

**January 6th, 2026**

**County Commissioners Meeting**

at Hamlin County Courthouse (300 4th Street; Hayti, SD)

on Second Floor in Commissioners Room (go through Auditor's Office)

- 9:30 Pledge of Allegiance
- Approve Agenda
- 9:35 Elect Chairman & Vice Chairman
- 9:40 Highway Department
- 10:20 Public Comment
- 10:30 Nurse's Report
- 10:45 Director of Equalization
- 11:00 First District Contract
- 11:05 Reappoint Zoning Members
- 11:10 Veteran's Service State
- 11:15 Plat
- 11:20 Start of New Year Motions
- 11:45 Bills

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**Minutes:**

UNAPPROVED MINUTES: The Hamlin County Board of Commissioners met on Jan.6,2026 with the following members present: Rudebusch, Saathoff, Tulson, Buck and Popham. No one absent Also present was John Delzer States Attorney, Jenna Aderhold reporter and Doug Noem.

The Chairman led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA: Motion by Saathoff seconded by Buck to approve the agenda as posted. All members voting Aye. Motion Carried.

MINUTES: Minutes were not approved yet due to year end balances needing to be in them.

The Auditor took the floor and called for nominations for Chairman of the Board. Motion by Popham to nominate Randall Rudebusch for Chairman, seconded by Buck. The Auditor called for any more nominations. None were heard. All members voting Aye to elect Randall Rudebusch Chairman. The Chairman called for nominations for Vice Chairman. Motion by Popham seconded by Tulson to nominate Larry Saathoff for Vice Chairman. The Chairman called for any other nominations. None were received. Buck made a motion that nominations cease and to cast an unanimous vote for Saathoff. All members voting Aye. Motion Carried.

HIGHWAY DEPT: Bryan Pedersen Hwy Supt met with the Board. He stated what he had presented to the Board was the average travel on the different roads and bridges in the County. The motor grader is here and it is in Watertown for them to take off the equipment from the old grader and install such on the new one. Since the weather is good, this will work. The department had put on some salt sand on the roads due to them being slippery. The Dept is working on the equipment in the shop. DSR is still working on the one motor grader. They had taken time off for Christmas break. The Sign crew has left the county. They are not done yet. They are hired by the State. The Highway Dept has to correct all the signs that are wrong. This is a State project only. The Sign company has been here for four years. The Board asked Bryan what he was looking at for 2026. He stated maybe an overlay project and replacing old equipment.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Cheslie Gustafson Janitor stated she had been in contact with Trane about the work they were doing on replacing motors in heater units and the cost. The Company is marking the price up a lot. She and Cody Weed supervisor will be putting in the motors and repairs. Also they will check with Watertown about repairs being less costly. Abbi Rogness 4-H Advisor stated she would have to do a building permit with the City for a new building. The Board stated to look at putting this to the east of the old building. Maybe also installing a walk way which would be less costly than trying to match the two roofs which would cost more. Doug Noem discussed the new legislation concerning property taxes. He handed out material including comprehensive property tax task force recommendations to the executive board. He had received this from meetings he has been at. Also he encouraged the Board to talk to the legislators concerning this. Different for small counties than the larger counties.

**NURSES DEPT:** Angela Hunter County Health Nurse submitted her annual report. She stated that vaccinations have increased due to influenza vaccines. She had flu clinics at the local schools, by appointment and assisted in other counties. She helps women to participate in the pregnancy care program. She has contracts with Estelline and Poinsett Colony for screening on vision. She helped at Ag Safety day and babysitting clinic. There are many more things her office can provide for residents.

**DIRECTOR OF EQUALIZATION:** Donna Rhody Director of Equalization met with the Board. One of her staff resigned effective Dec. 31, 2025. The State is also making deadlines earlier for different projects that need to be done. This has to be done by March 1. She requested to hire two part time people to help with this. She will let the Board know when she hires them.

**LETTER OF AGREEMENT FIRST DISTRICT:** Motion by Saathoff seconded by Buck to authorize the Chairman to sign the Letter of Agreement between Hamlin County and First District Assoc. to provide administrative and technical assistance services to Hamlin County Planning Commission-Board of Adjustment Commission and County Commission in zoning and subdivision ordinance administration for Jan. 1, 2026-Dec. 31, 2026 for the amount of 50,000.00. All members voting Aye. Motion Carried.

**ZONING BOARD MEMBERS:** Motion by Saathoff seconded by Tulson to reappoint John Pantzke and Stuart Schubloom to three year terms on the zoning board since their terms are up this year. All members voting Aye. Motion Carried.

**VETERANS SERVICE:** Motion by Buck seconded by Tulson to authorize the Chairman to sign the request for State Aid for Salary of County Veterans Service Officer. Hamlin County will participate under SDCL 33A-1-31 for state aid for salaries of County Veterans Service Officer for the period of Jan. 1, 2026-Dec 31, 2026 and continued each year. Based on the 2020 census which sets our county's population at 6164, the annual salary paid for employment of a CVSO will not be less than 13,000.00 and Committing our CVSO to attend: the SDDVA Annual Benefits School, one of SDDVA's mini conferences, host at least one veteran outreach event each quarter and a new CVSO will participate in all of these and VSO training program. All members voting Aye. Motion Carried.

**PLAT:** Motion by Popham seconded by Buck to approve the following plat of Mary Lou Little Second Addition located in the Northeast Quarter and Southeast Quarter of Section 25, Township 115 N Range 53 west of the 5<sup>th</sup> PM Hamlin County. All members voting Aye. Motion Carried.

Yearly Distribution of Wheel Tax to townships and cities and towns:

Brantford City	2,142.27
Bryant City	267.18
Castlewood City	196.19
Castlewood Twp	911.23
Cleveland Twp	1,103.11
Dempster Twp	1,246.99
Dixon Twp	1,534.76
Estelline City	247.26
Estelline Twp	1,454.82
Florence Twp	1,007.19
Garfield Twp	1,294.95
Hamlin Twp	1,055.15
Hayti Twp	1,342.89
Hayti Town	140.69
Hazel Town	55.73
Lake Norden City	158.72
Norden Twp	1,982.40
Opdahl Twp	1,566.73
Oxford Twp	1,470.81
Total	19,179.07

CLAIMS PAID:

COMMISSIONERS: SDACC dues 1556.00 Hamlin County Publishing 1042.11 SDML Workers comp insurance 1457.00 Total gross salaries for complete dept 6850.10 benefits 3406.55 Total Commissioners expense 15,311.76

COURT: Yesika Munoz interpreter fees 100.00 mileage 28.00

AUDITOR: ITC phone 94.95 SDACO dues 342.96 Twotrees repairs 100.00 Total gross salaries for complete dept 5861.59 benefits 448.42 Total Auditors expense 6847.92

TREASURER: Dakota Shred rental 23.18 ITC phone 86.55 Office Peeps supp 185.45 SDACO dues 342.96 Total gross salaries for complete dept 9548.80 benefits 3246.40 Total Treasurers expense 13,433.34

STATES ATTORNEY: Foley & Foley Law prof serv 750.00 SDML Workers comp insurance 120.00 SD States Attorney Assoc dues 883.92 Total gross salaries for complete dept 5554.26 benefits 1942.08 Total States Attorney expense 9250.16

COURT APPOINTED ATTORNEY: Bratland Law 660.00 Timothy Cummings 5018.29

COURTHOUSE MAINT: Dust Tex floor mats 115.99 Hamlin Blg Center supp 9.98 ITC internet 240.90 Menards supp 38.97 SDML Workers Comp insurance 1478.00 Twotrees repairs 230.25 Total gross salaries for complete dept 3937.66 benefits 1500.08 Total courthouse maint expense 7451.83

DIRECTOR OF EQUALIZATION: ITC phone 81.05 SDML Workers comp insurance 839.00 Total gross salaries for complete dept 18,284.00 benefits 5410.23 Total Director of Equalization expense 24,614.28

REGISTER OF DEEDS: ITC phone 77.15 Microfilm Imaging two months 780.00 SDACO dues 342.96 Total gross salaries for complete dept 10,041.82 benefits 1370.72 Total Register of Deeds expense 12,612.65

ANIMAL BOUNTY: Hamlin Twp gopher bounty 576.00

SHERIFF: A&D Graphics supp 72.00 AT&T cell phones & air cards 877.39 ITC phone 257.00 S&S Auto repairs 325.00 SDML Workers Comp insurance 10,653.00 SD Secretary of State notary 30.00 SD Sheriffs Assoc. Dues 684.92 Tritech Software prof 3513.01 W.W. Tire repairs 881.09 Watertown City Dispatch 6171.30 Total gross salaries for complete dept 40,263.13 benefits 14,076.34 Total Sheriffs expense 77,804.18

CORONER: SDML Workers Comp insurance 3.00 fees 500.00 benefits 38.25

GENERAL 911: ITC towers trunking charge 374.33

ATCO: Human Service Agency Disabled yearly payment 527.00

MENTAL HEALTH CENTER: Human Service Agency quarterly payment 1875.00

EXTENSION: Amazon supp 394.93 Berg Family Foods supp 17.25 AT&T cell phone 46.53 ITC phone 55.00 Office Peeps Repairs 87.41 Total gross salaries for complete dept 4213.60 benefits 1956.43 Total Extension expense 6771.15

WEED: ITC phone 30.85 SDML Workers Comp insurance 2475.00 AT&T cell phone 51.58 Total gross salaries for complete dept 4848.02 benefits 1633.25 Total Weed expense 9038.70

ZONING: Hamlin County Publishing 63.90 Total Per Diem 750.00 benefits 261.69

ROAD: Bryant City Util 22.64 Estelline City Util 78.50 Hamlin Coop LP 566.61 Hayti Town Util 52.00 ITC phone 146.73 Ottertail Power Util 102.51 SDML Workers Comp insurance 24,671.00 Stan Houston parts 20.25 Twotrees repairs 125.00 AT&T cell phone 87.07 State Treasurer excise tax 1007.55 Total gross salaries for complete dept 55,925.54 benefits 18,274.58 Total Road expense 101,079.98

AG BUILDING: ITC internet 68.90

EMERGENCY & DISASTER: Codington County Search & Rescue yearly payment 1500.00 ITC phone 30.85 SDML Workers Comp insurance 155.00 AT&T Cell phone 50.17 Total gross salaries for complete dept 4850.14 benefits 1837.54 Total Emerg & Disas expense 8423.70

WIC: Chantel Sprang travel 152.60 Total gross salaries for complete dept 3983.60 benefits 543.77

STATE 24/7: State 24/7 Program fees 1347.00

M&P FUND: Microfilm Imaging Register of Deeds rental 2 months 640.00

BOOKMOBILE: SDML Workers comp insurance 388.00 Total gross salaries for complete dept 5487.60 benefits 708.92

SCRAP IRON & TIRES: Motion by Saathoff seconded by Buck to allow the Highway Dept to sell scrap iron and tires throughout the year and turn in money to Treasurer All members voting Aye. Motion Carried.

CREDIT CARDS AND BILL PAYING: Motion by Tulson seconded by Popham to allow county employees to use the county credit card and allow the Auditor to pay such or any other bills which charge late fees or would result in a disconnect of services and the Auditor to present such bills at the next commissioners meeting. All members voting Aye. Motion Carried.

BURIAL RATE: Motion by Popham seconded by Buck to set the burial rate at complete burial or cremation for an adult at 2000.00 and 1000.00 for a child up to five years old. All members voting Aye. Motion Carried.

TRAVEL RATES: Motion by Saathoff seconded by Tulson to set the following travel rates of state rate of .70 per mile and actual rate for lodging (employee must direct bill and if not and if tax is charged employees must pay the tax) A county vehicle must be used for travel if available. Meal rates are state rates of Breakfast 6.00 Lunch 14.00 and supper 20.00 All members voting Aye. Motion Carried.

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS: Motion by Tulson seconded by Buck to set the Hamlin County Republican, Herald Enterprise and Estelline Journal as the official newspapers for the County. All members voting Aye. Motion Carried.

COMMISSIONERS BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

Rudebusch - Glacial Lakes, Courthouse Maint Rep

Saathoff - Highway Rep, Weed Board, Zoning Board Commissioner Alternate

Tulson - Nurses Rep, Extension Committee and Purchasing Committee

Buck - First District Board, Zoning Board Commissioners Alternate

Popham - Human Service Board, Emergency & Disaster Rep. Commissioner Position on Zoning Board.

BANK DEPOSITORY: Motion by Buck seconded by Saathoff to set First Premier Bank, Reliabank, Citizens State Bank and Bryant State Bank as county bank depositories. All members voting Aye. Motion Carried.

STATES ATTORNEY: Motion by Saathoff seconded by Popham to appoint John Delzer as the Hamlin County States Attorney until Jan. 1, 2027 All members voting Aye. Motion carried.

FEES: Treasurer .25 per page, 25.00 Admin Fee for extra work on some titles, 40.00 for insufficient funds check Copy Machine .15 letter size. 20 legal size and .50 large size Register of Deeds all charges set by SDCL except transfers 5.00 a month for abstract companies, .40 per image only for abstract companies. Ag Building rental 150.00 per day or 300.00 per day for commercial must sign liability sheet. Use of Ag Buildings for storage 20.00 a month under show ring, 40.00 per month for storage in buildings, 15.00 per month for campers parked just on the 4-H grounds which are not under any cover. Such campers should be parked as to not interfere with snow removal. All campers should sign a liability sheet removing the county from any liability. Sheriff Fingerprinting 10.00 Accident reports 5.00 with pictures 10.00 serving papers set by law, Weed Spraying 40.00 per hour for man and equipment plus cost of weed chemical Zoning Fees Project cost labor/materials \$0-10,000 is 40.00 project cost labor & materials 10,000 & up \$40.00+2.00 per 1000 over 10,000 complete listing of all charges available for inspection at Zoning Office. Director of Equalization: names and addresses 500.00 for names , addresses and legal 1500.00 Shapfile with Attributs 5000.00 complete listing available at Director of Equalization Office.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion by Buck seconded by Popham to go into Executive Session at 11:40 for personnel reasons. All members voting aye. Motion Carried. The Chairman declared them out at 12:30

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 until Jan. 20, 2026 at 9:30 am in the Commissioners Room County Courthouse at Hayti.

Randall Rudebusch

Chairman

ATTEST:

Dixie Opdahl

Hamlin County Auditor

It is the policy of Hamlin County SD not to discriminate on the basis of color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of service.