



Hand County
Director of Equalization & Zoning
Jaime L. Russell

415 West 1st Ave.
(605) 853-2115 (office) (605)853-2256 (fax)

March 1, 2023

Township/Town Clerks:

Your local boards of equalization are scheduled to meet **Monday, March 20th** through **Friday, March 24th**. This year we are hosting a meeting on **Monday, March 6th, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.** for you to come and also can pick up your book as well. A casual informative setting provided by the Auditor, Director of Equalization, Emergency Manager, Hi-way Department, Sherriff's offices and a representative from the South Dakota Association of Towns & Townships. You may pick your books after the hosted meeting; if you are unable to attend the meeting, we will try to answer your questions when you pick your book up during the week of March 6th – March 10th. We would like your books and minutes back by the following Monday, **March 27th**.

Of primary interest to most of you – ag land values increased by 4.73% county-wide this year. The increase of each parcel depends on the combination and rating of crop and non-crop soils per that parcel. This is all determined by the information we receive from the Department of Revenue according to the Productivity Formula established by the legislature several years ago. The soil survey and soil listings were closely audited this year and those soil types that were created for Channeled acres were changed to the crop type they are (LBAC to LBA) and then each parcel record with those channeled acres were viewed aerially on the GIS system to calculate the acres affected and then an AG adjustment was applied vs. having an entire new soil type. This will help with the matching of soils with the GIS map as the NCRS soils do not have the soils that we had with the channeled acres. No other changes, besides normal growth from new construction, were made this year.

Thank you for your interest and cooperation in picking up, conducting your meetings, and returning your assessment books promptly.

Sincerely,

Jaime L. Russell
Hand County Director of Equalization