

September 5, 2024

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

Members present: Steve Gordon, Dean Koch, Chuck Mehlbrech, and Marc Dick. Kris Tott was also present.

Chairman Liesinger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

The minutes from the August 27<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.

Public input: Dick Nolte asked questions regarding the 2025 provisional budget appropriations published in the newspaper.

Commissioner Reports: Comm Koch informed other board members that he contacted several ambulance services in SF and one is interested in talking with McCook County Emergency Medical Services as to a plan moving forward. Comm Dick recommended that everyone see the movie, Reagan, prior to the general election.

Conflict of Interest: none noted.

Time was spent reviewing/discussing insurance estimates and options for repairs for the hail damage to the Hwy Dept building, 4-H barns, and 4-H concession building. Travis Raap, Hwy Supt, Kevin Blagg, Fair Board member, and Stacey Sieverding, 4-H Program Assistant, were present. Because we have no estimate for the courthouse roof, will wait until the September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting to make decisions regarding repairs.

Travis Raap, Hwy Supt, informed the Commission that we need a cash transfer to the Hwy Rd & Bridge Fund. Motion Koch to transfer Cash (\$1,000,000) from General Fund to Hwy Rd & Bridge Fund. Second Gordon. All voted aye. Motion carried. Raap presented a utility permit for approval. Motion Koch to approve a Utility Permit for Jerry Winker to install main wire to homestead (Tom Gassman), noting that a signature is also required from a Pearl Twp Supervisor. Second Gordon. All voted aye. Motion carried. Raap informed the Board that the meeting to review the 5-Year Transportation Plan will be held on September 26<sup>th</sup>. Claude Robert Edwards gave his resignation notice effective 9/19/2024. The new motorgrader has been delivered. The bridge deck is scheduled to be poured on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, on project 44-010-185.

Motion Dick to convene as Planning Commission. Second Mehlbrech. Motion carried.

Cori Kaufmann, Zoning Administrator, and Sean Hegyi, Secog Planner, reviewed/explained the proposed updates/changes to the regulations regarding solar energy systems (Ordinance 2020-05), for both small accessory use and commercial use. Others present: Anna Flogstad, Staff Appraiser, Barney Roling, and Kris Tott.

Kaufmann asked the Board for input regarding permit procedures because there are issues with non-permitted structures. The current ordinance reads that the permit fee will be doubled when someone doesn't obtain a building permit. Kris Tott suggested posting the building permit requirement on the county website because new people to the county would likely check the website for information. The Board instructed Kaufmann to follow the ordinance and issue a letter noting the penalty and cost for a building permit, after construction has begun or has been completed, and if the individual doesn't comply, have a stop order issued and served by the Sheriff.

The Board reconvened as Board of County Commissioners.

The following building permits were issued the month of August:

24-056	Jeremy & Sarah Kirchner	house	Tr 1 Rotert Add N2NE4 36-103-55
24-057	Orland Hutterian Bretheren	warehouse 64x67x18	SW4 / Parcel 1 of 2 9-104-53
24-058	Ferlyn Hofer	grain bin (7 rings)	E2NW4 31-102-53
24-059	Joel Buseman	80x60x18 storage building	NW4 Inc Tr 2&Ex Lot H1 Ex 550' of E60' of W100' SW4NW4 Ex Lot H2 together w Co Auditor's Tr 1

24-060	Orlin Schmidt	cement pad & awning	24-101-54
24-061	Jerome Tschetter Rev Trust	80x200 machine storage	Tract A Buckmillers Add NE4 11-101-53
24-062	John & Angela Pulse	remodel kitchen/dining	SW4 34-102-55
24-063	Osterberg Family Trust	grain bin 50x50x40	Tract 1 Pulse Add in SE4NE4 32-104-54
24-064	Gene Sandine	steel Quonset 50x75	SE4 4-104-54
			Lot E in NE4 20-104-55 & a Tract of Land beginning SW corner of Lot E running 100' W Parallel to Main St, thence 1158.45' NW Parallel W side of Lot E, Thence 100' E to NW corner of Lot E
24-066	Paul Smith	cement pad 198x100	SE4 24-103-53

The August Law Enforcement Report and a report showing the breakdown of calls made, and hours worked in each community was noted and filed.

At 11:00 a.m. the Provisional Budget hearing was held as advertised. Present: Travis Raap, Hwy Supt, Becky Hoiten, Deputy Auditor, Michelle Stubkjaer, Alternative HR Consultant, Brad (BJ) Stiefvater, Jr, McCook County Emergency Medical Services, Mark Norris, Sheriff, Cori Kaufmann, Dir of Equalization/Zoning Administrator, and several other interested parties. Auditor Sherman began noting that Canistota City Council voted to appropriate their share of the \$50,000 for McCook County Emergency Medical Services but will pull out if the other cities choose not to contribute. Stiefvater presented a signed agreement to the Commission, noting that he won't work with 6 entities to get his funding. Comm Koch informed Stiefvater that he spoke with a couple of ambulance services in Sioux Falls and one, Paramedics Plus, is willing to sit down with him (BJ) to discuss business options. HR Consultant Stubkjaer addressed several changes in statute for VSO's that are effective July 2025. Stubkjaer told the Board that she's been in email conversation with Wade Huntington, Assistant Director of Operations, Office of Public Health Nursing Services, regarding clerical assistance in the Nurse's Office and would like to bring them into the conversation at 12:30 pm. With no other business before the Board the Provisional Budget Hearing ended.

Motion Mehlbrech, second Dick, and carried, to pay claims: GENERAL FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 8/31/24: Commissioners 2079.80 mileage 78.54; Auditor 6409.14; Treasurer 4793.41; States Attorney 3598.21; Custodian 1390.90; Dir of Equalization 4745.79; Register of Deeds 3331.84; Veterans Service Officer 325.20; Sheriff 14378.49; Contract Law 10140.34; Care of Poor 228.16; Welfare 289.24; Community Health Nurse Secretary 1014.79; 4-H Youth Assistant 1550.70; Weed 301.07; Drainage 146.45; Planning & Zoning 629.91. A&B Business, monthly copier contract, 80.00; Alternative HR, September services, 6175.00; Auto Value, parts and supplies, 21.99; AutoEx, vehicle maintenance, 857.01; Blindert Insurance Agency, September food pantry rent, 200.00; Card Service Center, dog food, postage, fuel, office supplies, DARE supplies, Glock class, 1857.62; Century Business Products, monthly copier contracts, 420.52; City of Bridgewater, September ambulance appropriation 3866.67; Dailey Law Prof, court appointed attorney for Dennis Rhodes, 631.00, for Alfredo Stopani, 763.50 (2 claims), for Cynthia Pink, 654.00; Mike Fink, August expenses, 439.38; Gordon Flesch Company, monthly copier contract, 30.00; Kathryn Heumiller, blood alcohol draws, 280.00; Hillyard/SF, towel dispenser, 51.24; Jack's Uniforms & Equipment, uniforms, 436.55; McCook County EMS, September ambulance appropriation 13831.82; McCook County Treasurer, postage 113.65; McCormick Motors, vehicle maintenance, 635.11; New Century Press, publishing 543.45; ODP Business Solutions, office supplies, 55.77; Salem City, utilities, 137.92; SD Dept of Public Safety, 6 month teletype rent, 2340.00; Stacey Sieverding, mileage & meals-State Fair, 600.06; Sioux Falls Area Humane Society, seized animal, 117.95; Melinda Songstad, grand jury transcripts, 171.50; Tech Solutions, managed IT services, 3530.00; Triotel Communications, telephone/internet service 684.07; Two-Way Solutions, install 2 radios & supplies, 3048.84; Verizon Wireless, I-pad service, 40.01; Xcel Energy, utilities, 1152.57; Yankton County Treasurer, reimburse mental health expenses, 110.50.

COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 8/31/24: Hwy Dept 23919.05 phone stipend 250.00. Appera, mat & towel rent, 83.98; Auto Value, parts & supplies, 1574.87; Blackstrap Inc, road salt, 1835.35; Butler Machinery, parts and repairs,

1537.76; Card Service Center, supplies, 81.73; Century Business Products, monthly copier contract, 145.00; Dakota Fluid Power, parts and repairs, 574.58; Fremar LLC, roundup, 87.00; Hollaway Construction, bridge project 231,583.67; Hydraulic World, supplies, 9.98; IMEG Corp, engineering design, 33797.51; Knife River, asphalt, 2551.50; McCook County Treasurer, postage, 6.50; PowerPlan OIB, supplies, 525.86; RBS Sanitation, garbage service, 81.00; Safety Benefits, conference registration, 150.00; Salem City, utilities 200.03; Sanitation Products, truck box, wing, & plow, 141,824.00; SD Dept. of Transportation, county share of State projects, 2232.15; SDSU-SDLTAP, road conference registration, 125.00; Southeastern Electric, utilities, 21.84; Stan Houston Equipment, supplies, 181.89; Triotel Communications, telephone/internet service 108.41; Westmor Industries, compliance testing, 845.04; Xcel Energy, utilities, 499.08; Zapp Hardware, supplies 6.79.

911 SERVICE FUND: Golden West Telecommunications, 911 telephone service 200.00; Triotel Communications, 911 telephone service 187.20.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 8/31/24: EDS Director 1497.26, Card Service Center, DeWalt blower, 394.71; Brad Stiefvater Jr, August expenses 116.90; Triotel Communications, telephone & internet service 144.34.

24/7 SOBRIETY FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 8/31/24: Sheriff Secretary/Dispatcher 212.82. PharmChem, sweat patch analysis 255.60.

PAYROLL CONTRIBUTIONS – ALL FUNDS: 8/31/24: Dir of IRS, county share of FICA 4745.32, Medicare 1109.78; SD Retirement System, county share of retirement contribution 4794.72; Wellmark BCBS of SD, county share of health insurance contribution 5598.00.

The Auditor's Account with the County Treasurer for the month of August 2024: deposits in banks, \$5,025,901.41; cash to deposit, \$3,758.91; checks to deposit, \$14,561.28; CC payments, \$2,118.34; Cash Items (postage) \$120.15; Treasurer's Cash, \$1,449.85; Register of Deeds, \$450.00; Sheriff, \$500.00; CD's, \$700,000.00. The total deposits on hand: \$5,748,859.94.

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

Cori Kaufmann, Zoning Administrator, presented a plat for approval. Following discussion and review, motion Gordon to approve the plat. Second Liesinger. Motion carried.

BE IT RESOLVED by the County Planning Commission of McCook County, South Dakota, that the plat showing Tract 3A of Rinehart's Addition in the Northwest Quarter of Section 24, Township 101 North, Range 55 West of the 5<sup>th</sup> Principal Meridian, McCook County, South Dakota, having been examined, is approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL of 1967, Chapter 11-6, and any amendments thereof.

Adopted this 5<sup>th</sup> day of September 2024.

---

Chair, County Planning Commission  
McCook County, South Dakota

The Board reconvened as Board of County Commissioners.

Amy Erickson met with the Commission to request a property tax refund (\$3103.22) or credit for overpayment because paperwork was not processed timely for owner-occupied status on her property, going back 3 years. Cori Kaufmann, Dir of Equalization, was present. Erickson explained the timeline outlining dates and paperwork. 1/8/2021: Troy Erickson removed her name from residence at 210 Pierce St; 1/22/2021: Erickson applied for OO status for her residence at 351 S Pierce St; 1/26/2021: denial letter sent noting that her name was on two residences (don't remember receiving this letter). According to the Dir of Equalization, the office doesn't get deed transfers until a month after they happen. That's why I was incorrectly sent the denial letter. Kaufmann explained the process through Dept of Revenue that the DOE Office follows, noting that once denied, another application for owner-occupied status must be completed. This was discussed with the Auditor's Office, and the feeling is that Erickson should have contacted the DOE Office the following year

when assessment notices were sent out. Erickson-didn't catch it because I didn't know how to read the assessment notice and assumed I had OO status because I didn't receive the denial letter. Mehlbrech- see no problem with refunding the taxes. Auditor Sherman noted that there is a procedure for abatement, this isn't it. Liesinger- the appeal process begins in March when a property owner receives his/her assessment notice, this request is too late. Koch asked if '23 taxes payable in '24 are paid. Erickson, yes. Koch- can't refund the money. Dick- the process wasn't followed. Erickson reiterated that she met the original deadline and shouldn't have received a denial. Koch- not denied in error. Erickson asked how is she supposed to know the rules as a single mom. Koch- suppose we can give county share of taxes back. Gordon- cannot do that. Koch asked Auditor Sherman to check with the Dept. of Legislative Audit and bring information to their September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Erickson thanked the Board for their time.

Michelle Stubkjaer, HR Consultant, and Mike Fink, States Attorney, joined the meeting. A call was placed to Wade Huntington, Assistant Director of Operations, Office of Public Health Nursing Services. Huntington noted that contracts with counties have changed with the division of WIC and Community Health Nurse services. Stubkjaer asked what happens if the county doesn't fill the clerical position. The current contract for the CHN is \$5914.80 annually. It costs the State an estimated \$100/hour (including benefits) for a nurse. Huntington explained that the estimated nurse contract for 2025 is \$6151.39 (\$5914.80 x 4% increase) and the clerical support is \$5670.08 (8 hours/week @ \$27.26/hour = \$11340.16 and that cost is split 50/50 with the county). Total contract \$11821.47 and the county also provides office space (in-kind benefit). Huntington noted that this is the first opportunity for the State to have this discussion.

Auditor Sherman presented the ambulance agreement left by Brad (BJ) Stiefvater, Jr, to States Attorney Fink for his review, noting that Stiefvater told the Board that he will not contract with the cities because the county is asking for the funds not him. Fink stated that the county will not be entering into contracts with the cities.

The meeting adjourned subject to call.

Dated this 5<sup>th</sup> day of September 2024.

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

ATTEST:

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