

August 13, 2024

The meeting of the McCook County Commission was called to order in their Meeting Room by Chairman Charles Liesinger. Members present: Chuck Mehlbrech, Steve Gordon, and Dean Koch. Member absent: Marc Dick. Kris Tott was also present.

Chairman Liesinger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Liesinger called for approval of the agenda. Auditor Sherman noted an addition at 9:30 a.m. per Mic Kreutzfeldt, Drainage Administrator, to set date and time for a drainage hearing. Motion Mehlbrech to approve the agenda with addition noted. Second Gordon. Motion carried.

The minutes from the July 23rd & July 30th meetings were sent to Board members for review prior to publication. Motion Koch to approve the minutes for publication. Second Gordon. Motion carried.

Public comment: Bryce & Maddie Rabenhorst met with the Board to explain plan to place culverts in their driveway, noting that a drainage hearing will be required because Pearl Twp is not agreeing to sign-off of the drainage permit application.

Public comment: Doreen Quinn representing Concerned Citizens of McCook County read a letter regarding election integrity. The information referenced voter registration numbers in Minnehaha County and the continuing changes in those numbers regarding the deadline for registering to vote for the primary election. Quinn added that results for McCook County are being studied and a report will be provided to the Board. Chairman Liesinger-your 3 minutes are up. Gloria Rayman referenced SDCL 12-20-5, count of votes for candidates; and noted that votes should be counted at each precinct, hand counted. Rayman asked what the county is going to do when power outages occur on election day. Chairman Liesinger-your 3 minutes are up. Barb Hoiten, representing the petition signers, told the Board that they agreed with rogue attorneys, not accepting the petitions, and have not listened to their constituents. Hoiten added that since January 2014, McCook County has paid Election Systems & Services \$72949.55. SD Canvassing has done a study on hand counting; hand counting ballots would save thousands of dollars. Hoiten referenced SDCL 12-17B, automatic tabulating systems, noting that statute says the governing board may adopt or abandon any automatic tabulating system. Chairman Liesinger-your 3 minutes are up.

Commissioner Reports: none.

Conflict of Interest: none noted.

Travis Raap, Hwy Supt, informed Board that one truck (waiting over year for the box) has been delivered. Arlo North hired as Auto/Diesel Technician, \$20.66/hour, effective 7/25/2024. Motion Koch to approve the new hire. Second Liesinger. Motion carried. Discussed culvert options for Co Rd 14G and Co Rd 03A, near Montrose School. No fog sealing will be done due to flooding expenses (lack of funds). Current projects include chip sealing and bridge repairs.

On behalf of Mic Kreutzfeldt, Drainage Administrator, Auditor Sherman presented copy of Drainage Permit Application D24-005 to the Board. Applicant: Bryce & Madelyn Rabenhorst. Legal description: SE4 23-104-56. Project description: adding 2 48"x40' culverts to driveway N of Pearl Twp easement and would like to backslope ditch in front of property 15' towards the N. A drainage hearing is required because township officials won't sign off on the application. Motion Gordon to set 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 5th, as time for a drainage hearing. Second Koch. Motion carried.

The following building permits were issued the month of July:

24-048	Curtis & Cindy Rostyne Gortmaker	26x25 house addition	Tract 1 Keefe's Addition NE4 11-101-56
24-049	VanWinkle Dairy LTD Partnership	Dairy Expansion project	N2NE4 36-102-54
24-050	Bill & Stephanie Entringer	Remodel basement, add bedroom	Lots 2&3 Tract 2 Wieman's Add in S2S2 14-101-53
24-051	Kurt & Kathryn Stiefvater	Grain Bin	NW4 10-103-54
24-052	James D & Lynn M Gottlob	Pole Shed	S2SW4 31-103-55
24-053	Ralph & Shirley Larson Trust	Cold Equipment Storage	NE4 2-101-53 EX S600' of N1844' of E675' of NE4 2-101-53
24-054	Marlon R & Rene' Koepsell Trust	Cattle Barn	SW4 EX Lot A Koepsell's Add 18-104-55

24-055

David Wise

Shop (32' x 40')

Tract 1A Hofers Add SW4SW4 Ex 21-103-56

The July/August Southeast Enterprise Facilitation Project Report was noted and filed.

The July 2024 Law Enforcement Report and a report showing the breakdown of calls made, and hours worked in each community was noted and filed.

Auditor Sherman asked the Board for a completion date for the yard work to be finished on the S side of the courthouse and following brief discussion, Friday, August 16th, was agreed on. Sherman will contact AAA Lawn Care & Maintenance.

Motion Gordon to convene as Planning Commission. Second Koch. Motion carried.

Anna Flogstad, DOE Staff Appraiser, presented a plat for approval. Following discussion and review, motion Gordon to approve the plat. Second Koch. Motion carried.

BE IT RESOLVED by the County Planning Commission of McCook County, South Dakota, that the plat of Tract 2 of Weber's Addition in the Northwest ¼ of Section 10, Township 102 North, Range 53 West of the 5th Principal Meridian, McCook County, South Dakota, is hereby approved and its adoption by the Board of Commissioners of the County of McCook, South Dakota, is hereby recommended.

Adopted this 13th day of August 2024.

Chairperson, McCook County SD Planning Commission

At 10:30 a.m. the Board of Adjustment held a public hearing to receive input concerning request for a conditional use permit. Anna Flogstad, DOE Staff Appraiser, presented the permit application to the Board. Applicant: Kristina Sage. Owner: Larry Weber Trust. Legal description: from NW4 Ex Tract 1 Weber's Add to Tract 2 Weber's Addn 10-102-53. Reason: transfer building eligibility. Following discussion, motion Gordon to approve the conditional use request for transfer of building eligibility. Second Koch. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Anna Flogstad, DOE Staff Appraiser, presented a 2nd plat for approval. Following discussion and review, motion Koch to approve the plat. Second Gordon. Motion carried.

BE IT RESOLVED by the County Planning Commission of McCook County, South Dakota, that the plat showing Tract 1 of Unruh Addition in the South Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 30, Township 101 North, Range 53 West of the 5th Principal Meridian, McCook County, South Dakota, having been examined, is approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL of 1967, Chapter 11-6, and any amendments thereof.

Adopted this 13th day of August 2024.

Chair, County Planning Commission

The Board reconvened as Board of County Commissioners.

Motion Mehlbrech, second Liesinger, and carried, to pay claims: GENERAL FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 8/3/24: Commissioners 2079.80 mileage 125.46; Auditor 6034.69; Treasurer 4570.54; States Attorney 3598.21; Custodian 1390.90; Dir of Equalization 5043.46; Register of Deeds 3517.44; Veterans Service Officer 325.20; Sheriff 13541.46; Contract Law 8610.88; Care of Poor 228.16; Welfare 454.52; Community Health Nurse Secretary 1521.11; 4-H Youth Assistant & PT help 2906.39; Weed 294.53; Drainage 260.44; Planning & Zoning 628.18. SD Dept of Revenue, Human Services Center, 600.00 SD Developmental Center-Redfield, 60.00; A&B Business, monthly copier contract, 76.65; Alternative HR, August services, 6175.00; AutoEx, law enforcement vehicle repairs and supplies, 3622.21; Avera Queen of Peace Hospital, blood alcohols, 548.00; Blackburn & Stevens Prof LLC, court appointed attorney for alleged mentally ill, 138.68; Blindert Insurance Agency, August food pantry rent, 200.00; Card Service Center, office supplies, dehumidifier, election supplies, gas, dog food, 2088.21; Central Farmers Coop, roundup and fuel, 122.28; Century Business Products, monthly copier contracts, 589.16; Chesterman Company, water, 72.00; Children's Inn Shelter, 2024 appropriation, 850.00; City of Bridgewater, August ambulance appropriation, 3866.67; Corporate Translation, translation services, 2.79; Dailey Law Office, court

appointed attorney for Julian Zamudio, 115.00, for Lake Gogolin, 2788.00, for Cemeshia Walls, 1030.00; Dakota Data Shred, shredding service, 64.09; Davison County Sheriff, June jail services, 15435.00; Mike Fink, July expenses, 452.88; Gordon Flesch Company, monthly copier contract, 30.00; Inter-Lakes Community Action, August CSW funds, 1101.58; Iron Wheel Sales & Service, basement bathroom repairs 195.45, material & labor to recover window wells 1236.40; Jack's Uniforms & Equipment, deputy uniforms, 327.23; Mark Katterhagen, mental health hearing, 6.00; Val Larson, mental health hearing, 6.00; Lewis & Clark BHS, mental health services, 213.00; Lewis Drug, prisoner care, 611.01; Lucy Lewno, mental health hearing, 112.25; McCook County EMS, August ambulance appropriation, 13831.82; McCook County Treasurer, postage, 435.05; McCormick Motors, law enforcement vehicle repairs and supplies, 1129.90; Microfilm Imaging, scanning equipment rent, 626.00; MidAmerican Energy, utilities, 39.72; Mitchell Clinic, prisoner care, 664.00; Montrose Veterinary Clinic, therapy dog exam, 22.50; Morgan Theeler LLP, court appointed attorney for Wanda Heumiller, 438.38, for Miguel Cabanas, 340.00; New Century Press, publishing, 350.76; Angela O'Kane, court appointed attorney for Alison Klinkhammer, 881.50; ODP Business Solutions, office supplies, 302.46; Pennington County Jail, prisoner transport, 187.00; Pulse Electric, replace ballast, 134.17; Puthoff Sales & Service, parts & supplies, 71.58; RBS Sanitation, garbage services-food pantry 106.00 courthouse 109.00; ROCS Transit, 2024 appropriation, 2000.00; Salem City, utilities, 132.61; SD Achieve dba LifeScape, service for 6 residents, 360.00; SD Public Health Laboratory, lab services, 460.00; SD State 4H Office, parking & gate fee, 85.00; SDACC, registration for county convention, 1400.00; Sioux Falls Area Humane Society, stray animal services, 136.20; Melinda Songstad, grand jury transcription, 661.50; Tech Solutions, managed IT services, 3530.00; Triotel Communications, telephone/internet service, 686.55; Two Way Solutions, radio repair, 75.00; Verizon Wireless, cell phone service, 476.80, I-pad service, 40.01; Wash N Go, car wash tokens, 200.00; Dava Wermers, court appointed attorney for Jeffrey Brower, 1668.75; Xcel Energy, utilities, 1071.51; Zapp Hardware, supplies, 41.63.

COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 8/3/24: Hwy Dept 24025.83 cell phone reimbursement 250.00. New hire: Arlo North, Auto/Diesel Technician, \$20.66/hour, effective 7/25/2024. Aaron Swan & Associates, soil testing, 275.00; Appeara, mat & towel rent, 83.80; Auto Value, parts & supplies, 1297.72; Avera Occupational Medicine, drug screens, 214.00; Butler Machinery, oil and parts, 2334.47; Card Services Center, office supplies and mower parts, 571.18; Central Farmers Coop, def fluid, tire repair, 545.70; Century Business Products, monthly copier contract, 138.60; Chesterman Company, water, 50.00; CHS, utilities-LP gas, 492.71; Hollaway Construction, bridge project, 130506.78; IMEG Corp, engineering design, 10155.33; Jebro Inc, liquid asphalt, 120506.75; Knife River-SD, asphalt, 8226.75; Maynards Salem, supplies, 71.92; MidAmerican Energy, utilities, 10.67; Northwestern Energy, utilities, 10.00; Office of Weights & Measures, 2 pumps, 28.00; Prairie Wind Humboldt, axle-Lippert, 760.00; Puthoff Sales & Service, parts and supplies, 221.17; RBS Sanitation, garbage service, 81.00; Reynold's Excavating, clay, 4416.00; Ryan's Repair, oxy bottle, 75.00; Safety-Kleen, parts washer solvent, 193.74; Salem City, utilities, 203.25; Salem Lumber, supplies, 341.31; Sanitation Products, truck body, plow, wing, 141824.00; Sioux International, parts, 20.60; Southeastern Electric, utilities, 38.41; Spencer Quarries, rock and mixed aggregate, 4447.53; Transource Truck and Equipment, relay valve, 188.32; Transwest Trucks, tank surge, 154.27; Triotel Communications, telephone/internet service 114.35; Truenorth Steel Inc., culvert, 13559.28; Verizon Wireless, cell phone service, 82.69; Xcel Energy, utilities, 452.55; Zapp Hardware, supplies, 21.88.

911 SERVICE FUND: Golden West Telecommunications, 911 telephone service, 200.00; Motorola Solutions, monthly wave PTX, 169.00; Triotel Communications, telephone service, 175.20; Two Way Solutions, repeater repair, 312.50.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 8/3/24: EDS Director 1497.26. Card Service Center, hygiene kits, toner, 512.80; Brad Stiefvater Jr., June/July expenses, 480.02; Total Stop, fuel for Search & Rescue, 130.30; Triotel Communications, telephone & internet service, 144.34; Witmer Public Safety, safety equipment & supplies, 7077.61.

DOMESTIC ABUSE PROGRAM FUND: Children's Inn Shelter, 2023 collections, 1345.00.

24/7 SOBRIETY FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 8/3/24: Sheriff Secretary/Dispatcher 212.82. PharmChem, sweat patch analysis, 159.35.

PAYROLL CONTRIBUTIONS – ALL FUNDS: 8/3/24: Dir of IRS, county share of FICA 4730.38, Medicare 1106.30; SD Retirement System, county share of retirement contribution, 4627.80; Wellmark BCBS of SD, county share of health insurance contribution, 5598.00.

The Auditor's Account with the County Treasurer for the month of July 2024: deposits in banks, \$5,787,694.56; cash to deposit, \$1,660.10; checks to deposit, \$20,831.90; CC payments, \$4,423.30; Cash Items (postage) \$435.05; Treasurer's Cash, \$1,134.95; Register of Deeds, \$450.00; Sheriff, \$500.00; CD's, \$700,000.00. The total deposits on hand: \$6,517,129.86.

Pam Hanna, LifeQuest, met with the Commission to share about the services offered to their clients, along with some of the success stories of these individuals. LifeQuest is asking for a \$3000 appropriation for 2025, an increase of \$120. Hanna also noted that LifeQuest has partnered with Dakota Wesleyan University and Mitchell Technical College. Hanna thanked the Board for their time.

Auditor Sherman and Becky Huiten, Deputy Auditor, reviewed the proposed 2025 Provisional Budget with the Board, noting changes made following their July 30th meeting. Others present: Carol Lauer, Treasurer, Laurie Schwans, Register of Deeds, Mark Norris, Sheriff, Roger Hofer, and Kris Tott. Human Resources: selected Support Level 1 with Alternative HR, which will be a savings \$13800. Lauer asked if one day was necessary. Yes. 911 Emergency Fund: increased the estimated revenue by \$15000 due to surcharge increase. County Nurse: used 24 hours per week for estimated salary expenditure. Ambulance: McCook County Emergency Medical Services lowered \$50000, and Bridgewater Ambulance remains the same \$46400. Schwans asked if a 5% salary increase was left in the budgets. As of today, yes.

Auditor Sherman presented the following letter to the Board. McCook County Commissioners, I received notification from the Auditor that the Commissioners lowered the appropriation for McCook EMS by \$50,000, so we are looking at the same dollars (\$254,300) in 2025 as received in 2023. This is a direct result of our previous meeting, during which you, the board of commissioners, asked for help from the cities due to increasing costs. I hope that you can come to an agreement or contract with these municipalities for the funds. If needed, I am more than willing to answer any questions or attend any future meetings you would host with them to secure these funds. Including the Yearly % over CPI increase or something similar within these contracts would help future-proof them and ease the county's burden. I am submitting this letter to inform the Board that if we do not receive the \$304,300, we will be unable to provide service to anyone. As a local family-owned company with over 40+ years of service to the community, it pains me to suggest such a thing. You have all seen the numbers in every way and for everything for years. If you are unable to come to an agreement with the cities or unable to solve this financial issue, we will No longer be able to provide service and **will be Closing the Service Effective Jan. 1, 2025.** I will stand by the offer I have always made to the Board to sell them the entire company for a fair appraised value if they would like to take over the service and continue it as a County Owned service. I can assist in the process as well. Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance in this process. BJ Stiefvater, McCook County EMS Inc.

Commissioners asked Sheriff Norris about bills related to a therapy dog. Norris told the Board that when he knows something, he'll tell them, adding that SRO Officers are checking into using a therapy dog at the schools. Auditor Sherman asked if expenditures need to be added to the 2025 budget. No. Comm Koch noted that with budget cuts being made to other departments, we don't need to be paying expenses for another dog, and he won't support a therapy dog. If schools feel that a therapy dog is needed, let them pay for it.

Auditor Sherman presented the Local Emergency Management Performance Grant (LEMPG) to the Commission. Counties may participate in the grant annually or not. McCook County has not participated for many years due to the terms and conditions that apply to the grant. Motion Mehlbrech to not sign the 2025 LEMPG Agreement. Second Liesinger. Motion carried.

Motion Koch to enter Executive Session per SDCL 1-25-2 (1) for personnel discussion at 12:15 p.m. Second Gordon. Michelle Stubkjaer, HR Consultant, was present. Chairman Liesinger declared out of Executive Session at 1:10 p.m.

Motion Mehlbrech to accept the resignation of Jessica Klinkhammer effective August 16, 2024. Second Koch. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned subject to call.

Dated this 13th day of August 2024.

Charles Liesinger _____
Chairman, McCook County Commission

ATTEST:

Geralyn Sherman _____
Auditor, McCook County