

**FALL RIVER COUNTY APPROVED MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 6, 2025**

The Fall River Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on February 6, 2025. Present: Joe Allen, Les Cope, Joe Falkenburg, Deb Russell, Sandra Wahlert and Sue Ganje, Auditor.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given, and the meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

The agenda was reviewed for conflicts; none were noted. ALL MOTIONS RECORDED IN THESE MINUTES WERE PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE, UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. The full context of the meeting can be found on the county website under Commissioners at <http://fallriver.sdcounties.org>, or on Facebook, on the Fall River County's website.

Motion made by Allen, seconded by Russell, to approve the agenda as written.

Motion made by Russell, seconded by Wahlert, to approve the meeting minutes from January 16, 2025.

Motion made by Allen, seconded by Russell, to approve the Auditor's Account with the Treasurer as follows:

**AUDITOR'S ACCOUNT WITH THE COUNTY TREASURER**

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF FALL RIVER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:  
I hereby submit the following report of my examination of the cash and cash items in the hands of the County Treasurer of this County on this 31st day of December 2024.

**Total Amount of Deposit in First Interstate Bank, HS:**      \$      894,719.57

**Total Amount of Cash:**      \$      116.20

**Total Amount of Treasurer's Change Fund:**      \$      900.00

**Total Amount of Checks in Treasurer's Possession Not Exceeding Three Days:**      \$      299,188.91

**SAVINGS:**

#4) First Interstate Bank, HS:      \$      1,463,656.71

**CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT:**

#14) Schwab Treasury:      \$      8,777,833.15

**Itemized list of all items, checks and drafts that have been in the Treasurer's possession over three days:**

Register of Deeds Change Fund:      \$      500.00

Highway Petty Cash:      \$      20.00

Election Petty Cash:      \$      15.00

**RETURNED CHECKS:**

Hannah Thomas		\$	426.01
Suter, Debbie	Stop payment	\$	729.45

**TOTAL \$ 11,438,105.00**

Dated This 31st Day of December 2024.

/S/ Sue Ganje

Sue Ganje, County Auditor of  
of Fall River County

/S/ Teresa Pullen

Teresa Pullen, County  
Treasurer  
of Fall River County

County Monies	\$	11,170,713.68
Held for other Entities	\$	113,831.32
Held in Trust	\$	153,560.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>11,438,105.00</b>

The Above Balance Reflects County Monies, Monies Held in Trust,  
and Monies Collected for and to be remitted to Other ENTITIES:  
SCHOOLS, TOWNS AND STATE.

Motion made by Wahlert, seconded by Russell, to surplus to junk a Cannon MP 11DX calculator, asset tag #002261, from the Treasurer’s office.

Motion made by Wahlert, seconded by Russell, to approve, for publication purposes, the following list of payroll corrections to the list published in the January 2, 2025 minutes: Norton, Lyle – Sheriff - plus \$900.00/yr longevity, erroneously stated \$600.00/yr longevity; Birkland, LaVella – Register of Deeds Office – plus \$600.00/yr longevity, erroneously stated \$900.00/yr; Blessing, Brett – Hwy Dept – plus \$1200.00/yr longevity, erroneously stated \$900.00/yr; Burns, Cynthia – Auditor’s Office – no longevity, erroneously stated \$300.00/yr; Christie, Riley – Sheriff’s Office – no longevity, erroneously stated \$300.00/yr; Hansen, Bradley – Jailer – plus \$900.00/yr longevity, erroneously stated \$1200/yr; Hosterman, Rachel – Sheriff’s Office – plus \$300.00/longevity, erroneously stated \$600.00/yr; Kipp, Samuel – Treasurer’s Office – no longevity, erroneously stated \$300.00/yr ; Mraz, Jennifer – Dispatcher - \$600.00/yr longevity, erroneously stated \$900.00/yr; Petersen Dee, Tamra – Assessor’s Office - \$300.00/yr longevity, erroneously stated \$600.00/yr; Porter, Christina – Extension Office – no longevity, erroneously stated \$300.00/yr; Trees, Martha – Assessor’s Office - \$16.75/hr, erroneously stated \$16.00/hr; Two Bear, Lynn – State’s Attorney Office - \$21.75/hr, erroneously stated \$20.75/hr, Wood, Wesley – Maintenance Office - \$21.25/hr, erroneously stated \$20.25/hr, plus \$300.00/yr longevity, erroneously stated \$600.00/yr., but to table, under Brett Blessing “and need to add “plus \$500.00/month for training” until after Executive Session.

Motion made by Russell, seconded by Wahlert, to approve wage increases for Amber Tschacher from \$17.60/hr to \$18.85/hr plus \$25.00/month longevity, effective 01/17/2025 and for Samuel Kipp from \$17.60/hr to \$18.85/

Motion made by Russell, seconded by Wahlert, to deny County assistance for CP #2025-02 due to the lack of information provided and to recommend the denial on the basis of the applicant being over the poverty income guidelines.

Dar Coy, Emergency Manager, met with the Board.

Motion made by Russell, seconded by Wahlert, to approve authorizing the Chairman to sign the LEMPG Single Signature Form that was presented at the January 16, 2025, meeting.

Motion made by Russell, seconded by Allen, to approve the Emergency Management list of volunteers for 2025 as follows: Tracy Bastian, Kevin Fees, Les Madsen, Phil Knapp, Ed Jensen, Tim Hammel, Marc Lamphere, Jan Speirs, Sally Park Hageman, Loren Seegrist, Bob Beninati, Willard Rome, Richard Ball, Hot Springs Radio Club Members; the list is not inclusive and may be expanded during an actual event. If additional individuals are needed, a sign-in sheet will be provided to allow coverage under the County Worker's Comp Insurance.

Motion made by Allen, seconded by Russell, to approve having former Emergency Manager, Frank Maynard, continue to provide 25 more training hours to Dar Coy, Emergency Manager.

Motion made by Allen, seconded by Russell, to approve the purchase of a Samsung 85" UHD TV for use at the South Annex meeting room for training purposes, with the Weed & Pest Department, the Extension/4H Department and Emergency Management Department to share the cost of approximately \$797.99. With Cope and Wahlert voting no, all others voting yes, motion carried.

Coy then provided updates and reported on incidents.

Lyle Norton, Sheriff, met with the Board.

Motion made by Wahlert, seconded by Russell, to approve hiring Robert Jones as a Corrections Officer at \$21.00/hr, effective 02/10/2025.

Motion made by Russell, seconded by Wahlert, to approve Corporal Charles Dobbs to attend Instructor Development Training at LET Academy in Pierre, 02/10 through 02/14/2025, with no charge for the training and room and board is provided.

Motion made by Russell, seconded by Allen, to approve the quote from Rushmore Communications, Inc for updated antennas and installation at the Dispatch location in the amount of \$17,348.64.

Motion made by Russell, seconded by Allen, to approve the quote from Rushmore Communications, Inc for a Zetron Dispatch/Communication system and installation at the Dispatch location in the amount of \$243,762.88.

Norton provided updates and the jail census of 15 male in house and 1 male in Meade County for a total of 16 inmates.

Tony March, Highway Superintendent, met with the Board.

Motion made by Cope, seconded by Allen, to approve all the gravel bids that were submitted at the 01/16/2025 Commission meeting for use throughout the County as follows: Croell bid \$15.00/ton for DOT agg. Base Course ¾ Gravel Base Sec. 882.2 from the Streeter Quarry and \$15.00/ton for Limestone Ledge Rock Base Course Sec. 882.2 from Streeter Quarry. KD Contractors, Inc. bid \$9.25/ton for DOT agg. Base

Course ¾ Base Sec. 882.2 from the West Cheyenne (Angostura Pit) Quarry and \$10.50/ton for Limestone Ledge Rock Base Course Sec. 882.2 from the Sheps Canyon Quarry, Cottonwood Quarry and Collins Quarry; Simon Materials \$9.25/ton for DOT Agg. Base Course ¾ Gravel Base Sec 882.2 from the 1" X 0" from the Maverick Pit and \$11.15/ton for ¾" X 0" from the Loring Quarry and 1" X 0" from the Hot Springs Quarry. March still will need to do a cost estimate to make sure he is taking the low bid at any listed pit.

March presented propane quotes: Hi-D-Way \$1.85/gallon for delivery of 500 gallons to Ardmore and 500 gallons to Edgemont; Nelson's Oil & Gas \$2.00/gallon, same amount delivered to both locations; CBH Coop \$2.05/gallon, same amount delivered to both locations.

Motion made by Russell, seconded by Wahlert, to approve the low bid for 500 gallons of propane delivered to Ardmore and 500 gallons of propane delivered to Edgemont of \$1.85/gallon from Hi-D-Way.

March presented fuel quotes: Nelson's Oil & Gas \$2.875/gal for 4,000 gallons of #1 diesel and 4,000 gallons of #2 diesel to equal 8,000 gallons of dyed diesel 50/50 winter blend; Vollan Oil \$2.84/gal for 8,000 gallons of dyed diesel 50/50 winter blend; no bid from MG Oil; no bid from CBH-COOP; and no bid from Hi-D-Way.

Motion made by Wahlert, seconded by Russell, to accept the low bid for 8,000 gallons of dyed diesel 50/50 winter blend of \$2.84/gallon from Vollan Oil.

Motion made by Russell, seconded by Allen, to approve the purchase of a WR75-3 Walk'n'Roll packer/roller from LyCox Enterprises, Inc in the amount of \$19,810.00, including trade-in.

Motion made by Wahlert, seconded by Russell, to approve travel for Tony March, Highway Superintendent, to attend the 2025 Short Course 03/18 through 03/20/2025 at the Lodge at Deadwood at a cost of \$150.00 plus lodging and per diem for meals not included with the Course.

March then provided updates. He reported on the dirt work done at the South Annex location and at the Storage building location, where they built a new approach that is on County property instead of private property.

The time now being 9:30 a.m., a hearing for private road work was held. March explained the determination to keep the fee at \$150.00/hr, the same as last year for the average of equipment and operator costs.

Travis Velk, Golden West Telecommunications, met with the Board to discuss the large project that will occur in the areas of SD Hwy 71 S and Shep's Canyon Road. He told the Board that he works closely with Tony March, County Highway Superintendent, regarding proposed plans and any changes that may occur.

Motion made by Russell, seconded by Allen, to approve the Application for Permit to Occupy County Highway Right-of-Way from Golden West Telecommunication for various locations in the areas of SD Hwy 71 S and Shep's Canyon Road.

Joe Allen, Commissioner, had nothing to report on the proposed Jail/Justice Center.

Joe Falkenburg, Chairman, asked that everyone take a look at the potential resource for jail funding that was in their packet.

Lance Russell, State's Attorney, reviewed Fall River County Resolution #2025-08.

Motion made by Wahlert, seconded by Allen, to approve Fall River County Resolution #2025-08 as follows:

FALL RIVER COUNTY COMMISSION  
RESOLUTION #2025-08

Whereas, the United States Forest Service began the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for the development of a new Black Hills National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (BHNFLRMP) years ago;

Whereas, on August 1, 2022, the Fall River County Commission made formal comment, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference, opposing the Potential Wilderness Inventory Process document and maps because of the extensive history of mismanagement of the Black Elk Wilderness Area by the Forest Service in the Black Hills National Forest;

Whereas, the Black Elk Wilderness Area mismanagement is well documented and notorious in South Dakota, including but not limited to the incubation of the mountain pine beetle epidemic by Forest Service's non-management of the Wilderness that has cost the adjacent landowners and the State of South Dakota millions of dollars attempting to prevent the spread of the beetle and the destruction of the health of the Forest from depredation and potential catastrophic wildfires;

Whereas, the Black Elk Wilderness Area mismanagement has also caused irreparable harm to South Dakota's tourism industry, as the health and beauty of the Forest has been harmed to such a degree that the National Park Service cancelled fireworks at Mount Rushmore during July 4<sup>th</sup> Independence Day Celebrations;

Whereas, South Dakota's largest economic industry is agriculture, and cattle grazing in the Forest reduces the fuel-load for catastrophic wildfire;

Whereas, cattle grazing and the timber industry are essential in preventing degradation of the Forest and are largely prohibited in Wilderness Areas, as illustrated by recent legal actions by environmental extremists attempting to prevent livestock grazing in Idaho and Montana Wilderness Areas;

Whereas, the Black Hills National Forest in Fall River County has largely avoided much of the depredation from the mountain pine beetle because the Black Elk Wilderness Area is many miles away from the Forest Lands of Fall River County;

Whereas, Forest Service Handbook Section 1909.12 provides that "[n]ot all lands included in the inventory and subsequent evaluations are required to be carried forward in an alternative[;]" and

Whereas, ranch families live in close proximity to the area and roads visibly traverse the area the Forest Service has inventoried for Wilderness in Fall River County and will be burdened by greater risk of depredations and catastrophic fire.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fall River County Commission respectfully request that the Black Hills National Forest eliminate any areas consisting of less than 5,000 acres from the Potential Wilderness Inventory Process Summary, and specifically eliminate the Potential Wilderness

Inventory Area in Fall River County, as roads traverse the Area and the occupied ranch headquarters preclude a Congressional Wilderness Declaration pursuant to the Wilderness Act.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Fall River County Commission respectfully request that United State Senator John Thune, United States Senator Mike Rounds, Congressman Dusty Johnson and Governor Larry Rhoden use every option at their disposal to require the Black Hills Forest to eliminate the Potential Wilderness Inventory from any future alternatives considered during the upcoming National Environmental Policy Act Black Hills National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan Process for the all of the above-stated reasons.

Dated this 6th day of February 2025, at Hot Springs, Fall River County, South Dakota.

/S/ Joe Falkenburg  
Joe Falkenburg, Chairman

ATTEST:

/S/ Sue Ganje  
Sue Ganje, Auditor

Andersen Engineers met with the Board to provide a plat for their consideration.

Motion made by Allen, seconded by Russell, to approve Fall River County Resolution #2025-07 as follows:

**FALL RIVER COUNTY RESOLUTION #2025-07**

**A PLAT OF LOT 1R AND LOT 13R OF EAGLE VALLEY SUBDIVISION, LOCATED IN THE NW1/4 OF SECTION 30 AND THE W1/2 OF SECTION 29, T7S, R6E, BHM, FALL RIVER COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA, FORMERLY LOT 1, LOT 13, AND LOT 12A**

WHEREAS, there has been presented to the County Commissioners of Fall River County, South Dakota, the within plat of the above described lands, and it appearing to this Board that the system of streets conforms to the system of streets of existing plats and section lines of the county; adequate provision is made for access to adjacent unplatted lands by public dedication or section line when physically accessible; all provisions of the county subdivision regulations have been complied with; all taxes and special assessments upon the property have been fully paid; and the plat and survey have been lawfully executed; now and therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that said plat is hereby approved in all respects.

Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February.

/S/ Joe Falkenburg  
Joe Falkenburg, Chairman  
Fall River County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

/S/ Sue Ganje  
Sue Ganje, Auditor  
Fall River County Auditor

Teresa Pullen, Treasurer, met with the Board to provide updates.

Motion made by Allen, seconded by Russell, to accept the Quit Claim Deed to Fall River County from Jennifer L Phillips for Lots 21A, 22A and 23A in Block 2 of Trimmer Addition to the Town, now City of Hot Springs, Fall River County, South Dakota.

Motion made by Russell, seconded by Wahlert, to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign a Quit Claim Deed from Fall River County to Laura L Sedlacek for N50' of Lots 1, 2 and 3, Block 9, Stewart's Addition to the Town, now City of Edgemont, Fall River County, South Dakota, noting that this property was formerly taken by tax deed, however, Sedlacek paid all taxes current, including late fees. Pullen noted that it is in the best interest of the County.

Pullen then notified the Board that the County would be changing shredding companies from A-Z Shredding to GoodShred as their time schedule better fits the needs of the County.

Pullen also reported that there is grant funding available to do repairs and updates to the Courthouse building. She will provide information to the individuals that attended the Grant Writing training to move forward.

Motion made by Russell, seconded by Allen, to pay in lieu of vacation for 46 hours of unused Annual Leave at her current hourly rate to Kathleen Timmins due to staffing shortages in the Treasurer's Office, as per Union Contract, Article 12, Section 1, Subsection 2.

Pullen then reported that there are 67 tax deeds for the County to take, 28 should be paid off. In January \$360,000.00 in taxes were paid. The tax freeze paperwork is due April 1, 2025. The auction is all set up and ready to go. County liens are in the newspaper now. \$9,700.00 in lien payments were collected in January.

Motion made by Allen, seconded by Russell, to approve payment of the bills as follows:

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>		
BLACK HILLS CHEMICAL	SUPPLY	\$734.45
BLACK HILLS ENERGY	UTILITY POWER ELECTR	\$3,582.49
CENTURY BUSINESS LEASING	COPIER LEASE & USAGE	\$731.02
CHEYENNE SANITATION	SANITATION COLLECTION	\$379.50
CULLIGAN SOFT WATER	RENTAL/SUPPLY	\$223.50
CITY OF EDMONT	CITY OF EDMONT WATER	\$15.00
GOLDEN WEST TECHNOLOGIES	IT SUPPORT/CONTRACT	\$6,872.37
HEALTHCARE SERVICES INC	INMATE MEALS	\$15,504.00
HOT SPRINGS ACE HARDWARE	SUPPLY	\$456.64
CITY OF HOT SPRINGS	CITY WATER BILL	\$663.29
MARCO	COPIER LEASE S.ANNEX	\$345.60
MASTEL, BRUCE	DATABASE SETUP & MON	\$35.00
NORTON, TINA	CONTRACT NURSE INMATE	\$1,950.00
SD ASSOC. OF CO. OFFICIALS	WEB HOSTING	\$150.00
SD DEPT OF REVENUE	AUTO/MI STATE REMITT	\$494.06
SERVALL	RUG SERVICE	\$917.16
STEVENS AUTOMOTIVE	SERVICE	\$84.84
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONE PLAN	\$836.68

COMMISSION	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$12,372.76
AUDITOR	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$53,150.62
TREASURER	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$45,176.38
ST ATTY	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$38,581.16
MAINTENANC	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$28,079.90
ASSESSOR	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$45,108.58
REG/DEEDS	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$29,453.30
VET'S	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$10,967.28
GIS	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$12,229.58
SHERIFF	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$138,605.10
JAIL	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$90,415.08
CORONER	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$672.14
EXTENSION	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$8,074.98
WEED	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$12,432.46
SHERIFF	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$5,712.58
	<b>TOTAL FOR GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$565,007.50</b>
<b>COUNTY ROAD &amp; BRIDGE</b>		
A & B WELDING SUPPLY CO.	WELDING SUPPLIES/LEA	\$213.50
ADVANCED DRUG TESTING	RANDOM EMPLOYMEE DRUG TESTING	\$31.20
BLACK HILLS ELECTRIC	UTILITIES SMITHWICK	\$106.31
BLACK HILLS ENERGY	UTILITY POWER ELECTRICITY	\$1,166.17
BUTLER MACHINERY CO.	SUPPLIES/REPAIRS	\$147,097.20
CHEYENNE SANITATION	SANITATION COLLECTION	\$79.00
CITY OF EDMONT	CITY OF EDMONT WATER	\$72.40
GOLDEN WEST TECHNOLOGIES	IT SUPPORT/CONTRACT	\$8.50
HOT SPRINGS ACE HARDWARE	SUPPLY	\$5.59
CITY OF HOT SPRINGS	CITY WATER BILL	\$21.29
MIDWAY SERVICE/VOLLAN OIL	FUEL	\$22,728.52
US POSTAL SERVICE	PO BOX RENTAL/HWY	\$188.00
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONE PLAN	\$42.74
CRBR ADMIN	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$23,478.66
CRBR HWY	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$120,554.82
	<b>TOTAL FOR COUNTY ROAD &amp; BRIDGE</b>	<b>\$315,793.90</b>
<b>911 SURCHARGE REIMB</b>		
CENTURY BUSINESS LEASING	COPIER LEASE & USAGE	\$68.04
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONE PLAN	\$42.74
DISPATCH	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$85,553.06
	<b>TOTAL FOR 911 SURCHARGE REIMB</b>	<b>\$85,663.84</b>
<b>EMERGENCY MGT</b>		
GOLDEN WEST TECHNOLOGIES	IT SUPPORT/CONTRACT	\$17.00
MARCO	COPIER LEASE S.ANNEX	\$172.80
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONE PLAN	\$128.22
F.R.EMERG.	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$16,555.38
	<b>TOTAL FOR EMERGENCY MGT</b>	<b>\$16,873.40</b>
<b>COURTHOUSE BUILDING FUND</b>		



HOT SPRINGS ACE HARDWARE	SUPPLY	\$23.03
	<b>TOTAL FOR COURTHOUSE BUILDING FUND</b>	<b>\$23.03</b>
	<b>TOTAL FOR BILLS PAID BETWEEN 01/17 &amp; 02/06/2025</b>	<b>\$983,361.67</b>

Break was taken at 10:33 a.m. The meeting resumed at 9:45 a.m.

Melody Engebretson, Register of Deeds, met with the Board.

Motion made by Wahlert, seconded by Russell, to approve the quote and purchase of new computers to replace outdated ones in the amount of \$2,682.00 from Golden West Technologies.

Sue Ganje, Auditor, met with the Board. She reported the findings from Disability Rights. Cascade Fire Hall: The polling place was very small, not allowing a wheelchair to access any locations within the room; No accessible parking; Ballot Marking Device was placed in a separate room positioned tightly between the fire truck and the wall. St. James Parish Center: Ballot Marking Device was accessible but not private. The machine was moved to an accessible and private location.

Public comment was heard from Susan Henderson, County resident. She expressed her concern over spending money, high taxes and the tax notices going out late.

Motion made by Russell, seconded by Allen, to go into Executive Session for personnel and legal as per SDCL 1-25-2 (1) and (3), at 10:54 a.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 11:20 a.m.

Discussion was held on reclassification for Brett Blessing, Highway Foreman. No action was taken.

Deb Russell, Commissioner, requested that the Highway Department have no overtime unless in case of emergencies, not for everyday work projects. She also asked that Chairman Falkenburg be contacted before any overtime occurs to discuss the need for it.

Motion made by Wahlert, seconded by Allen, to hire James Marsh as a Hearing Examiner.

Joe Falkenburg, Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

/s/ Joe Falkenburg  
Joe Falkenburg, Chairman  
Board of Fall River County Commissioners

ATTEST:  
/s/ Sue Ganje, Auditor  
Sue Ganje, Auditor  
Fall River County