

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MELLETTTE COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA  
SPECIAL MEETING  
January 14, 2025  
DRAFT

The meeting of the Mellette County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Brown in the Court Room in the Mellette County Courthouse at White River, SD on January 14, 2025 at 9:12 am. Commission members present were Vernon Brown, Wesley Schmidt, and Jr. Brandis; also present was Auditor Jenny Galbraith.

All motions are to be considered unanimous unless otherwise stated.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

A motion was made to approve the agenda by Brandis, seconded by Schmidt.

Visitors: George Ludvik and Mike Strain. George Ludvik expressed his concerns regarding the raise that the Commission gave themselves and requested that they reverse their decision until they have proven themselves as a public body. Mike Strain attended just to observe.

Executive Session in accordance with SDCL 1-25-1: Brandis requested executive session to discuss personnel matters. Motion by Schmidt to enter executive session at 9:41am, second by Brandis. At 10:05 am Chairman Brown declared executive session over.

Road & Bridge: Commission reviewed applications that were received for the highway department. Motion by Schmidt to conduct interviews on Friday, January 17, 2025 starting at 1:30 pm, second by Brandis.

Karen O'Brien joined the meeting to discuss Emergency Management and Ambulance since she was unable to attend the meeting on January 7, 2025;

RATES FOR MELLETTE COUNTY AMBULANCE: ambulance rates as follows: Base rate \$900.00; ALS \$1100.00; mileage \$13.00 per loaded mile; BLS Attendant \$80.00; ALS Attendant \$90.00; Paramedic \$100.00; Attendants will be paid \$25.00 if ambulance leaves the EMS building and the run is cancelled. This will remain the same as 2024.

EMT'S & EVOC'S: the following personnel are paid volunteer EMT's and EVOC's which will be covered under Mellette County's Work Comp Insurance: EMT's: Vanessa Hight and Ernesting Bear Heels. Licensed Medical Personnel: Kristi Newbold, RN; Karen O'Brien, Paramedic; Katherine O'Brien, EMT Professional. EVOC drivers: Tyrell Tucker, Cliff Bryan, and Bonnie Davidson. This will remain the same as 2024.

O'Brien discussed the shortage of personnel for the ambulance and that currently to become an EMT there is an online training from Sanford that costs \$385 but they can qualify to receive the training for free. People need to be an EMT to be on the ambulance and EVOC drivers need to go through a class to receive training to drive. People who are interested can contact Karen O'Brien for more information.

New Business: Commission reviewed Resolution 1-2025 Opposition to EID Livestock Tags which was previously presented by Chuck Willard for consideration. Motion by Schmidt, second by Brandis to approve the resolution that reads as follows:

RESOLUTION 1-2025  
OPPOSITION TO EID LIVESTOCK TAGS  
MELLETTTE COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA

WHEREAS The traceability program is incremental. USDA APHIS stated on it's website, updated October 11, 2024 after approving the new rule, that it "is committed to implementing a modern system that tracks animals from birth to slaughter", and  
WHEREAS The cost of the EID tags disproportionately burdens small and medium sized independent farmers and ranchers. The USDA rule allows large, corporate-owned herds to be grouped and tagged as one group, creating huge loopholes that keep costs low for larger companies, and  
WHEREAS the EID mandate would potentially interfere with price discovery found in traditional markets, thereby furthering vertical integration of the US food supply at the expense of the consumer and independent producer, and  
WHEREAS the EID mandate is far overreaching, intrusive, and potentially circumvents privacy laws, threatening the livelihood independent cattle and bison producers, and  
WHEREAS independent, family owned cattle ranches are of paramount importance to our local economy and to the economy as a whole, and  
WHEREAS the comments received by USDA APHIS in the rulemaking process were overwhelmingly against the new rule, and  
WHEREAS America has the safest and highest quality meat in the world using our current, fully functioning and effective traceability system. The mandated rule claims to be about animal health, but does nothing to prevent or treat disease, and  
WHEREAS South Dakota Codified Law 40-3-27 provides for identification of animals and premises involved in animal movement. The Animal Industry Board may develop and implement specific programs for the identification of animals and premises involved in animal movements. Any program implemented pursuant to SD Codified Laws 40-3-27 to 40-3-29, inclusive, must provide for confidentiality of identification records other than those records requested by law enforcement officers of the state and those records used for mandatory disease control or eradication efforts. A livestock owner may choose to identify animals using any methods set forth in 9 C.F.R. part 86, as adopted on January 9, 2013, as well as any additional methods that are later approved by the South Dakota Animal Industry Board pursuant to this section, and  
WHEREAS the Mellette County Commission is clear in calling for limited government and free markets.  
NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED the Mellette County Commission vehemently opposes the implementation of any EID mandate by the USDA, with the suggestion that funds currently earmarked for this program be reallocated to efforts to restore import standards that protect all livestock producers and consumers from introduction to foreign animal disease.

Dated this 14<sup>th</sup> day of January 2025, at White River, South Dakota.

Board of County Commissioners  
Of Mellette County

ATTEST:

/s/ Jenny Galbraith  
County Auditor

/s/ Vernon Brown  
Chairman of the Board

Commission reviewed Resolution 2-2025 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan which was previously presented by David Reiss from CSDED for consideration. Motion by Brandis, second by Schmidt to approve the resolution that reads as follows:

RESOLUTION 2-2025  
MELLETTE COUNTY  
PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PLAN

WHEREAS, Mellette County has identified the desire to update their Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation plan in order to improve the quality of life for all residents of the county; and  
WHEREAS, Mellette County anticipates updating their Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation plan. The county proposes to apply to the SD Office of Emergency Management for Hazard Mitigation Grant funding to assist with the costs of updating the plan; and

WHEREAS, the county will provide 25% of the project costs via local funding match, and NOW THEREFORE BE IT BE RESOLVED that the Mellette County Commission authorizes Jenny Galbraith to sign and submit the letter of intent and application to the SD Office of Emergency Management for Hazard Mitigation Grant funding for development of a Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation plan requesting up to \$20,000.00

This resolution is effective immediately upon passage.

Dated this 14<sup>th</sup> day of January 2025.

/s/ Vernon Brown  
Chairman Mellette County Commission

Attest: /s/ Jenny Galbraith  
Mellette County Auditor

Commission reviewed the proceedings from January 7, 2025; motion by Brandis to approve the proceedings, seconded by Schmidt.

Executive Session in accordance with SDCL 1-25-1: Brandis requested executive session to discuss personnel matters. Motion by Schmidt to enter executive session at 11:13 am, second by Brandis. At 11:35 am Chairman Brown declared executive session over.

At 12:07 pm Chairman Brown declared the meeting adjourned. Next meeting will be held on Friday, January 17, 2025.

Approved this 17<sup>th</sup> day of January 2025.

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Chairman, Mellette County Commissioners

ATTEST

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Jenny Galbraith, County Auditor