

July 6, 2021

A Special Meeting of the McCook County Commission was called to order in their Meeting Room by Chairman Chuck Mehlbrech. The meeting was held to hold initial review of 2022 budget requests. Members present: Dean Koch, Charles Liesinger, Steve Gordon, and Marc Dick.

Laura Schultz, HR Coordinator, was present to offer input regarding pay increases and their effect on the budgets.

Chairman Mehlbrech led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Mehlbrech called for approval of the agenda. Motion made by Koch to approve the agenda as sent/posted. Second by Gordon. Motion carried.

Citizen Input: none.

Commissioner Reports: none.

Mic Kreutzfeldt, Hwy Supt, informed Board that a public meeting date needs to be set for the 5-Year Road & Bridge Plan.

Motion was made by Liesinger to set 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., September 28th, as date & time for the public meeting. Second Gordon. Motion carried.

Kreutzfeldt inquired about hiring temporary/seasonal workers when chip sealing projects are being done but wants HR input to be sure hiring processes are followed. Laura Schultz, HR Coordinator, noted that when hiring temporary employees, the procedure would probably not be as in depth, and this can be investigated prior to hiring. Motion made by Gordon to allow hiring of temporary employees during chip sealing at the rate of \$16.50/hour. Second Koch. Motion carried.

Mic Kreutzfeldt, Hwy Supt/Drainage Administrator, reviewed the Weed, Drainage and Hwy Road & Bridge budgets with the Board. Kreutzfeldt provided a list of equipment and contracted construction projects that are included in proposed 2022 budget.

Fred Butzke, McCook County Conservation District, and Stephanie Albin, District Manager, met with the Commission to discuss 2022 budget request. Butzke provided an overview of 2020 and 2021 projects. \$15,000 appropriation is being requested.

Jim Julson, Bridgewater Ambulance Service, met with the Board. Auditor Sherman provided a copy of a letter from Bridgewater City and ambulance expenditures & revenues for the first six months of 2021. Auditor Sherman noted that the 2021 appropriation includes \$30,000 to help cover the expense of a newer ambulance. Following discussion, Julson asked that Bridgewater Ambulance Service receive 25% of what McCook County Emergency Medical Services receives. Sherman noted that McCook EMS has requested a 2.5% increase for 2022 which brings the appropriation to \$249,380. \$62,345 would represent 25% for Bridgewater Ambulance Service.

Cori Kaufmann, Director of Equalization/Zoning Administrator/GIS Coordinator, reviewed Director of Equalization, Planning & Zoning, and GIS budgets with the Board.

Mark Norris, Sheriff, reviewed Sheriff, Contract Law, Jail and 24/7 Sobriety Fund budgets with the Board.

Brad (BJ) Stiefvater, Jr, Emergency Manager, reviewed Emergency & Disaster Service, 911 Service, and the Ambulance budgets with the Board. Stiefvater noted a 2.5% increase for his ambulance service, noting that he had to shoulder costs of COVID expenses, and did not receive any stimulus money to help defray those costs.

Mike Fink, States Attorney, reviewed the States Attorney budget with the Board. Fink asked that his secretary be given a larger pay increase, giving her some of his pay increase. HR Coordinator Schultz noted that that is not how pay increases work.

Pam Hanna, Executive Director LifeQuest, gave the Board an overview of services that are offered to their residents, thanking them for the County's past support and requesting continued support of \$3600 for 2022. Sherman noted that in the past, \$60 per person per month was appropriated and with four residents the appropriation would be \$2880, but this is up to the Board.

Stacey Sieverding, 4-H Program Assistant, reviewed the Extension and Fair Board budgets with the Board. Adding an appropriation for the 2nd barn was brought up but no decision was made.

Carol Lauer, Treasurer, reviewed the Treasurer's budget with the Board.

Geralyn Sherman, Auditor/Welfare Director, reviewed Auditor, Care of Poor, and Welfare budgets with the Commission. Sherman noted that the Human Resources budget will be reviewed following upcoming Executive Sessions.

Laurie Schwans, Register of Deeds, reviewed the Register of Deeds and Modernization & Preservation Fund budgets with the Board. Schwans noted that she will continue to use the M&P budget for equipment rental.

For discussion purposes, Schwans suggested the Board consider a 5% pay increase for all employees due to COVID.

Motion was made by Dick to enter Executive Session (SDCL 1-25-2 (4) at 2:30 p.m. Second Koch. Motion carried. Laura Schultz, HR Coordinator, was present.

At 2:45 p.m., Auditor Sherman and Michele Eichacker, Deputy Auditor, joined the Executive Session. Chairman Mehlbrech declared out of Executive Session at 3:00 p.m. Motion was made by Koch to accept a letter of resignation from Laura Schultz, effective 7/23/2021. Second Liesinger. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned subject to call.

Dated this 6th day of July 2021.

Chuck Mehlbrech _____
Chairman, McCook County Commission

ATTEST:
Geralyn Sherman _____
Auditor, McCook County