

# HAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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## MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 6, 2022 MEETING

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The Hand County **Planning and Zoning Commission** met in regular session in the commission chambers of the courthouse on September 6, 2022. Chairman Greg Palmer called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. with the following commission members present: Jim Jones, Jim Eschenbaum, Luke Wernsmann and Dan Jensen. The meeting was broadcasted live on YouTube with a link on the county's Facebook page.

**Jaime Russell**, Zoning Director, presented the board with drafts of the zoning administration manual and the retyped (same content) Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinances. Russel said she also has the documents loaded up to her webpage for public review.

Russell's office issued building permits to Sweetland Wind Farm LLC to begin dirt work, to Ryan Koeck to place a mobile home and to Heath and Andrea Mushitz to build a home.

Russell also presented the following plats for review and approval. Willow Outlot 1 and Outlot 2 in Alpha Twp for Paula McFarlane, Bebo Outlot in Carlton Township for Richard Strasburg Farms, Inc., Bottum Addition in Burdette Township for Daniel and Barbara Bottum and Swartz Addition in Ohio Township for Eschenbaum Family Farm, LLC. The plats were approved in bulk upon motion of Jones & Jensen, each passed. Commissioner Eschenbaum abstained from the action related to the Swartz Addition.

A guest, **Trevor Jones**, of Summit Carbon Solutions, appeared before the board to introduce himself. Jones said that he will be available to the commission as they needed in an effort to maintain communication and to be a resource for them.

Auditor DeBoer reported that the prior discussion on the Sweetland Wind Farm and having tower structures within the approach and departure path of the Miller Municipal Airport were resolved and the Federal Aviation Administration released its "Determination of No Hazard to Air Navigation".

There being no other business before the Planning and Zoning Commission, it was moved by Eschenbaum & Jensen, passed, to adjourn.

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The Hand County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session, in the commission chambers of the courthouse, on September 6, 2022. Chairman Greg Palmer called the meeting to order at 1:22 P.M. with the following commissioners present: Jim Jones, Jim Eschenbaum, Luke Wernsmann and Dan Jensen. The meeting was broadcasted live on YouTube with a link on the county's Facebook page

**Consent Agenda:** Upon motion of Wernsmann & Jones, the consent agenda was approved with the following acknowledgements: Receipt of the Register of Deeds financial statement for July of 2022, the Library minutes and financial reports for June and July 2022 and receipt of the payroll ledger for August of 2022. The following items were approved by this action: Approval of the July 19<sup>th</sup> 2022 minutes, the minutes of the August 2, 2022 meeting, permission to close the Register of Deeds Office on the afternoon of September 12 (if needed),

execution of the SD-OEM's Local Emergency Management Performance Grant (LEMPG) agreement and finally the payment of the claims (vouchers) as presented and listed later in the minutes.

**Treasurer Sheri Koeck** (absent) requested permission to advertise for a deputy treasurer beginning on September 21, 2022 and closing on October 17, 2022. This is in anticipation of hiring a replacement for Kim Fanning when she is appointed Treasurer after Koeck retires at the year end. The commission requested Deputy Kim Fanning join them and they concluded the discussion. After Fanning's clarifications, it was moved by Wernsmann & Eschenbaum, passed, to approve the request to advertise.

**Sheriff Shane Croeni** met with the board to explain that he put new tires on the Silverado pickup (\$161 each plus \$20 mounting) but found out a CV joint was in need of repair. He hopes it is covered by warranty. If not, the cost is estimated at \$628.73. The commission saw no issues with the repairs. Croeni also informed the commission that deputy Josh Zweber's last day of employment will be September 6 instead of September 17. Lastly, Croeni informed the board that he will be attending a multidiscipline exercise on September 7, 2022. The exercise will focus on school violence.

**Mike LeBrun of Dice Financial** (Mitchell) met with the commission to go over their proposal for management of the Dental, Vision and Life Insurance options. LeBrun presented comparisons of the proposal against what is currently in place. The board took no action as another vendor was scheduled for later in the meeting.

**Brad Wilson, Traci Everson and David Pfeifle** representing the South Dakota Municipal League Work Comp fund, Safety Benefits (loss prevention) and the South Dakota Public Assurance Alliance met with the board to discuss the benefits provided to the county for injured workers compensation, management and mitigation of risks and the property coverage and liability claims. The group had a discussion in open session but requested an executive session to discuss specific claims. Content of that portion included items related to personnel and to legal actions. At 2:04 PM, it was moved by Jones & Jensen, passed to enter executive session to discuss these confidential matters with the providers. At 2:38 PM it was moved by Wernsmann & Eschenbaum to return to open session. No formal actions were taken by the commission. The commission will endeavor to increase a culture of safety and property preservation and risk management. The commission also committed to responding to the recommendations for risk management as specified in a report from Safety Benefits.

**Terry Slette with the South Dakota Association of Towns and Townships** met with the commission to discuss the Rural Access Infrastructure Fund, a fund which was approved by the legislature to allow qualifying townships to use grant funds to improve small structures (culverts mostly) within the township road systems.

A public hearing was held for the purpose of hearing public comment on the **County's Five-Year** transportation improvement plan. No one appeared to speak before the commission. It was moved by Wernsmann & Jones to approve the revised Five-Year plan as presented. All voted in favor thereof.

Jim Eschenbaum suggested that the Excise Tax Rebate be set aside for emergencies. Previously it was the consensus of the board to use the rebate funds for road and bridge purposes.

**Roger Risty, Risty Benefits** (Sioux Falls) met with the board via video chat to discuss their proposal for dental, vision and life insurance benefits. Risty made his presentation and offered his comparisons between the current products offered and his proposal. Discussion followed but no action was taken while Risty was on the video call.

Jeff Hargens, Highway Superintendent addressed the commission to request approval for **KINGS CRUSHING** to grind the cement at the rubble site. Kings' was the only proposal. It was moved by Wernsmann & Jones to award the bid to King's Crushing to crush the accumulated concrete rubble. All voted in favor thereof.