

HAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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<http://hand.sdcounties.org/commissioner>
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The Hand County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on August 17, 2021 in the commission chambers. Chairman Gilbert "Gib" Rodgers called the meeting to order at 7pm with the following commissioners present: Wernsmann, Eschenbaum, Jones and Palmer. The meeting was also broadcast live on Facebook and later uploaded to YouTube.

The purpose of this special meeting was to do final adjustments to the proposed 2022 budget prior to making the provisional budget for 2022.

The first item on the agenda was to resolve the formula used in making health insurance available to employees who work less than full time. In 2020 the threshold for health insurance was set at 30 hours. At the time no part-time employees were interested in health care. The county had then and has now an employee who works a schedule of 25 hours per week. The 30-hour threshold would have prohibited this employee from purchasing health insurance. After discussion, it was moved by Jones/Eschenbaum, passed, to return the threshold to 25 hours with the following ratios to be used: 25-hour employee pays 40% of premium. County pays the remaining 60%. For an employee working a 30-hour schedule, the employee pays 30% and the county pays 70%. For an employee scheduled for 35 hours, the employee pays 20% and the county pays 80% of the premium.

The second item related to health insurance was the eligibility for commissioners to participate in the coverage. In 2020 the commission approved participation but there is some debate over what is remembered verses what is in the minutes. Considerable discussion was held. It was moved by Eschenbaum that commissioners pay 100% of the premium. The chair called for a second but none was offered so the motion died for a lack of a second. It was then moved by Jones/Palmer, passed with Eschenbaum dissenting, to continue the health insurance as is but to research if the other counties in the state are also providing health care to commissioners [and to what degree].

The commission moved to the question of whether to continue funding for On Hand Development Corporation. Following a discussion, it was moved by Jones/Wernsmann, passed, Eschenbaum dissented, to fund On Hand Development for 2022 at \$30,000 for the year. The auditor requested and it was approved that payment of the funds would take place in January.

The commission reviewed the contract with the State of South Dakota for home health. It was noted that the contract submitted was for a portion of a year and funding for 2022 should reflect an entire year. The commission agreed and instructed the auditor to amend the proposed budget to reflect the yearly rate for services.

Elton Anson met with the commission and restated his request to have his budget increased and approved as he presented it. It was moved by Jones/Eschenbaum, passed, to honor the original request and set Anson's wage at \$58,600 for 2022.

The auditor summarized the revised revenue for the upcoming year. Notable changes included the input from projected growth in the county which was .27% or \$6,110. That, when added to the allowable CPI of 1.2% (\$27,160) equals \$33,270 in available property taxes. The \$309,000 from the America Rescue Plan has been received but cannot be used in calculating revenue because it is still not known if the funds will be used or if they will have to be returned to the US Treasury. The Rural Access Infrastructure Grant funds are dedicated and will have no impact on anything except the program it is part of. The use of excise tax refunds from the Ratio, LCC CAFO was also not calculated because it is not known when it will reach the county. It was noted that the revenue, if realized, would cover the cost of a single road grader. Lastly, the difference between revenues and expenditures will be made of cash not applied in the current year and held into 2022.

The commission then reviewed a request for the custodian to purchase a used lawn mower from a private party for \$3,000. The purchase was approved. The commission then acted upon a request from the auditor to declare the following property, acquired by tax deed as surplus, to wit: The West 100 feet of the North ½ of Lot 17 and the West 100 feet of Lot 18, Block 28, North Addition to the City of Miller, Hand County, South Dakota. Previous street address: 522 West 1st Avenue, Miller, South Dakota. The property is no longer necessary, useful, or suitable for the purpose for which it was acquired.

The auditor informed the board that three property owners appraised the value of the property at \$2,120.45 as of this publication, the amount owed for taxes, fees and maintenance. It was moved by Palmer, seconded by Jones, motion carried to approve the appraisal of the property at \$2,120.45 and declare it surplus.

The property will be sold by sealed bid under terms approved at the next meeting.

Jeff Hargens and an employee were present and requested to speak to the commission in executive session. Additionally, auditor DeBoer also requested a discussion. In both cases, it was a matter of personnel. The board entered into executive session at 8:24 pm upon motion of Eschenbaum/Jones, passed. The board returned to regular session at 9:08 pm and adjourned upon motion of Jones/Eschenbaum, passed. No action was taken following the session but the subjects will be addressed in the future.

The next scheduled meeting of the commission will be on September 7, 2021 at 1pm.

The preceding text reflects the approved minutes of the commission.

Attest:

Gilbert "Gib" Rodgers, Chairman

Doug DeBoer, Auditor
