

OGLALA LAKOTA COUNTY UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF MAY 8, 2025

The Oglala Lakota Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on May 8, 2025. Present: Allyssa Comer, Art Hopkins, Wendell Yellow Bull and Sue Ganje, Auditor. Ramon Bear Runner and Anna Takes the Shield (Dubray) were absent.

The meeting was called to order at 1:11 p.m. by Chairwoman Comer. The agenda was reviewed for conflicts. ALL MOTIONS RECORDED IN THESE MINUTES WERE PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE, UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to approve the agenda, moving Stacey Martin, GIS Coordinator to a later meeting and to add: Advanced travel payout for those wishing to attend the Black Hills Association meeting in Bison, SD.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to approve April 8, 2025, minutes.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins to approve the Auditor's Account with the Treasurer for March, 2025 as follows:

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF OGLALA LAKOTA 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 March 2025.

Total Amount of Deposit in First Interstate Bank, HS:	\$	398,934.02
Total Amount of Cash:	\$	493.70
Total Amount of Checks in Treasurer's Possession Not Exceeding Three Days:	\$	5,641.11
FIRST INTERSTATE SAVINGS		
First Interstate, HS:	\$	2,194,505.80
CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT:		
Schwab 2 year	\$	2,125,037.28
Itemized list of all items, checks and drafts that have been in the Treasurer's possession over three days:		
Election Petty Cash:	\$	15.00
RETURNED CHECKS:		
Deaton, Tyler	\$	110.10
TOTAL	\$	4,724,737.01

Dated This 31st Day of March 2025.

/S/ Sue Ganje

Sue Ganje, County
Auditor of Oglala
Lakota County

/S/ Teresa Pullen

Teresa Pullen, County Treasurer
of Oglala Lakota County

County Monies	\$	4,590,333.27
Held for other Entities	\$	45,838.78
Held in Trust	\$	88,564.96
TOTAL	\$	4,724,737.01

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 Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to set a hearing for Cash Transfers, and Supplement and Contingency for June 12, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

Motion made by Hopkins, seconded by Yellow Bull to approve paying advanced travel for mileage to attend the Black Hills County Association meeting in Bison, SD.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to move Stacey Martin, GIS Coordinator's agenda items to a future meeting.

Lynx Bettelyoun, Highway Superintendent, met with the Board to provide updates. He visited with a land broker regarding available land. He advised the water tanker trailer is in Mitchell. Bob Lee Trucking will deliver it to the County Highway Shop for the equivalent of the cost of 2 loads of gravel (He will be billing us for 80 loads but will only be hauling 78 as payment for picking the trailer up in Minnesota and bringing it to Batesland). Hopkins inquired if the Highway Department had daily staff meetings; Bettelyoun noted that they meet each morning to review the previous day's work, and the current day's plan. They have monthly safety meetings.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to accept the Highway Department's monthly report and place it on file.

Daylon Black Bull, Interim Sheriff, was not present for the meeting.

Jerlene Arredondo, VSO, met with the Board to provide updates.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to approve the VSO Monthly Report and place it on file.

TJ Plume, Alpha One Fire Department, joined the meeting via telephone at 1:50 p.m. He revisited his request for entering into a Fire Protection Agreement for central Oglala Lakota County. He had Ken Many Moons, County resident, speak on their behalf, praising their response time and asking the Board to give Alpha One Fire Department what they are asking for.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to move Alpha One Fire Department's request

to a later meeting, when all Fire Departments within the County can attend.

Roger Risty and Sonya Nordby of Risty Benefits, met with the Board to further go over quotes from insurance companies regarding health, dental and/or vision coverage. The quote for life insurance was more coverage for less money moving from Reliance Standard to Lincoln Financial. The Board would like Risty Benefits to present the options to the employees to get their input regarding coverage and cost. The Auditor will get that scheduled soon.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to approve having the County pay 25% of health insurance.

After some discussion, Yellow Bull rescinded his above motion and Hopkins rescinded his second.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to approve changing the dental insurance coverage from Delta Dental to Lincoln Financial, which has better coverage. This will also save the employees \$110.00/year in premiums. Risty informed the Board that, if any dentist visited by an employee does not file claims, the bills can be sent directly to Risty Benefits and they will take care of filing it with Lincoln Financial.

Risty recommended that the County keep the current vision plan. The Board determined that the best insurance coverage for vision was to stay with VSP.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to approve changing the life insurance coverage from Reliance Standard to Lincoln Financial. The premiums would be \$100.00 less per month with twice the amount of coverage.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to approve offering the employees voluntary additional life insurance coverage as a payroll deduction that would be a cost to the employee.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to approve offering AFLAC insurance to the employees as a payroll deduction that would be a cost to the employee.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to approve moving West River Mental Health's 2026 Budget request and the Badlands Conservation District's 2026 Budget request to a later meeting and invite them to come and speak with the Board.

Dar Coy, County Emergency Manager, met with the Board to discuss their interest in instituting a County-wide Burn Ban Ordinance for Non-Tribal land in Oglala Lakota County. They would like him to proceed with drafting it and bring it back at a later meeting.

David (Scott) Cuny, County Resident, met with the Board to ask for a reduction in tax because his land had been reverted to Non-Ag status after no response was received by the Director of Equalization regarding the letter that had been sent out in 2022.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to change the status back to Ag and to abate and refund monies for tax years 24/pay 25 and 25/pay 26.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to approve bi-weekly payroll instead of monthly to help employees, effective June, 2025.

A discussion was held regarding the Solid Waste site near Batesland. State's Attorney Russell will work with the State of SD to determine the best way to move forward given all the circumstances. He will report back to the Board of his findings.

The Board reviewed the documents from Custer County regarding the name change of Squaw Creek Road. Hopkins has spoken with a Tribal liaison from the State of SD to try to get a favorable solution from Custer County.

Dustin Twiss met with the Board regarding a Tax Deed that had been executed on Louis Twiss's property which was sold to Curtis Temple. He believes that it was not done properly by a former County Treasurer. Louis Twiss had not received any notification of this process. State's Attorney Russell informed them that the Board could not remedy the situation and recommended that the Twiss family hire an attorney to fix the chain of title. The Auditor will contact the Bennett County Booster newspaper to try to acquire the delinquent tax notices of 2004.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to approve the Election Agreement between Oglala Lakota County and Oglala Lakota County School District 65-1 for their upcoming election.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to enter Executive Session as per SDCL 1-25-2 (3) legal, at 4:17 p.m.

Chairwoman Comer declared the Board out of Executive Session at 4:26 p.m.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Hopkins, to hold the next Commission Meetings on May 22, 2025 and June 12, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at the Prairie Wind Casino.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Bear Runner, to approve paying the bills as follows:

GENERAL FUND		
ARREDONDO, JERLENE	MEETING MILEAGE	\$67.00
AT&T MOBILITY	WIRELESS PHONE SERVICE	\$202.73
BEAR RUNNER, RAMON	UNABLE TO ATTEND COMM MTG	-\$407.10
BEAR RUNNER, RAMON	MEETING MILEAGE	\$87.10
BEAR RUNNER, RAMON	MILEAGE TO BH ASSOC	\$321.60
CENTURY BUSINESS	BALANCE DUE FEB 2025	\$68.98
CENTURY BUSINESS	COPIER LEASES/USAGE	\$828.10
COLBATH & SPERLICH LAW	COURT APPOINTED LEGAL	\$919.20
TAKES THE SHIELD, ANNA	VOID DID NOT ATTEND	-\$67.00
TAKES THE SHIELD, ANNA	MEETING MILEAGE	\$67.00
TAKES THE SHIELD, ANNA	MILEAGE TO BH ASSOC	\$300.16
FALL RIVER CO. SHERIFF	PRISONER BOARD	\$210.00
HOPKINS, ARTHUR L	MEETING MILEAGE	\$142.04
HOPKINS, ARTHUR L	MILEAGE TO BH ASSOC	\$294.80
HUSTEAD LAW OFFICE, P.C.	COURT APPOINTED LEGAL	\$1,789.90
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES MOVEMENT	OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND	\$20,000.00
LAKOTA TIMES	ANNUAL PRINT SUBSCRIPTION	\$65.00
LYNN'S DAKOTA MART	COMM SNACKS/WATER	\$37.74
MASTEL, BRUCE	HOST & DATABASE MONTHLY	\$35.00
MASTERCARD	CREDIT CARD CHARGES	\$740.35

OL DIV OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND	\$20,000.00
PAYLOCITY	PROFESSIONAL SERVICE	\$3,303.92
PENNINGTON COUNTY JAIL	INMATE HOUSING	\$210.00
OL COUNTY REG OF DEEDS	ROW ACH FROM SDDOT	\$20.00
RELIANCE STANDARD LIFE	LIFE INSURANCE	\$52.00
SD ASSN OF CO OFFICIALS	SPRING WORKSHOP	\$600.00
SDAAO	26 MEMBER DUES/ANN CONF	\$325.00
SD DEPT OF HEALTH	BLOOD TOXICOLOGY	\$165.00
SD DEPT OF LABOR	PENALTY FOR LATE FILING	\$75.00
SD DEPT OF REVENUE	REMITTANCE	\$120.00
SIOUX FUNERAL HOME	AUTOPSY TRANS MILEAGE	\$450.00
SOFTWARE SERVICES	OPERATOR ASSIST/SYSTEM	\$725.00
AKICITA LAKOTA VETERANS	VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE	\$100.00
YELLOW BULL, WENDELL	MEETING MILEAGE	\$87.10
YELLOW BULL, WENDELL	MILEAGE TO BH ASSOC	\$321.60
COMER, ALLYSSA	MEETING MILEAGE	\$97.82
COMER, ALLYSSA	MILEAGE TO BH ASSOC	\$261.30
COMMISSION	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$3,866.80
VET'S	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$3,882.76
SHERIFF	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$10,894.20
	TOTAL FOR GENERAL FUND	\$71,260.10
COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE FUND		
AT&T MOBILITY	WIRELESS PHONE SERVICE	\$95.22
BIG STATE IND SUPPLY INC.	SUPPLIES	\$159.00
BUTLER MACHINERY CO.	EQUIP/REPAIR	\$2,608.61
CULLIGAN	DRINKING WATER	\$41.70
DMC WEAR PARTS LLC	PARTS	\$138.80
BUCHE HARDWARE & LUMBER	SUPPLIES	\$463.10
GREAT PLAINS COMMUNICATION	PHONE/INTERNET	\$222.42
LACREEK ELECTRIC ASSOC	UTILITY/ELECTRIC	\$404.18
LOAFERS CONSTRUCTION	CEMENT/CONCRETE	\$3,334.40
MASTERCARD	CREDIT CARD CHARGES	\$4,798.30
MCI COMM SERVICE	LONG DISTANCE PHONE	\$55.37
MENARDS	ACCOUNT #31330337 SUPP	\$490.43
RELIANCE STANDARD LIFE	LIFE INSURANCE	\$144.50
SUMMIT FIRE PROTECTION	ANNUAL INSPECTION	\$315.35
CRBR ADMIN	WAGES & BENEFITS	\$26,657.80
	TOTAL FOR COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE	\$39,929.18
	TOTAL FOR BILLS PD BETWEEN 04-09 & 05-15-2025	\$111,189.28

There were no public comments.

Motion made by Yellow Bull, seconded by Bear Runner, to adjourn the meeting at 4:28 p.m.

/s/Allyssa Comer
Allyssa Comer, Chairwoman
Board of Oglala Lakota County Commissioners

ATTEST:
/s/Sue Ganje
Sue Ganje
Oglala Lakota County Auditor

OGLALA LAKOTA COUNTY UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF MAY 14, 2025

The Oglala Lakota Board of County Commissioners met in Special Session on May 14, 2025. Present via telephone: Ramon Bear Runner, Allyssa Comer, Art Hopkins and Bobbie Janis, Auditor Administrative Assistant. Anna Takes the Shield (Dubray) and Wendell Yellow Bull were absent.

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. by Chairwoman Comer. The agenda was reviewed for conflicts. ALL MOTIONS RECORDED IN THESE MINUTES WERE PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE, UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

Motion made by Bear Runner, seconded by Hopkins, to approve the agenda as written.

Motion made by Bear Runner, seconded by Hopkins, to approve and authorize the Chairwoman to sign the Change of Venue request letter to the SD DANR regarding Craven Canyon.

Motion made by Hopkins, seconded by Bear Runner, to adjourn the meeting at 1:37 p.m.

/s/ Allyssa Comer
Allyssa Comer, Chairwoman
Board of Oglala Lakota County Commissioners

ATTEST:

/S/ Bobbie Janis

Bobbie Janis, Auditor Administrative Assistant

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF OGLALA LAKOTA 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 30th day of April 2025.

Total Amount of Deposit in First Interstate Bank, HS:	\$	449,365.12
--	----	------------

Total Amount of Cash:	\$	1,125.32
------------------------------	----	----------

Total Amount of Checks in Treasurer's Possession Not Exceeding Three Days:	\$	41,495.33
---	----	-----------

FIRST INTERSTATE SAVINGS

First Interstate, HS:	\$	2,170,490.20
-----------------------	----	--------------

CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT:

Schwab 2 year	\$	2,125,127.34
---------------	----	--------------

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

Election Petty Cash:	\$	15.00
----------------------	----	-------

RETURNED CHECKS:

Deaton, Tyler	\$	110.10
---------------	----	--------

TOTAL	\$	4,787,728.41
--------------	-----------	---------------------

Dated This 30th Day of April 2025.

Sue Ganje, County
Auditor of Oglala
Lakota County

Teresa Pullen, County Treasurer
of Oglala Lakota County

County Monies	\$	4,596,475.78
Held for other Entities	\$	112,139.56
Held in Trust	\$	79,113.07
TOTAL	\$	4,787,728.41

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.

OGLALA LAKOTA COUNTY ORDINANCE #2025-_____
AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR TEMPORARY EMERGENCY REGULATION
OF FIRE HAZARDS OGLALA LAKOTA COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA

WHEREAS, Oglala Lakota County Commission is charged with protecting the health and safety of the citizens of Oglala Lakota County including all property situated therein; and

WHEREAS, the Oglala Lakota County Commission has consulted with local fire officials, law enforcement and emergency management officials concerning the threat posed by wildfires; and

WHEREAS, the threat of wildfires in Oglala Lakota County is such so as to pose a significant danger to the health and safety of the citizens of Oglala Lakota County including property situated therein; and

WHEREAS, the Oglala Lakota County Commission has deemed it necessary to enact certain temporary controls to reduce the threat posed to the citizens and property of Oglala Lakota County by wildfires.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE OGLALA LAKOTA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: That pursuant to SDCL 7-8-20 (18) the Oglala Lakota County Commission does hereby enact this ordinance to ensure public safety on an emergency basis, effective immediately and impose a ban on all open burning and fireworks except for petroleum fueled or charcoal briquette fueled grills used for preparing food. This burn ban applies to any Non-Native American individual in Oglala Lakota County, South Dakota, outside any municipality, and is in effect when the National Weather Service has declared the South Dakota Grassland Fire Danger Index to be in the **MODERATE, HIGH, VERY HIGH or EXTREME** level. Individuals will be allowed to use gas fueled or charcoal fired BBQ grills and will be allowed open burning when the fire index is at the **LOW** level. Campfires will **NOT** be allowed on private land or licensed commercial campgrounds. Campgrounds operated by the State of South Dakota or US Government must follow the established laws and regulations.

SECTION 2: That this open burning ban will remain in effect until repealed by the Oglala Lakota County Commission. Pursuant to SDCL 7-18A-2 the penalty for violating this ordinance shall include a fine not to exceed two hundred dollars for each violation and/or imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty days for each violation: or both such fine and imprisonment. Additionally, person(s) in violation of this burn ban may be responsible for any and all suppression costs pursuant to South Dakota Law.

SECTION 3: That the Oglala Lakota County Commission declares an emergency and this ordinance shall be in effect immediately in order to protect the peace, health and safety of the citizens of Oglala Lakota County.

Notice of Upcoming Vacancy – Oglala Lakota Sheriff
Request for letters of interest

Letters are being accepted by the Oglala Lakota Board of County Commissioners for persons interested in an appointment for the County Sheriff position. The vacancy is current. Interested parties may submit a letter of interest for the position. This appointment will be until 05/21/2025. The Board encourages the successful applicant to take out a petition to run for a two-year term. In 2026, the elected position will then be for a four-year term. An elected Sheriff will need to be a resident of Oglala Lakota County.

The following will apply to the individual appointed as County Sheriff:

Said individual to be appointed shall be certified to serve as Sheriff under South Dakota Law.

Said individual shall be in all respects qualified for office according to the general laws of the State of SD, except the Sheriff does not have to be a resident of Oglala Lakota County with the consent of the Commission upon appointment, but shall endeavor to find housing in Oglala Lakota County; and

The Sheriff shall have the duties, power, authority and responsibilities as provided by the law of the State of SD. The Sheriff shall serve full-time and may not hold any other employment without the consent of the Commissioners.

Must have a High School Diploma or GED
Must have a SD Law Enforcement Training Basic Certification
Must have Law Enforcement Experience

Law enforcement officers are required to work odd hours and be subject to call out day or night, holidays and weekends.

Officers are required to work in all types of weather and may be subject to adverse or hazardous working conditions posed to all Law Enforcement personnel. The position requires SD State Certification for Law Enforcement which if not already obtained, will be provided and completed in Pierre, SD to a successful applicant. Position requires a medical physical, drug testing, fingerprinting and background check.

Salary per SD Codified Law [7-12-15](#); \$44,723.04. South Dakota Retirement and Life Insurance. Dental and Vision available.

Letters of interest must be mailed to the Oglala Lakota County Commission, Attn: County Auditor, 906 N. River Street, Hot Springs, SD, 57747, or emailed to the County Auditor at sue.ganje@state.sd.us. The deadline to submit a letter is Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. For any further questions please contact the County Auditor at 605-745-5130. Oglala Lakota County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Dated this 30th day of April, 2025
Sue Ganje, County Auditor