

February 25, 2025

The meeting of the McCook County Commission was called to order in their Meeting Room by Chairman Chuck Mehlbrech.

Members present: Steve Gordon, Marc Dick, Tom Heumiller, and Charles Liesinger.

Chairman Mehlbrech led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Mehlbrech called for approval of the agenda. Auditor Sherman noted the addition of Carol Lauer at the end of the meeting for Executive Session. Motion Gordon to approve the agenda with the addition noted. Second Liesinger. Motion carried.

The minutes from the February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting were sent to Board members for review prior to publication. Motion Liesinger to approve the minutes for publication. Second Dick. Motion carried.

Public comments were provided by Roger Hofer, Barb Hoiten, and Doreen Quinn.

Commissioner Reports: Gordon & Mehlbrech attended the joint meeting held by Hanson & Davison counties in Mitchell on February 21<sup>st</sup> regarding formation of an ambulance district. Brad (BJ) Stiefvater Jr was present and added that this is a means of last resort, hope it passes.

Conflict of Interest: none noted.

Travis Raap, Hwy Supt, presented an updated McCook County 2024 ER Agreement to the Commission for signature, due to revised language in Section 4 of the agreement regarding reimbursements. Change noted any reimbursement obligations by the State pursuant to this Agreement are contingent upon the State's receipt of Federal Aid Emergency Relief Funds from the federal government. No reimbursements will be made by the State until such federal funds are received. Motion Gordon to authorize Chairman Mehlbrech to sign the updated agreement. Second Liesinger. Motion carried.

Raap presented bid information for the 2025 McCook County Microsurfacing Project to the Board. The bids were received by IMEG Consultants Corp and opened on Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, for this project. The following bids were received: Intermountain Slurry Seal \$332,810.95; Asphalt Surfacing Co \$243,189.74; and Asphalt Surface Technologies Corp a/k/a ASTECH Corp \$232,979.25. Motion Liesinger to approve and accept the bid from ASTECH Corp. Second Gordon. Motion carried.

Raap noted that Ron Mayrose, C&B Operations, informed him that rent for a JD tractor will be increasing to \$5000 from \$3800. Raap informed the Board that there were two mishaps with snowplows and buildings this past week, no injuries, building repairs estimated at \$3000 for each building. Current projects include crack sealing in Spencer and painting inside of Salem shop building. Liesinger asked about posting load limits. Raap noted that the county has followed what the State does in posting load limits and no notification has been received yet.

Brad (BJ) Stiefvater, Emergency Manager, and Auditor Sherman presented the 2025-01 Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance to the Board for the first reading of the title and discussion, if there are any questions. Anna Flogstad, Dir of Equalization/Zoning Administrator, was present. Auditor Sherman noted that States Attorney Fink suggested publishing the ordinance in its entirety, 24 pages. The ordinance will be posted on the county website and will be available for public inspection in the Auditor's Office and the Emergency Management Office. After discussion, the board agreed that a Fact of Adoption will suffice for publication notice. The second reading of the ordinance title will be held on Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 a.m.

Auditor Sherman presented a letter from FEMA approving the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan for McCook County. The plan approval extends to McCook County, the Cities of Bridgewater, Canistota, Montrose, and Salem, and the Town of Spencer. The jurisdictions are eligible for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs. The plan is approved through February 2030.

Geralyn Sherman, Auditor/Welfare Director, and the Commissioners reviewed a list of lien payments received in January. Sherman noted that an application for burial assistance was requested and picked up but was not returned.

Anna Flogstad, Dir of Equalization/Zoning Administrator, informed the Board that she followed up with the owners of Arrow B Acres and they were not aware of the zoning regulations. They will no longer make a campsite available and have taken down their ads on the Hip Camp website. Flogstad contacted Brian Kelly to let him know that this has been resolved and to also inform him that the rodeo arena did go through the rezone process.

Zoning Administrator Flogstad informed the Board that the Supreme Court reversed the circuit court's decision and entered an order vacating Variance 11-2023, as granted by the Board for Rod Dorale. This was regarding a reduction in setback in a Lake Residential Area.

Auditor Sherman presented an abatement for approval. Dir of Equalization Flogstad explained that the value for exemption purposes had reverted from the 2013 value (first year of eligibility) to the 2022 value for unknown reasons. Abatement #2, parcel 18.24.5701, reason-Assessor error, elderly freeze. Motion Liesinger to approve the abatement and authorize Chair Mehlbrech to sign same. Second Gordon. Motion carried.

The February SEFP Monthly Facilitator Report was noted and filed.

Motion Liesinger, second Dick, and carried, to pay claims: GENERAL FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 2/15/2025: Commissioners 2183.80; Auditor 6353.07; Treasurer 4968.56; States Attorney 3730.38; Custodian 1368.59; Dir of Equalization 3155.05; Register of Deeds 3664.22; Veterans Service Officer 341.40; Sheriff 15114.41; Contract Law 8517.71; Care of Poor 228.92; Welfare 303.66; Extension Secretary 1556.10; Drainage 127.16; Planning & Zoning 673.02. Alvine Law Firm, court appointed attorney for Jayson Tyrell Black Bear, 1137.30, for juvenile, 899.50, for Jeanette Ross, 581.40, Dailey Law Prof, court appointed attorney for Jordan Traversie, 962.25, for Junior Antonion, 589.50, for Rachel Compton Rohrbach, 1178.75, for Serge Louis Pierre, 589.50, for Engel Velasquez, 693.50; Mike Fink, January expenses, 425.50; Heiman Inc, fire extinguishers, 55.00 service extinguishers 7.00; Kathryn Heumiller, 2 blood alcohols, 280.00; Tammra Kreutzfeldt, cupcakes for district meeting, 45.00; McLeod's Printing, commissioner record book, 985.59; Meyer Motor, vehicle maintenance, 1362.28; Minnehaha Co SD JDC, juvenile housing, 3484.60; Mitchell Regional Ambulance, prisoner (3) transport, 2942.56; ODP Business Solutions, office supplies, 96.47; Peters Distributing, camera repair & supplies, 476.02; Pheasantland Industries, business cards, 39.06; Presto-X, food pantry pest control, 48.71; Sanford Health, autopsy, 1255.00; SDACC, 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr CLERP assessment, 4162.00; SDAE4-HP, conference registration, 120.00; Melinda Songstad, grand jury transcription, 284.20.

COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 2/15/2025: Hwy Dept 22293.04; cell phone reimbursement 225.00. Avera Occupational Medicine, physical for new hire, 80.30; Comfort Inn & Suites, conference lodging, 143.00; Heiman Inc, fire extinguishers, 1600.00 service extinguishers, 271.00; IMEG Corp, engineering design, 3805.47; Northwestern Energy, utilities, 110.53; Safereldt LLC, driving training, 200.00; Verizon Wireless, cell phone service, 82.75.

911 EMERGENCY REPORTING SYSTEM FUND: Motorola Solutions, wave PTX mobile app, 450.66; Sioux Valley Energy, radio tower utilities, 80.06.

EMERGENCY & DISASTER SERVICES FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 2/15/2025: EDS Director 1572.12. Two Way Solutions, four radios for S&R, 3811.99.

24/7 SOBRIETY FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 2/15/2025: Sheriff Secretary/Dispatcher 225.53.

PAYROLL CONTRIBUTIONS – ALL FUNDS: 2/15/2025: Dir of IRS, county share of FICA 4451.22, Medicare 1041.00; SD Retirement System, county share of retirement contribution, 4469.10; Wellmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield of SD, county share of health insurance contribution 22089.24.

TOTAL CLAIMS: \$33,336.45.

Becky Hoiten, Deputy Auditor, reviewed the 2024 County Annual Report and the Financial Analysis of the County with the Board. Rhonda Olinger, Deputy Auditor, Laurie Schwans, Register of Deeds, Mark Norris, Sheriff, Travis Raap, Hwy Supt, Val Krempges, Hwy Dept Secretary, and Michelle Stubkjaer, HR Consultant, were present. Concerns. As of 12/31/2024, the delinquent taxes totaled \$92,731.09 compared to \$67,225.62 at the end of 2023 and \$45,795.06 at the end of 2022. Special Assessments sent to us by the cities increased this year by \$52,976.70 making the amount collected for city special assessments \$343,267.74. Currently there are 16 different special assessments and a couple of cities have told us there will be more payable in 2026. Most special assessments are for 10 years if they are curb & gutter or special projects. The cities may change front footage each year, as well. The special assessments are added to the first half of taxes, by law, and must be paid before property taxes can be paid. Also concerning, and nothing that can be done about it, are the increased jail and court appointed attorney costs. Total expenditures were \$161,242 in 2022 and this almost doubled in 2024 to \$310,288.

Mark Norris, Sheriff, met with the Board to review and discuss estimated costs for the proposed security system updates provided by Safe-N-Secure including access control doors \$8280.86, alarm moves \$2880.20, and NDAA compliant IP camera system \$18,243.51. Safe-N-Secure is not contracted through the feds, so does not fall under the GSA or NASPO (grant programs). Following discussion, it was decided to put a hold on these updates. Norris told the Board that he'd like to keep his current vehicle as a backup if another vehicle is garaged for maintenance. Approval granted.

In other business, Sheriff Norris asked for a \$5/hour pay increase for 5 hours per week for Annette VanEmmerik when she is doing SCRAM duties. Norris noted that the SCRAM program keeps offenders out of jail and SCRAM time has exploded due to all the offenders that are on it. Auditor Sherman noted that job duties are incorporated into the Pay Plan and questioned the Commission adding pay to certain duties. Sherman added that they could pay her more for processing passport applications. Where would it stop? Norris noted that we're elected officials, so you do the job. No action was taken.

Michelle Stubkjaer, HR Consultant, met with the Board to discuss health insurance cost saving options. Auditor Sherman noted that she invited Randy Sabers, Randy Sabers & Associates, so he can provide an explanation of the county's health insurance plan as discussion progresses. Rhonda Olinger, Deputy Auditor, Becky Hoiten, Deputy Auditor, were present for this discussion. Sabers explained that the county's plan is a grandmothers plan and the last time that other options were brought to the Board, it was better to stay with the current plan. Stubkjaer asked if an HRA or HSA can be implemented in place of the gap coverage that is offered by Transamerica Employee Benefits. Sabers didn't think so. Hoiten noted that employees do have the option of an FSA (Flexible Spending Account). Mehlbrech asked who administers it. Hoiten stated that this is administered through the Auditor's Office, and she tracks the payments for medical expenses to employees. No changes will be made at this time.

In other business, Michelle Stubkjaer, HR Consultant, recommended appointment of Anna Flogstad as Dir of Equalization now that a Staff Appraiser has been hired, and she has fulfilled the trial period agreed upon. Motion Gordon to appoint Anna Flogstad as Director of Equalization. Second Liesinger. Motion carried. Stubkjaer informed the Board that she reached out to the Dept of Revenue to inquire as to how counties operate when faced with an unexpected vacancy in the Dir of Equalization role. It was noted that most counties that have an appraiser, have also appointed that role to serve as the Deputy Dir of Equalization. There are no additional job duties. Stubkjaer recommended that the role of Deputy Dir of Equalization be added to the Staff Appraiser position, once the new hire has been in the position for a period of time to become familiarized with the processes which require signing authority.

HR Consultant Stubkjaer presented the Board with her January 2025 HR Summary which included personnel, compliance, recruiting, and compensation reviews.

Motion Heumiller to enter Executive Session at 1:00 p.m. for personnel discussion per SDCL 1-25-2 (1). Carol Lauer, Treasurer, was present. Second Dick. Motion carried. Chairman Mehlbrech declared out of Executive Session at 1:15 p.m.

The meeting adjourned subject to call.

Dated this 25<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025.

Chuck Mehlbrech \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, McCook County Commission

ATTEST:

Geralyn Sherman \_\_\_\_\_  
Auditor, McCook County