

HAND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Doug DeBoer – Auditor as Clerk for the Commissioners

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Hand County Board of Commissioners
Miller, South Dakota
Commission Chambers (video via Facebook Live)
January 5, 2021

Chairman Jim Jones brought the meeting to order at 1 pm with commissioners Gib Rodgers, Greg Palmer, Jim Eschenbaum and Luke Wernsmann present.

The first order of business was the annual election among the commissioners to determine the chairman and vice-chairman. It was moved by Jones, seconded by Wernsmann, after calling for nominations three times, that Gib Rodgers be elected chairman by unanimous ballot. The motion carried.

Chairman Rodgers called for nominations for vice-chair. After three calls for nominations, it was moved by Wernsmann, seconded by Jones to elect Greg Palmer as vice-chairman by unanimous ballot. The motion carried.

Auditor DeBoer asked that a plat of The Olson's Outlot 1 be added to the consent agenda as it was inadvertently removed during editing of the agenda. Chairman Rodgers approved the addition with the consent of the board.

Auditor DeBoer then reviewed the other items on the consent agenda. Upon motion of Wernsmann & Palmer, passed, the consent agenda was approved and the following items along with it: December 1, 2020 minutes, claims for payment, publication of the snow removal policies for county and secondary highways, prisoner care contracts for Beadle, Charles Mix and Faulk Counties, NECOG's joint cooperative agreement (membership), holidays for 2021, and setting of a budget supplemental hearing for February 2.

The consent agenda also included the receipt of the minutes from the library board for their November 20 meeting and the Weed and Pest board from their December 1st meeting.

Other items approved included: purging the following employees from the payroll system (a formality): Bryton Black, Nick Laidlaw, Wesley Bowsher, Zach Weber, Mike Mareska, Bernie Huisman, Deb Bushfield, Marlys Aune and Shae Knox.

Lastly, a request to add the position of "PRN" which is "pro re nata" or "as needed" as the title given to unscheduled part time employees and to change board members for library and weed & pest to per-diem if allowed by statute and administrative rule.

The salaries and wage schedule for 2021 was explained by the auditor and approved upon motion of Wernsmann/Jones, and passed. 2021 Wages enumerated: (Department head listed first) **Commissioners:** Gib Rodgers, Luke Wernsmann, Jim Jones, Greg Palmer and Jim Eschenbaum all \$8,506.32 annually. **Sheriff:** Shane Croeni-\$52,834.32 annually. Hourly civilian staff: Full time: Chelsea Price-\$17.01, Part time: Colleen Peterman-\$14.88, PRN: Sandra Selting-\$14.24 and Theresa Lichty-\$14.24. Certified

Deputies: Full time: Isaac Sauder-\$20.19, Brandon Fisher-\$20.94.
Certified Deputies-PRN: Tala Sandness, Jim Keeter and Jon Dunlap-\$20.21,
Joshua Zweber-\$20.19. **Highway:** Jeff Hargens-\$53,814.72 annually. Hourly
full time: Chris Schaefer-\$17.01, Daniel Fischer-\$18.17, Robert LeGrand,
Vonn Starks, Lance DeHaai, Jeff Phinney, Gary Neyens, Tony Moss, Dwight
Aymar, Rick Oligmueller, Rodney Gortmaker, Jr., Calvin Novacek all \$18.08.
Hayden Peterman & Casey Gates-\$16.05. PRN: Alan Slunecka-\$16.27 and Caleb
DeBoer-\$14.24. **States Attorney:** Elton Anson-\$48,009.00 annually. Hourly:
Rebekah Koeck-\$23.95. **Auditor:** Doug DeBoer-\$45,189.48 annually. Hourly:
Carolyn Forman-\$17.01. **Treasurer:** Sheri Koeck-\$45,189.48 annually.
Hourly: Kim Fanning-\$17.01. **Registrar:** Suzy Wernsmann-\$45,189.48 annually.
Hourly: Shaney Davis-\$16.96. **Assessor:** Terry Augspurger-\$42,256.20
annually. Hourly: Pearl Klages-\$17.01. **Library:** Mary Breitling-\$19,549.32
annually, PRN: Ray Caffee-\$15.62, Deb Bushfield-\$15.47, Connie Schroeder,
Hannah Caffee and Deb Munger-\$14.24. Board Members: Mike Anglin, Mike
Donlin, Andrea Fiala, Gloria Keck and Marianne Peterka-\$12 per meeting.
Weed & Pest: Randy Peck-\$37,656.84 annually. Hourly PRN: Alan Adkins-
\$15.00, Mike Manning and Regan DeBoer-\$14.50. Board members: Delmar
VanZee, Rocky Oakley, Brett Stevens, Brady Lammers, Matt Rogers and Chris
Johnsen all \$50 per meeting plus mileage. **Custodian:** Will Page-\$34,024.92
annually, Hourly PRN: Terry Miller-\$14.00. **4-H:** Ann Price-\$35,389.92
annually. **Veteran Services:** David Johnson-\$9,000 annually. **Emergency
Management:** Arlen Gortmaker-\$37,016.88 annually. Hourly PRN: Nehemia
Volquardsen and Charles Fawcett-\$16.27. **911 Coordinator:** Arlen Gortmaker-
\$203.40/month. **Rubble Site:** Hourly, Unknown Manager-\$16.00. PRN
Attendants: Jim Testerman-\$15.18, Lloyd Swartz and Ed Pfeifer-\$14.00.
Coroner: Tiffany Hofer-\$58/call plus mileage. Deputy Coroners: To be
appointed.

The longevity schedule was reviewed but not amended.

The commissioners completed their "conflict of interest" forms which
will be posted on the county's website.

The commissioners reviewed Resolution 2021-01 which was approved by
motion of Palmer & Wernsmann and passed. [Two items were struck from the
resolution and will appear with strike-out across the text. These items
will be placed on the February agenda.] WHEREAS, the Governing Board of
Commissioner for Hand County does hereby find as follows: WHEREAS, in
January of each year the commission sets out rules, policies, practices
and makes appointments for the coming year, therefore; BE IT RESOLVED
that: The official depositories are The American Bank and Trust and Quoin
Financial Bank. The official newspaper shall be The Miller Press. The
official place for posting public notices shall be the commission room
windows. The official place for public auctions of the county shall be the
courthouse. The treasurer may collect partial payments on taxes. The
coroner's fees are \$58 per decedent, plus mileage and required supplies.
~~The indigent funeral costs are limited to \$2,500. (services for the~~
~~decedent). The indigent burial fees limit is \$1,500. (opening & closing,~~
~~casket & vault, storage, mileage).~~ The speed limit on county roads remains
at 55 mph except trucks which are limited to 40 mph. The Sheriff's Office
and Highway Patrol be requested to enforce speed and weight limitations.
The "spring load limit" at six (6) tons per axle. Licensed aerial spray
applicators may apply for a permit to land on hard surfaced roads. The fee
for aerial applicators is \$50 per calendar year. The previous snow removal

and sanding policy for unorganized township roadways will continue. The previous snow removal and sanding policy for county roadways will continue. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that commissioner liaison positions are: Jim Eschenbaum: Auditor, Coroner, Welfare, Zoning and Assessor. Luke Wernsmann: On Hand Economic Development, Rail Authority, 4-H and Veteran Services. Greg Palmer: Health Advisory, Custodian and Registrar. Jim Jones: Library Board, Domestic Violence, States Attorney, Sheriff and Emergency Mgt. Gib Rodgers: Weed Board, Treasurer, Road & Bridge and Secondary Roads. Jim Jones & Greg Palmer: Towns and townships. Greg Palmer & Jim Eschenbaum: Northeast Council of Governments. ADOPTED this 5th Day of January, 2021 upon motion, seconded and majority vote. /s/ Gib Rodgers, Chairman Attest: /s/ Doug DeBoer, Auditor

Upon returning from a short break, the Highway Superintendent was formally re-appointed and took his oath of office. The appointment was made and approved upon motion of Wernsmann/Jones and passed.

Veteran Service Officer David Johnson joined the meeting and upon motion of Eschenbaum/Jones, he too was re-appointed. The motion passed.

Certificates of Election were handed out to Commissioners Eschenbaum and Jones. Both commissioners were administered their oaths of office.

Certificates of election were also prepared for Treasurer Sheri Koeck, States Attorney Elton Anson, and Coroner Tiffany Hofer. These officials were not present to take their oaths of office.

Highway Supt. Hargens spoke to the board about the dike on Pearl Creek. It was decided to send formal invitations to Lorna Watkins and Jeff Parmely who are the owner and tenant of the property on which the dike sits. The dike has been repaired and the future of the dike needs to be addressed and decisions made.

Hargens also spoke to the board about purchasing used road graders from other local governments. If the run-time hours are within manageable hours, and the cost was right, Hargens said it should be considered over buying new machines.

The commission addressed the rubble site and approved the publication of the notice seeking people who would be considered for the rubble site manager. The decision was made upon motion of Jones/Palmer, passed. The base wage would be \$16.00 per hour but allowances for experience would be considered.

Sheriff Shane Croeni joined the meeting. Croeni was also elected in November and took office in January. He was presented his certificate of election and was administered his oath of office.

Bryan Breitling, administrator of Avera Hand County Hospital and Hand County Memorial Hospital, Inc provided the commission with a copy of their annual statement. Breitling summarized the contents of the report for the board and ultimately reported the hospital(s) are in better shape than expected considering the unusual year that has occurred.

Randy Peck, weed & pest department, requested permission to purchase a new computer for his office. Peck is seeking an "all in one" device with a large screen to accommodate his mapping software. The commissioners, upon motion of Jones/Wernsmann, passed, to purchase an "HP" from Walmart costing \$823.

The commissioners addressed the status of the county offices as it relates to Covid-19. The group decided to postpone the discussion until after the two-week period after the January 1st gatherings. The buildings

will remain locked, subject to appointments. The board will discuss it again in February.

Lastly, DeBoer reported that a miscommunication between he and deputy auditor Forman led to a misrepresentation of the amounts needed to balance overrun accounts. DeBoer provided the commissioners with actual amounts. The difference was because the grant fund injections had not been accounted for on Forman's estimates. After reconciling all the accounts, the transfers were amended as follows:

- Court Appointed Attorney stayed at \$8,635.51 short.
- Abused and Neglected Children was still \$494.80 short.
- The library did not need any funds to balance.
- The LEPC also did not need any funds to balance.
- The Register of Deeds was short \$3,298.32 instead of \$2,960.11
- The highway department was only \$669.85 short.
- The jail was still \$2,749.08 short.
- The election budget was \$10,172.64 short, not \$15,172.64
- The States Attorney's budget ended up needing \$1,666.83 rather than \$1,580.29.

The meeting was adjourned upon motion of Wernsmann/Jones and passed. The next regular meeting is February 2, 2021. (5:20 p.m.)

In accordance with SDCL 7-10-3, the Auditor's account with the Treasurer as of the close of business on the last day of the preceding month and year, the treasurer had \$938 of cash on hand, \$8,804.76 of checks in possession less than 3 days, \$0 of checks in possession more than 3 days, \$0 of cash items, and \$300.00 of petty cash. The reconciled demand deposits were: \$178,482.36 in the American Bank & Trust and \$18,289.01 in the Quoin Financial Bank. The time deposits were: \$1,209,576.50 in the American Bank & Trust and \$1,680,501.35 in the Quoin Financial Bank. The library investments were: \$14,887.62 in the checking account, \$12,400.00 in certificates of deposit and \$7,551.00 in stocks. The total cash assets equaled \$3,131,730.60

Bills/claims/vouchers submitted for payment:

For: BOARD OF COUNTY COMM		
HAND CO TITLE COMPANY, INC.	2021 LIEN & PROPERTY REPORT	114.00
NECOG	2021 ANNUAL DUES	8037.60

		8151.60
For: AUDITOR*****		
AMERICAN SOLUTIONS FOR BUSINES	SUPPLIES	154.75
DOUGLUS DEAN DE BOER	MAILING TOWNSHIP POSTCARDS	18.33

		173.08
For: GOV. BUILDING*****		
BOB'S DISPOSAL SERVICE	GARBAGE DISPOSAL	100.00
MID AMERICAN RESEARCH CHEMICAL	CLEANING & BOILER SUPPLIES	1896.23

		1996.23
For: DIR. OF EQUAL*****		

A & B BUSINESS, INC.	COPIER MAINTENANCE CONTRACT	27.50
TERRY AUGSPURGER	MAILING 2 LETTERS	1.10
MILLER REXALL DRUG	SUPPLIES	2.32

		30.92
For: COUNTY NURSE*****		
HAND CO MEMORIAL HOSPITAL INC.	COUNTY HEALTH NURSE	2954.21

		2954.21
For: MENTAL HEALTH*****		
CENTER FOR INDEPENDENCE	MONTHLY SUPPORT	180.00

		180.00
For: HWY RDS BRIDGES*****		
BLUE TARP FINANCIAL, INC.	SUPPLIES	379.93
CK WELDING & REPAIR LLC	SUPPLIES	15.71
FARM TECH INC	SUPPLIES	162.80
GREAT WESTERN TIRE	REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	1990.75
C & B OPERATIONS LLC	TRACTOR LEASE	13625.00
TODD HANKS	SAND	5100.00
OAKLEY FARM & RANCH SUPPLY	SUPPLIES	61.51
TWIN VALLEY TIRE OF MILLER	REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	2410.35

		23746.05
For: DEBT SERVICE*****		
CAPFIRST EQUIPMENT FINANCE	LOADER PAYMENT PRIN	53248.39
CAPFIRST EQUIPMENT FINANCE	LOADER PAYMENT INTEREST	3351.61
DALE NEU	GRAVEL ROYALTY	36855.92

		93455.92
For: E-911*****		
CITY OF HURON	911 SERVICES	2646.15

		2646.15

Total Checks: 133334.16

The preceding text reflects the approved minutes of the commission.

Gilbert "Gib" Rodgers, Chairman

Attest:

Doug DeBoer, Auditor



 