

# HAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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## MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 10, 2022 MEETING

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The Hand County Board of County Commissioners met in special session in the commission chambers of the courthouse on November 10, 2022. Chairman Greg Palmer called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with the following other commissioners present: Jim Eschenbaum and Dan Jensen. Commissioners Jones and Wernsmann had an excused absence. Jeff Swartz substituted for Commissioner Jones per SDCL 12-20-36. The meeting was broadcasted live on YouTube with a link on the county's Facebook page

The sole item on the agenda was to canvass the auditor's result summary of the November 8, 2022 General Election. The commissioners and representative Swartz were paneled as the county canvassing board.

Auditor DeBoer explained to the board that their purpose was to review the work of he, his office, the tabulators, the resolution board and the precinct officials and if they felt confident in the report, they could then certify the results and have them forwarded to the Office of Secretary of State for recording.

DeBoer explained that he would read the results of the tabulators from the printed ribbon paper each produces after scanning the ballots. Each of the five precinct's ballots were ran through the tabulator separately. Precincts 2 and 3 (Miller Community Center) have the voter's ballots inserted by the voter. At the close of voting the precinct workers initiated the "close poll" process and returned the machines (which includes the ballots) to the courthouse. Precincts 1, 4 and 5 had their ballots returned to the courthouse in locked ballot boxes and handed them over to the auditor's office who provided them to the tabulator staff and resolution board. For this reason, ballots which were rejected by the tabulators were delivered to the auditor separately of the voted ballots. The resolution board examined those rejected ballots to determine the voter's intent and then they were run through the tabulators to be counted. This process resulted in two tapes being run for those precincts. The sum total of those two tapes would be the final result.

DeBoer also explained that the county had two ballot styles. One style was for precincts 1, 2, 3 & 4 and the second style was for precinct 5. This was because precinct 5 had a commissioner race, the only difference between the two styles. For this reason, the tapes would reflect a ballot count for the two styles, even if no votes were received from the alternate style.

DeBoer said that he observed that there were votes for races in Precinct 5 (the alternate ballot style) which were recorded in the other precincts. DeBoer attributed this to errors in his office while doing absentee voting. It was during this time that the two styles were being used by voters in the same place at the same time and thus it almost exclusively likely that DeBoer and his deputy may have given a voter the alternate ballot style in error. DeBoer added that because the race was won by a clear majority, the resulting error had no impact on the outcome.

DeBoer asked the canvassing board if they understood all of what had been explained and they replied they did. DeBoer then began to read the results from the tabulator ribbons. Those results are as follows:

**Precinct 1: US Senator:** Brian Bengs-16, Tamera Lesner-20, John Thune-240. **US House of Representatives:** Collin Duprel-27, Dusty Johnson-240. **State Governor:** Jamie Smith-30, Tracey Quint-3, Kristi Noem-241. **Secretary of State:** Thomas Cool-30, Monae Johnson-238. **Attorney General:** Marty Jackley-239. **State**