

July 23, 2024

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

Members present: Marc Dick and Dean Koch. Absent: Steve Gordon and Chuck Mehlbrech.

Chairman Liesinger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Liesinger called for approval of the agenda. Motion Koch to approve the agenda as posted. Second Dick. Motion carried.

The minutes from the July 9th meeting were sent to Board members for review prior to publication. Motion Koch to approve the minutes for publication. Second Liesinger. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Ron Sandine and Lyle Hetland, Salem Lutheran Cemetery Assn, met with the Board to ask permission to plant trees (dwarf pines), that were removed following the derecho, in the existing tree line. Cori Kaufmann, Zoning Administrator, was present and noted that she would not require a variance with trees being planted in an established area, but the tree line is closer to the ROW, than allowed, and that's why we're here. The Board agreed that the process for a variance hearing needs to be followed.

Roger Hofer: Hanson County should pay portion of subsidy for McCook County EMS; why's Unke talking about drainage; and State law supersedes County ordinance so get rid of the drainage ordinance and follow State law.

Commissioner Reports: Koch noted that a Food Pantry meeting is scheduled for July 29th. Koch asked if FEMA has been in the county to inspect any of the sites damaged by the flooding. Yes, Hwy Supt and Emergency Manager showed FEMA reps the damaged sites, yesterday.

Conflict of Interest: none.

Mike Unke met with the Board to discuss the water damage to his home in 2019 and again in 2024. In 2019, the force of the water coming down SD81 and into his basement broke off 2x6's. In 2024, 14" of water came into the basement, all things destroyed; big loss of value. The City's diversion ditch is dry. Why? Unke noted that a few years ago, Mic Kreutzfeldt, Drainage Administrator, talked with landowners about a drainage ditch on the N side of Salem and everyone agreed except Bob Hansen. Unke added that there is an eminent domain process, and the Board shouldn't be afraid of it.

Steve Gordon joined the meeting.

Unke stated that something needs to be done between city, county, and State. Farmers are draining and this brings more water comes from the north. County needs to consider holding a joint meeting with Salem City and State. Comm Dick said this needs to start with the city because they hired the engineer who developed the plan. Unke reiterated that there needs to be joint work between Salem City, the county, and the State.

Auditor Sherman reviewed the proposed Vermillion Basin Water Development District (VBWDD) Director Areas with the Commission. Sherman noted that the current proposal splits Precinct 4 (Bridgewater area) in McCook County and she has voiced her concern with SD DANR because this could affect ballots for future elections.

Travis Raap, Hwy Supt, informed Board that the bridge below spillway should be opened on Friday or Monday. Raap reported that he and Brad (BJ) Stiefvater, Jr, Emergency Manager, met with FEMA representative to inspect sites damaged by flooding. Current projects include flood repairs and cleaning debris out of road ditches. Contractor is pouring bridge abutments on Emery bridge.

Geralyn Sherman, Auditor/Welfare Director, and the Commission reviewed the list of lien payments received in June.

Nicole Webster, SEFP Enterprise Facilitator, met with the Board to introduce herself and review SEFP's Annual Report; 9 new clients, 4 new businesses established, 15 new business plans, and 76 inquiries. Webster thanked the Commission for their continued support.

Fred Butzke and Stephanie Albin, McCook County Soil Conservation District, met with the Board to discuss current projects and present 2025 budget request, \$15000. Butzke reported that trees have been planted on 22 sites, a secured fenced-in area around building site, two drills are available for rent, and drip irrigation is coming. Albin noted that more fruit and yard trees are being planted.

Motion Koch, second Gordon, and carried, to pay claims: GENERAL FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 7/20/2024: Commissioners 2079.80; Auditor 6014.98; Treasurer 4552.41; States Attorney 3598.21; Custodian 1390.90; Dir of Equalization 5027.99; *new hire: Landon Flogstad, PT/Seasonal-DOE office, \$12.50/hour; Register of Deeds 3070.52; Veterans Service Officer 325.20; Sheriff 13934.74; Contract Law 8118.09; Care of Poor 228.16; Welfare 506.17; Community Health Nurse Secretary 1521.10; Extension Secretary 1596.83; Weed 360.28; Drainage 126.23; Planning & Zoning 631.23. SD Dept of Revenue, SD Developmental Center-Redfield 60.00; Transamerica Employee Benefits, July contribution 3793.58; Grand Jury fees & mileage 494.32; Century Business Products, monthly copier contracts 208.01; Dailey Law Office, court appointed attorney for Betty Brower, 589.50; Election Systems & Software, air freight charges 130.52; End Zone, care of poor-food 13.94; Lewis Drug, prisoner care 395.36; McLeod's Printing, stamped envelopes and envelopes 2759.99; Meyer Motor, oil change & windshield/installation 594.94; Mitchell Regional 911, 3rd Quarter traffic services 3100.24; Montrose Veterinary Clinic, K9 visit 295.00; Morgan Theeler, court appointed attorney for Steven Felker 816.50, for Mynor Andrade 2177.38; Terri Lembcke Schildhauer, transcription 172.50; Tim Simmermon, candy Canistota Sports Day parade 42.43; Sioux Falls Humane Society, animal call 193.02; Yankton County Sheriff, serve papers 50.00.

COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 7/20/2024: Hwy Dept 22492.60. Transamerica Employee Benefits, July contribution 1626.11; Baldwin Supply, belt repair 324.02; Interstate Power System, generator repair 1515.03; Knife River - SD, G-2 asphalt 909.00; Northwestern Energy, utilities 10.00; Salem Ready Mix, 1000 flow fill 2120.00; Stern Oil, oil 799.10; Verizon Wireless, cell phone service 82.69.

911 EMERGENCY REPORTING SYSTEM FUND: Mitchell Regional 911, 3rd Qtr 911 services 21418.28; Motorola Solutions, monthly wave PTX, 169.00; Sioux Valley Energy, radio tower services 81.65.

EMERGENCY & DISASTER SERVICES FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 7/20/2024: EDS Director 1497.26, 1497.26. Transamerica Employee Benefits, July contribution 96.51.

24/7 SOBRIETY FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 7/20/2024: Sheriff Secretary/Dispatcher 212.82.

MODERNIZATION & PRESERVATION FUND: Microfilm Imaging System, Deputy training 112.50.

PAYROLL CONTRIBUTIONS – ALL FUNDS: 7/20/2024: Dir of IRS, county share of FICA 4528.64, Medicare 1059.13; SD Retirement System, county share of retirement contribution, 4525.51; Wellmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield of SD, county share of health insurance contribution 18146.65.

Motion Koch, second Gordon, and carried, to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 2024-10

Whereas insufficient appropriations were made in the 2024 budget to discharge just obligations of said appropriation.

Whereas SDCL 7-21-32.2 provides that transfers may be made by Resolution of the Board from the Contingency appropriation established pursuant to SDCL 7-21-6.1 to other appropriations.

Therefore, be it resolved that the appropriation of \$22,700.00 be transferred from the General Fund Contingency as follows: Court Appointed Attorney \$13,500, GIS \$6800, and Coroner \$2,400.

Dated this 23rd day of July 2024.

Charles Liesinger _____
Chairman, McCook County Commission

ATTEST:

Geralyn Sherman _____
Auditor, McCook County

Brad Stiefvater and Brad (BJ) Stiefvater, Jr, met with the Commission to discuss funding options for McCook County EMS. Others present: McCook EMS EMT's, Glenda Blindert & Lori Heumiller, Salem City, Donna Ruden, Town of Spencer, Jim Julson & Roger Hofer, Bridgewater Ambulance Service, Mark Norris, Sheriff, Becky Hoiten, Deputy Auditor, and Mike Fink, States Attorney, were present. Comm Koch began the meeting noting that the current 2025 budget appropriation for ambulance services is \$350,700; this includes McCook County Emergency Medical Services \$304,300 and Bridgewater Ambulance Service \$46,400. We've got a great ALS service, can't beat it, but the county can't continue paying the entire appropriation and that's why the cities were invited to this meeting to brainstorm ideas for funding McCook EMS. BJ Stiefvater added that SD doesn't deem an ambulance service a necessity. Comm Dick-county can't afford the continual increases. Koch-if a service got paid what it charges, we wouldn't be sitting here. Roger Hofer-the EMT test is too hard for rural EMT's. BJ Stiefvater, McCook EMS noted that many States follow National Standards. Lori Heumiller, Salem City Finance Officer, asked what the county is considering, going by each city's population to come up with dollars? BJ Stiefvater asked what happens if a city doesn't want to participate? Glenda Blindert, Salem City Mayor, asked if there are grants available for a "for profit business"? BJ Stiefvater stated that he'd rather sell his service to the county. Brad Stiefvater, Sr told the Board that Yankton County is going through the same thing, adding that we've been here three times since 1977 because of funding issues. And if the service goes to a city or county, your salaries will quadruple. Jim Julson-noted 300-500 hours on-call last month for the Bridgewater Ambulance Service. Auditor Sherman-for a starting point, the county population could be divided into the total appropriation to come up with a per capita figure. Roger Hofer-Hanson County gets free ambulance service. BJ Stiefvater-Hanson County pays actual bill to McCook County EMS. Donna Ruden, Town of Spencer Mayor, noted that some calls aren't necessary, like calls for lift assist, a waste of resources. Mike Fink, States Attorney, noted that an ambulance district would need to be created if taken over by the county, a taxing authority. Brad Stiefvater, Sr-ambulance district was tried in the past and the response was no, and hell no. Fink added that taxing entities are under the tax freeze which causes the inability to raise needed dollars. Lori Heumiller, questioned whether a donation can be made directly to an ambulance service, asking for the statute that allows this. The Commission asked BJ if he could provide a report of calls made by his ambulance service in the past year. Yes. With no further discussion and no plan of action, the group dispersed.

Kris Graham & Hannah McManus, Southeastern Behavioral Healthcare, met with the Commission to request an appropriation of \$5682 (\$1/capita) for 2025 budget. Funds received from McCook County are used to subsidize outpatient services including individual counseling, family and group therapy, psychiatric services and home-based family treatment.

Motion Dick to enter Executive Session at 11:45 a.m. for personnel discussion (SDCL 1-25-2 (1) regarding FLSA. Second Gordon. Motion carried. Michelle Stubkjaer, HR Consultant, and Auditor Sherman were present. Chairman Liesinger declared out of Executive Session at 12:45 p.m.

Auditor Sherman presented renewal information for the vision plan through Optilegra. Again, this year, there is no need to raise rates for next year, so the current plan will be renewed at the current rates. Motion Gordon to approve the renewal with Optilegra, effective October 1, 2024. Second Koch. Motion carried.

Auditor Sherman presented information for two items that need to be declared surplus property as they are no longer usable. Fixed Asset #984-A, Montrose 911 repeater on E tower and a Safariland Xtreme (female structured) vest, that previous deputy would like to purchase. Motion Dick to declare both items as surplus property and appraise the vest & plates for \$350. Second Koch. Motion carried.

Auditor Sherman informed Board that a facilities use agreement is being reviewed by States Attorney Fink and will be utilized in the future when an individual or organization requests to use a county facility. The agreement was provided by SDPAA, the county's liability & property insurance carrier.

Auditor Sherman presented travel reimbursement rates, effective 7/1/2024, to the Board. In-State meal rates remain the same and the mileage reimbursement increased when a personal vehicle is used. The mileage rate will be increased January 2025 for county employees.

Auditor Sherman told the Board that she talked with Josh, AAA Lawn Care & Maintenance, regarding the time that it's taking him to complete the yard work on the S side of the Courthouse; the quote was awarded Sept. 7, 2023. Josh told her that the work would be completed by the past weekend, and it's not. The work included prep and hydroseeding (done), removal of 3 evergreen trees, removal of rock and bushes along south side of courthouse, fabric, and labor. Jim Lentsch removed the 3 evergreen trees in December. Sherman noted that she met a landscaper who was in McCook County for other business, and asked how far he took his business from SF. He will come to Salem. How much longer do we wait, August 1st, which gives him another week.?

Mike Fink, States Attorney, asked to join the meeting. Fink referenced several statutes regarding ambulance services. SDCL 34-11-1 Ambulance services—Authority to provide. A county or municipality may: (1) provide or contract for the provision of ambulance services and (2) contract with another political subdivision or other person for the provision of moneys to support ambulance services. SDCL 34-11A establishing an ambulance district which would require a meeting between McCook and Hanson counties and the cities.

The meeting adjourned subject to call.

Dated this 23rd day of July 2024.

Charles Liesinger _____
Chairman, McCook County Commission

ATTEST:

Geralyn Sherman _____
Auditor, McCook County