

**FALL RIVER COUNTY APPROVED MINUTES OF APRIL 3, 2025**

The Fall River Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on March 20, 2025. Present: Joe Allen, Les Cope, Joe Falkenburg, Deb Russell and Sue Ganje, Auditor. Sandra Wahlert was absent.

An invocation was given by Russell.

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.sdcountries.org>, or on Facebook, on the Fall River County's website.

Motion made by Russell, seconded by Allen, to approve the agenda with the addition of hire approval for 2 Dispatchers and a Resolution requesting the Black Hills National Forest Service restore funding for invasive weed management on the Black Hills National Forest.

Motion made by Russell, seconded by Allen, to approve the meeting minutes from March 20, 2025.

Motion made by Allen, seconded by Russell, to surplus to junk an HP PSC 1410 All-in-one printer, asset tag #1985 and an HP Envy 4500 printer, asset tag #01993 from the Weed & Pest Department.

There were no County assistance applications.

Dar Coy, Emergency Manager, met with the Board.

Motion made by Russell, seconded by Allen, to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter LEMPG Single Signature Sheet and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Coy then provided updates and reported on incidents. He stated that the Homeland Security meeting had been cancelled. He reminded the Board that County employees will need to take the Defensive Driving Course on May 13, 2025. There are 2 sessions, 10:00 am and 1:00 pm to accommodate all staff to attend. He also let everyone know that there will be a meeting on May 2, 2025, 11:00 am at the Mueller Center with Black Hills Energy to discuss the possibilities of shutting down power during hot windy days due to the risk of fires.

Lyle Norton, Sheriff, met with the Board. Falkenburg thanked Norton for getting the surplus vehicles out of the north parking lot.

Motion made by Allen, seconded by Russell to approve Fall River County Resolution #2025-10 as follows:

**FALL RIVER COUNTY RESOLUTION #2025-10  
DECLARING APRIL 13 – 19, 2025  
NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY  
TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK**

WHEREAS, emergencies can occur at any time that require law enforcement, fire, or emergency medical services; and,

WHEREAS, when an emergency occurs the prompt response of law enforcement officers, firefighters, and EMS providers is critical to the protection of life and preservation of property; and,

WHEREAS, the safety of our law enforcement officers, firefighters, and EMS providers is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information obtained from citizens who contact the **Fall River County 911 Dispatch Center**; and,

WHEREAS, Public Safety Telecommunicators are the first and most critical contact our citizens have with emergency services; and,

WHEREAS, Public Safety Telecommunicators are the single vital link for our law enforcement officers, firefighters, and EMS providers by monitoring their activities by radio, providing them information, and ensuring their safety; and,

WHEREAS, Public Safety Telecommunicators are critical in improving the chance of survival for patients who experience sudden cardiac arrest by recognizing the need for cardiopulmonary resuscitation and other lifesaving interventions prior to arrival of EMS; and,

WHEREAS, Public Safety Telecommunicators of the **Fall River County 911 Dispatch Center** has contributed substantially to the apprehension of criminals, suppression of fires, and treatment of patients; and,

WHEREAS, each telecommunicator has exhibited compassion, understanding, and professionalism during the performance of their job in the past year.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fall River County Commission declares the week of April 13 – 19, 2025 to be National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in the County of Fall River, South Dakota in honor of the individuals whose diligence and professionalism keep our community and citizens safe.***

Dated this 3<sup>rd</sup> Day of April, 2025.

/S/ Joe Falkenburg  
Joe Falkenburg  
Fall River County Commission Chairman

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

Motion made by Russell, seconded by Allen, to approve hiring Gabrielle Gallegos as an Uncertified Dispatcher at \$19.50/hr, effective 03/16/2025.

Motion made by Allen, seconded by Russell, to approve hiring Laciana Bettelyoun as an Uncertified Dispatcher at \$20.50/hr, effective 04/01/2025. The higher rate is due to having some experience.

Russell inquired about providing exit interviews due to the Dispatch turnover rate. Norton responded that they fill out a questionnaire and have a short face-to-face meeting with exiting employees.

Motion made by Cope, seconded by Allen, to authorize replacing the transmission on 2020 Ford F-150 patrol vehicle, estimated to cost \$7,000.00.

Motion made by Russell, seconded by Allen, to approve moving one dispatch desk into the jail that is hardwired and will require the work to be done by an electrician and to have the electrician install a dedicated breaker for the body scanner at approximately \$500.00 to \$1,000.00.

Norton provided updates and the jail census of 11 males and 6 females in house, with 1 male in Meade County, for a total of 18 inmates.

Tony March, Highway Superintendent, met with the Board. He presented fuel quotes and various approach permit applications, highway right-of-way applications and pipeline easements.

The fuel quotes were as follows: Vollan Oil \$2.62/gal for 8,000 dyed diesel (50/50 Winter Blend); CBH Co-Op \$3.106/gal for 8,000 gallons of dyed diesel (50/50 Winter Blend); Nelson's Oil & Gas \$2.62/gal for 8,000 gallons of dyed diesel (50/50 Winter Blend); no bid from Hi-D-Way; and MG Oil declined to bid.

Motion made by Cope, seconded by Russell, to approve the low bid from Vollan Oil of \$2.62/gal for 8,000 gallons of dyed diesel (50/50 Winter Blend).

Motion made by Russell, seconded by Allen, to approve the application for permit to occupy County highway right-of-way from Golden West Telecommunications located from the west right-of-way line of Indian Canyon Rd north of SD Hwy 71/Cascade Rd to the east right-of-way line. Construction will consist of boring Indian Canyon Rd.

Motion made by Cope, seconded by Allen, to approve the application for road approach permit from Harley Miller on the north side of Rocky Ford Rd (County Rd #11S) at approximately SE1/4SW1/4 Sec 10 and NE1/4NW1/4 Sec 16, T9S, R4E, BHM, Fall River County, South Dakota.

Motion made by Cope, seconded by Allen, to approve both applications for road approach permits and for Fall River County Pipeline Easements as follows: From Robbie Bequin on the west side of Sunny Brook Rd north of US Hwy 18 at approximately .75 mile south of 28309 Sunny Brook Rd to serve a business; from Kerry D Barker on the north side of Old Hwy 18 at approximately 100' west of 28558 Old Hwy 18 to service a driveway; from Indian Creek Cattle, LLP to cross W Ardmore Rd near the SE1/4SE1/4, Sec 19, Twp 12S, R3E, BHM; from Indian Creek Cattle, LLP to cross Crow Dam Rd near SW1/4SE1/4, Sec 1, T11S, R3E, BHM; from Indian Creek Cattle, LLP to cross Crow Dam Rd near NW1/4NW1/4 Sec 11, T11S, R3E, BHM; from Indian Creek Cattle, LLP to cross Rumford Cut Across Rd near NW1/4SW1/4SE1/4 Sec 31, T10S, R4E, BHM; from Indian Creek Cattle, LLP to cross Crow Dam Rd near SE1/4SE1/4 Sec 11, T11S, R3E, BHM, all in Fall River County, South Dakota.

Motion made by Allen, seconded by Cope, to approve the Notice of Award to Bituminous Paving, Inc for the 2025 Asphalt Surface Treatment Contract in the amount of \$263,633.80.

March then provided updates regarding work being performed.

Teresa Pullen, Treasurer, met with the Board.

Motion made by Allen, seconded by Russell, to approve advertising for a part-time employee (that will be funded by Oglala Lakota County).

Pullen then asked the Board about potentially writing off old County Liens that are 21–31 years old. Lance Russell, State's Attorney, advised that there are quite a few individuals with older liens that are

reoffending and adding to the amounts of the liens. He would like to think a little more about Court Appointed Attorney fees but agreed that older County Poor (Indigent Assistance) could be written off.

Motion made by Allen, seconded by Russell, to approve writing off County Poor (Indigent Assistance) that are 21 or more years old.

Joe Allen did not have any updates regarding the proposed Jail/Justice Center. The meeting with Johnson Construction Company, a potential contractor for the proposed Jail/Justice Center will be during the next Commission Meeting during the open session.

Motion made by Allen, seconded by Russell, to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the 2025 MOU Addendum between SDSU and Fall River County.

Motion made by Russell, seconded by Allen, to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the 2025 County Contract for Provision of Community Health Public Health Nursing Services.

Sue Ganje, Auditor, met with the Board.

Motion made by Allen, seconded by Russell, to rescind Fall River County Resolution #2021-51 due to it containing an incorrect legal description.

Motion made by Russell, seconded by Allen, to approve Fall River County Resolution #2025-11 as follows:

**FALL RIVER COUNTY RESOLUTION #2025-11  
FOR THE TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY**

**WHEREAS**, on March 3, 2020, the Oelrichs Historical Society (Society) approved a formal request that Fall River County (County) transfer ownership of several tax deed properties to the Society, and

**WHEREAS**, SDCL §§ 6-5-2 & 6-5-3 authorize the County, by resolution, to make a gratuitous transfer of real property to the Society for a public purpose, and

**WHEREAS**, said tax deed properties are located within the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the Society and would best serve the interest of the public under the ownership and management of the Society; and

**WHEREAS**, The County deems it in the best interest of the public to convey the following described real property to the Society to be used by the Society for the benefit of the public as the Historical Society shall see fit in accordance with the law.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Fall River County Board of Commissioners do hereby declare as surplus Parcel # 78100-03300-00300, Lot 3, Block 33, Town of Oelrichs, Fall River County, South Dakota,; for the purpose of conveying and transferring said real property to the Oelrichs Historical Society at no cost to the Society except for outstanding assessments and fees to record the deeds, if any there be.

Dated this 3rd day of April, 2025

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

ATTEST:

/S/ Sue Ganje

Sue Ganje, Auditor  
Fall River County

Andersen Engineers met with the Board to present a plat for their approval.

Motion made by Allen, seconded by Russell, to approve Fall River County Resolution #2025-12 as follows:

**FALL RIVER COUNTY RESOLUTION #2025-12**

**A plat of Bochert Tract, located in the NE1/4NW1/4 of Section 33, T7S, R6E, BHM, Fall River County, South Dakota,** formerly a metes and bounds description described in Book 89 of Deeds on page 414

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 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2025.

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

ATTEST:

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

Motion made by Russell, seconded by Allen, to approve and pay the bills as follows:

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>		
ASSN OF SD COUNTY W&P BDS	CONFERENCE REGISTRATION	\$550.00
A-Z SHREDDING INC	SHREDDING FINAL BILL	\$363.68
BANKS, BRIDGETTE	COURT REPORTER	\$348.30
BLACK HILLS CHEMICAL	SUPPLY	\$221.96
CAMERON, GEORGE	COURT REPORTER	\$582.75
FALL RIVER HEALTH SERVICE	INMATE MEDICAL TREATMENT	\$3,018.50
GALLS	UNIFORMS/SHERIFF SUPPLIES	\$424.73
GLASS PRO +	GLASS SERVICES	\$399.38
HAGEN	REPAIR/MAINTENANCE	\$514.91
HEALTHCARE SERVICES INC	DIETARY SUPPLIES	\$120.14
HOT SPRINGS ACE HARDWARE	SUPPLY	\$251.10
LOOF, DEAN	WEED & PEST REIMBURSEMENT	\$178.72
MARTY'S TIRE & AUTO BODY	OIL CHANGE	\$175.00
MAVERICK TIRE & AUTO	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	\$627.71
MCLEODS OFFICE SUPPLY CO.	SUPPLY	\$85.46

MEADE COUNTY AUDITOR	INMATE HOUSING	\$2,660.00
MEDICAL WASTE TRANSPORT	UTILITY	\$189.30
MONUMENT HEALTH SERVICES	AUTOPSY	\$500.00
NORTON,TINA	CONTRACT NURSE INMATE	\$1,650.00
ONSITE FIRST AID, LLC	FIRST AID SUPPLIES	\$516.52
OTIS ELEVATOR COMPANY	SERVICE CONTRACT/REPAIR	\$2,940.26
RAPID STRIPING	PARKING LOT STRIPING	\$4,205.00
STURGIS AMBULANCE SERVICE	AMBULANCE SERVICE	\$1,444.00
SERVALL	RUG SERVICE	\$458.58
SOFTWARE SERVICES INC	SOFTWARE SERVICES	\$8,625.00
SD DEPT OF PUBLIC SAFETY	TELETYPE SERVICE/1ST	\$3,340.00
STEVENS, MIKAYLA	BLOOD DRAW	\$75.00
STURDAVENTS AUTO W&P	PARTS/SUPPLY	\$199.70
TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.	ANNUAL SOFTWARE RENEWAL	\$449.00
VANGUARD APPRAISALS INC	SERVICES	\$15,231.25
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONE PLAN	\$836.55
FEES, IRMA	BLD TECHNICIAN	\$150.00
MILES, SASHA	BLOOD DRAW	\$150.00
SCHIFERL, TANNER	REIMBURSEMENT	\$100.00
COMMISSION	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$5,335.47
AUDITOR	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$27,263.21
TREASURER	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$25,163.09
ST ATTY	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$18,004.94
MAINTENANC	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$13,246.19
ASSESSOR	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$26,553.41
REG/DEEDS	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$15,925.81
VET'S	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$5,483.64
GIS	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$6,114.79
SHERIFF	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$62,980.32
JAIL	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$34,753.40
CORONER	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$865.00
EXTENSION	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$3,589.19
WEED	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$8,289.41
	<b>TOTAL FOR GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$305,150.37</b>
<b>COUNTY ROAD &amp; BRIDGE</b>		
BOMGAARS	SUPPLY/CLOTHING ALLOWANCE	\$394.82
CBH CO-OP	85 UNLEADED GASOLINE	\$22,261.35
FALL RIVER AUTO SUPPLY	AUTO PARTS/REPAIR	\$86.40
FORWARD DISTRIBUTING	SUPPLIES/PARTS	\$98.55
GREAT WESTERN TIRE	TIRES	\$1,361.80
SIMON MATERIALS	GRAVEL	\$4,218.19
HOT SPRINGS ACE HARDWARE	SUPPLY	\$9.98
MG OIL	INVENTORY/SUPPLY	\$3,440.80
MIDWAY SERVICE/VOLLAN OIL	FUEL	\$20,960.00
NEWMAN SIGNS INC.	T-FLG-MAT-18 X 100	\$276.09

ONSITE FIRST AID, LLC	FIRST AID SUPPLIES	\$42.85
POMP'S TIRE SERVICE INC.	PARTS	\$1,443.25
RDO EQUIPMENT CO	REPAIR/MAINTENANCE	\$644.73
STURDEVANT'S AUTO VALUE	PARTS/SUPPLY	\$37.97
SUMMIT SIGNS & SUPPLY INC	SUPPLY	\$219.00
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONE PLAN	\$42.74
CRBR ADMIN	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$11,838.62
CRBR HWY	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$54,780.43
	<b>TOTAL FOR COUNTY ROAD &amp; BRIDGE</b>	<b>\$122,157.57</b>
<b>911 SURCHARGE REIMBURSEMENT</b>		
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONE PLAN	\$42.74
DISPATCH	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$37,754.87
	<b>TOTAL FOR 911 SURCHARGE REIMBURSEMENT</b>	<b>\$37,797.61</b>
<b>EMERGENCY MGT</b>		
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONE PLAN	\$128.22
F.R.EMERG.	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$7,361.23
	<b>TOTAL FOR EMERGENCY MGT</b>	<b>\$7,489.45</b>
<b>24/7 SOBRIETY FUND</b>		
DRUG TESTS IN BULK	DRUG TESTING SUPPLIES	\$2,250.00
24/7	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$2,161.61
	<b>TOTAL FOR 24/7 SOBRIETY FUND</b>	<b>\$4,411.61</b>
	<b>TOTAL FOR BILLS PD BETWEEN 03/21 AND 04/03/2025</b>	<b>\$477,006.61</b>

Break was taken at 10:05 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:13 a.m.

Public comments were heard. Rheta Reagan, Mayor of Edgemont and County resident, thanked the Board for sending a letter in opposition of the proposed elimination of the Edgemont terminal. She reported that there are 27 Engineers and Conductors that live in Edgemont with many others living within the County. Sue Ganje, Auditor, informed the Board that she has been in contact with the SD Department of Revenue to get information regarding loss in taxes. She will gather information to write a letter to State and Federal Agencies to explain how detrimental that would affect the County. She will also follow up with the Governor of South Dakota. Susan Henderson, County resident, spoke regarding the plan of the National Weather Service to cut back on weather balloons in Nebraska. This will impact forecasts as well as weather warnings. Joe Falkenburg, Commission Chairman, relayed to the Board that Representative Trish Ladner does not support a 99-year loan to pay for the proposed Jail/Justice Center. Neil Miller, County resident, wanted to let the Board know that there will be a "Meet the Decision Makers" meeting with the Black Hills National Forest Service at Cascade Falls Park on April 26, 2025 from 1-4 p.m. to discuss what they can or can't do at our Fall River parks. Lastly, Everett Dossey from the Angostura Irrigation District came to discuss a possible MOU with the County for use of the Highway Department's equipment. He will speak with Tony March and Lance Russell to get something drawn up to present at a future meeting.

Stacey Martin, GIS Coordinator, met with the Board. She presented a report regarding new housing and new addresses. There have been 89 new buildings and addresses assigned with 21 more addresses without buildings assigned. She then presented a list of signs for replacement in 2025. Falkenburg noted that there are a lot of signs missing in the Edgemont area. Martin reported that many had been installed

without washers. She will compile a list and bring back a quote to replace them. Lastly, she spoke regarding a notification that she had received stating that Facebook would be deleting videos after 30 days. She asked the Board to think about what they would like to do regarding meeting video retention. She will do some more research to see if she can find a different way to retain older videos for the County website and report back at a later meeting.

Lily Heidebrink, Director of Equalization, met with the Board to ask for travel approval and discuss changing the date of the continuation of the Equalization Appeal meeting due to April 18<sup>th</sup> being Good Friday.

Motion made by Allen, seconded by Russell, to approve travel for Heidebrink and Heather Shaffer, Certified Assessor, to attend SDAAO School in Sioux Falls, September 14-19, 2025 to include registration fee, lodging and per diem.

Motion made by Russell, seconded by Cope, to approve conducting the continuation of the Equalization Appeal meeting on Tuesday, April 22, 2025 instead of Friday, April 18, 2025.

Sue Ganje, Auditor, continued with public comment. She read a statement that she had prepared, offering an apology and her gratitude to the staff of Fall River County for their patience and grace for the last few months during the transition into a new payroll software company. The first live payroll run had errors with pay type mapping which resulted in overpayments. She invited the Board and any employees to visit the office for a hands-on training of the new system and to answer any questions.

Nina Steinmetz, Weed and Pest Supervisor, requested the Board approve a resolution that some other counties have approved.

Motion made by Allen, Seconded by Russell, to approve Fall River County Resolution #2025-13 as follows:

### **FALL RIVER COUNTY RESOLUTION #2025-13**

#### **RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE RESTORE FUNDING FOR INVASIVE WEED MANAGEMENT ON THE BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST**

WHEREAS, the Counties of Custer, Fall River, Lawrence, Meade, and Pennington, South Dakota and the Counties of Crook and Weston, Wyoming (Counties of the Black Hills National Forest) have deemed the management and control of invasive weeds a priority in protecting public health and safety, economy, property values, natural resources, and the productivity of our agricultural lands; and

WHEREAS, the States of South Dakota and Wyoming have State Statutes requiring the control of invasive weeds across all landownerships; and

WHEREAS, the policies of the United States of America are to prevent the introduction, establishment, and spread of invasive species, as well as to eradicate and control populations of invasive species that are established through their Laws, Acts, Statutes and Executive Orders; and

WHEREAS, the Biden Administration in December of 2024 removed all the Knutson-Vandenberg funding from the Black Hills National Forest to help pay for regional and national forest service personnel salaries. That funding is pivotal in the management of Invasive Weeds on the Black Hills National Forest; and



WHEREAS, the Forest Service has not adequately funded invasive weed management program on the Black Hills National Forest.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The Counties of the Black Hills National Forest are calling for reinstatement of the Knutson-Vandenberg funds back to the Black Hills National Forests. Funds that were collected from timber sales sold on the Black Hills National Forest that are to be used to finance restoration work within those timber sale areas.
2. The Counties of the Black Hills National Forest are requesting the National Forest to adequately fund the invasive weed management program on the Black Hills National Forest. Including deeming the Black Hills Invasive Species Coordinator position as Essential Personnel within the Black Hills National Forest.
3. The Counties of the Black Hills National Forest are calling on the Forest Service to expedite the reinstatement of the Knutson-Vandenberg Funding back to the Black Hills National Forest and funding for the invasive weed management program.

Adopted this 3rd day of April, 2025.

APPROVED:

(Seal)

/S/ Joe Falkenburg  
Joe Falkenburg,  
Fall River County Commission Chairman

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

No Executive Session occurred.

Chairman Falkenburg declared the meeting adjourned at 10:53 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