

Charles Mix County  
Board of Commissioners  
**Special Session – February 6, 2020**

The Charles Mix County Board of Commissioners met in special session at the 4H Center in Lake Andes, SD on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February, 2020 at 10:00 am. Chairman - Neil Von Eschen opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and called the meeting to order with Vice Chairman - Nick Stotz, Commissioner – Keith Mushitz, Auditor - Danielle Rolston, EDS Manager – Mike Kotab, DOE – Denise Weber, District III – John Clem, SD OEM – Kyle Kafka, SD OEM – Jim Poppen and Charles Mix County residents present.

**Agenda:**

A motion was made by Mushitz and seconded by Stotz to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

**Hazard Mitigation:**

EDS Manager – Mike Kotab began the Mitigation meeting with introductions and then turned it over to SD OEM Rep - Jim Poppen. Poppen began by explaining how South Dakota Office of Emergency Management (SD OEM) assists with the mitigation grant process. This voluntary grant is eligible for all structures but primary homes being 1<sup>st</sup> priority with damages beyond repair from any of the disasters in 2019. If application is approved FEMA would pay 75% and per Governor Noem the state will pay 10% of appraised value. The property would be appraised pre-damages and the grant would assist in costs such as demolition, testing done on the structure and closing fees. If applicants agree to participate, they ask Charles Mix County to sponsor the application and agree to sign over property to the county. Once this process is complete the property must remain a green space indefinitely and will be assessed every 3 years.

**Public Comment:**

Hehaka Akichita Elk Soldier brought up discussion regarding the condemnation and damages from multiple declared disasters.

Stefanie Geigle asked if contents (appliances and personal belongings) inside the structures would be included in the appraisal process. Poppen informed those in attendance that the appraisal will be for the structures only.

Ray Ringling inquired about the process for those who have already received funding from FEMA for repairs. Poppen stated that if anyone has received funds for repairs and have not done those repairs then that amount would be deducted off approved amount.

Sheryl Gravatt commented on personal items lost to sewer back up and wanting to keep some of the pastureland. Poppen explained that there have been previous applicants that had their parcel replotted and parceled out to be able to do this.

**Hazard Mitigation:**

Poppen and SD OEM – Kyle Kafka closed the meeting by stating that the state board looks over all the applications from 63 counties to prioritize and approve. Funding is not guaranteed for anyone; unapproved applications will be kept to review again if/when further funding available.

If anyone is interested in further information or to move forward with this process they can contact Mike Kotab – [mkotab@charlesmixcounty.org](mailto:mkotab@charlesmixcounty.org) or 605-491-3134

**Adjourn:**

A motion was made by Mushitz and seconded by Stotz to adjourn until the next regular session on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 10:00 am. All in favor, motion carried.

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Neil Von Eschen, Chairman

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Danielle Davenport, Auditor