June 17, 2025

A Special Meeting of the McCook County Commission was called to order in their Meeting Room by Vice-Chairman Steve Gordon. The meeting was held to begin the initial review of 2026 budget requests. Members present: Charles Liesinger, Tom Heumiller, and Marc Dick. Member absent: Chuck Mehlbrech. Deputy Auditor, Becky Hoiten, was present.

Vice-Chairman Gordon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-Chairman Gordon called for approval of the agenda. Motion Liesinger to approve the agenda as posted. Second Heumiller. Motion carried.

Public comment: Roger Hofer provided public comment.

Commissioner Reports: none noted.

Conflict of Interest: none noted.

Prior to budget discussion, Travis Raap, Hwy Supt, asked the Board to approve Letting Authorization for Project BRO-B 8044(15) PCN 09A2 (bridge #44-091-040). The estimated cost of the project is $158920.00. Motion Liesinger to authorize Vice-Chairman Gordon to sign the Authorization for SDDOT to advertise the project for bids. Second Dick. Motion carried.

Raap informed the Board that he's continuing to receive complaints from Daryl Janssen, now he wants a culvert placed on the south side of the river where he believes there will be a future erosion problem on his property.

Raap reviewed revenues and expenditures for the Hwy Road & Bridge Fund, weed budget, and Rural Access Infrastructure Fund (RAIF) with the Board, providing a list of equipment and contracted construction projects that are included in the proposed budget. There was also discussion regarding approval of a capital outlay resolution for the accumulation of funds for road construction purposes.

Auditor Sherman asked about the drainage budget and if there is a plan for who handles it beginning January 2026. No action.

Anna Flogstad, Director of Equalization/Zoning Administrator, reviewed the Dir of Equalization, Planning & Zoning, and GIS budgets with the Board.

Beth Skaff, Food Pantry Coordinator, met with the Board to review the budget for the food pantry, noting that Federal cuts are affecting the quantity of products on the shelves.

Carol Lauer, Treasurer, reviewed her budget with the Board, noting an increase in the salary-line because of the need for another FT employee. Beth Skaff, Deputy Treasurer, was present. Lauer noted that the new Motor Vehicle system has been a challenge, with duties being passed onto county staff, and we are getting farther behind. Lauer also informed the Board that there are county Treasurers who, with Commission approval, are closing their offices an hour earlier than the closing of the courthouse. Lauer told the Board that for three years she has asked to see the chart for employee pay, wanting to know how pay was originally determined for employees, because it should be fair. Auditor Sherman noted that HR has the Pay Plan. The Board will ask the HR Consultant to connect with Lauer.

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 for the Secretary/Dispatcher when SCRAM duties are performed because these tests/screens can be disgusting.

The Commission asked Michelle Stubkjaer, HR Consultant, to join the meeting. It was noted that a department head had questions regarding the pay plan. Stubkjaer noted she will touch base with the department head to discuss the questions.

Brad (BJ) Stiefvater, Jr, Emergency Manager, reviewed Emergency Management Fund, 911 Service Fund, and the McCook Emergency Medical Services (Ambulance), budgets with the Board. Auditor Sherman noted that no contract has been received from

Mitchell Regional 911 and the current contract expires 12/31/2025. Stiefvater added that he requested information for the 2026 budget and received an email from Mitchell Regional 911 stating they are still hammering things out. It looks like what we are probably going with, since the 911 surcharge increased, is doing away with the annual capital improvement fee, and have our counties submit 100% of the surcharge funds they receive each month. Stiefvater said this means that repairs, supplies, equipment, and utilities will have to be paid with General Fund transfers to the 911 Service Fund. Stiefvater presented a 5-year agreement for ambulance service indicating an 8% annual increase. The requested appropriation for McCook County EMS Inc for 2026 is $328,710.40. No action was taken.

Jim Julson, Bridgewater Ambulance Service, and the Commission reviewed the 2026 funding request for the City of Bridgewater Community Ambulance, fair share of any appropriation given to the ambulance services serving McCook County. Auditor Sherman noted that with no specific dollar amount requested, $50,000 was put in the 2026 budget, an increase of $3,600. Ambulance expenses and revenue for 2024 and the first five months of 2025 were also reviewed. Julson noted that they wouldn't be able to operate without the county's funding. Roger Hofer was present.

Kevin Winberg asked to address the Board regarding ambulance services, noting that he probably wouldn't be here today if not for McCook County EMS Inc. Winberg thanked the Board for their time.

Auditor Sherman and Deputy Auditor Hoiten reviewed 2026 projected revenues for the General Fund and a few budgets with the Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m. subject to call.

Dated this 17th day of June 2025.

Steve Gordon _____
Chairman, McCook County Commission

ATTEST:

Geralyn Sherman _____
Auditor, McCook County