ANSON LAW	SUPPLIES		312.50
ANSON LAW	UTILITIES		300.00
AVERA HAND CO. MEMORIAL HOSPIT	BLOOD TEST		102.00
BEADLE COUNTY AUDITOR	VICTIM/WITNESS COORDINATOR FEE		1375.00
SD DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	BLOOD TOXICOLOGY		40.00
		-----	2492.30
For: COURT APP. ATTORNEY*			
VOLESKY LAW OFFICE	COURT APPOINTED ATTORNEY		7213.00
		-----	7213.00
For: GOV. BUILDING*****			
AMERIPRIDE SERVICES, INC.	SUPPLIES		294.23
BOB'S DISPOSAL SERVICE	GARBAGE DISPOSAL		200.00
BUILDERS CASHWAY, INC.	SUPPLIES		6.94
COLONIAL RESEARCH CHEMICAL	CLEANING SUPPLIES		81.04
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY	BOILER INSP & CERTIFICATION		120.00
HOUSE OF GLASS, INC.	MILEAGE & LABOR		372.00
HOUSE OF GLASS, INC.	PARTS		84.06
HUGHES ELECTRIC, LLC	VENTURE TRANSITION		484.23
MID AMERICAN RESEARCH CHEMICAL	CLEANING SUPPLIES		168.06
MIDWEST PIPE LINING	LINING SEWER PIPES		23145.96
CITY OF MILLER	UTILITIES		1213.59
		-----	26170.11
For: DIR. OF EQUAL*****			
A & B BUSINESS, INC.	COPIER MAINTENANCE CONTRACT		27.50
AMERICAN SOLUTIONS FOR BUSINES	SUPPLIES		153.17
CONNECTING POINT	REPROGRAMMING FOR INTERNET		46.25
MCLEODS PRINTING & OFFICE SUP.	SUPPLIES		45.45
THE MILLER PRESS	PROPERTY CARDS		75.00
		-----	347.37
For: REG. OF DEEDS*****			
AMERICAN SOLUTIONS FOR BUSINES	SUPPLIES		62.88
CONNECTING POINT	LABOR & REPROGR INTERNET		106.25
OFFICE PEEPS, INC.	SUPPLIES		32.12
		-----	201.25
For: SHERIFF*****			
DIGITAL ALLY	CAMERA FOR NEW VEHICLE (SPLIT)		1422.50
MIDCO BUSINESS	TERMINATION OF SERVICES		127.50
NARTEC	DRUG TEST KITS		84.56
OFFICE PEEPS, INC.	SUPPLIES		74.15
PETTY CASH	POSTAGE		13.95
SOUTH DAKOTA ARMS CO., LLC	AMMUNITION		145.00
TONY'S REPAIR	REPAIRS		437.67
TWIN VALLEY TIRE OF MILLER	MAINTENANCE		69.65
TWIN VALLEY TIRE OF MILLER	MAINTENANCE		126.95

VISA	CELL PHONES	159.40

		2661.33
For: JAIL*****		
BEADLE COUNTY SHERIFF	PRISONER CARE	3300.00
DIGITAL ALLY	CAMERA FOR NEW VEHICLE (SPLIT)	1422.50
MIDCO BUSINESS	TERMINATION OF SERVICES	127.50
PETTY CASH	SUPPLIES	18.87
VISA	DRUG TESTS/USB	431.22

		5300.09
For: CORONER*****		
TIFFANY A. HOFER	CORONER SERVICES (2)	116.00
TIFFANY A. HOFER	SUPPLIES	76.45
TIFFANY A. HOFER	MILEAGE	14.38

		206.83
For: COUNTY NURSE*****		
HAND CO MEMORIAL HOSPITAL INC.	COUNTY HEALTH NURSE (2 MO)	5908.42

		5908.42
For: MENTAL HEALTH*****		
CENTER FOR INDEPENDENCE	MONTHLY SUPPORT (2 MO)	360.00

		360.00
For: LIBRARY*****		
A & B BUSINESS, INC.	COPIER MAINTENANCE CONTRACT	50.46
BLACKSTONE PUBLISHING	AUDIO BOOKS	158.23
BOB'S DISPOSAL SERVICE	GARBAGE DISPOSAL	42.00
BOB'S GAS	PROPANE	180.00
HUGHES ELECTRIC, LLC	AC REPAIR	624.60
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES	BOOKS	207.70
MICROFIX	COMPUTER TOWERS (2)	2000.00
CITY OF MILLER	UTILITIES	422.17
RECORDED BOOKS, LLC	AUDIO BOOKS	152.99

		3838.15
For: WEED CONTROL*****		
AA MOTORSPORTS, LLC	MAINTENANCE	128.97
BOB'S GAS	PROPANE	1450.00
CARDMEMBER SERVICES	COPIER & INK	117.77
FARNAM'S GENUINE PARTS, INC.	SUPPLIES	6.29
MARLE'S REPAIR	MAINTENANCE	167.46
CITY OF MILLER	UTILITIES	642.99
OAKLEY FARM & RANCH SUPPLY	SUPPLIES	3.10

		2516.58
For: HWY RDS BRIDGES*****		
AMERIPRIDE SERVICES, INC.	SUPPLIES	1344.12
AVERA HAND CO. MEMORIAL HOSPIT	BLOOD TEST	105.00
BOB'S DISPOSAL SERVICE	GARBAGE DISPOSAL (2)	100.00
BOB'S GAS	PROPANE	150.00
BOB'S GAS	PROPANE	190.00
BUTLER MACHINERY	SUPPLIES	1819.23

CK WELDING & REPAIR LLC	SUPPLIES	13.30
DAKOTA OIL	SUPPLIES	130.75
FLINT HILLS RESOURCES LP	ROAD OIL	117913.77
HARTMAN CONSTRUCTION	EXCAVATING WORK	15758.54
HARTMAN CONSTRUCTION	TRAILER RENT	1020.41
HARTMAN CONSTRUCTION	2000 TON PIT RUN	5812.50
MARLE'S REPAIR	SUPPLIES	696.00
MICHAEL TODD AND COMPANY	SUPPLIES	625.66
MIDCO BUSINESS	PHONE & INTERNET SERVICE	166.71
MID-DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEM	LANDPRIDE ANGLE BROOM	3500.00
CITY OF MILLER	UTILITIES	353.28
SHEILA MUELLENBERG	STOCKPILE CHIPS	57400.00
OAKLEY FARM & RANCH SUPPLY	SUPPLIES	312.64
OAKLEY REPAIR	REPAIRS	575.42
OFFICE EQUIPMENT SERVICE	SUPPLIES	129.50
PRODUCTIVITY PLUS ACCOUNT	SUPPLIES	400.65
PRORATE SERVICES	DRUG TEST RESULTS	80.00
CHRIS SCHAEFERS	SUPPLIES	33.19
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	COST SHARE ~ BRIDGE WORK	13751.65
STOBBS SALES INC.	REPAIRS	436.72
TRANSOURCE TRUCK & EQUIPMENT	SUPPLIES	156.24
TRUENORTH STEEL, INC.	CULVERT	27548.70
TWIN VALLEY TIRE OF MILLER	MAINTENANCE	399.55
WARNE CHEMICAL & EQ CO	FLOW JET PUMP	139.20

		251062.73
For: E-911*****		
CITY OF HURON	E-911 CHARGES	2652.23
VISA	ANTENNAES	440.49

		3092.72
For: EMERG. & DIS. SERV.*		
KESSLER'S	SUPPLIES	9.90
OFFICE PEEPS, INC.	SUPPLIES	1327.65
VISA	CELL PHONE	50.74

		1388.29

Total Checks: 321915.97