

HAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Doug DeBoer – Auditor & Clerk of the Board

415 West 1st Avenue, Mail slot 7 & Suite 203
MILLER, SOUTH DAKOTA 57362-1346
(605) 853-2182

EMAIL: auditor@handcountysd.org
<http://hand.sdcounties.org/commissioner>
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The Hand County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on June 1, 2021 in the commission chambers. Chairman Gilbert "Gib" Rodgers called the meeting to order at 1pm with the following commissioners present: Wernsmann, Jones, Eschenbaum and Palmer. The meeting was also broadcast live on Facebook and later uploaded to YouTube.

Wernsmann moved, Palmer seconded, to approve the consent agenda which contained the following acknowledgements: Receipt of two building permits, David/Lori Fremark for 3 grain bins and Neil / Sandra Stevens for 1 grain bin. The other item was receipt of the Register of Deeds statement of fees for April 2021. The following approvals were made: Minutes for the May 6, 2021 commission meeting and payment of claims.

The commission reviewed two plats, the first from John Popp and Brian/Heather Gilbert to create the B & H Acres, the second from Deborah / Gerald Mehling to create the Swartz Addition. Subsequent to an examination of each, it was moved by Palmer/Eschenbaum that, "Be it resolved by the County Commission of Hand County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "B & H Acres in the SE1/4 of Section 14, Township 114 North, Range 68 West 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." The commission then addressed the Mehling request and, it was moved by Jones, seconded by Eschenbaum. Motion carried that the plat of "Swartz Addition" in the SW1/4 of Section 1, T111N, R66W of the 5th P.M., Hand County, South Dakota, as described above and drawn hereon be approved and accepted and the auditor hereby is instructed to endorse on such plat a copy of the resolution and to certify the same.

Auditor DeBoer, in union with Suzy Wernsmann, Sheri Koeck, Randy Peck, Shane Croeni and Arlen Gortmaker, requested the commission consider increasing the department head pay the equivalent of \$2 per hour and \$1 per hour for the hourly employees. Considerable discussion was held on the prior existence of a wage committee and how it looked to bring the county employees out of the "bottom 3rd of the bottom 3rd" of county workers statewide. Consequently, that committees' work ended two years ago and a request for a wage increase last year was rejected. In the end, it was moved by Jones/Wernsmann, passed, to have each department's budget recalculated using a \$2 per hour increase for the department head, and \$1.25 per hour for hourly employees.

The commissioners had a video conference with Cathy Juhas of the US Corp of Army Engineers. The purpose was to find out from the Corp what authority they have and thus what powers the county has for waterways. In the end it was learned that the Corp is petitioned on a case-by-case basis and then they determine based on the request whether they have any jurisdiction over the waterway, up to the "high water mark". It was moved by Jones to ask for a determination by the Corp. The motion was later rescinded by Jones.

Following the video chat, it was moved by Wernsmann/Jones, passed, to enter into executive session for a legal matter. The motion passed and the meeting closed. Upon motion of Jones/Wernsmann, passed, the meeting returned to normal session with no action being taken.

The next item on the agenda was the request from the Rapid City Pierre and Eastern Railroad for support of their efforts to improve rail quality across the state; in particular, east of the Missouri River. Three documents were provided to the commission for consideration. It was moved by Eschenbaum/Palmer, passed, to offer the support of the rail improvement project.

The commissioners began their work period on the annual budget for 2022. The commission reviewed, line by line, those budgets which are directly related to the commission and those which have not been assigned to a department for administration. Auditor DeBoer reported that in years past, the auditor administered these orphan budgets and there didn't appear any formality in doing so. The commission agreed to assign those orphan budgets to the auditor.

The commission wrote in their estimates for the budgets presented. These figures will be loaded into the record management system and be re-presented in July.

Auditor DeBoer asked for clarification in the process to employ a new Director of Equalization. DeBoer said that at the end of the first two weeks of advertisement, only one resume had been received. DeBoer said he asked the Miller Press to run the ad for one additional week. The commissioners set the closing date for the position as of June 10, 2021 at the close of business. The commission also decided that commissioners Eschenbaum and Jones will be the interview committee. At the conclusion of the interviews, the committee will report their findings to the other commissioners and if they reach a consensus, offer the position as early as June 11.

The board took up for consideration the request to re-appoint Mike Donlin and Mike Anglin to the library board of trustees. It was moved by Wernsmann/Eschenbaum, passed, to approve the appointments. The minutes and financial report of the library was also received.

Sheriff Croeni requested the board approve the change of status for Deputy Brandon Fisher upon his 1st year anniversary. The sheriff's pay scale provides for a raise upon the anniversary, moving Fisher from \$20.49 to \$21.69 per hour. It was moved by Wernsmann/Palmer, passed, to approve the status / wage change effective July 1, 2021.

Croeni also requested the board take action on his request to purchase the CentralSquare / Zuercher software package for \$15,034.92. It was moved by Jones/Eschenbaum, passed, to approve the purchase. Croeni said he is working on getting used computer equipment from other law agencies.

The commission next addressed the departmental budgets which are administered by a department head. The group went through each budget and made preliminary adjustments based on the requests made. There were two departments who had not yet submitted any budget requests.

Tember Beckett brought forward a presentation from Fischer Rounds (Josh Gilkerson, agent) for Wellmark Health Insurance. The presentation showed the county's current monthly premium at \$21,436. The proposed Avera plan would be \$22,498 a month and the Wellmark plan would be \$22,069. Much time was spent digesting the information and making comparisons. In the end, it was decided more study was needed. No action was taken.

Tigh Johnson, Rubble Site manager spoke to the board about the dumping fees. Johnson made a proposal and presented it to the commission for adoption. It was moved by Jones/Wernsmann, passed, to approve the new fee schedule as presented to become effective July 1. The basic changes are as follows: Pickup (1 ton and less, Non-Commercial: \$5 & Commercial: \$10. Single Axle Trailer: Non-commercial: \$10 & Commercial: \$15. Trees only: \$5. Double Axle Trailer: Any: \$30. 1 ton or larger truck / tandem axle: \$40. Semi-Trailer / Side Dump: \$100.

Auditor DeBoer asked and was given authority to employ a surveyor to create a plat for the recently purchased property.

Johnson spoke on the community clean up the city of Miller was planning. Johnson said that only trees will be free. Appliances and furniture will be reduced and other items will be normally priced. The city of Miller is working on a plan to help those who physically can not take their items to the rubble site. This will occur on June 10 and 11.

Auditor DeBoer reported that Risty Benefits has also been requesting information and plans to submit information for a health plan, as will DICE Financial who currently services the county's AVERA health plan. DeBoer also said that there is approximately \$33,600 in state-held HAVA funds for elections. DeBoer is hopeful