

REGULAR MEETING OF BRULE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JANUARY 16, 2025

The Board of Brule County Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. at the Brule County Courthouse. Members present: DeBoer, Dozark, Swanson, Leiferman and Mairose via phone. Also present: Deputy States Attorney Steve Meyer and Janet Petrak, Central Dakota Times.

APPROVE MINUTES

Commissioner Swanson moved and Commissioner Mairose seconded to approve the minutes of 1-5-2025 minutes. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2025

Commissioner Swanson moved and Commissioner Mairose seconded to approve the following assignments for 2025. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

911 Board	Leiferman
Ag Building	Mairose/Swanson
Ambulance Joint Powers Board	Dozark
Court Security Committee	Leiferman/Dozark
Courthouse	Leiferman/Mairose
District III Planning & Development	DeBoer/Assessor as Proxy
Emergency Management Service	DeBoer
Extension Board	Dozark
Highway Supervisors	Mairose/Dozark
Jail	Swanson/DeBoer
Lake Francis Case	Swanson
Landfill	DeBoer
MRC Regional Railroad Authority	Dozark
Planning & Zoning Board	Swanson/DeBoer
Purchasing Committee	Auditor/Treasurer/Dozark
Resource, Conservation & Development	Mairose
Safety Committee	Auditor/Assessor/Register of Deeds
Senior Citizens	Swanson
Weed/Pest	Mairose

All members voted aye. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER VACANCY

Derek Long withdrew his name as a candidate for the District 2 Commissioner seat. Montgomery Leiferman was the other candidate and was appointed to the District 2 seat as of January 16, 2025. Leiferman executed his oath of office.

PERSONNEL

Commissioner Swanson moved and Commissioner Leiferman seconded to approve Matthew Galpin off of probation and increase his wage .50/hour to \$19.57/hour. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Swanson moved and Commissioner Mairose seconded to approve Tucker Watson Veal off of probation and to increase his wage .50/hour to \$20.00/hour. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Swanson moved and Commissioner Mairose seconded to eliminate the .50/hour less during probation for all employees that are currently employed and any future hires. Probationary period will still be for 90 days per the personnel policy and the Auditor's Office will still need to be notified when the employee is off of probation for their personnel file. No action will be need to be done through the Commissioners. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

STARTING WAGES/PART – TIME WAGE

Commissioner Dozark moved and Commissioner Swanson seconded to set the starting wages/part time wages for **2026, 2027 and 2028.**

Courthouse Personnel/Custodian States Attorney Administrative Assistant/Victim Witness Coordinator:	2026 – \$16.93	2027 \$17.28	2028 \$17.63
Sheriff Deputies/Jailers:	2026 - \$20.48	2027 \$20.83	2028 \$21.18
Highway Workers	2026 - \$20.31	2027 \$20.66	2028 \$21.36

Part time wage: Highway Workers \$22.00/hour. Courthouse/Jail/Sheriff \$17.00

All members voted aye. Motion carried.

WEIGHT LIMIT RESOLUTION

Commissioner Swanson moved and Commissioner Dozark seconded to adopt the following resolution regarding weight limits in Brule County:

**RESOLUTION #2025-1
BRULE COUNTY WEIGHT LIMIT ENFORCEMENT**

WHEREAS, seasonal climatic changes can be detrimental to our highways, and

WHEREAS, the Brule County Board of County Commissioners desires to protect existing Brule County Highways, ultimately saving tax dollars, and

WHEREAS, the Brule County Board of County Commissioners, desire the enforcement of weight limitations of Brule County Roads as set forth and posted by the Brule County Highway Superintendent.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

WHEREAS, the limits on Brule County Highways shall be set as seven (7) ton per axle; 80,000 pound gross, on all asphalt surface roads, during the spring thaw period and when limit signs are in place, except approximately one (1) mile on 367 Avenue from I-90 exit 289 to Viterra Grain Facility entrance and except for County Oil Road #350 north of Pukwana, between County Road 241 and 243, which will be closed to all vehicles over 7000 lbs. per axle, unless permitted by the Highway Superintendent. That the South Dakota Highway Patrol be and hereby is authorized and requested to enforce weight limitations on Brule County roads.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the penalty for the violation of the load restrictions shall be as set forth in SDCL: 32-22-55.

Signed at Chamberlain, SD by Chairman Donn DeBoer. Attest: Pamela Petrak, Auditor.

Votes: 5 Aye 0 Nay

SNOW REMOVAL POLICY

The Snow Removal Policy was reviewed with no changes:

BRULE COUNTY SNOW REMOVAL AND ROAD SANDING POLICY

It is the policy of Brule County to initiate snow removal operations to maintain traffic as long as visibility is adequate and weather conditions are as such that plowing can be done safely and be effective.

The County Highway Superintendent, or his assignee, has the responsibility for initiating all snow removal actions using his best judgment considering all prevailing weather conditions, amount of snow fall, type of snow fall, and what areas are affected most. He also may commence operations during emergency situations.

The general practice will be as follows: When snow fall is at least two inches on oil roads and emergency routes and as needed on gravel roads, plowing may commence before and/or after normal working

hours as well as on weekends or holidays as the highway superintendent, or his assignee, deems necessary. The snow removal operations will begin out of the Brule County Highway shop in Kimball as well as the remote satellite shed at 35050 251st Street.

The priority of which roads are plowed and in which sequence is up to the discretion of the highway superintendent.

- 1) County oil roads and emergency routes will be opened first.
- 2) County gravel roads & emergency school bus routes.

The Brule County Highway Department policy for sanding is as follows: bridges, steep hills, sharp curves, intersections controlled by stop signs on all hard surface roads on the Brule County Highway System; as deemed necessary by the superintendent, or his assignee.

The Brule County Highway Department shall have the authority to sand in areas that have been classified as danger areas by the Sheriff's Department, such as accidents or for emergency vehicles.

The Highway Superintendent, or his assignee, shall have the authority to sand before and/or after normal working hours due to adverse weather conditions.

TRAVEL REQUEST

Commissioner Swanson moved and Commissioner Leiferman seconded to approve a travel request to the Weed & Pest Conference in Huron Feb 19 – 21. Two employees must attend to receive a weed grant from the State of SD. Conference cost is \$175/person and motel rooms are \$95.00 plus tax for 2 nights for 2 people. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Katheryn Benton advised that she needs to attend two mandatory classes that are free – Crisis Track 8 hour course – Rapid City – April 29, 2025 and Salamander Tracking – Pierre – February 25, 2025.

BURN PLAN

Discussion was held on the current policy to be able to burn large debris piles in Brule County. Katheryn Benton currently is the designated person to call to get permission to burn, however, if Benton is unable to take the information from the individual the Commissioners wanted to designate a second person to handle the situation. The burn plan application is on the website under the Emergency Management tab and the Commissioners tab. The information on the application can also be verbally relayed to Benton or other designee for permission to burn. The second designee has not been found at this time.

ABATEMENT/ADDED TAX

Director of Equalization Kim Kontz found some errors when working in her 2025 pay 2026 file: Parcel #29-260-00-0102 owned by Crow Creek Sioux Tribe was marked tax exempt and should not be - taxes will be assessed and a notice sent; the following 2 parcels should be tax exempt - #29-010-13-1600 owned by Central Plains Evangelical Free Church – abate \$716.28; and #29-010-13-3301 owned by City of Chamberlain – abate \$1.82. Commissioner Swanson moved and Commissioner Leiferman seconded to abate the 2 parcels and add the tax on the 3rd parcel. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Mairose moved and Commissioner Swanson seconded to enter executive session at 10:07 am to discuss personnel and legal issues. Executive Session over at 11:52 pm.

APPROVE CLAIMS

Commissioner Swanson moved and Commissioner Dozark seconded to approve the following payroll and bills. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND

Salaries: Commissioners, 1241.52; Auditor, 3514.49; Treasurer, 3524.11; States Attorney, 6524.87; Assessor, 3167.92; Planning Commission, 351.99; Register of Deeds, 3420.97; Sheriff, 11,216.92; Jail, 16,627.96; Courthouse, 1502.40; Veteran Service, 851.62; Victim Witness Coordinator, 229.35. **FICA & Medicare:** First Dakota Bank, 4207.75. **Retirement:** SDRS, 3108.40. **Insurance Reimbursement:** 4485.81. **Insurance:** ABA 5198.34. Burke Oil Company, 3473.05; Byre Brothers Inc, 167.00; Chamberlain Ace Hardware, 428.53; Chamberlain Food Center, 267.15; Hein Law Office, 1678.67; Johnson, Pochop Law Office, 3309.48; Kaleb's Service, 52.00; Lincoln County Auditor, 322.84; Lohr, Tyler, 156.23; Mastercard, 2441.55; Mid-States Org Crime, 100.00; Office Child & Family Services, 11,661.00; Office Products Center, 3271.00; Planning & Development, 17,836.00; Precision Reporting, 350.00; Riverview CDJR, 127.58; Schumacher Elevator Company, 237.74; SD Association of County Commissioners, 254.38; SD Department of Health, 490.00; SD Department of Revenue, 1271.63; Stekly Law Office, 5753.39; Steve Smith Law Office, 3116.50; Verizon Connect, 100.63; Verizon Wireless, 42.74; Wex Health, 25.00; Yankton County Sheriff's Office, 50.00.

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND

Salaries: 13,718.43. **FICA & Medicare:** First Dakota Bank, 1021.02. **Retirement:** SDRS, 823.12. **Insurance:** ABA 2971.17. Aurora Brule Rural Water, 35.00; Brule County Co-op Association, 78.86; Burke Oil Company, 5507.13; C & B Operations, 389.57; CM Trucking LLC, 3213.95; City of Kimball, 48.38; Lyle Signs, 378.30; Mastercard, 129.54; Office Products Center, 301.00; Verizon Wireless, 42.74.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND

Salaries: 728.28. **FICA & Medicare:** First Dakota Bank, 83.43. **Retirement:** SDRS, 43.70. **Insurance Reimbursement:** 362.30. Office Products Center, 43.00.

24/7 SOBRIETY FUND

Salaries: 188.29. **FICA & Medicare:** First Dakota Bank, 17.18. **Retirement:** SDRS, 15.06. **Insurance Reimbursement:** 25.40. **Insurance:** ABA 8.99. Attorney General's Office, 322.00; Mastercard, 220.99

REGISTER OF DEEDS MODERNIZATION & PRESERVATION FUND

Executive Management Finance Office, 12.69.

LEPC FUND

Mastercard, 645.70.

SALES & EXCISE TAX FUND

SD Department of Revenue, 12.89.

DOMESTIC ABUSE FUND

Missouri Valley Crisis Center, 432.43.

SMOKEY GROVE TIF

City of Chamberlain, 238.22.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Swanson moved and Commissioner Mairose seconded to adjourn at 11:55 am with the next meeting being held on 2-6-2025 at 9:00 am. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

PAMELA PETRAK
BRULE COUNTY AUDITOR

DONN DEBOER
BOARD OF BRULE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS