

HAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Doug DeBoer – Auditor & Clerk of the Board

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Board of Commissioners, Miller, South Dakota. Courthouse commissioner chambers and via Facebook live video.

Chairman Gib Rodgers called the meeting to order with Commissioners Jones, Wernsmann, Eschenbaum, and Palmer present.

Chairman Rodgers requested the board address the locked doors of the county buildings. It was moved by Jones/Palmer, passed, to unlock the building doors (immediately) but allow the individual offices to determine the status of their interior doors.

The consent agenda was reviewed with the addition of a forgotten Resolution, number 2021-05 related to the support of the Family Crisis Center. The consent agenda was approved upon motion of Wernsmann/Palmer, passed. The items acknowledged were: Quarterly HAVA statement (\$34,283.22), Register of Deeds statements from November, December and year end, Department of Revenue statement of levy approval, Polo Fire District's annual financial report, December minutes of the library board, summary of the Corona Virus Relief fund. The items approved included: Minutes of the January 5, 2021 minutes, payment of the claims, 2021 wage schedule (after being processed via the software), advertise for fuel, road oil and rentals.

Two plats were examined—the first entitled A&C Farms Addition, worded: "Be it resolved by the County Commission of Hand County, South Dakota, that the showing "A&C FARMS ADDITION IN THE SE1/4 OF SECTION 14, TOWNSHIP 114 NORTH, RANGE 68 WEST PF THE 5TH P.M., HAND COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA" having been examined is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL of 1967, Chapter 11-3, and any amendments thereof." The second was entitled Olson Outlot 1, worded: "BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF HAND COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA, THAT THE PLAT SHOWING "OLSON OUTLOT 1" A PART OF BERANEK LOT 2 IN THE NE ¼ OF SECTION 15, T112N, R68W OF THE 5TH P.M., HAND COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA," HAVING BEEN EXAMINED, IS HEREBY APPROVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SDCL OF 1967, CHAPTER 11-3, AND ANY AMENDMENTS THEREOF." Both plats were approved upon motion of Wernsmann/Eschenbaum, passed.

Lorna Watkins and Jeff Parmely joined the commissioners for a discussion on who is to maintain the recent reconstruction of the structure (dike, dam or berm) on Pearl Creek. After some conversation it provisionally approved that Watkins/Parmely would seed the soil and monitor it. The county highway department will place rip-wrap along the area where high water impacts, the county will have access for inspections. The remainder of the questions will be revisited in the future.

Jeff Hargens, highway superintendent, told the board that Pierce & Harris PE had visited the Plato Township project site but no action has been taken. The water has receded and a grade raise has not been ruled out. Hargens also informed the board that it is time to submit the Solid Waste Renewal Permit. It was moved by Wernsmann/Palmer, passed, to grant authority to the chairman to execute the documents for the permit.

Hargens heard back from Todd Alley on the property just south of the rubble site. The text message read by Hargens said Alley wanted \$5,000 per acre for the ground. It was moved by Wernsmann/Jones, passed, to accept that offer and proceed with purchase of 10 acres pending environmental compliance. Hargens also explained that he believes the county should keep control over more of the current rubble site as some of their activities are above ground and not impacted by the buried rubble below. The commissioners agreed. Sufficient room should remain for the proposed sporting range pitched by Game, Fish and Parks.

Hargens informed the board that the "crawler" is nearing the end of its lease. The buy-out is about \$53,000. Hargens' initial thought was to keep it but after some

discussion, he will check into a replacement lease. Hargens said the lease payment was so low because the county traded in two other large pieces of equipment.

Hargens also explained that the idea of buying Sioux Falls decommissioned equipment did not appear as workable as originally thought. He said that in order to maintain value, the machines should be rotated for new on a schedule. With four road graders and trading off one every two years, the oldest machine would be eight years old. Its value at decommissioning should be attractive for effective trade in. No action was taken.

At 2 p.m. chairman Rodgers declared the public hearing on the county's transportation plan (five-year plan) as open. Jeff Hargens and Brad Stangohr (Ulteig Engineering) gave a synopsis of the plan. There were approximately 12 persons present for the meeting and some interaction took place. Stangohr provided maps detailing proposed projects to take place over the next five years. He also touched on the wheel tax revenue and how it is used as "local match" to qualify the county for grants via the "BIG FUND". While the wheel tax dollars are tagged for bridge structure improvements, the plan includes roadway improvements.

Questions arose about small structures. Stangohr said that depending on the dimensions of the structure (span) the state and federal authorities look at them differently. In his career the results of flow studies have seen larger structures replace smaller structures and visa-versa. Ultimately, the improvements are made on a case-by-case study and design plan.

The maps will be loaded to the county's website for public inspection. Any questions or comments can still be raised and presented to the commission. Modifications to the plan can be made by resolution in the future. The plan was approved by all upon motion of Wernsmann/Jones.

The commission also discussed and approved the following resolution which reads as follows: RESOLUTION 2021-03 Hand County South Dakota "Distribution of Wheel Tax Revenues (SDCL 32-5A-2)" WHEREAS, the South Dakota Legislature enacted statute 35-5A-1 which says, "The board of county commissioners shall, by resolution, establish a means of distributing the revenue generated by this chapter among the county and the municipalities and townships located within the county." As a result, the board of commissioners ordained that revenues generated by the wheel tax shall be reserved unto the county for the sole purpose of improving bridge structures throughout the county. The county's accounting system allows for revenues of the wheel tax to be specified for audit purposes and that expenditures using said wheel tax revenues can also be specified by specific accounts for audit purposes. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the county auditor shall establish revenue and expenditure accounts for the purpose of receiving and expending wheel tax funds for authorized projects. The county highway superintendent shall, within each annual expenditure budget, create as many project sub-accounts as it needs to complete the authorized projects. The funds expended for said projects shall be delineated from other projects by use of internal coding. ADOPTED this 2nd day of February, 2021 upon motion of Palmer, seconded by Wernsmann and upon majority vote. /s/ Gib Rodgers, Chairman Attest: /s/ Doug DeBoer, Auditor

The board next considered Resolution 2021-02 which names representatives from the county to liaise with the South Dakota Wildland Fire Division for the request of assistance. It was questioned why the emergency manager could not be the point of contact. EM Gortmaker was present and consented to being the designee. The board approved the resolution which reads: RESOLUTION 2021-02 Hand County South Dakota "Designee to South Dakota Wildland Fire Division" WHEREAS, the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, Wildland Fire Division, has requested that Hand County provide an updated list of designees who have authority to request assistance from the division, therefore; BE IT RESOLVED that: Arlen Gortmaker, Emergency Manager and Commission Chair Gib Rodgers are appointed as co-designees for the purposes requested for a period of 12 months. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Arlen Gortmaker shall have the authority of the Hand County Commission to summons assistance from the Wildland Fire Division as outlined in SDCL 41-20A-11 for those resources which are of no cost. BE

IT FURTHER RESOLVED that should additional resources be needed, beyond what is provided at no cost, Arlen Gortmaker, upon approval of Chairman Rodgers, has the authority of Hand County to request said services. LASTLY, BE IT RESOLVED that should the chairman be absent, the vice-chairman, Greg Palmer, shall act in his place. ADOPTED this 2nd day of February, 2021 upon motion of Palmer, seconded by Wernsmann and upon majority vote. /s/ Gib Rodgers, Chairman Attest: /s/ Doug DeBoer, Auditor

Arlen Gortmaker, County 911 Coordinator met with the board to discuss the renovations to the Hand County Mutual Aid Radio System (HCMARS). Previously the commissioners approved a budget for the build out in the amount of \$75,000 using dedicated funds from the 911 Reserves. The buildout replaces much of the county owned radio infrastructure and provides links to the responder owned repeaters used by the South Hand Fire Department, the Orient & Polo Fire Departments and Wessington Fire and Wessington Ambulance services. Gortmaker reviewed the various components of the system and discussion was held. Part of the renovation includes work to be done in the Huron Police Department's regional 911 center. Gortmaker will attempt to cost share some of that expense because it benefits more than just the HCMARS. The board asked for assurances that this build out would solve the problems which are present now. Gortmaker said he is confident the system will work as intended. Upon motion of Palmer/Jones, the commission approved the purchase of equipment up to \$62,000 in sum total.

Tiffany Hofer, coroner, met with the board to discuss coroner fees. Historically the fees have been \$58 per viewing. Hofer explained the fee is insufficient given the time involved and the record keeping necessary. After some discussion, it was moved by Jones/Wernsmann, passed, to set the fee at \$100 per call. [Mileage and supplies are extra]

Hofer also requested the board approve the following appointment of deputies: Dr. Stephan Schroeder, Stephan Resel, Tammy Lichty and Mandy Luikens. It was moved by Jones/Wernsmann, passed to approve the appointments.

Hofer switched hats and appeared as the owner of Reck Funeral home for the purpose of discussing county burials. The current allowance is \$4000. Hofer said she would be willing to accept that amount again but wanted the board to know that she is losing money at that rate and that it appears that funeral providers are the only industry the counties do business with that are expected to take a loss. The commissioners set the fee at \$4,000 for the coming year, upon motion of Jones/Palmer, and it passed.

GrowSD had submitted an invoice asking for \$5,000 from the county. Historically the county paid only \$750 per year. Auditor DeBoer provided a summary of what neighboring counties in the GrowSD area pay toward their services, the average of counties reporting was \$1,964. Spink pays the most with \$5,000 and Faulk paid the least at \$500. At the end of the discussion, it was moved by Jones/Eschenbaum, passed, to pay GrowSD \$1,000 for 2021.

The commission next discussed the invitation from the Miller C&C. The question the auditor posed is whether to let the various offices join individually or if the county should do a blanket membership. It was the consensus of the board that individual office should be left to decide.

Terry Augspurger, Director of Equalization, met with the commission to inform them about ag land values. Augspurger explained some ag-lands lost value, none of which impact the levies that have been requested or taxes being collected at this point. Augspurger said he will publish the information in the Miller Press as the official version of the topic.

Sara Newman, Beadle County State's Attorney's office was present to discuss the multi-county victim assistance program. The former employee left and Newman took up the position but not as a full-time venture. She is employed full time with the states attorney's office and will assist member counties as needed. As a result, the

fee structure was lowered to reflect the decrease in costs. The county's participation is now \$2,000. The commissioners reaffirmed their participation by motion of Jones/Palmer, passed.

Ann Price, 4-H Director, met with the board to review and ask for approval of the new Memorandum of Understanding between Hand County and SDSU-Extension (4-H). The request was approved upon motion of Wernsmann/Eschenbaum and passed.

Will Page, custodian, gave the commission an update on the courthouse projects. He received some initial estimates on the work in the rotunda and on the third floor. The estimates will need to be ironed out and Page will return with more and better information. The commission expressed its interest in prioritizing the dome repairs ahead of other, smaller projects.

Doug DeBoer, Welfare Director, hosted a video meeting with Sarah Petersen, a consultant in the industry and formerly the welfare director in Codrington County. Petersen provided a description of services she can offer and that it is scaled to the needs of the county rather than encompassing all aspects. Petersen charges \$25 per hour for her consultation. The commission approved having Petersen consult on our cases and those of the state's attorney. It was moved by Palmer/Eschenbaum, and passed to enter into the agreement for services.

The agenda had a time for the commission and sheriff Croeni to discuss law enforcement and the impacts thereof should the city of Miller join forces with the county. Commissioner Jones addressed the issue and said that no discussion would be held because the city only took action the previous evening. That action was to send an initiated petition, (which was filed with the city of Miller) to suspend their police department's operation. It sent to the city's attorney for review. Jones asked for confirmation from the commission that he and commissioner Palmer should remain on the committee to discuss the issue. The commission kept the two on the committee lacking any reason to change it.

Shane Croeni, Sheriff, met with the commission. He informed the board that Isaac Sauder had resigned as a deputy sheriff. It was moved by Palmer/Eschenbaum, passed, to formally accept the resignation. Croeni asked that the commission approve the promotion of Joshua Zweber from a part-time certified deputy to full-time deputy sheriff, replacing Sauder. It was moved by Jones/Wernsmann, passed to approve the promotion. Croeni then asked for and received permission to advertise for a part-time deputy sheriff.

Croeni then informed the commission that he is looking into a new software platform from Zuercher Technologies. The city of Huron server would be used and the county would be an off-shoot of their network. Croeni estimated the cost at \$20,000 but more research will be done.

Mark Wengierski, Scout Clean Energy (Sweetland Wind Farm) met with the board to inform them of their choice for the pre-construction roadway survey on 205th Street between SD HWY 45 and 369th Avenue. The engineering firm would study the roadway so that any damages or changes made during construction would be returned to the same or better condition after construction. Presently, the request is for this one road as that is the path for equipment while the company builds its first structures for the project near 369th Avenue and 205th Street. After considerable discussion, it was moved by Jones/Wernsmann, passed, to approve Burns McDonnell as the firm to do the survey.

Commissioners Eschenbaum and Wernsmann were selected to partner with Highway Supt. Jeff Hargens to interview the four applicants for the Rubble Site Manager position.

Upon motion of Jones/Palmer, passed, the meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is March 2, 2021 at 1p.

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 \$1071 of cash on hand, \$37491.37 of checks in possession less than 3 days, \$0 of checks in possession more than 3 days, \$62.40 of cash items, and \$300 of petty cash. The reconciled demand deposits were: \$178,483.88 in the

American Bank & Trust and \$270,380.82 in the Quoin Financial Bank. The time deposits were: \$1,468,289.76 in the American Bank & Trust and \$1,790,411.82 in the Quoin Financial Bank. The library investments were: \$14,887.62 in the checking account, \$12,400 in certificates of deposit and \$7,551 in stocks. The total cash assets equaled \$3,700,329.67.

RESOLUTION 2021-05 WHEREAS, Hand County has had and will likely see the continuation of domestic and family violence, sexual assaults, and families in crisis, and WHEREAS, the Family Crisis Center, Inc. of Redfield provides services to help remedy and mitigate the effects of such violence and crisis have on people, regardless of their social status or other discernable differences, and WHEREAS, the Family Crisis Center, Inc., a locally controlled organization, which relies on fund raising, grants and donations to provide temporary housing, nutrition, clothing and personal support to those in need, and WHEREAS, Hand County desires that the Family Crisis Center be its designated primary source of services for persons and families in need during and after such acts of violence, and WHEREAS, Hand County recognizes the Family Crisis Center, Inc. and its staff as unsung heroes in the mission to mitigate family violence, sexual assault and crisis, and THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Hand County does, formally and wholeheartedly, endorse the Family Crisis Center, Inc. of Redfield to serve as its official entity of choice in providing assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault within and for Hand County. Dated this 2nd day of February, 2021 /s/: Gib Rodgers, Commission Chairman Attest: /s/: Doug DeBoer - Auditor

Claims paid on 01/05/2021:

For: GOV. BUILDING MILLER ACE SUPPLIES 711.70 Total: 711.70. **SHERIFF AGTEGRA** COOPERATIVE GAS 315.34, 141.75, 146.88. MILLER ACE SUPPLIES 16.98 Total: 620.95.

SOLID WASTE DAKOTA ENERGY COOP, INC UTILITIES 97.00 Total: 97.00. **LIBRARY** MIDCO BUSINESS PHONE SERVICE 41.38 Total: 41.38. WEED CONTROL AT & T CELL PHONE 67.28, MIDCO BUSINESS PHONE & INTERNET SERVICE 150.02. Total: 217.30

For: **HWY RDS BRIDGES** AGTEGRA COOPERATIVE GAS & FUEL 14987.47, DAKOTA ENERGY COOP INC UTILITIES 68.10, FARNAM'S GENUINE PARTS, INC. SUPPLIES 1561.13 FARNAM'S TRUCK PARTS SUPPLIES 281.49, JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL REPAIRS 917.40, JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL SUPPLIES 1456.13, MIDCO BUSINESS PHONE & INTERNET SERVICE 166.42, MILLER ACE SUPPLIES 147.93. PRODUCTIVITY PLUS ACCOUNT SUPPLIES 690.05, STURDEVANT'S AUTO PARTS SUPPLIES 75.64. Total: 20351.76.

EMERG. & DIS. SERV. AGTEGRA COOPERATIVE GAS 48.50, MILLER ACE SUPPLIES 71.97, VISA SUPPLIES 56.05, VISA CELLPHONE 37.83 Total: 214.35 STATE COLLECTIONS SD DEPT OF REVENUE BIRTHS/DEATHS/DRIVERS LICENSES 1633.00, Total: 1633.00.

STATE M V SD DEPT OF REVENUE MOTOR VEHICLES 86180.29. Total: 86180.29

CITY TAX SD STATE TREASURER CITY SALES TAX 20.55, Total: 20.55. **STATE SALES TAX**

SD STATE TREASURER STATE SALES TAX 145.03, Total: 145.03. **FIRE INSURANCE** POLO FIRE DISTRICT DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 160.73, Total: 160.73. **SDACC MOD & PRES**

SD ASSN OF CO. COMMISSIONERS MODERNIZATION/PRESERVATION 160.00, Total: 160.00.

Total Checks: 110554.04

January 19, 2021: **AUDITOR** U.S. POSTAL SERVICE POSTAGE 2000.00, Total: 2000.00.

SCHOOLS: FAULKTON AREA SCHOOL DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 55.31, HITCHCOCK-TULARE SCHOOL DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 930.34, MILLER AREA SCHOOL DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 27626.03, REDFIELD SCHOOL DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 330.56 Total: 28942.24 **TOWNSHIPS:** ALDEN TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 667.59, ALPHA TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 621.41, BATES TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 497.13, BURDETTE TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 679.42, CAMPBELL TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 219.42, CARLTON TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 490.95, CEDAR TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 377.41, COMO TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 491.93, FLORENCE TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 566.22, GILBERT TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 1019.11, GLENDALE TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 321.06, GRAND TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 829.44, GREENLEAF TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 688.17, HILAND TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 331.42, HOLDEN TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 538.55, HULBERT TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 511.37, LINN TOWNSHIP DECEMBER

COLLECTIONS 383.20, LOGAN TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 476.41, MIDLAND TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 517.83, MILLER TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 620.57, MONDAMIN TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 434.98, OHIO TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 269.29, ONTARIO TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 466.05, PARK TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 579.98, PEARL TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 289.98, PLATO TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 579.52, PLEASANT VALLEY TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 310.70, RIVERSIDE TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 248.56, ROCKDALE TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 372.85, ROSEHILL TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 548.89, SPRING HILL TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 589.45, SPRING LAKE TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 579.98, ST LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 664.34, WHEATON TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 673.19, YORK TOWNSHIP DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 248.56. Total: 17704.93. **CITIES & TOWNS:** CITY OF MILLER DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 2485.75, CITY OF REE HEIGHTS DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 309.34, CITY OF ST. LAWRENCE DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 410.93, CITY OF WESSINGTON DECEMBER COLLECTIONS 24.67, Total: 3230.69. Total Checks: 51877.86

The preceding text reflects the approved minutes of the commission.

Gilbert "Gib" Rodgers, Chairman

Attest:
Doug DeBoer, Auditor

