

June 18, 2024

A Special Meeting of the McCook County Commission was called to order in their Meeting Room by Chairman Charles Liesinger. The meeting was held to hold initial review of 2025 budget requests. Members present: Chuck Mehlbrech, Steve Gordon, Dean Koch, and Marc Dick.

Chairman Liesinger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Liesinger called for approval of the agenda. Auditor Sherman noted that Michelle Stubkjaer, HR Consultant, asked that her time be an Executive Session. Motion by Koch to approve the agenda with Executive Session added at 8:40 a.m. Second Gordon. Motion carried.

Public comment: Roger Hofer asked that the following be read: ambulance subsidy for 2025. Salem City should pay one half of the county subsidy for Salem Ambulance. Also, Hanson County should pay one tenth of the subsidy for Salem Ambulance.

Commissioner Reports: Koch noted that he's received calls regarding Ortman feedlot.

Conflict of Interest: none noted.

The minutes from the June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting were sent to Board members for review prior to publication. Motion Gordon to approve the minutes for publication. Second Koch. Motion carried.

Motion Mehlbrech to enter Executive Session at 8:40 a.m. to discuss several personnel issues. Second Koch. Motion carried. Michelle Stubkjaer, HR Consultant, Auditor Sherman, and Becky Hoiten, Deputy Auditor, were present. Chairman Liesinger declared out of Executive Session at 9:15 a.m.

Travis Raap, Hwy Supt, asked the Board to approve a utility permit prior to budget discussion. Motion Dick to approve Telephone Utility Permit for Triotel Communications to dig fiber drop to 43348 261<sup>st</sup> St. Second Gordon. Motion carried. Raap reviewed the Hwy Road & Bridge, Weed, and Rural Access Infrastructure Fund (RAIF) budgets with the Board, providing a list of equipment and contracted construction projects that are included in the proposed budget. Raap noted a good response from townships for RAIF applications and those funds must be spent by the end of 2026.

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

Cori Kaufmann, Director of Equalization/Zoning Administrator/GIS Coordinator, reviewed her budgets with the Board. Angie McCormick, Equalization & Zoning Clerk, and Anna Flogstad, Staff Appraiser, were present. Kaufmann noted an increase in salaries for a PT person who would assist out in the field when properties are reviewed. Kaufmann also informed the Commission that she attended a Summer Study Committee meeting on property tax assessment methodology on Monday, in Pierre, strongly suggesting that they follow this summer study. The Scope of Study is to examine the methodology by which assessments are made for purposes of real estate taxation within the State of South Dakota. The study will research roles of the State Dept of Revenue and local government units in assessing real estate. The study may recommend policies to increase the efficiency or effectiveness of assessment. The study may recommend policies with the goals of improving the accuracy and consistency of real estate assessment.

Laurie Schwans, Register of Deeds, reviewed the Register of Deeds and Modernization & Preservation budgets with the Board, noting an increase in the ROD salary line for PT help, 150 hours.

Stacey Sieverding, 4-H Youth Assistant, and the Board reviewed the Extension and Fair Board budgets. \$20,000 is being requested to put towards the new building. Koch asked why, because Kevin Blagg told him that there are enough funds for the building. Sieverding stated that the \$20,000 would be put toward the finish work (kitchen, bathrooms) of a new building.

Carol Lauer, Treasurer, reviewed her budget with the Board, noting an increase in the salary line for PT help.

Mike Fink, States Attorney, and the Board reviewed his budget.

Mark Norris, Sheriff, and the Board reviewed Sheriff, Contract Law, Jail, and Scram (24/7) budgets. 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 are disgusting. Norris told the Board that the Suburban & 2010 Tahoe can be sold surplus and keep the two law enforcement vehicles that he plans on replacing.

Brad (BJ) Stiefvater, Jr, Emergency Manager, reviewed the McCook Emergency Medical Services (Ambulance), Emergency Management, and 911 Service budgets with the Board.

The meeting adjourned subject to call.

Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June 2024.

Charles Liesinger \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, McCook County Commission

ATTEST:  
Geraldyn Sherman \_\_\_\_\_  
Auditor, McCook County