

September 19, 2023

A Special meeting of the McCook County Commission was called to order in their Meeting Room by Chairman Marc Dick. This meeting is being held to review proposed ordinance changes to the existing zoning regulations regarding Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO's) and to continue review of the 2024 Provisional Budget. Members present: Dean Koch, Chuck Mehlbrech, Steve Gordon, and Charles Liesinger.

Chairman Dick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

The minutes from the September 7th meeting were sent to Board members for review prior to publication. Motion Gordon to approve these minutes for publication. Second Mehlbrech. Motion carried.

Ferlyn Hofer asked if he could note a correction/clarification to the August 29th meeting minutes. Hofer's reference regarding operators who work with custom applicators to provide manure application, is that the applicators don't know the county regulations, so why add "no manure application on holidays" to the regulations, use common sense and be neighborly.

Commission reports: none.

Public input/comment: Roger Hofer suggested that the Board place a moratorium on wind farms & solar farms for 1 year and presented a copy of a letter to the editor to them; get rid of drainage; and this Board should require Hanson County to pay a subsidy to McCook County Ambulance.

DJ Buseman presented Commission members with information titled Solar Realities put together by Jon Droz Jr, physicist. Buseman referenced the August 8th Commission meeting and the opposition to Grant Solar, noting that a motion was made to place a moratorium on solar farms but didn't pass because the commissioners are afraid of a lawsuit. Buseman asked the Board what they are waiting for, adding that his farm will be surrounded.

Conflict of Interest: none noted.

Chairman Dick turned the meeting over to Sean Hegyi, Planner with Secog, who began with review of a proposed ordinance amending Ordinance 2014-01 – 2014 Revised Zoning Regulations for McCook County by Amending Chapter 11.08 Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO's); and Chapter 19.02, Definitions. Hegyi noted proposed changes along with updated verbiage, reminding those present that this is a working draft, hearings/readings will be held by the Planning Commission and the County Commission in future meetings.

At this time, Chairman Dick opened the meeting for public comment. Mitch Peterson, Davenport, Evans, Hurwitz & Smith LLP, noted that changes made are workable but questions definition of common ownership and has concerns with setbacks. Peterson suggested that dwelling setbacks be $\frac{3}{4}$ mile for Class A & Class B confinement units and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile for Class C confinement units. Roger Gerlach noted agreement with common ownership definition. Kay Neubauer stated that she feels the setbacks for dwellings are too low, making housing cheaper, should be 1 to 2 miles. Kiera Leddy, Davenport, Evans, Hurwitz & Smith LLP, questioned 300' setback from ROW on Federal, State, and County roads, thought it was to be set at 150'; should insert clause "no manure application on holidays"; avoid specifics in Section G 2 b, and leave setbacks alone. Ferlyn Hofer noted that livestock is largest employer in McCook County and rules are making it harder for small livestock operations, and now a small group is trying to change setbacks, as though trying to stop livestock. Comm Koch asked Hofer what he didn't like. Hofer stated that setbacks are a hinderance and he has concerns about a future for his sons. With no further public comment, Chairman Dick closed the public comment section of the meeting.

Travis Raap, Hwy Supt, presented two utility permits to the Board for approval. Motion Koch to approve the Electric Utility Permits for Southeastern Electric to install two 1ph URD for new services at 263rd St, 1400' W of 449th Ave and at 442nd Ave, 2600' S of

254th St. Second Gordon. Motion carried. Raap asked the Board to consider increasing Dylan Warren's hourly rate by \$1.00/hour when he is filling in as mechanic. Motion Koch to pay Warren \$20.91/hour when working as Hwy Dept mechanic. Second Mehlbrech. Motion carried.

At 10:30 a.m. review of the 2024 Provisional Budget continued from September 7th meeting.

Travis Raap, Hwy Supt, and Michelle Stubkjaer, Alternative HR Consultant, met with the Commission to discuss pay for Highway Maintenance workers. No action taken. Stubkjaer left the meeting at this time. Raap and the Board reviewed the Hwy Dept and Weed budgets.

Brad (BJ) Stiefvater, owner McCook County EMS, joined the meeting to answer any questions regarding the ambulance budget. No questions. No action taken.

Mehlbrech left the meeting at this time.

Mike Fink, States Attorney, and Michelle Stubkjaer, Alternative HR, joined the meeting. Discussion was held regarding an increase in workload that Fink has had with McCook County compared to prior years as well as how the workload varies throughout the year. Stubkjaer recommended that due to the uniqueness of the States Attorney position in McCook County, the position be removed from the pay plan. No action taken.

Liesinger left the meeting at this time.

Budget review continued.

The meeting adjourned subject to call.

Dated this 19th day of September 2023.

Marc Dick _____
Chairman, McCook County Commission

ATTEST:

Geralyn Sherman _____
Auditor, McCook County