

July 18, 2023

A Special Meeting of the McCook County Commission was called to order in their Meeting Room by Chairman Marc Dick. The meeting was held to hold initial review of 2024 budget requests. Members present: Dean Koch, Steve Gordon, Chuck Mehlbrech, and Charles Liesinger.

Chairman Dick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Dick called for approval of the agenda. Motion by Koch to approve the agenda as posted. Second Mehlbrech. Motion carried.

Public comment: Roger Hofer told the Board that Salem City should pay ½ of the ambulance appropriation, profanity on July 13th meeting was uncalled for, and county doesn't need a moratorium on CAFO's.

Commissioner Reports: Mehlbrech asked about a speaker system for the Community Room, looking into options, and suggested the commission members receive more pay due to special meetings or receive pay per meeting. No action taken.

Travis Raap, Hwy Supt, reviewed the Hwy Road & Bridge, Weed, and Rural Access Infrastructure Fund (RAIF) budgets with the Board. Raap provided a list of equipment and contracted construction projects that are included in the proposed budget.

Mic Kreutzfeldt, Drainage Administrator, reviewed the Drainage budget with the Board.

Cori Kaufmann, Director of Equalization/Zoning Administrator/GIS Coordinator, reviewed her budgets with the Board. Kaufmann reminded the Board of her discussion with them at the June 27th meeting, noting that she would like to purchase software and eliminate software in these budgets which will also eliminate need of multiple inputs and human error.

Brad (BJ) Stiefvater, Jr, Emergency Manager, reviewed the Ambulance, Emergency Management, and 911 Service budgets with the Board, providing income and expense information for the ambulance service and noted that aging equipment may be replaced, and outdoor lights updated for Emergency Management.

Carol Lauer, Treasurer, reviewed her budget with the Board, asking for fair pay for employees and questioning how HR came up with the hourly pay rates. Need to talk with HR Consultant to get the explanation for the pay plan.

Mike Fink, States Attorney, met with the Board. Fink noted a huge increase in criminal cases with comparisons to Turner, Lake, Hanson, and Hutchinson counties, adding that he just wanted to make the Board aware that this has become more than a ½ time job and he is requesting a substantial salary increase. Mark Norris, Sheriff, was present and noted that things within the Court system are getting worse, huge increase in drug cases.

Mark Norris, Sheriff, and the Board reviewed Sheriff, Contract Law, Jail, and Scram (24/7) budgets. Discussed an increase to the hourly rate for Contract Law agreement. Motion by Koch to increase the hourly rate by \$3.75/hour in 2024 and in 2025 and then increase annually by CPI. Second Mehlbrech. Auditor Sherman will contact the municipalities. Norris asked for an increase in hourly pay, from the 24/7 grant funds, for the Secretary/Dispatcher due to the Scram screenings that are provided through the Sheriff's office, adding that these tests/screens can be quite disgusting.

Kris Graham, CEO Southeastern Behavioral HealthCare, joined the meeting via phone. Graham noted that the request of \$5682 represents one dollar per capita as addressed in SDCL 27A-5-10. Funds are used to subsidize outpatient services including individual counseling, family and group therapy, psychiatric services, and home-based family treatment. Multiple counselors work throughout the county providing home-based services for children and families and outreach services to individuals with severe mental illness. Graham thanked the Board for the ongoing support from McCook County. The requested appropriation of \$5682 was approved.

Geralyn Sherman, Auditor/Welfare Director, and Becky Hoiten, Deputy Auditor, reviewed Auditor, Care of Poor, and Welfare budgets with the Board.

Time was spent reviewing a few other budgets. Comm Mehlbrech suggested an increase of \$2000 for each board member. Other board members said no, go with 5%, same as other departments. Chair Dick suggested more pay for the Chairman because of all the calls/visits he receives. Other board members said no because they all receive calls from constituents.

The meeting adjourned subject to call.

Dated this 18th day of July 2023.

Marc Dick _____
Chairman, McCook County Commission

ATTEST:
Geraldyn Sherman _____
Auditor, McCook County