

HAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

605-853-2182

415 West 1st Avenue, Suite 203
MILLER, SOUTH DAKOTA 57362-1346

<http://hand.sdcounties.org/commissioner>
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The Hand County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 5, 2026. Chairman Jim Jones called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. with Commissioner Greg Palmer, Luke Wernsmann, and Daniel Jensen also present. Commissioner Jim Eschenbaum was excused.

Chairman Jim Jones led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

No requests to add or remove items from the agenda were offered. No conflicts of interest were declared. It was moved by Jensen / Wernsmann, passed, to approve the agenda as presented.

SOUTH DAKOTA UNIFIED JUDICIAL SYSTEM – Jenny Hammrich – Circuit Court Administrator reviewed a proposal from House of Glass (Aberdeen) for the placement of a protected window in the Clerk of Courts office. The bullet proof glass would be placed on the counter and separate the public from the staff. The proposal was for \$11,201. A matching grant from the state would bring the county's contribution down to \$3,733.77. The goal of the program is to have all clerk's offices protected in this manner. The request was approved upon motion of Palmer / Wernsmann and passed.

GROW SOUTH DAKOTA (GrowSD) - Lori Moen – Executive Director met with the commission to explain services provided across their 17-county catchment area and some of the programs they administer that are statewide. GrowSD also requests \$5,000 annual from the counties in their district, but they have only been receiving \$2,500 from Hand County. The commissioners said they would consider the funding request during the 2027 budget preparation.

OLD BUSINESS: Chairman Jim Jones announced that the commission would be **holding a public hearing**, as advertised, for the purpose of considering the revised Comprehensive Plan and the revised Zoning Ordinance. After some discussion it was decided that the hearing be started over so that clarity in the actions could be recorded.

It was moved by Wernsmann / Jensen, passed, to convene as the Hand County Planning and Zoning Commission. Chairman Jones asked for proponent and opponent testimony. No one offered to speak either for or against the revised comprehensive plan. It was then moved by Wernsmann / Jensen, passed, to recommend the adoption of the comprehensive plan to the county commission.

Chairman Jones next asked for proponent and opponent testimony for the revised Zoning Ordinance. Again, no one came forward to offer testimony for or against the ordinance. It was then moved by Jensen / Palmer, passed, to recommend the adoption of the ordinance to the county commission.

There being no further business before the Hand County Planning and Zoning Commission, it was moved by Wernsmann / Jensen, passed, to adjourn and return to regular session as county commissioners.

Auditor DeBoer presented the next two items of **OLD BUSINESS**, the first being the revisions to the Hand / Buffalo County cooperative agreement for emergency management. DeBoer said that the states attorney's office believes that Buffalo County should compose the revisions, if any. DeBoer also spoke on the letter from Governor Rhoden as it relates to the county option sales tax to offer property tax relief. During discussion, the commission appeared split on the benefits / consequences of the optional sales tax. It was decided to request someone from the State to present more information to the commission.

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE AUDIT (DLA) - Brandi Pitts – Auditor met with the commission via telephone to discuss the closure of the 2023 / 2024 fiscal audit of the county. Pitts reviewed several documents she had previously provided through the county auditor. Pitts reviewed the mechanism of the audit, the results which included material weaknesses in several areas and some immaterial weaknesses. The final report will be published in the Miller Press. The commission raised questions as to the findings, especially when it came to exceeding the approved budget. Ultimately, no action was taken.

NEW BUSINESS: The commission received a **beverage license renewal** from the HiWay Store (Mike Ames). After the review, it was moved by Jensen / Palmer, passed, to approve the beverage license renewal.

Auditor DeBoer asked for guidance in the manner of **selling two properties which were taken by tax deed** action and are now past the redemption period. It was decided to offer the properties by sealed bid and have the top three bidders offer additional, in person bids, until a victor is found. There would be no margin stated to trigger the second round of bidding. DeBoer will have paperwork prepared for the June commission meeting.

ASSESSOR – Jaime Russell spoke to the commission about purchasing Cotality / Marshall and Swift (commercial agricultural estimator) at a cost of \$2,087.95. After some discussion, it was moved by Jensen / Wernsmann, passed, to approve the purchase. Russell reviewed some upcoming training she and her clerk, Nicole Graham would be attending.

PLATS: The “**DUNSMORE ADDITION**” plat was presented to the commission for approval. It was moved by Jensen / Wernsmann, passed, to approve the plat, which reads: “Be it resolved by the County Commission of Hand County, South Dakota, that the plat showing: **DUNSMORE ADDITION** IN THE SE1/4 OF SECTION 1, TOWNSHIP 109 NORTH, RANGE 66 WEST OF THE 5TH P.M., HAND COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA having been examined is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL of 1967, Chapter 11-3, and any amendments thereof.”

ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND – Nicole Gortmaker – Highway Superintendent presented the Road and Bridge fund financial report with both the expense budgets and revenue budgets showing solid balances. Gortmaker next spoke on structure 30-000-392, BRO-b 8030(30), PCN 09MP located 5 miles West and 13.2 miles south of Ree Heights. The commission was asked to approve the “letting authorization” for the project. Estimated costs is \$1,162,000.

Gortmaker also reviewed the traffic count data provided by South Dakota LTAP (Local Transportation Assistance Program of SDSU). The data provided the average number of vehicles that travel the sample roadways and helps the county decide which roads have priority over others based on use.

Gortmaker also provided a summary of the costs associated with maintaining the road from US HWY 14 to the PGP terminal which is part of a Tax Incremental Financing District. The 2025 costs were \$19,759.75. This included regular maintenance and snow removal.

OPEN MEETINGS / OPEN RECORDS (SDCL 1-27-29 through 1-27-37)

AUDITOR – Doug DeBoer. DeBoer informed the commission that the new server had been installed by Two Trees Technology (Watertown) and all appears to be working well. DeBoer also requested the board approve a fund level transfer of \$3,500 from the TIF fund (290) to the General Fund (101). The transfers would be \$1,750 in May and again in November.

DeBoer presented the amortization schedule for the hospital fund. The principal amount remaining is \$624,175.15. The total amount is \$645,919.47 through full term.

DeBoer presented the templates for the revenue and expenditure budgets for all funds and all budgets within those funds. DeBoer asked if there were any directions or instructions from the commission as to how departments would prepare their budgets. No instructions were given.

DeBoer provided the commission with an update on the primary election. This included publication of the sample ballots, availability of sample ballots in the office and online and purchasing the supplies / services needed to facilitate the election.

DeBoer presented the financial reports for the various funds excluding the Road and Bridge fund. All revenues are as expected and expenses are in line with projections.

MINUTES: The minutes of the April 7, 2026 meeting were approved upon motion of _____.

OTHER REPORTS: The commission received reports from the Treasurer on property taxes collected. The current building permits from the Zoning officials. The link to the Library Board minutes and the auditor's payroll ledger.

CONSENT AGENDA: The consent agenda contained the payment of claims before the board. It was moved by ____ to approve the consent agenda.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At the request of Highway Superintendent Nicole Gortmaker, the board met in executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) for discussion of personnel.

It was moved by Wernsmann & Jensen, passed, to exit executive session. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT: It was moved by Jensen & Wernsmann, passed, to adjourn the meeting. [4:30 P.M.]

The next meeting will be held on June 4, 2026 as June 2, 2026 is election day.

SDCL 7-10-3 Auditor's reconciliation with the Treasurer. Includes funds held for other governmental agencies (Schools, Towns, Townships, Special Districts): Cash on Hand: \$1,146.68. Checks in Possession less than 3 days: \$474,387.42. Checks in Possession more than 3 days: \$10.75. Cash Items: \$0.00. Petty Cash: \$300.00. Reconciled Demand Deposits-American Bank & Trust: \$8,775.51. Reconciled Demand Deposits-Quoin Financial Bank: \$22,905.46. Time Deposits – American Bank & Trust: \$1,544,313.33. Time Deposits – Quoin Financial Bank: \$6,357,695.83. Library Checking: \$43,740.82. Library Certificates of Deposit: \$7,551.00. Library Stocks: \$12,400.00. Total: \$8,473,226.80.

PAYROLL REPORT BY DEPARTMENT: Commission: \$4,233.00. Auditor: \$10,513.99 + \$3,150.00 (L) = \$13,663.99. Treasurer: \$8,739.91. Attorney: \$9,071.84. Janitor: \$4,806.48. Assessor: \$10,513.99. Registrar: \$8,739.91. Veteran Svc: \$1,738.40. Sheriff: \$22,933.51 (R) + \$403.46 (OT) + \$1,068.41 (FOT) + \$292.50 (L) + \$491.25 (C) = \$25,189.13. Coroner: \$463.50. E-911: \$242.93. Em – Mgt: \$4,887.63. Highway: \$45,466.32. Rubble Site: \$4,255.62. Library Board: \$4,956.48. 4-H: \$3,931.33 + \$150.00 (L) = \$4,231.33. Weed Board: \$5,836.09. Totals: \$151,330.93 (R) + \$403.46 (OT) + \$1,068.41 (FOT) + \$3,592.50 (L) + \$491.25 (C) + \$150.00 (OL) = \$157,036.55.

BENEFITS: Accounts Management: \$392.00. The Standard: \$2,252.58. American Family (AFLAC): \$1,514.67. Avera Health Plans: \$29,636.66. Globe Life: \$68.79. SD Retirement: \$17,463.91. American Bank & Trust (HSA Acct): \$7,188.50. Colonial Life: \$1,252.89. American Bank & Trust (FICA/Medi/Withholding): \$32,640.26. Total: \$92,410.26.

CLAIMS paid on April 14, 2026: **ELECTIONS:** VISA: SUPPLIES 21.38. **AUDITOR:** VISA: SUPPLIES 52.99. **TREASURER:** VISA: SUPPLIES 202.60. **GOV. BUILDING:** MILLER ACE: SUPPLIES 655.51.

VENTURE: PHONE/INTERNET 803.61: 1459.12. **DIR. OF EQUAL:** VISA SOFTWARE 23.20. **VETERANS SER. OFF:** VISA SUPPLIES 36.90. **INFORMATION TECH:** INFOTECH SOLUTIONS, LLC IT SERVICE 5102.88. **SHERIFF:** COWBOY COUNTRY: GAS 481.94, 487.64 & 249.01. MILLER ACE: K-9 SUPPLIES 44.99: 1263.58. **RUBBLE SITE:** DAKOTA ENERGY: UTILITIES 137.44. **LIBRARY BOARD:** VENTURE: PHONE /INTERNET 200.35. **WEED (PEST) BOARD:** COWBOY COUNTRY: GAS 66.60. MILLER ACE: SUPPLIES 41.49. NAPA CENTRAL: SUPPLIES 67.17. VENTURE: PHONE / INTERNET 188.85. VISA: REPAIRS 58.86: 422.97. **HWY-RDS & BRIDGES:** COWBOY COUNTRY: GAS 510.50. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY: DRIV LIC RECORD FEE (3) 15.00. JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL: REPAIRS 1774.06 & SUPPLIES 1218.66. MILLER ACE: SUPPLIES 132.32. VENTURE: PHONE / INTERNET 196.85. VISA: SUPPLIES 112.70 & GAS 75.00: 4035.09. **E-911 SERVICES:** CENTURY LINK: 911 SERVICES 192.37. VENTURE: PHONE /INTERNET 11.50: 203.87. **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:** COWBOY COUNTRY: GAS (HC)201.74 & GAS (BC) 48.14. VENTURE: PHONE / INTERNET 29.11: 278.99. **STATE COLLECTIONS:** SD DEPT OF REVENUE 2132.00. **STATE MV COLL FUND:** SD DEPT OF REVENUE 121558.08. **SDACC MOD & PRES:**SD ASSN OF CO. COMMISSIONERS 230.00. Total checks written this date: 137361.44.

CLAIMS paid on April 15, 2026: GOV. BUILDING: G & R CONTROLS: ANNUAL BOILER SERVICE CONTRACT 3282.00. Total claims paid this date: 3282.00.

PROPERTY TAXES APPORTIONED ON APRIL 16, 2026: **SCHOOLS:** FAULKTON 11462.76. HITCHCOCK-TULARE 5486.32. MILLER 370418.34. REDFIELD 77857.94. WOLSEY/WESSINGTON 14308.59: 479533.95. **TOWNSHIPS:** ALDEN 2933.59. ALPHA 2581.32. BATES 1546.56. BURDETTE 2325.13. CAMPBELL 697.88. CARLTON 561.53. CEDAR 721.82. COMO 626.61. FAIRVIEW 2999.54. FLORENCE 5512.28. GILBERT 2465.53. GLENDALE 699.62. GRAND 6229.33. GREENLEAF 1845.12. HILAND 704.26. HOLDEN 1343.91. HOWELL 6136.73. HULBERT 3811.19. LINN 1827.17. LOGAN 1837.65. MIDLAND 2151.92. MILLER 3427.87. MONDAMIN 768.07. OHIO 3890.94. ONTARIO 1447.44. PARK 3928.19. PEARL 2089.72. PLATO 1975.07. PLEASANT VALLEY 1554.40. REE HEIGHTS 2554.71. RIVERSIDE 5660.87. ROCKDALE 825.23. ROSEHILL 1419.64. SPRING HILL 1099.39. SPRING LAKE 908.97. SPRING 1379.86. SAINT LAWRENCE 1575.11. WHEATON 3605.94. YORK 1370.33: 89164.48. SPRING LAKE ROAD & BRIDGE TAX REFUNDS: DAVID & JOANN DOERING 58.79. FARRYLE WENDEL LIFE ESTATE 34.67. LINDA TEVELDAL 2.23. RAMONA UFEN 28.35. **CITIES & TOWNS:** MILLER: 33448.26. REE HEIGHTS: 1717.65. SAINT LAWRENCE: 5319.17. WESSINGTON: 187.60: 40672.68. **RURAL FIRE DIST FUND:** POLO FIRE DISTRICT: 4244.18. TOTAL TAXEST APPORTIONED OR REFUNDED: 613615.29.

CLAIMS PAID ON MAY 1, 2026: HOSPITAL DEBT SERVICE: AB & T: PRINCIPAL 21129.86 & INTEREST 1505.71: 22635.57. TREASURERS TRUST: KIRK SARGENT 357.53 & MATT VAN ZEE 971.06: 1328.59. TOTAL CLAIMS PAID THIS DATE: 23964.16.

CLAIMS PAID ON MAY 5, 2026: **COMMISSIONERS:** ON HAND DEVELOPMENT CORP: APRIL SUPPORT 1666.66. QUADIENT FINANCE: POSTAGE 250.00. THE MILLER PRESS: PUBLISHING 243.83: 2160.49. **ELECTIONS:** MCLEODS PRINTING: ELECTION SUPPLIES 351.59. QUADIENT FINANCE: POSTAGE - ELECTIONS 250.00. THE MILLER PRESS: ELECTION PUBLISHING 11.70: 613.29. **JUDICIAL SERVICES:** JUROR 1: PANEL MEMBER 50.00 & MILEAGE 16.80. JUROR 2: PANEL MEMBER 50.00 & MILEAGE 2.80. JUROR 3: PANEL MEMBER 50.00 & MILEAGE 39.20. JUROR 4: PANEL MEMBER 50.00 & MILEAGE 25.20. JUROR 5: PANEL MEMBER 50.00 & MILEAGE 25.20. JUROR 6: PANEL MEMBER 50.00 & MILEAGE 21.00. JUROR 7: PANEL MEMBER 50.00 & MILEAGE 19.60. JUROR 8: PANEL MEMBER 50.00 & MILEAGE 32.20. JUROR 9: PANEL MEMBER 50.00 & MILEAGE 39.20. SDACC: CATASTROPHIC LEGAL EXP FUND 3124.00: 3795.20. **AUDITOR:** A & B BUSINESS: COPIER MAINT. CONTRACT 49.63. GOOD SHRED: SHREDDING SERVICE 48.75. SD ASS'N OF COUNTY OFFICIALS: 2 DEPUTY WORKSHOP REGISTRATION 200.00: 298.38. **TREASURER:** HAND COUNTY TREASURER: OFFICE SUPPLIES 10.75 & SD ASS'N OF COUNTY OFFICIALS: DEPUTY WORKSHOP REGISTRATION 100.00: 110.75. **STATES ATTORNEY:** CONNOR ANOTINE: WITNESS FEE 20.00 & MILEAGE 143.55. ANSON LAW: RENT 400.00, SUPPLIES 350.00 & UTILITIES 458.32. AVERA HAND CO. MEMORIAL HOSPIT DUI BLOOD DRAW 120.00. CANNABIS CHEMLAB: EVIDENCE TESTING 65.00. SD DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH: DUI TESTING 300.00. BRAD GIBSON: WITNESS FEE 20.00 &

MILEAGE 881.60. ALEX LARSON: WITNESS FEE 20.00 & MILEAGE 63.80. RICHARD MCDONALD: WITNESS FEE 20.00 & MILEAGE 406.00: 3268.27. **COURT APP. ATTORNEY:** BLUE LAW FIRM, LLP 531.18 & CHURCHILL, MANOLIS, FREEMAN 1831.00: 2362.18. **JANITORIAL:** BDS, LLC: GARBAGE DISP 120.00. HUGHES ELECTRIC: LABOR 1900.00 & SUPPLIES 749.88. INTERSTATE POWER SYS: LABOR ON GENERATOR 1445.05 & SUPPLIES FOR GENERATOR 415.34. MID AMERICAN: BOILER SUPPLIES 664.72. CITY OF MILLER: UTILITIES 804.78. VESTIS: CLEANING SUPPLIES 377.29: 6477.06. **DIR. OF EQUAL:** A & B BUSINESS: COPIER MAINT. CONT 34.86 & SUPPLIES 78.59. AMERICAN SOLUTIONS FOR BUSINES: OFFICE SUPP 28.50. HIGH CALL CUSTOMS: APPAREL 400.00. THE MILLER PRESS: PUBLISHING 245.49 & SUPPLIES 100.00: 887.44. **REGISTRAR:** A & B BUSINESS: COPIER MAINT. CONT 42.18 & BUSINESS 365 20.84. AMERICAN SOLUTIONS FOR BUSI: OFFICE SUPP 25.94. SD ASS'N OF COUNTY OFFICIALS: DEPUTY WORKSHOP REGISTRATION 100.00. STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA: MICROFILMING & TAPE 157.22. TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES: SUPPORT 50.00: 396.18. **VETERANS SER. OFF:** DAVID SIVERTSEN: VSO MILEAGE - APRIL 254.80. **SHERIFF:** CLAIR BONEBRIGHT: MAKING FRAMES 160.00 & SUPPLIES 241.20. BRANDON FISHER: MEAL 11.25. MILLER SHINE: CAR WASH 15.01, CAR WASH 15.95 & CAR WASH 15.95. CHELSEA PRICE: MEALS 406.20. VISA: APPAREL & POSTAGE 372.00, APPAREL 82.23, APPAREL 72.00, APPAREL 72.00, NARCOTICS CONF REGISTRA - 2 200.00, 239.76, MICROSOFT 365 SUBSCRIPTION 13.80: 1917.35. **MENTAL HEALTH:** CENTER FOR INDEPENDENCE: MONTHLY SUPPORT 180.00. YANKTON COUNTY SHERIFF: SERVING PROCESS 50.00: 230.00. **LIBRARY BOARD:** A & B BUSINESS: COPIER MAINT. CONT 97.72. BDS, LLC: GARBAGE DISP 22.00. BOB'S GAS: PROPANE 392.70. FIRE PROTECTION SOLUTIONS, LLC ANNUAL FIRE EXT 55.00. INGRAM LIBRARY: BOOKS 413.05. CITY OF MILLER: UTILITIES 517.67. OVERDRIVE: E-BOOK & AUDIOBOOKS 251.98: 1750.12. **4H PROGRAMMING:** DOLLAR GENERAL: SUPPLIES 20.00. OFFICE EQUIPMENT SERVICE: QUARTERLY COPIER MAIN 157.85: 177.85. **WEED (PEST) BOARD:** AT & T: CELL PHONE 46.50. CLINT HAIGH: MEETING 50.00 & MILEAGE 25.20. HUGHES ELECTRIC: LAOBR 425.00 & SUPPLIES 274.71. CITY OF MILLER: UTILITIES 324.20. NAPA CENTRAL: SUPPLIES 113.76. RANDY PECK: CDL RENEWAL REIMBURSEMENT 43.00. MATT ROGERS: MEETING 50.00 & MILEAGE 35.00. JEROME SCHAEFERS: MEETING 50.00 & MILEAGE 25.20. BRETT STEVENS: MEETING 50.00 & MILEAGE 30.80. THE MILLER PRESS: PUBLISHING 37.42. WARNE CHEMICAL: SUPPLIES 56.97: 1637.76. **PLANNING & ZONING:** THE MILLER PRESS: PUBLISHING 17.23. **HWY-RDS & BRIDGES:** AVERA HAND CO. MEMORIAL HOSPIT DRUG TESTS 168.00. BDS, LLC: GARBAGE DISP 60.00. BOB'S GAS: PROPANE 839.20. HARKINS ENTERPRISES: REPAIRS 2102.04. AARON KNOX: MEAL 11.97. CITY OF MILLER: UTILITIES 552.54. GARY NAMANNY: CDL RENEWAL REIMBURSEMENT 45.00. NAPA CENTRAL: SUPPLIES 2019.75. NEWMAN TRAFFIC SIGNS: SIGN POSTS 115.10. PHEASANTLAND INDUSTRIES: APPAREL 1865.54. RESEL OIL: DIESEL FUEL 12869.78. RUNNINGS: SUPPLIES 766.87. SD DOT: COUNTY SHARE OF BRIDGE WORK 25614.81. THE MILLER PRESS: PUBLISHING 111.49. TITAN MACHINERY: SUPPLIES 306.10. TWIN VALLEY TIRE: REPAIRS 626.65. VERIZON: CELL PHONE 59.73: 48134.57. **E-911 SERVICES:** CITY OF HURON: 911 SERVICES 4552.26. GEOGRAPHIC INNOVATIONS: Q1 DATA UPDATES 500.00: 5052.26. **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:** CLAIR BONEBRIGHT: SUPPLIES - HC 375.90 & SUPPLIES - BC 125.30. T MOBILE: CELL PHONE 35.20. VERIZON: CELL PHONE 89.95. VISA: SUPPLIES & POSTAGE 27.40. VISA: SUPPLIES - BC 21.32: 675.07. **24/7 PROGRAM:** REDWOOD TOXICOLOGY LAB: DRUG RESULTS / POSTAGE 132.45. **MALT BEVERAGE LICENSE:** DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE: 150.00. TOTAL CLAIMS PAID THIS DATE: 80498.70.

Unapproved minutes by Auditor Doug DeBoer