

February 4th, 2025  
Regular Meeting

The Deuel County Commissioners met in regular session on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 9:00 AM in the Commission Room of the Courthouse with Chairman Jay Grabow presiding. Those present were Commissioners Jay Grabow, Steve Rhody, Scott Fieber, Harry Mewherter and Judith Homan. Also present was Auditor Courtney Parker. The meeting began with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. 1) Mewherter moved, seconded by Fieber to approve the agenda with the addition of Darren Houseman and VSECO bills for patrol vehicles. All voted yes and the motion carried. 2) Homan moved, seconded by Rhody to approve the meeting minutes from January 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. All voted yes and the motion carried.

**Appointments**

**Item #1 Highway Superintendent Jamie Broksieck**

Broksieck discussed a few topics with the board. 3) Mewherter moved, seconded by Fieber to approve Bridge Reinspection Program Resolution For Use With SDDOT Retainer Contracts 25-03. All voted yes and the motion carried.

**BRIDGE REINSPECTION  
PROGRAM RESOLUTION  
FOR USE WITH SDDOT RETAINER CONTRACTS  
25-03**

**WHEREAS**, 23 CFR 650 Subpart C, requires initial inspection of all bridges and reinspection at intervals not to exceed two years with the exception of reinforced concrete box culverts that meet specific criteria. These culverts are reinspected at intervals not to exceed four years.

**THEREFORE**, Deuel County is desirous of participating in the Bridge Inspection Program.

The County requests SDDOT to hire Banner Associates, Inc. (Consulting Engineers) for the inspection work. SDDOT will secure federal approvals, make payments to the Consulting Engineer for inspection services rendered, and bill the County for 20% of the cost. The County will be responsible for the required 20% matching funds.

Dated this 4th day of February, 2025, at Clear Lake, South Dakota.  
(city)

Board of County Commissioners  
Of Deuel County

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Auditor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman of the Board

**Item #2 Coroner Josh Bekaert**

Bekaert discussed his rates as Deuel County Coroner with the board. Bekaert was appointed 4 years ago and within that time frame he has not asked for any funds. He explained some of his more challenging calls that are many long hours to unfit circumstances for him to do his job to less than ideal situations. He asked for an increase in funds per call. Bekaert suggested raising the call price from \$100 + mileage per call to a flat

\$200 per call, no mileage. He also asked to be refunded for his time for training hours and mileage. 4) Homan moved, seconded by Fieber to pay him \$200 per call, no mileage, and to pay him \$22 per hour for training purposes. This will cover the previous calls he has been on since his appointment. All voted yes and the motion carried.

**Item #3 at 9:30 AM Executive Session Pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1(1) Personnel Matters**

5) Homan moved, seconded by Grabow to move into Executive Session Pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) Personnel Matters. All voted yes and the motion carried. Chairman Grabow declared the Commissioners out of Executive Session at 9:40 AM. No action was taken.

**Item #4 Veteran Service Officer Appointment**

The board discussed the VSO position with Lynna Speier. Speier joined service after high school. After graduating high school, she first enlisted in the US Air Force, touring in Germany during Desert Storm/Desert Shield. Speier graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration with concentration in Human Resources. Later graduating with a Masters in Human Resources Management from Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri. Speier later enlisted in the US Army where she completed two tours in Iraq and two tours with the multinational peacekeeping Stabilization Force (SFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Speier's jobs within the service included delivering mail and HR officer. Speier has combined services of about 23 years. After serving in the US Military, Speier taught at Mount Rushmore Reserve Officer Corps Battalion. Since then she has had jobs in taking care of people in a couple different aspects, as that is what she loves to do.

The commission explained at the end of the day as a VSO they just want to make sure our Veterans are taken care of and their benefits are filed. They expect Speier to reach out to all the veterans, legions, give advertisements in the newspaper, attend any Veteran related events. Parker added, since the county is looking to add a new process for evaluations, and seeing Speier's experience in HR, maybe the county could use her as a resource instead of hiring outside like previously mentioned. The board agreed this would be beneficial and Speier agreed to help. The board will discuss more on the topic of HR with Speier at a later date. 6) Mewherter moved, seconded by Rhody to appoint Lynna Speier as the second Veteran Service Officer with a monthly salary of \$1,394.12 for Veteran Service Officer and Human Resource consultant, no benefits offered. Speier will have a review in six months. All voted yes and the motion carried.

**Item #5 at 9:49 AM Executive Session Pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1(3) Contractual Matters**

7) Fieber moved, seconded by Grabow to move into Executive Session Pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(3) Contractual Matters. All voted yes and the motion carried. Chairman Grabow declared the Commissioners out of Executive Session at 10:12 AM. No action was taken.

**Item #6 Goodwin Fire Department**

Goodwin Fire Department representative Mike Fieber and Tom Fieber expressed their need for their addition in the fire hall. In their current fire hall, their equipment is loaded very close together and to move around trucks and rigs is difficult. Goodwin Fire also had to flip the leaf springs upside down to lower the box to fit in the door which causes the van to be rough riding and unstable when traveling. They have been working on getting quotes for the addition. In total they were quoted roughly \$133,575.32. Goodwin Fire has been working on raising their own money for the addition and have three CD's totaling \$30,616.14. These funds with any help from the commission will go towards building a new addition. Goodwin Fire is requesting \$60,000 for the addition from the county. Grabow asked if their bunker gear was up to date and if these funds could be used towards anything

else but they stated bunker gear was good and at this time the addition would be the best asset to their department at this time. 8) Homan moved, seconded by Mewherter to approve \$60,000 in support funds for the Goodwin Fire Department for them to use towards an addition. All voted yes and the motion carried.

**Item #7 at 11:05 AM Executive Session Pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1(1) Personnel Matters**

9) Fieber moved, seconded by Mewherter to move into Executive Session Pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) Personnel Matters. All voted yes and the motion carried. Chairman Grabow declared the Commissioners out of Executive Session at 11:21 AM. No action was taken.

**Item #8 Houseman Funeral & Cremation Services Owner Darren Houseman**

Houseman wanted to talk to the board on the county burial policy. He has been here since 2002 and it's never been raised. Houseman looked back as far as 1996 and from what he could find, it was the same amount. Currently he charges \$2,300 to funeral home and \$300 to grave setting for county burials. However, the bare minimum funeral cost currently is around \$12,000 for a full traditional service. His break even cost for the basic of services is \$7,295 for a full traditional and cremation \$4,300. Houseman stated SDCL does not allow counties to push towards cremation for a more inexpensive option. He presented the new costs for county burials of \$4,315 for a traditional service and \$2,600 for a cremation. The board suggested he comes back yearly, so a more current price can be followed. 10) Homan moved, seconded by Rhody to approve county burial costs for a traditional service at \$4,315 and cremation at \$2,600. All voted yes and the motion carried.

**New Business**

11) Mewherter moved, seconded by Rhody to approve the Applicant Agent, Match Commitment Letter, FEMA forms 112-0-3A and 112-0-3C, State-Local Assistance Agreement for the Pre Disaster Mitigation plan. All voted yes and the motion carried. All voted yes and the motion carried.

12) Homan moved, seconded by Grabow to approve travel for two commissioners to attend the County Commissioners Spring Workshop on April 9 & 10 in Pierre SD. All voted yes and the motion carried.

13) Fieber moved, seconded by Mewherter to approve travel for two appraisers to attend SD Association of Assessing Officers Conference, June 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> in Mitchell and one appraiser to SDAAO Basics School, September 14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> in Sioux Falls. All voted yes and the motion carried.

**Approval of Warrants**

14) Fieber moved, seconded by Rhody to pay warrants with addition of PSECO for the amount of \$8,621.50 for Equipment for Patrol Vehicles. All voted yes and motion carried.

**Paid Early:** US Postmaster 2000.00 Postage Machine, US Postmaster 50.00 Maintenance Fee, SD Dept of Rev. 319.09 Excise & Sales Tax, Gary Fire Department 60,000.00 Support Funds, Wegner Auto Co Inc 88102.00 2 Dodge Durango Patrol Vehicles,

**Warrants:** A&B Business Solutions 117.70 Supplies, Ally Dakota Development Co. 1402.29 Rev. Loan Interest, Appera 246.52 Rugs, AT&T Mobility 353.04 Utilities, Bjerke Sanitation 290.00 Garbage, Butler Machinery Co 31.06 Repair, Credit Collections Bureau 1.70 Poor Lien Collection, Clear Lake Building Center 35.67 Supplies, Cole's Petroleum Products, Inc 2952.40 Fuel, Compass Counseling & Assessment 2250.00 Prof. Service, Connecting Point 1966.25 Connect Care, Custom Cage 1145.00 Vehicle Partition Barrier, Deuel County Treasurer 2146.50 Prepaid Taxes, Diamond Mowers LLC 1063.80 Repair, First Dist. Assoc

Local Gov't 250.00 Data Collection Services, Fleetpride 196.42 Repair/Supplies, Glacial Lakes And Prairies 449.00 2025 Annual Membership, H-D Electric Coop, Inc 17.39 Supplies, Helsper, McCarty & Rasmussen 665.73 CAA Fees, Interstate Title Solutions 21.50 Ovrpmt Title/License, Deb Lessman 191.15 Travel / Supply Reimb., Blue Tarp Financial, Inc 81.03 Supplies, Maynards 11.99 Supplies, Mcleod's 292.67 Twp Supplies, Menards 208.42 Supplies, Microfilm Imaging Systems 90.00 Feb. Rent, Dennis Nosbush 140.00 Repair, Northwestern Energy 1702.13 Utilities, Office Peeps Inc 834.82 Supplies, Ottertail Power Co 88.38 Utilities, Powerplan Oib 6478.10 Repair, Richardson, Wyly, Wise, 1158.00 CAA Fees, Rinker Materials 71713.64 Concrete Box Culvert, Ron's Saw Shop 26.99 Supplies, Sanford Health 273.00 Blood Draws, Stan Houston Equipment Co, Inc 179.00 Supplies, Summer Stevens 172.13 Overpayment Registration, Watertown Ford Chrysler 283.46 Repair,

### **Payroll**

**January Payroll:** Commissioners \$10,647.41, Election \$126.03, Auditor's Office \$11,919.88, Treasurer's Office \$12,363.03, State's Attorney's Office \$14,054.24, General Government Building \$8,514.18, Director of Equalization Office \$17,869.54, Register of Deeds Office \$9,382.39, Veteran Service Officer \$1,500.77, GIS \$787.62, Sheriff's Dept. \$64,410.77, County Assist \$377.99, 4-H \$0, Extension Office \$9,144.53, Weed & Pest \$2,258.78, Planning & Zoning \$5,585.78, Road & Bridge \$87,205.48, Civil Defense \$413.72

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business 15) Homan moved, seconded by Fieber to adjourn. All voted yes and the motion carried.

ATTEST:

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Courtney Parker, Auditor

Published one time at the approximate cost of

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Jay Grabow, Chairman