

Commissioner Hohn called the Monday, January 3, 2023 meeting of the Hughes County Board of Commissioners to order at 5:30 PM with members Tom Rounds and Bill M. Abernathy present. Randy brown was available via telephone. County Manager Lori Jacobson, Sheriff Patrick Callahan, States Attorney Jessica LaMie, Planning Director/Building Official Eric Booth, Emergency Management Director Cathy Strudle, Highway Superintendent Trent Arbach, Coroner Greg Hall, and Veterans Service Officer Janet Beck were also present. The meeting began with a prayer by Pastor John Fette and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA:** Moved by Abernathy and seconded by Rounds to approve the agenda with the change of moving up the swearing in of Elected Officials after agenda approval. All voted Aye. Motion passed.

**SWEAR-IN COMMISSIONERS, FINANCE OFFICER, STATES ATTORNEY, & SHERIFF:**

Judge M. Bridget Mayer swore in the newly elected officials: Commissioners Bill M. Abernathy, Connie Hohn, and Robert Fines, Finance Officer Thomas J. Oliva, Sheriff Patrick Callahan, and States Attorney Jessica LaMie.

**MINUTES:** Moved by Rounds and seconded by Abernathy to approve the minutes of the December 29, 2022 Commission meeting. All voted Aye. Motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**SET HSA DOLLAR VALUE:** Moved by Abernathy and seconded by Rounds to approve the amount of \$600.00 per year to be contributed in \$50.00 increments during monthly payroll as well as an additional \$500.00 per year for a wellness check to employees with a qualifying HSA Health Plan with Hughes County. All voted Aye. Motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN/VICE CHAIRMAN for 2023:** Commissioner Hohn opened up the nominations for Chairman for 2023. Commissioner Brown nominated Commissioner Hohn to serve as Chairman and Commissioner Abernathy seconded the nomination. Moved by Abernathy and seconded by Rounds to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote for Commissioner Hohn to serve as Chairman of the Commission in 2023. All voted Aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Hohn opened up the nominations for Vice Chairman. Commissioner Abernathy nominated Commissioner Brown to serve as Vice Chairman for 2023, Commissioner Rounds seconded the nomination. Moved by Commissioner Abernathy and seconded by Rounds to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote for Commissioner Brown to serve as Vice Chairman in 2023. All voted Aye. Motion passed.

**APPOINTMENTS:** Moved by Abernathy and seconded by Rounds to appoint Emergency Management Director Cathy Strudle for one year, expiring in January 2024 per SDCL 34-48A-40. All voted Aye. Motion passed.

Moved by Abernathy and seconded by Rounds to reappoint Director of Equalization Eric Booth for one year, expiring in January 2024 per SDCL 10-3-5. All voted Aye. Motion passed.

Moved by Abernathy and seconded by Rounds to reappoint Highway Superintendent Trent Arbach for two years expiring January 2025 per SDCL 33A-1-22. All voted Aye. Motion passed.

Moved by Abernathy and seconded by Rounds to reappoint Greg Hall as Coroner for a term of four years ending on the first Monday of January 2026 unless a candidate is elected to the position in the next qualifying election. All voted Aye. Motion passed.

**2023 LIASON APPOINTMENTS:** Chairman Hohn listed the Liaison Appointments. Moved by Fines and seconded by Abernathy to approve the list. All voted Aye. Motion passed.

**2023 VOLUNTEER BOARD APPOINTMENTS:** Moved by Rounds and seconded by Abernathy to approve appointing Bill Johnson, Lee McCurrin and Andy Bruce to the Planning Board for a three year term, and approve the other board appointments as listed. All voted Aye. Motion passed.

**OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER AND DEPOSITORY:** Moved by Abernathy and seconded by Rounds to approve the following miscellaneous items: The official newspaper of Hughes County is the Capital Journal. The following are designated as official depositories for Hughes County: Bank West-Pierre, First National Bank-Pierre, First Dakota National Bank-Pierre, American Bank and Trust, and Raymond James Financial Pierre. All voted Aye. Motion passed.

**PLANNING & ZONING: EAST RIVER RIGHT OF WAY REQUEST AT 199<sup>TH</sup> ST:** East River Electric represented by Jarae Wire is requesting to occupy the County right-of-way along 199<sup>th</sup> St. a mile east of Grey Goose Road, the location of the new Cow Creek Substation. This request is to bring the electrical and fiber lines to bring the substation online once construction is completed. Per the ROW application the boring and poles are all in the immediate area of the substation. All line upgrades in this area were completed a few years ago. This is the second of two substation plats that were completed and approved in 2022 for East River Electric. Cow Creek substation will be completed and online before construction begins on the Lake Sharpe substation east of Pierre along SD Hwy 34 in the Pocket area of Hughes County. Grading work has been completed at the Cow Creek site. Weather permitting the plan is to start work on the footings in February with a completion date of July 2023. This is part of the on-going improvement by East River Electric and other electricity providers in our area to upgrade and improve the reliability of the electrical grid in the area. Moved by Rounds and seconded by Abernathy to approve the request to work in the right-of-way. All voted Aye. Motion passed.

**SALARIES: RESOLUTION NO. 2023 – 1:** Moved by Abernathy seconded by Rounds to approve the following salaries reflecting a 3% increase for 2023 effective December 25, 2022. No increase reflected to the Commissioner salaries. All voted Aye. Motion passed.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023 – 1**

The following annual and hourly salaries will be paid in 2023: Commissioners- Bill M. Abernathy-16,917.00, Robert Fines-16,917.00, Connie Hohn-16,917.00, Tom Rounds-16,917.00, Randy Brown-16,917.00, County Manager Lori Jacobson-85,460.00, Commission/Highway Administrative Assistant-

Julie Volmer-18.13; Finance Officer Thomas Oliva-66,837.00, Chief Deputy Auditor Jennifer Deyo-23.83, Deputy Auditor Bonnie Erno-20.50; Chief Deputy Treasurer Linda Lafrentz-25.74, Chief Deputy Treasurer Ranae Hoffman-21.06, Deputy Treasurer Susan Howard-21.00; Deputy Treasurer Connie Bryant-20.50; Chief Deputy Register of Deeds Patty Williams-23.91, Deputy Register of Deeds Kristi Schmidt-19.51; States Attorney Jessica LaMie-94,367.00, Deputy States Attorney Casey Diebert- 40.96; Deputy States Attorney- Brian Murphy- 36.23, States Attorney Administrative Assistant Kristi Schuchard-23.83, States Attorney Administrative Assistant Star Aalbers -19.99, States Attorney Administrative Assistant – Rose Gravatt -21.53; Victim/Witness Assistant Denise Richards – 25.74; JDAI Coordinator Lacey Boxley- 22.75; Maintenance Supervisor Patrick Steber – 28.57; Custodian Kyle Red Water- 19.03; Equalization Administrative Assistant Dawn Van Sickle -22.07; Veteran’s Office Administrative Assistant Sheila Carpenter-23.26, Veterans Service Officer Janet Beck- 23.97; Sheriff Patrick Callahan-76,491.00, Chief Deputy Sheriff Dustin Drew-33.33, Sheriff Deputies: Jesse Parsons – 30.11, Gary Nickerson – 31.63, Daniel Eilers- 31.63, Sheriff Administrative Assistant Sarah Burger - 22.20, Part-time Sheriff Deputy’s and Court Security Officers – Michael Thorson- 25.00, Jeffrey Hill- 25.00, James Carpenter- 25.00, James Halling- 25.00, Jason Hamil- 25.00, David Estes- 25.00, Brian Hines- 25.00, Robert Zilverberg- 25.00; PREA Coordinator/ Jail Administrator Josh Larson-33.55, Records/Corrections Officer Deborah Pease-27.80, Sergeants: Elizabeth Hausmann-30.02, Gary Naylor-27.20, Kevin Donovan- 26.53, Colby Buckles- 27.20; Part Time Corrections Officer- Paula Tronvold- 19.57, Todd Johnson- 19.00, Corrections Officers: Donita Taylor- 27.80, Audrea Fischer-27.80, Jesse Kiepke-27.80, Raymond Lyons-27.80, Kyler Bolin-27.80, Karryn Agneau-27.80, Zach Knowlton-25.81, Brant Billings 25.18, Shadow Garber – 25.18, Wyatt Alexander- 25.81, Mitch Meyers- 25.18, Starlene Flax- 24.58, Zane Hesse- 24.58, Harlie Petrak- 24.58, Jared Iwan- 22.84, Timothy Matsen- 22.84, Jacen Hancock- 22.84, Raven Kelly- 22.84, Paul Kimbrel- 22.84, Robert Demery- 25.18, Damien Gaona- 23.97, Daisey Vis- 22.84, Kendra Miller- 22.84, Todd Leismer- 25.81, LaTosha GoodShield- 22.84; Jail Building Maintenance Supervisor- Jared Hall- 28.57; Jail Deputy- Cody Hall- 28.65; Juvenile Services Center Supervisor Chad Seidel – 30.02, Juvenile Services Center Correction Officers- Curtis Nelson- 27.80, Greg Hansmann – 27.12, Ashton Pederson-25.81, Cindy Herber-24.58, Melanie Bowlin- 23.97, Melissa Bettcher- 23.97, Patrick Crain- 27.80, Ravin Ayers- 22.84; Part-time 24/7 & Visitation- Jason Schuchard- 16.78, Kelli Fleagle- 16.78, Hannah Carda- 16.78, Michell Boe- 16.78, Judi Davidson- Primary Hourly- 22.84, Gary Waak- 16.78, Jessica Campbell- 16.78, Kathleen Keys- 22.84; Part-Time Transports Kathleen Keys- 25.00; Emergency Manager Cathy Strudle-62,810.53; Highway Superintendent Trent Arbach-65,859.59, Highway Maintenance Workers- Robert Warne-23.83, Michael Roman-23.83, Nicholas Dooley-23.83, Richard Doyle- 23.83, Robert Arbach-23.83, Troy Meyer-25.74, Warren Wilson- 23.83, Joseph Boxley-21.06, DaWayne Bellander- 20.55, Richard Schmitz- 19.57; Weed & Pest Supervisor Dugan Petersen- 21.59; Director of Equalization/Planning Director/Building Official Eric Booth-78,051.29.

**Hughes County Disaster Declaration  
Disaster Declaration Resolution #2023-02**

WHEREAS, Hughes County, South Dakota suffered a severe winter storm caused by ice, snow, high winds, and blizzard conditions on December 12<sup>th</sup> –December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, a second severe winter storm caused by snow, high winds and blizzard conditions on December 21<sup>st</sup> – December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and a third storm event of snow, high winds and blizzard conditions on December 25<sup>th</sup> – December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

WHEREAS, the December 12<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 storm brought freezing rain, with over 1 ½” of ice, 16.5” of snow, 45+ mph winds with gusts to 61 mph and zero visibility, heavy drifting throughout the county and township roads, causing them to be impassable over several days, while county highway crews worked to clear the roads. Multiple stranded motorists required rescuing, using local, county, and state agency resources. There were also several county residents requiring cleared roads to the hospital for services, again using local, county, and state agency resources. Hughes County Highway Department suffered several breakdowns and equipment damages during snow removal, including the Snowcrete snow blower, 1 blade, 1 plow truck, and 4 V-plows. Heavy, wet snow proved to be very difficult to move, along with poor visibility.

WHEREAS, the December 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 storm ushered in additional snow, 53 mph winds and blizzard conditions for an additional 4 days. All roads drifted closed again and were impassable for several days. Multiple stranded motorists required further rescuing. There were roads in the county with multiple vehicles stranded making them impassible or difficult to open. Roughly 200 head of cattle from multiple ranchers were loose due to the storm. There are reports of missing cattle still. Hughes County had a difficult time clearing roads due to equipment breakdowns and damages, including the Snowcrete snow blower, 1 blade, 1 plow truck and 4 V-plows.

WHEREAS, the December 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 storm brought additional snow, 54 + mph winds and blizzard conditions back to Hughes County. Multiple roads again drifted back closed, especially where snow ridges had formed or where home owners had filled in the right of way.

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED THAT the Hughes County Commissioners do hereby declare a disaster for the population of the area impacted.

The Hughes County Commissioners respectfully request that any and all assistance which may be available from state and federal agencies be provided to all local governments to include Hughes County and to the local businesses and the general population, as we work to overcome this disaster.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Hughes County Commissioners do hereby declare a disaster and respectfully request the Governor of the State of South Dakota to declare a disaster area and to request a Presidential Declaration of Disaster to ensure that the maximum amount of assistance is made available to local governments, businesses, and residents affected.

Moved by Rounds and seconded by Abernathy to approve Resolution 2023-2. All voted Aye. Motion passed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**CLAIMS:** Moved by Abernathy and seconded Fines to approve verified claims. All voted Aye. Motion passed. ADVANCE CORRECTIONAL HEALTH 128.38 JAIL MEDICAL CONTRACT SERVICES, AVERA ST MARYS HOSPITAL 361.48 JAIL DOCTOR/HOSPITAL, BOB BARKER CO INC 578.30 JAIL INMATE SUPPLIES, BUTLER MACHINERY CO 920.08 HWY SUPPLIES, CAPITAL ONE - WALMART 76.17 JSC-SUPPLY/JAIL-INMATE SUPPLY, CENTURYLINK 60.69 PHONE SERVICES AT EXPO, CLAIMS ASSOCIATES 5000.00 LEGAL CASE WIND FARM BOLLWEG,

COLE PAPERS INC 1497.13 JAIL.JSC SUPPLIES, DONS SINCLAIR 64.10 FUEL, FRIMAN OIL & GAS CO INC 397.02 38012 / 0033605, KRUSE LAW OFFICE 207.80 MENTAL ILLNESS, LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES INC 1379.46 INTERPRETATION SERVICES, MENARDS 42.80 , MIDWEST WELLNESS INSTITUTE 2780.07 MENTAL SERVICES COURT CASE, MIDWEST TIRE & MUFFLER INC 52.10 SO GAS & OIL, MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES 3588.26 JAIL NATURAL GAS, MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS 19558.16 HUGHES COUNTY EMERGENCY MGMT, NORTH WEST PIPE FITTINGS 13.00 JAIL REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE, QUALITY QUICK PRINT 1844.00 AUDITOR/TREASURER SUPPLIES, REDWOOD TOXICOLOGY LAB 1032.00 JAIL 24/7 FUND, RUNNINGS SUPPLY 157.89 SUPPLIES.

The following salaries and benefits were paid by department in the month of December 2022:

Commissioners-24,668.53, Auditor-16,888.80, Treasurer-19,661.34, States Attorney-49,297.86, Govt Buildings-9,948.62, Equalization-7,978.18, Register of Deeds-9,812.32, Veterans Service-8,088.95, Sheriff-67,829.82, Jail-248,485.97, Coroner-423.45, Juvenile Services-71,451.77, Planning & Zoning-7,880.69, Road & Bridge-71,256.49, Emergency Management-6,582.60. Total payroll \$620,255.39.

Auditor's Account with the Treasurer December 31, 2022: Cash on hand-\$2634.24, Checks in the Treasurer's possession less than three days-\$128,637.00, Demand deposits: American State Bank-\$8,671,679.77, Bad Checks Outstanding-\$1,256.59, Cash Items-59.77, First Dakota National Bank-700,000.00, Investments-\$1,575,000.00. Total Cash Assets-\$11,079,267.37.

Register of Deeds Fees Collected in December 2022: Recording Fees-\$4,230.00, Transfer Fees-\$10,850.00, Copy Fees-\$376.00, Credit Card Fees-\$15.00, Vitals-\$2,125.00. Total \$17,596.00.

Total Register of Deeds Fees Collected in 2022: Recording Fees-\$71,013.00, Transfer Fees-\$118,561.00, Copy Fees-\$6,990.50, Credit Card Fees-\$290.00, Vitals-\$33,120.00. Total \$229,974.50.

Moved by Abernathy and seconded by Rounds to adjourn the meeting until **Thursday at 5:30 PM on January 19, 2023.** All voted Aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

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Connie Hohn, Chairman  
Hughes County Commission

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Thomas J. Oliva, Finance Officer  
Hughes County, South Dakota