

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MELLETTTE COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA  
March 4th, 2025

The meeting of the Mellette County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Brown in the Commissioner Room in the Mellette County Courthouse at White River, SD on March 4th, 2025 at 9:02 am. Commission members present were Vernon Brown, Wesley Schmidt, and Jr. Brandis; also present was Auditor Jenny Galbraith, Deputy Auditor Nikki Bryan and Highway Superintendent Tre Iyotte

Visitors: Chuck Kierstad, Shayna Dillon, Sarah Kline, Nancy Walters Schmidt, Robert Bouman, Robert Koskan, Marshall Tinant via phone

All motions are to be considered unanimous unless otherwise stated.

The pledge of allegiance was recited. A motion by Brandis to approve the agenda with the addition of Chuck Kierstad and kids at the courthouse during business hours, seconded by Schmidt.

Public Comment: Marshall Tinant is requesting Mellette County sign a letter of support to help Todd County get federal funding to improve Todd County roads. Robert Bouman expressed concerns about the Gustafson gravel pit. Robert Koskan had questions regarding EMT and EMR training.

Road & Bridge: Commissioners discussed having someone with a drone do the measuring of the gravel at the Gustafson pit. Motion by Schmidt to get someone to measure the gravel pit, seconded by Brandis. Schmidt is looking into purchasing a Mulcher but needs more info on the hydraulics of the backhoe before getting any quotes. Tre gave an update on the road department. They have been working on some repairs on the blades and are hoping to get some moisture to be able to cut down the edges on the roads.

Auditor: Auditor Galbraith informed the commissioners that Legislative Audit has finished the audit and once the report is completed they will meet with the commission to go over the report. Galbraith gave the commissioners a draft of an example of a gravel contract for them to review. Commissioners will look over the draft and make changes if needed.

Unfinished Business: Commission reappointed Matt Glynn and Dan Hight for the 3-yr term for the Zoning Board and appointed Ross Koile to fulfill the vacant 5- yr term. Motioned by Schmidt and seconded by Brandis. Commissioner Brown asked for Treasurer Hilary Nesheim to join the meeting regarding the discrepancy of the tonnage law on vehicles over 6,000 pounds. Discussed Codified law and Treasurer brought an email from the Deputy Director of Motor Vehicle helping to clarify further. Further questions can be brought to the county Treasurer. Commissioners discussed having all employees including elected officials use a Timeclock system to clock in and clock out. Auditor Galbraith will look into pricing through Timeclock Plus. Sheriff Lafe Gildemaster joined the meeting. Commissioner Brown shared a printout of pricing of what it would cost per vehicle to be able to have a tracking system on the sheriff units and two county pickups. Gildemaster expressed his concerns and other options were discussed with the commission. Details need to be looked into and will be discussed further at the May meeting.

New Business: Commission discussed needing to appoint a Commissioner to the Law Enforcement Committee with the City Of White River. The meeting will be held on March 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00. Motion to appoint Brown by Schmidt and seconded by Brandis. Galbraith provided SDSU Memorandum of Understanding Addendum for title change from "4-H Youth Program Advisor" to the new title as "4-H Educator" and in Section 2 of the original contract the county share amount for 2025 will be \$5,760.

Motioned by Schmidt to approve signing the addendum, seconded by Brandis. Discussed about changing the once-a-month payroll schedule to bi-weekly. Motioned by Brandis to change payroll to bi-weekly, seconded by Schmidt. Commission discussed to have proceedings reviewed before publishing and is requesting that the draft minutes need to be emailed to all commissioners as soon as they are complete and need to be reviewed and accepted by two commissioners before publishing. Motion by Schmidt to have the minutes reviewed before publishing, seconded by Brandis. Shayna Dillon requested that the Commission either retract the previously published proceedings from February 4, 2025 or to publish an apology. Motion by Brandis to publish a correction to the wording of the February 4, 2025 proceedings, second by Schmidt. The Commission apologizes for any misinterpretation of the previously published minutes. Commission Brown has discussed updating and making changes to the County handbook with David Reiss from Central SD Enhancement District. Will discuss further at next meeting. Chuck Kierstad from the Wood Fire Department expressed his concerns about the radios in the fire units. It was previously requested the county to fund the purchasing of 8 radios and 4 handheld radios. The radios were originally ordered from B&L Communications in 2021 and they continuously stated they were on back order. Will look into the original agreement and will contact a different company to quote a price. Chuck also advised the commission that the White River Fire department gifted the Wood department a 4 door Chevy pickup and is requesting to be able to park the unit in the county shed in Wood. The Commission needs to check with the Highway Dept to make sure that there will be room. Commissioner Schmidt brought up the kids at the courthouse during business hours and will make changes regarding this in the employee handbook.

Approval Of Proceedings: Motion by Brandis to approve the February 4, 2025 proceedings with the previously discussed changes. Motion by Brandis to approve the February 19, 2025 proceedings.

CLAIMS: Commission reviewed claims presented. Motion by Schmidt to approve the following claims and claims paid out of meeting, seconded by Brandis:

GENERAL FUND: Commission: Mellette Co. News, 273.24, publishing; Reliance Standard, 20.68, life insurance premiums. SD Assoc of County Officials, 250.00, spring workshop; Innovative Benefit Consultants, 10.00, health insurance administrative fees Courts: Capital Reporting Services, 154.80, court reporter. Auditor: TwoTrees Technologies, 48.75, retention server & server repair; Amazon, 36.17 office supplies; AT&T, 46.19 phone; Badger, 13.25, paper shredding; Reliance Standard, 9.40, life insurance premium; Innovative Benefit Consultants, 10.00 health insurance administrative fees ; Office Products, 11.71, copier; SD Assoc of County Officials, 125.00 spring workshop Treasurer: Amazon, 105.46 office supplies; TwoTrees Technologies, 48.75, retention server & server repair; Badger, 13.25, paper shredding; Reliance Standard, 9.40, life insurance premium; Innovative Benefit Consultants 10.00, health insurance administrative fees ; Office Products, 11.71, copier. States Attorney: Reliance Standard, 9.40, life insurance premium; Innovative Benefit Consultants, 10.00, health insurance administrative fees. Court Appointed Attorney: Jamie Damon, 1109.23, attorney fees; SDACC, 761.00 CLERP. Courthouse: Amazon, 36.99, office supplies; Cherry Todd, 688.97, electric service; City of White River, 186.68, water/sewer/garbage; Black Hills Chemical, 217.99; Heart City Lock & Key, 307.00; Runnings, 771.64, paint & supplies; Mid-American Research Chemical, 986.88 cleaning supplies; Reliance Standard, 9.40, life insurance premium; Innovative Benefit Consultants 10.00, health insurance administrative fees; CHS, 2,322.19, propane; HCS, 927.28, camera repair; David Brandis, 170.00, snow removal; Peitz Service Experts, 1041.90, heat repair; Director of Equalization: TwoTrees Technologies, 48.75, server retention & server repair; Office Products, 11.71, copier; Reliance Standard, 9.40, life insurance premium; Badger, 13.25, paper shredding; Innovative Benefit Consultants, 9.18, health insurance administrative fees; Amazon, 9.20, office supplies Register of Deeds: Office Products, 35.00, copier; Reliance Standard, 3.76, life insurance premium; SD Assoc of County Officials, 150.00, spring workshop SDACO, 42.00, M&P relief fund. Phone and Internet: Goldenwest, 583.81, phone internet Sheriff: AT&T, 248.88, cell phones; Cenex, 633.06, fuel; Office Products, 35.00,

copier; Reliance Standard, 28.20, life insurance premiums; WEX bank, 206.15, fuel; Innovative Benefit Consultants 30.00, health insurance administrative fees; CHS, 707.15, fuel; Golden West, 93.66, phone/internet; SD Dept of Health, 80.00, drug testing Jail: City of Winner, 76811, February inmate housing & transport; City of White River, 32.00, water/sewer; CRS, 110.67, inmate insurance; Golden West, 105.63, phone/internet; Cherry Todd, 146.82, electric; CHS, 545.70, propane; David Brandis, 70.00 snow removal Ambulance: David Brandis, 10.00, snow removal; A&B Welding, 33.48, med oxygen; City of White River, 10.67, water/sewer; Firewatch, 138.92, fuel; Golden West, 25.51, phone/internet; Cherry Todd, 240.49 Extension: Amazon, 9.20, office supplies; Office Products, 11.71, copier. E-911: City of Winner, 2407.68, December 911 services; Golden West, 52.58, phone. Fire: Cherry Todd, 627.65, electric service WR & Wood; City of White River, 10.67, water/sewer; Golden West, 25.52, phone service; David Brandis, 10.00, snow removal. Emergency Mgmt.: Cherry Todd, 240.50, electric service; City of White River, 10.66, water/sewer; Golden West, 25.52, phone/internet; ESRI, 920.00, software; David Brandis, 10.00, snow removal 24/7: Sd Attorney General, 53.00, January Participation fees. State Motor Veh. Collections: 37,775.58, February revenue.

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND: Butler Machinery, 2025.48, blade repair; Cherry Todd, 176.61, electric service; City of White River, 74.34, water/sewer/garbage; TwoTrees Technologies, 48.75, server retention & repair; Gillen's Station, 533.38, fuel; Fire watch, 329.17, oil; LaCreek Electric, 60.35, electric service; Office Products, 11.71, copier; Reliance Standard, 9.40, life insurance premiums; Runnings, 1425.68, shop supplies; Tripp Co. Water, 16.00, water Wood shop. D & E, 299.97, fuel; AT&T, 46.19, phone; Heart City Lock & Key, 709.33, lock change; SD DOT, 787.68, Project PTNBIS; SD Hwy Assoc, 150.00, workshop; WEX Bank, 88.84, fuel; Innovative Benefit Consultants 10.00, health insurance administrative fees; Goldenwest, 66.32, internet; CHS fuel, 2870.56, diesel & propane, CHS, 186.43, fuel. JANUARY TAX & SPECIAL HIGHWAY APPORTIONMENT: Colome Consolidated School, 3227.14; White River School, 137,049.11; Jones County School, 10.17; City of Wood, 1860.02; City of White River, 15643.72; Badnation Township, 1119.40; BlackPipe Township, 1055.16; Butte Township, 564.35; Cody Township, 973.78; Fairview Township, 694.03; Mosher Township, 1282.90; New Surprise Valley Township, 114.06; Norris Township, 405.31; Prospect Township, 112.36; Redfish Township, 1142.82; Rockyford Township, 621.81; Rosebud Township, 1451.79; Runningbird Township, 731.02; Surprise Valley, 499.84; West River Water Development, 952.78.

Commission reviewed the following reports: Register of Deeds collected \$4211.00 for the month of February 2025. Clerk of Courts collected \$2321 for the month of January 2025.

At 12:41 pm Chairman Brown declared the meeting adjourned. Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 1st, 2025

Approved this 1st day of April 2025.

---

Vernon Brown, Chairman, Mellette County Commissioners

ATTEST

---

Jenny Galbraith, County Auditor