June 24, 2025

The meeting of the McCook County Commission was called to order in their Meeting Room by Chairman Chuck Mehlbrech. Members present: Steve Gordon, Tom Heumiller, Charles Liesinger, and Marc Dick.

Chairman Mehlbrech led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

The minutes from the June 10th & June 17th meetings were sent to Board members for review prior to publication. Motion Heumiller to approve the minutes for publication. Second Liesinger. Motion carried.

Prior to public comment, Chairman Mehlbrech explained to those present that the Commission can listen to the public comments being made but cannot respond to comments/questions, and individuals can be scheduled on a future meeting agenda to discuss concerns.

Public comment: Roger Hofer, Kevin Peterson, Mark Dickson, Ann Richards, Norm Peterson, Jim Osterberg, Ron Sandine, and Gene Sandine provided public comment. Those present requested to be scheduled for the July 8th Commission Meeting. Auditor Sherman asked them to contact the Auditor's Office for a time.

Commissioner Reports: Comm Liesinger noted that it appears Meadow View Colony is proceeding with building without a permit, need to talk with Zoning Administrator Flogstad and States Attorney Fink, as to how to proceed.

Conflict of Interest: none noted.

Travis Raap, Hwy Supt, presented two utility permits to the Board for approval. Motion Liesinger to approve a Communications Utility Permit for Golden West Telecommunications, to access an existing vault, bore across highway and continue on township road, at intersection of Co Hwy 21A and 266th St. Second Dick. Motion carried. Motion Gordon to approve an Electric Utility Permit for Southeastern Electric, to install 3ph URD for new service, at intersection 262nd St and 448th Ave. Second Heumiller, if this is okay with the township. Motion carried. Hwy Supt Raap presented Change Order No 2 and Final, for Hollaway Bridge & Culvert Inc, for bridge project 44-010-185. Description: quantities have been adjusted to reflect actual quantities installed as needed to complete the project. Contract price incorporating this Change Order $2,229,095.30. Motion Liesinger to authorize Chairman Mehlbrech to sign the Change Order. Second Heumiller. Motion carried. Hwy Supt Raap presented the Contractor's Application (#23F) for Payment, $96,199.70, to Contractor, Hollaway Bridge & Culvert Inc. Motion Heumiller to authorize Chairman Mehlbrech to sign the Application for Payment. Second Liesinger. Motion carried.

Hwy Supt Raap presented an agreement between Daryl Jansen and McCook County regarding Jansen's request that the County install a culvert upon and through Jansen's private property, which is located on the S side of the bridge (44-010-185) project which was recently completed, to prevent erosion. Jansen has been warned that such a culvert could very well wash out over time. Even so, the purpose of this agreement is to settle any/all disputes and bring finality to the matter. If Jansen doesn't sign the agreement, the County will put a fence in and it's a done deal.

Hwy Supt Raap noted that adoption of a jake brake ordinance can be discussed at the July 8th meeting. The SDDOT won't allow placement of a sign until the County adopts an ordinance.

Jerae Wire, East River Electric, met with the Commission and Hwy Supt Raap to discuss verbiage changes in a franchise agreement. Changes/additions: notification to the Hwy Supt when East River Electric is beginning a new project and change term from 20-years to 10-years. Hwy Supt Raap noted that Southeastern Electric provided a utility permit at the meeting this morning and has a 10-year franchise agreement, feel this is a fair request.

Motion Gordon to convene as Drainage Commission. Second Heumiller. Motion carried.

Mic Kreutzfeldt, Drainage Administrator, presented 1 drainage permit application to the Board, noting that downstream landowner signatures were obtained, and he has signed off on it. All permits are available for inspection at the Hwy Dept Office.

D25-020 Heartland Partners SD SW4 13-104-56

Motion Gordon to reconvene as Board of County Commissioners. Second Heumiller. Motion carried.

Motion Gordon to enter Executive Session at 10:00 a.m. for personnel discussion, SDCL 1-25-2 (1). Second Dick. Motion carried. Travis Raap, Hwy Supt, and Michelle Stubkjaer, HR Consultant, were present. Chairman Mehlbrech declared out of Executive Session at 10:20 a.m.

Motion Dick to convene as Planning & Zoning Commission. Second Leisinger. Motion carried.

Anna Flogstad, Zoning Administrator, presented a plat for approval. Following review of the plat review form, motion Liesinger to approve the plat. Second Heumiller. Motion carried.

BE IT RESOLVED by the County Planning Commission of McCook County, South Dakota, that the plat of Lot 1 of Berg's Addition in the NW 1/4 of Section 18, T 102 N, R 56 W of the 5TH P. M., McCook County, South Dakota, prepared by Jeremy A Wolbrink, a Land Surveyor, be and the same is hereby approved and its adoption by the Board of Commissioners of the County of McCook, South Dakota, is hereby recommended.

Adopted this 24th day of June 2025.

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Chair, County Planning Commission
McCook County, South Dakota

The Board reconvened as Board of County Commissioners.

Laurie Schwans, Register of Deeds, reviewed the 2026 Register of Deeds budget request and the Modernization & Preservation Fund revenues and expenditures with the Board.

Geralyn Sherman, Welfare Director, and the Board reviewed Care of Poor Report. A Notice of Hospitalization was received from Avera Queen of Peace Hospital (2025-06). A list of lien payments received in the month of May was reviewed.

Matt Alley, McCook Central School Supt, Lonny Johnson, Montrose School Supt, Zach Campbell, Canistota School Supt, and Jason Bailey, Bridgewater/Emery School Supt, met with the Commissioners to discuss future of having a School Resource Officer/s in the school districts. Mark Norris, Sheriff, Mike Fink, States Attorney, Becky Hoiten, Deputy Auditor, Michelle Stubkjaer, HR Coordinator, and Anna Flogstad were present. Supt Alley: the schools want to participate but go down in number of days, McCook Central 2 days, Canistota 2 days, Montrose ½ day, and Bridgewater/Emery ½ day, working with one officer. Supt Campbell: want the program, but education comes first. Supt Alley asked if anyone was attending the property tax reduction summer study being held in SF tomorrow. No. Supt Alley added that McCook Central could go 3 days if two officers are used. Supt Johnson: issue with officer not checking in, didn't know if the SRO was there, and personalities weren't a good fit. Supt Campbell: concerns with the officer not checking in and how do we know what the SRO is working on. Supt Bailey: need to establish and agree upon guidelines so the county knows what the schools expect from the SRO. Comm Dick: if the schools want an SRO, they should hire them and pay the bill, county shouldn't have to pay towards this. Comm Heumiller: see what the county budget allows. HR Coordinator Stubkjaer: feedback and communication between the officer/s (SRO's), Sheriff, and school administration is vital to making this program work. With concerns that have been raised, why don't we start with a contract that covers the first half of the school year, evaluate at the end of Fall, and determine how/if we proceed. Dollars were discussed, but with the unknown of how many officers and how many days each school district will want an SRO, a contract rate cannot be determined.

Anna Flogstad, Zoning Administrator, and Mike Fink, States Attorney, met with the Board to discuss reports that Meadow View Colony has started construction for a cement plant without a building permit being issued. Fink noted that if this is the case, the remedy is to issue a STOP order and have the Sheriff serve it. Fink and Flogstad will contact the attorney who represents the colony to verify what's being constructed.

Motion Gordon, second Liesinger, and carried, to pay claims: GENERAL FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 6/21/2025: Commissioners 2183.80; Auditor 6387.57; Treasurer 4718.36; States Attorney 3730.38; Custodian 1460.20; Dir of Equalization 4707.70; Register of Deeds 3675.07; Veterans Service Officer 341.40; Sheriff 15093.18; Contract Law 8467.78; Care of Poor 228.92; Welfare 482.60; Extension Secretary 1890.16; Weed, 409.68; Drainage 203.15; Planning & Zoning 671.20. SD Dept of Revenue, SD Developmental Center-Redfield 60.00, Animal Damage Control Fund, ½ annual appropriation 1193.64; Grand Jury fees & mileage, 552.76; TransAmerica Employee Benefits, June GAP billing, 4156.25; AAA Collections, lien collection fees, 114.16; Alvine Law Firm, court appointed attorney for Athena Kraayenbrink, 2127.17; Alexian Gonzalez, 516.00 and 786.60, Ricky Ferguson, 745.47; Davison County Sheriff, May jail services, 3885.00; Anna Flogstad, mileage & meal for conference 97.45; Grocott Ink & Thread, shirts, 49.00; Jack's Uniforms, pants, 207.84; Carol Lauer, office supplies, 21.45; Lewis Drug, prisoner care, 178.73; LifeQuest, 3rd Quarter allocation, 750.00; McLeod's Printing, office supplies, 2967.59; Meyer Motor, vehicle maintenance, 1109.28; MidAmerican Energy, utilities- food pantry 9.25, courthouse 73.17; Motorola Solutions, Wave App, 143.00; Peters Distributing, onsite inspection, 330.00; Pictometry International, year 2 of flyover, 27853.33; SD Public Health Laboratory, lab services, 160.00; Melinda Songstad, grand jury transcription, 450.80; Southeast Enterprise Facilitation, SEFP annual contract, 5000.00.

COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 6/21/2025: Hwy Dept 26820.80, cell phone reimbursement 225.00. TransAmerica Employee Benefits, June GAP billing, 1493.57; Avera Occupational Medicine, drug screens, 73.20; Diamond Mowers, supplies, 739.48; Holloway Construction, bridge project 44-010-185, 96199.70; Knife River, G2 asphalt, 19519.41; Lyle Signs, shipping, 25.45; Northwestern Energy, utilities, 17.48; Puthoff Sales & Service, supplies, 741.60; Sign Solutions, supplies, 1232.28; Transource Truck & Equipment, 2026 Mack GR64FR Truck, 158500.00; Verizon Wireless, cell phone service, 82.74; Westmor Industries, compliance testing, 1652.04.

911 SERVICE FUND: Motorola Solutions Inc, Wave mobile App, 26.00; Sioux Valley Energy, radio tower utilities, 81.53.

EMERGENCY & DISASTER SERVICES FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 6/21/2025: EDS Director 1572.12. TransAmerica Employee Benefits, June GAP billing, 96.51.

24/7 SOBRIETY FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 6/21/2025: Sheriff Secretary/Dispatcher 235.27.

PAYROLL CONTRIBUTIONS – ALL FUNDS: 6/21/2025: Dir of IRS, county share of FICA 4893.66, Medicare 1144.48; SD Retirement System, county share of retirement contribution 4689.47; Wellmark BlueCross/BlueShield, county share of health insurance premium 22640.99.

TOTAL CLAIMS: $326,466.20

Motion Dick to approve transfer of STP funds, $211,927.59, from Assigned to Road Purposes to Assigned to Capital Outlay STP Funds and transfer of STP funds, $11,142.34, from Assigned to Road Purposes to Restricted for Pavement Marking. Second Gordon. Motion carried.

On behalf of Carol Lauer, Treasurer, Auditor Sherman asked the Board for approval to change the BUSINESS HOURS for the Treasurer's Office due to the new SD Motor Vehicle software system. This system does not allow early balancing, so it has caused extra, after-hours, work for the Treasurer's staff. This was discussed at the budget meeting held last week. Motion Dick to approve office hours of 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. beginning July 1, 2025, for the Treasurer's Office. Second Heumiller. Motion carried.

Stacey Sieverding, 4-H Program Assistant, reviewed the Fair Board and Extension budget with the Commission. The Fair Board is requesting an extra $20,000 because they didn't receive these funds the year of the derecho. Auditor Sherman noted that there was an extra $20,000 in the 2023 budget.

Matt White, Dept of Legislative Audit, presented a letter of introduction to the Board. The 2023-2024 audit is underway.

Mike Fink, States Attorney, and Anna Flogstad, Zoning Administrator, informed the Board that they spoke with the attorney who represents Meadow View Hutterian Brethren regarding concerns that construction has begun without the issuance of a building permit. She advised that they had started preliminary work before being notified that a rezone would be necessary. The attorney will contact Meadow View to verify that no work is currently being done.

Michelle Stubkjaer, HR Consultant, asked for an Executive Session for a personnel discussion, per SDCL 1-25-2 (1). Motion Heumiller to enter Executive Session at 12:30 p.m. Second Gordon. Motion carried. Chairman Mehlbrech declared out of Executive Session at 12:50 p.m.

Auditor Sherman asked the Board if they'd be able to hold a special meeting on Tuesday, July 1st, to continue review of 2026 budget requests, for a few hours, budget only. Yes.

The meeting adjourned subject to call.

Dated this 24th day of June 2025.

Charles Mehlbrech _____
Chairman, McCook County Commission

ATTEST:

Geralyn Sherman _____
Auditor, McCook County