

January 14, 2025

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, Tom Heumiller, and Marc Dick.

Chairman Liesinger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Liesinger called for approval of the agenda. Motion Gordon to approve the agenda as posted. Second Mehlbrech.

Motion carried.

The minutes from the December 30, 2024, meeting were sent to Board members for review prior to publication. Motion Mehlbrech to approve these minutes for publication. Second Gordon. Motion carried.

Public input: Roger Hofer provided public comment.

Commissioner Reports: Comm Mehlbrech talked with a Hanson County Commissioner about ambulance services and there is interest in a joint meeting to discuss setting up an ambulance district between the two counties. Mehlbrech and Gordon will attend the January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting in Hanson County at 10:00 a.m.

Conflict of Interest: none noted.

Old business: none.

At this time, the meeting was turned over to Auditor Sherman to reorganize as the 2025 Board of County Commissioners. The Auditor called for nominations for a chairman.

Dick nominated Mehlbrech as Chairman. Second Liesinger. Liesinger moved that nominations cease, and Mehlbrech be declared Chairman. All voted aye.

Mehlbrech nominated Gordon as Vice-Chairman. Second Dick. Dick moved that nominations cease, and Gordon be declared Vice-Chairman. All voted aye.

Liesinger nominated Mehlbrech as Official Stamper. Second Gordon. Gordon moved that nominations cease, and Mehlbrech be declared Official Stamper. All voted aye.

Chairman Mehlbrech assumed control of the meeting.

Motion Mehlbrech, second Gordon, and carried, to make the following appointments and designations for 2025. Authorize all county officials to attend meetings and workshops within the State of South Dakota, which are beneficial to McCook County.

Commissioner Meetings will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month, unless otherwise noted.

APPOINTMENTS: Gordon: 4-H Youth Advisory Board and VBWDD Board. Mehlbrech: Inter-Lakes Community Action Board liaison and Sioux Metro Growth Alliance liaison. Liesinger: Bridgewater Ambulance Board and Weed Board and Southeast Enterprise Facilitation Project (SEFP) Board. Dick: Southeastern Behavioral Healthcare, Volunteers of America, Dakotas. Heumiller: Minnehaha County Regional Juvenile Detention Center Board, Food Pantry Board and South Eastern Council of Governments Board. County Health Board: SD Department of Health and States Attorney Mike Fink. Planning & Zoning Board: Board of County Commissioners. Drainage Board: Board of County Commissioners. Public Health Physician: State Health Board. Highway Superintendent: Travis Raap. Custodian: John McCormick. Weed Supervisor: Brian (BJ) Havard. County Coroner: Andrew Kinzley.

DESIGNATIONS: Official County newspapers: The Special. Depositories for county monies: Rivers Edge, Bridgewater; The Security State Bank, Canistota; Security State Bank, Montrose; First Dakota National Bank, Salem; Security State Bank, Spencer.

Election Board workers will receive \$240.00 compensation for Election Day and \$40.00 for attending the election school.

Resolution Board members will receive \$50.00 compensation for election night ballot counting. Post-Election Audit Board members will receive \$50.00 for hand counting ballots.

Mileage will be paid at the rate of \$.60/mile and receipts will be required for meal reimbursement which will be paid at State rates; breakfast \$6, dinner \$14 and supper \$20.

McCook County does not discriminate based on handicapped status in the admission or access to, treatment of employment in, its programs or activities.

The wage scale for McCook County employees for fiscal year 2025 follows:

Salaried:

Charles Liesinger, Commissioner	\$11,355.71 + \$250 longevity
Marc Dick, Commissioner	\$11,355.71 + \$550 longevity
Steve Gordon, Commissioner	\$11,355.00 + \$250 longevity
Charles (Chuck) Mehlbrech, Commissioner	\$11,355.00 + \$150 longevity
Thomas Heumiller, Commissioner	\$11,355.71
Geralyn Sherman, Auditor/Welfare Director	\$69,209.32 + \$950 longevity
Carol Lauer, Treasurer	\$56,565.05 + \$550 longevity
Laurie Schwans, Register of Deeds	\$60,557.95 + \$950 longevity
Anna Flogstad, Dir of Equalization/Planning & Zoning Administrator (Interim)	\$58,656.00
Mike Fink, States Attorney (.5FTE)	\$63,928.41 + \$350 longevity
Mark Norris, Sheriff	\$72,669.60 + \$1150 longevity
Bradley Stiefvater Jr, EDS Director	\$40,875.20 + \$150 longevity
Travis Raap, Hwy Supt	\$72,669.60 + \$150 longevity

Hourly:

Rebecca Hoiten, Deputy Auditor	\$27.59 + \$350 longevity
Rhonda Olinger, Deputy Auditor	\$23.85
Beth Skaff, Deputy Treasurer/Food Pantry Coordinator	\$21.69 + \$150 longevity
Shelly McCorkell, Deputy Treasurer	\$20.46
Angie Pulse, Deputy Register of Deeds	\$19.49
Angela McCormick, Equalization/Zoning Clerk	\$20.67
Stacey Sieverding, 4-H Youth Program Assistant	\$22.23 + \$150 longevity
Annette VanEmmerik, Sheriff Secretary/Dispatch	\$23.79 + \$350 longevity
Randall Schwader, Chief Deputy Sheriff/Investigator	\$29.62 + \$350 longevity
Anna Misar, Deputy Sheriff/School Resource Officer	\$27.07 + \$250 longevity
Hayley Mayou, Deputy Sheriff/School Resource Officer	\$26.59 + \$250 longevity
Troy Rempfer, Sergeant Deputy Sheriff	\$28.81 + \$250 longevity
Tim Simmermon, Deputy Sheriff	\$24.15 + \$150 longevity
Kyle Elder, Deputy Sheriff	\$23.00
Todd Obele, Deputy Sheriff (Uncertified)	\$21.69
Andrew Nelson, Deputy Sheriff (Uncertified)	\$21.18
Kimberly Berry, Deputy Sheriff	\$23.00
John McCormick, Custodian	\$20.86 + \$150 longevity
Valerie Krempges, Hwy Dept Administrative Assistant/Drainage Secretary	\$21.48
Dylan Warren, Operations Supervisor	\$24.66
Arlo North, Auto/Diesel Technician	\$21.18
Kevin Anderson, Maintenance Worker	\$23.63 + \$250 longevity
Ron Heumiller, Maintenance Worker	\$26.63 + \$450 longevity
Kevin Mentele, Maintenance Worker	\$21.95
Adam Puthoff, Maintenance Worker	\$21.96
Joshua Zens, Maintenance Worker	\$27.49 + \$450 longevity
Brian Havard, Maintenance Worker/Weed Supervisor/Veteran Service Officer	\$22.76 + \$150 longevity
Dylan Bossman, Maintenance Worker	\$20.45

Part-Time

Tammera Hofer, States Attorney Secretary (.66 FTE)	\$33,061.30 annual + \$233 longevity
Michael Kreutzfeldt, Drainage Administrator/Hwy Maintenance Worker	\$25.33/hour
Michele Eichacker, Deputy Auditor	\$28.48/hour
Michelle Zelmer, Hwy Dept Secretary	\$25.34/hour
Laurie Norris, Sheriff Dept Secretary	\$17.76/hour
Theresa Lauck, Temp-Clerical Treasurer	\$17.76/hour
Carol McCormick, Custodian	\$17.76/hour

Hwy Supt Raap and the Board reviewed the 2025 pit royalties/material rates, equipment rates and moving permit rates. Following review, motion Gordon to set gravel materials \$1.25/ton; with black dirt & clay negotiated as needed; to set \$13.00 per ton for asphalt millings (none currently available for sale); to set \$38.00 per man per hour for labor rate; to follow the current FEMA hourly rates for equipment rental rates except for the following unlisted items: trash pump \$50/day; Brillion seeder/tractor \$35/hour; broadcast seeder \$25/day and moving permit pricing scale remains same. Second Liesinger. Motion carried. All rates are on file in the Hwy Dept Office.

Raap asked the Board to increase the cost for overweight permits by \$100/permit. Motion Liesinger to approve this increase. Second Gordon. Motion carried.

In other business, Raap presented bid information from Faulk County for a new 2026 Model Year or Newer Twin Screw Tandem Diesel Dump Truck, cab and chassis. After discussion, motion Gordon to purchase the 2026 Mack Day Cab Truck, \$158,500, off the Faulk County bid letting held on September 25, 2024, and authorize Chair Mehlbrech to sign the purchase agreement. Second Liesinger. Motion carried. T&R Contracting has requested use of the Hwy Dept W lot for storing materials for the Salem City Project. Motion Dick to approve the request in exchange for leveling and reseeding the lot. Mehlbrech noted that a Certificate of Liability should be provided by T&R Contracting. Second Liesinger. Motion carried. Raap presented a letter addressed to Motor Carrier Division requesting weight limit enforcement assistance, noting that the Chairman needs to sign it. Motion Liesinger to authorize Chairman Mehlbrech to sign the letter. Second Gordon. Motion carried. Current projects include crack sealing and blading. Raap presented a bridge inspection resolution to the Board for approval and Chairman signature. Motion Dick, second Gordon, carried, to adopt resolution 2025-01.

Bridge Inspection Program Resolution 2025-01  
For Use With SDDOT Retainer Contracts

WHEREAS, 23 CFR 650 Subpart C, requires initial inspection of all bridges and reinspection at intervals not to exceed two years with the exception of reinforced concrete box culverts that meet specific criteria. These culverts are reinspected at intervals not to exceed four years.

THEREFORE, McCook County is desirous of participating in the Bridge Inspection Program.

The County requests SDDOT to hire IMEG Consultants Corp. (Consulting Engineers) for the inspection work. SDDOT will secure federal approvals, make payments to the Consulting Engineer for inspection services rendered, and bill the County for 20% of the cost. The County will be responsible for the required 20% matching funds.

Dated this 14<sup>th</sup> day of January 2025, at Salem, South Dakota.

Board of County Commissioners of McCook County

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Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

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County Auditor

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

Anna Flogstad, Dir of Equalization/Zoning Administrator, presented a plat for approval. Following review of the plat review form, motion Liesinger to approve the plat. Second Dick. Motion carried.

Approval of the Plat of Tract 2 of Hoiten's Addition in the East Half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 25, Township 103 North, Range 55 West of the 5<sup>TH</sup> Principal Meridian, McCook County, South Dakota, is hereby granted by the McCook County Planning Commission.

Adopted this 14<sup>th</sup> day of January 2025.

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Chair, County Planning Commission  
McCook County, South Dakota

Board reconvened as Board of County Commissioners.

The following building permits were issued in the month of December 2024:

24-090	Steve & Diane Marquardt	10x15 sign for school sports	SW4 W660' Inc Former RR ROW & Ex Land Deed for Road in 103D180 & Ex W660' N660' lying Within City & Ex Road ROW
24-091	Jeffrey & Nicole Bartscher	house	Tract 1 Bies Addition SW4 23-103-54
24-092	John & Mary Knox	lean to	Knox's 1 <sup>st</sup> Add 22-103-53

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

Brad (BJ) Stiefvater, JR, met with the Commission to discuss the amount of the January appropriation for McCook County Emergency Medical Services (ambulance). The Board asked Auditor Sherman if there was cash available for paying half of the annual appropriation today, \$127,150.00. Yes. Chair Mehlbrech noted that he talked with a Hanson County Commissioner about ambulance services and there is interest in setting up an ambulance district between the two counties. Stiefvater stated that creating a taxing district is a nightmare and will take several years. Mehlbrech added that he was asked if an outside audit of the ambulance books was doable. Stiefvater noted that this is a private business, and he doesn't have to provide it. Stiefvater presented a 5-year contract to the Board, which included an 8% increase each year. Mark Norris, Sheriff, Becky Hoiten, Deputy Auditor, and Jerry Francis, Paramedic, were present.

Beth Skaff, Food Pantry Coordinator, updated the Board on renovations that have been made to the Food Pantry. At this time, fund raising is being done to raise money for new siding, estimated cost of \$32,000.

Mark Norris, Sheriff, and Anna Misar, Deputy Sheriff/SRO, met with the Commission. Misar provided a copy of the security assessment conducted on November 21, 2024, to the Board. Good points on practices already in place and vulnerabilities were reviewed. Norris added that more security cameras are needed along with a key fob system for law enforcement doors. Implementation to correct vulnerabilities will be addressed.

In other business, Norris asked about moving a portion of law enforcement into the Nurse's Office. Auditor Sherman referenced an email dated January 8, 2025, which noted that Wade Huntington will guide the steps as far as moving furniture and setting up shared workspace with ICAP. The email also noted that services to McCook County are offered 5 days a week with Telehealth and phone services. Sherman noted that calls are probably going to the Mitchell office because her office has received phone calls asking what number should be called for the nurse's office because a message says the phone number is no longer in service.?

Motion by Heumiller, second Liesinger, and carried, to pay claims: GENERAL FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 1/4/2025: Commissioners 3233.80 mileage 153.00; \*New Commissioner, Tom Heumiller, \$436.76 bi-weekly\*; Auditor 6403.14; Treasurer 5500.40; States Attorney 4313.38; Custodian 1584.53; Dir of Equalization 3107.91; Register of Deeds 4643.46; Veterans Service Officer 341.40; Sheriff 16264.66; Contract Law 10212.04; Care of Poor 228.92; Welfare 303.66; 4-H Youth Assistant 1556.10; Drainage 127.16; Planning & Zoning 668.49. Reemployment Assistance Division of SD, 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr 2024 contribution 278.74; SD Dept of Revenue, SD Developmental Center-Redfield, 60.00; A&B Business, monthly copier contract 80.00; A to Z World Languages, interpreter service, 100.00; AAA Collections, lien collection fee, 28.75; Alternative HR, January HR services 5600.00, professional consultation, 701.25; AutoEx, vehicle maintenance, 3216.79; Card Service Center, clothing and gas, 375.66. conference fee, 65.00 dog food, 49.59, Yubi keys and training, 572.02; Century Business Products, monthly copier contracts, 768.38; Chesterman Co, water, 72.00; City of Bridgewater, January ambulance appropriation, 3866.67; Corporate Translation, interpreter service, 27.42; Dakota Data Shred, shredding service, 64.09; Davison County Sheriff, December jail services 4410.00; Devy Alvizures, interpreter services, 500.00; Eich Law Office, court appointed for Hailey Walker, 3197.00; Election Systems & Software, service contract, 5007.20; Mike Fink, December expenses, 402.68; Gordon Flesch, monthly copier contract, 30.00; Kathryn Heumiller, blood alcohol services, 280.00; Rebecca Hoiten, supplies for Christmas party, 29.08; Ilchuk Enterprises, annual website hosting, 240.00; Inter-Lakes Community Action, January Community Service Worker, 1107.58; IWORQ Systems, permit & fee tracking, 3000.00; Jack's Uniforms & Equipment, uniforms, 1944.40; Kansas Highway Patrol, 2021 & 2022 Dodge Durango w accessories ,66950.00; Dean Koch, mileage, 8.16; KW Electrical LLC, work at Food Pantry, 2661.05; Carol Lauer, office supplies, 21.51; Lentsch Tree Service, sweeping snow off sidewalks, 180.00; LifeQuest, 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr allocation, 750.00; Manatron Inc, ProVal Plus support, 9013.00; Maynards, supplies, 35.35; McCook Conservation District, 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr appropriation, 3750.00; McCook County EMS, ½ 2025 appropriation 127150.00; McCormick Motors, vehicle maintenance 1432.87; McLeod's

Printing, warning tickets and office supplies, 251.53; Meyer Motor, vehicle maintenance, 115.80; Mitchell Regional 911, 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr. Traffic Services 3347.41; MOCIC, 2025 membership dues, 100.00; Morgan Theeler LLP, court appointed attorney for Tiffany Bieganowski, 14.00; Kentravious Lewis, 1601.22 (2 chg.), Daniel Waithaka, 1037.29, Kyle Lemme, 672.76, Tiffany Jensen, 508.47; New Century Press, publishing 543.81; ODP Business Solutions, office supplies, 170.65; Rhonda Olinger, Christmas party supplies, 12.74; Resolute Law Firm, court appointed for Kip Hartwick, 8572.67; Salem City, courthouse utilities, 163.14 food pantry utilities, 140.16; Salem Lumber, food pantry 385.26 & supplies 29.92; Schneider Geospatial, annual Beacon hosting, 14202.00, GIS system support, 18408.00; SD Achieve/dba LifeScape, services for six residents 360.00; SD Assn of Weed & Pest Board, 2025 dues 200.00 conference registration 350.00; SD Assn of Weed & Pest Supervisors, 2025 membership dues 75.00; SD Public Health Laboratory, lab services 345.00; SD Sheriff's Assn, 2025 dues 670.46; SD State's Attorneys Assn, 2025 dues 835.46; SDAAO, 2025 membership dues, 75.00; SDACC, 2025 dues 2000.00, NACO dues 450.00; SDACO, 2025 dues 978.30; SDML Work Comp Fund, 2025 work comp renewal 19829.13; Tim Simmermon, meals at K9 training, 14.00; Sioux Metro Growth Alliance, 2025 membership dues 1500.00; Melinda Songstad, grand jury transcription, 225.40; South Eastern Council of Governments, 2025 membership dues 13253.00; Tech Solutions, Managed IT services 3644.14; Triotel Communications, telephone/internet service 688.06; Verizon Wireless, iPad service 40.01 cell phone service 477.30; Xcel Energy, utilities 1025.00.

COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 1/4/2025: Hwy Dept 23831.57 phone reimbursement 225.00; \*new hire: Dylan Bossman, Hwy Maintenance Worker, \$20.45/hour. Reemployment Assistance Division of SD, 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr 2024 contribution 105.47; Townships & Cities, 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr 2024 wheel tax collections, 7004.00; Appeara, mat & towel rental 93.15; Auto Value, parts & supplies 98.85; Butler Machinery, parts & repairs, 1820.12; Card Service Center, fuel & supplies, 280.54; Central Farmers Coop, supplies, LP, labor, 2150.88; Century Business Products, monthly copier contract 163.78; Chesterman Company, water 6.00; Dakota Fluid Power, parts & supplies, 202.56; Diesel Machinery Inc., rotating beacon, 143.04; Gessner Welding, repairs and parts, 974.00; IState Truck Center, supplies/parts, 129.99; Jebro Inc, CRS2PSD road oil 18018.33; KW Electrical, led bulbs, 390.00; MidAmerican Energy, utilities, 185.68; Napa Auto, parts/supplies, 713.63; NorthWestern Energy, Utilities, 83.71; Puthoff Sales & Service, parts 976.88; RBS Sanitation, garbage service 82.82; Salem City, utilities 254.45; Salem Lumber, supplies 993.60; SDACHS, 2025 NACE dues 275.00 SDACHS 2025 dues 75.00; SDML Work Comp Fund, 2025 work comp renewal 28722.93; Southeastern Electric, utilities 75.76; Stan Houston, parts/supplies, 257.23; T&R Contracting, 200 loads of fill dirt, 5000.00; Triotel Communications, telephone/internet service 108.94; Verizon Wireless, cell phone service, 82.75; Xcel Energy, utilities, 692.95.

911 SERVICE FUND: Active911, alerting subscription 456.75; Golden West Telecommunications, 911 telephone service 200.00; Mitchell Regional 911, 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr services 23066.06; Triotel Communications, 911 telephone service 187.20.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 1/4/2025: EDS Director 1572.12. SDML Work Comp Fund, 2025 work comp renewal 1089.98; Brad Stiefvater Jr, cell phone, 47.92, AED pads & batteries, 773.97; Triotel Communications, telephone & internet service 144.58.

24/7 SOBRIETY FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 1/4/2025: Sheriff Secretary/Dispatcher 264.52. PharmChem, sweat patch analysis 95.85; SDML Work Comp Fund, 2054 work comp renewal 15.96.

MODERNIZATION & PRESERVATION FUND: Microfilm Imaging System, scanning equipment rent 626.00.

RURAL ACCESS INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING: ½ RAIF Grant funds for culvert projects: Bridgewater Township 40480.00; Grant Township 26600.00; Montrose Township 26000.00; Pearl Township, 3633.50 & 5810.00.

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$537,279.93.

PAYROLL CONTRIBUTIONS – ALL FUNDS: 1/4/2025: Dir of IRS, county share of FICA 4933.63, Medicare 1153.83; SD Retirement System, county share of retirement contribution, 4901.66; Wellmark BlueCross/BlueShield of SD, county share of health insurance premium 6377.08.

The Auditor's Account with the County Treasurer for the month of December 2024: deposits in banks, \$5,075,320.03; cash to deposit, \$97.60; checks to deposit, \$66,149.07; CC payments, \$2,338.37; Cash Items (postage) \$.00; Treasurer's Cash, \$1,570.00; Register of Deeds, \$450.00; Sheriff, \$500.00; CD's, \$700,000.00. The total deposits on hand: \$5,846,425.07.

Michelle Stubkjaer, HR Consultant, updated Commission on applications received for the Staff Appraiser position and scheduling interviews next week. Stubkjaer informed the Board that Hilary Kroupa, Program Manager, Regional Youth Advisor, SDSU Extension/4-H Programs, has asked to meet with them to address changes regarding the regionalization of the SD 4-H operations. McCook County has been assigned to the South region. This regional approach is designed to foster greater connections and improve operational responsiveness. Ms. Kroupa will be meeting with the Commission on February 11<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting adjourned subject to call.

Dated this 14<sup>th</sup> day of January 2025.

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Chairman, McCook County Commission

ATTEST:

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