March 11, 2025

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

Chairman Mehlbrech led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Mehlbrech called for approval of the agenda. Auditor Sherman noted the addition of Nicole Siemonsma at 12:15 pm with a zoning inquiry. Motion Dick to approve the agenda with change noted. Second Gordon. Motion carried.

The minutes from the February 25th meeting were sent to Board members for review prior to publication. Motion Gordon to approve these minutes for publication. Second Heumiller. Motion carried.

Public input: Roger Hofer provided public comment.

Commissioner Reports: Mehlbrech noted that an employee reached out to him asking who has access to employee files. This will be discussed with HR at the next meeting.

Conflict of Interest: none noted.

Travis Raap, Hwy Supt, presented the Bid Abstract for the Southeast SD County Striping Project, Project No MC 25-02, held in Minnehaha County on February 26, 2025. Bidders: Sir Lines A Lot $55,646.00 and Vogel Traffic Services $68,017.20. Motion Dick to accept the low bid of $55,646.00, Sir Lines A Lot. Second Gordon. Motion carried. Motion Heumiller to authorize Chairman Mehlbrech to sign a Contract with Sir Lines A Lot for the Striping 2025 Project. Second Gordon. Motion carried.

Hwy Supt Raap presented the Bid Summary for the 2025 McCook County Approach Asphalt Pavement held on February 26, 2025, to the Board. Contractors: Bituminous Paving $116,989.00; Asphalt Surfacing $135,920.00; Commercial Asphalt $116,800.00; and Double H Paving $133,094.10. Motion Liesinger to award the bid to Commercial Asphalt. Second Gordon. Motion carried.

Hwy Supt Raap informed the Board that he talked with Rod Fortin, Dept of Legislative Audit, about purchasing truck parts for assembly without the need of a bid letting, not doable, because we have to look at total cost of the piece of equipment after it is assembled. Current projects include back sloping, culvert replacements, and placement of rumble strips. Comm Heumiller noted that he's been approached about changing 245th St from asphalt back to a gravel road. Residents said that the county let the paved road deteriorate, not keeping up with maintenance on it, so it could be changed to gravel. Raap explained that costs of maintenance reports can be brought to the next meeting. Rapp added that the vehicle count indicated 20 vehicles/day, and the count can only be done Monday through Thursday, no weekends because this isn't normal traffic. No action taken.

Brad (BJ) Stiefvater, Jr, Emergency Manager, met with the Board for the 2nd reading & adoption of the ordinance title, Ordinance 2025-01 Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. Stiefvater explained ordinance updates which include permit processes and 1' above base flood elevation or freeboard. Auditor Sherman provided the ordinance for review along with the Fact of Adoption that will be published in the newspaper this week. Motion Heumiller to approve and adopt Ordinance 2025-01, Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. Second Liesinger. Motion carried.

Auditor Sherman presented an updated list of county CD's, their maturity dates, and rate of interest. The 11-month CD at Rivers Edge Bank in Bridgewater was renewed for 12 months, 4.2%. One of the CDs at First Dakota National Bank was renewed for 12 months, 4%. The other CD was lowered to $100,000 for 12 months, 4%. A $50,000 CD was opened at Security State Bank, Spencer, for 12 months, 4.25%.

The following building permit was issued in the month of February:

25-001	Jacob Boom	Farm Storage 40x60x16	Lot 1 Boom Enterprises Add 4-102-53

Motion Liesinger to enter Executive Session at 9:50 a.m. for personnel discussion, SDCL 1-25-2 (1). Anna Flogstad, Dir of Equalization/Zoning Administrator, Angie McCormick, Dir of Equalization/Zoning Clerk, and Auditor Sherman were present. Chairman Mehlbrech declared out of Executive Session at 10:05 a.m.

Jeremy Grady and Glenda Blindert, Salem Economic Development Corporation, and Tyler Tordsen, Sioux Metro Growth Alliance, met with the Commission to discuss two issues regarding properties owned by SEDC. Anna Flogstad, Dir of Equalization, Angie McCormick, Dir of Equalization Clerk, Becky Hoiten, Deputy Auditor, and Mike Fink, States Attorney, were present. Grady provided a handout to the Commission and Tordsen reviewed it with the Board. States Attorney Fink noted that this is an odd situation, and SDCL is clear on exemption status, but he does need to research the timing of document filing. Grady noted that the valuation changed due to damage resulting from the derecho. Flogstad added that the value was lowered from 811,508 down to 181,132. Tordsen noted that it's important to know that they are not pursuing a TIF, but working on developing the Colonial Estates Housing Development without one. It was also noted that SEDC did have ongoing communication with the Dir of Equalization regarding wanting building and land valuations adjusted along with their planned submittal of tax-exempt applications but to the best of their knowledge there was no notification that denial or decisions were made on those applications. If proper notice had been received, SEDC would have filed an appeal with the Board of Equalization in 2024. Blindert requested a refund for the 2023 taxes paid in 2024. First, we need to verify that taxes were paid. It was agreed that the taxes for the Industrial Park land are in error and need to be abated. SEDC is asking for any sort of remedy available to them. Fink will research this and provide recommendations on how to proceed to the Commission on Tuesday, March 25th at 10:30 a.m. when they will convene as a Board of Equalization.

In other business, Glenda Blindert informed the Commission that Blindert Insurance will be updating lighting around its business location and is also going to include the food pantry location. And dirt is going to be hauled into the back area of the food pantry lot in hopes of preventing future flooding issues.

Jill Heyden, Dir of Business Relations AAA Collections, presented a collections/payment history report for county lien payments to the Board. Rhonda Olinger, Deputy Treasurer, and Mike Fink, States Attorney, were present. States Attorney Fink asked Heyden if there is information that could be added to the application process for a court appointed attorney that would assist in collections of those fees. Heyden offered some ideas and will put together a document for the States Attorney to review. It was noted that many defendants assume they don't owe anything when an attorney is appointed to them. Auditor Sherman noted that the application form that they sign does state that the attorney is not free to them.

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

An email and rough layout of office space for the nurse and ICAP shared office was received from Julie Dykstra, SE Region Nursing Manager Office of Public Health Nursing Services. The layout puts ICAP along the west wall and the nurse along the east wall and needs to accommodate outlets, LAN drops, wall heaters/pipes. The Dept of Health will have furniture available in June which could be used for this space. Auditor Sherman noted that ICAP doesn't want to move from its current location within the office and questioned why the county has to wait until June when the current space is maybe utilized one day per week, and could be used daily by law enforcement. The Commission agreed that the County is not on the State's timeline and the Dept of Health can meet with clients in their meeting room or in the Commission Room on 1st floor.

Auditor Sherman presented applications for Commercial Garbage Hauler Licenses to the Board. Motion Liesinger to approve the following applications and authorize Chairman Mehlbrech to sign same: RBS Sanitation Service, Tea, Addy Disposal Service, Canistota, and Dawson Sanitation Service, Howard. Second Gordon. Motion carried.

Motion Heumiller, second Gordon, and carried, to pay claims: GENERAL FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 3/1/2025:

Commissioners 2183.80 mileage 208.80; Auditor 7013.97; Treasurer 5288.98; States Attorney 3730.38; Custodian 1241.17; Dir of Equalization 3907.80; *new employee: Isaac Kipp, Staff Appraiser, $22.45/hour, DOH 2/24/25; Register of Deeds 3654.47; Veterans Service Officer 170.70; Sheriff 15864.53; Contract Law 9072.04; Care of Poor 679.35; Welfare 325.35; 4-H Youth Assistant 1556.10; Weed 1206.00; Drainage 190.51; Planning & Zoning 669.85. TransAmerica Employee Benefits, February GAP billing, 4093.11; Juror fees & mileage, 2580.88; A& B Business, monthly copier contract, 228.44; AAA Collections, lien collection fee, 32.60; Alternative HR, March HR services, 5600.00; AutoEx, vehicle maintenance, 2015.89; Avera Queen of Peace Hospital, blood alcohol service, 685.00; Canistota Senior Citizens, 2025 appropriation, 500.00; Card Service Center, gas, 301.80, travel expenses to KC, 570.39, courthouse supplies, 276.24, office supplies, 78.80, S&R tablet mountings, 78.98, fuel 953.25, and dog food, 49.59; Chesterman Co, water, 115.00; City of Bridgewater, March ambulance appropriation, 3866.67; Corporate Translation, interpreter service, 65.55; Dakota Data Shred, shredding services, 146.14; Davison County Sheriff, February jail services 6825.00; Darla Erikson, jury duty supplies, 8.28; G&R Controls, check operation of snow melt system, 647.70; Gordon Flesch, monthly copier contract, 30.00; Heiman Inc, fire extinguisher inspection, 92.50; Kathyrn Heumiller, blood alcohol draw, 140.00; Inter-Lakes Community Action, March Community Service Worker funds, 1107.58; KW Electrical, replace breaker, 110.78; Lentsch Tree Service, snow removals, 450.00; Lincoln County Auditor, reimbursement mental health expense, 110.00; Manatron, 2025 Marshall & Swift rates, 2046.17; Maynards, supplies, 5.85; McCook County EMS, March ambulance appropriation, 11559.09; McCook County Register of Deeds, check blanks, 28.80; McCormick Motors, vehicle maintenance, 271.42; McLeod's Printing, office supplies, 23.09; Meyer Motor, vehicle maintenance, 72.80; MidAmerican Energy, Food Pantry utilities, 84.97, courthouse utilities 963.73; Mitchell Clinic, prisoner care, 873.00; Morgan Theeler LLP, court appointed attorney for Blake Gerlach, 250.00, Virgil Surrounded, 156.00, Karl Gerard Cass, 491.97, Virgil Surrounded, 494.15, Alesa Marie Meinberg, 384.00; New Century Press, publishing, 374.95; ODP Business Solutions, garmin drive, 242.49; Pheasantland Industries, name badge, 32.28; Pioneer Designs, law enforcement vehicle stripping/lettering, 475.00; RBS Sanitation, Food Pantry garbage service, 109.71, courthouse garbage service 111.46; Roesler Construction, work in Treasurer's office, 474.29; SD Achieve/dba LifeScape, services for six residents 360.00; SD Public Health Laboratory, lab services, 245.00; SDACC, registration-spring workshop, 250.00; SDACES, 2025 membership dues, 45.00; Geralyn Sherman, mileage, 14.40; Stacey Sieverding, mileage and meals for conference, 72.69; Tim Simmermon, meals-K9 training, 23.69; Sioux Falls Area Humane Society, February contract, 200.00; Doug Stroup, mileage-electronics disposal, 39.60; Tech Solutions, Managed IT services, 3667.00; Total Stop, cookies for township meeting, 40.69; Triotel Communications, telephone/internet service, 684.35; Tyler Technology, 1099 & W2 electronic filing, 3872.00; Verizon Wireless, iPad service 40.01, cell phone service 477.40; Xcel Energy, Food Pantry utilities, 120.13, courthouse utilities, 719.35; Josh Zens, meal reimbursement-weed conference, 32.86..

COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 3/1/2025: Hwy Dept 20515.06. TransAmerica Employee Benefits, February GAP billing, 1555.01; Avera Occupational, employee drug test, 36.60; Appeara, mat & towel rental, 99.96; Auto Value, parts & supplies 59.57; Avera Occupational Medicine, employee drug testing, 120.00; Butler Machinery, parts & supplies, 2240.30; Card Service Center, supplies & paint, 1171.96; Central Farmers Coop, LP gas, 562.36, fuel nozzle, 39.99; Chesterman Company, water, 72.00; Cole's Petroleum, #2 fuel, 12219.83; Dakota Fluid Power, supplies, 229.94; Gessner Welding, oxygen tanks, 88.00; Iron Wheel, elbow, 16.25; Maynards, supplies, 3.95; MidAmerican Energy, utilities, 281.93; Napa Auto, parts/supplies, 2924.49; New Century Press, publishing, 150.32; Pomp's Tire Service, tires, 3584.40; Pulse Electric, new lights in parts room, 495.62; RBS Sanitation, garbage service, 82.82; Salem Lumber, building supplies, 2861.09; SD Department of Transportation, project PTNBIS (44), 1845.36; Southeastern Electric, utilities, 124.26; Stan Houston Equipment, grinder and parts, 747.00; Triotel Communications, telephone/internet service 103.50; Vollan Oil, oil, 491.26; Xcel Energy, utilities, 1334.99.

911 SERVICE FUND: Golden West Telecommunications, 911 telephone service 200.00; Triotel Communications, 911 telephone service 183.20.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 3/1/2025: EDS Director 1572.12. TransAmerica Employee Benefits, February GAP billing, 96.51; AT&T Mobility, EM iPad, 79.64, monthly service, 10.60; Card Service Center, supplies, 78.98; Frontline Plus, FY2025 Siren Service, 350.00; South E

astern Council of Governments, Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan, 11250.00; Brad Stiefvater Jr, cell phone expense, 47.93, mileage, 124.80; Triotel Communications, telephone & internet service 144.58

24/7 SOBRIETY FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 3/1/2025: Sheriff Secretary/Dispatcher 223.42. PharmChem, sweat patch analysis, 127.80, Redwood Toxicology, FFUO compact cup, 365.68.

MODERNIZATION & PRESERVATION FUND: Microfilm Imaging System, scanning equipment rent, 369.00.

TOTAL EXPENSES: $537,279.93.

PAYROLL CONTRIBUTIONS – ALL FUNDS: 3/1/2025: Dir of IRS, county share of FICA 4597.78, Medicare 1075.29; SD Retirement System, county share of retirement contribution, 4585.63; Wellmark BCBS, county share of health insurance premiums, 6377.08.

Total Claims: $100,757.55.

The Auditor's Account with the County Treasurer for the month of February 2025: no report can be filed because of issues with the SD Division of Motor Vehicles reports not balancing with the Treasurer.

Auditor Sherman presented a letter to the Board regarding the appointment of Randy Sabers d/b/a Randy Sabers & Associates as the insurance agent for the UNUM coverage. Motion Liesinger to approve the appointment of Randy Sabers as the insurance agent for the county's UNUM coverage and authorize Chairman Mehlbrech to sign the letter. Second Heumiller. Motion carried.

Abram & Brenda Hotz met with the Commission to inquire about starting a food waste composting business, noting that this service is not currently available in SD. Anna Flogstad, Zoning Administrator, noted that this is allowed conditional use in an Ag district. Hotz presented a resolution required by DANR, that needs to be approved/adopted by the commission. Hotz will apply for the conditional use which can be scheduled for the April 22nd commission meeting.

Nicole Siemonsma met with the Commission to inquire about rezoning 1 acre, on her parents' property, to residential for the purpose of building a home there. Anna Flogstad, Zoning Administrator, was present. Commissioners agreed she could move forward with the rezone application process.

Auditor Sherman presented information on the SecureSD: Cybersecurity for Municipalities and Counties program to the Board. This initiative was funded through 2024 SB187 and is designed to strengthen cybersecurity of communities across South Dakota. Entities can sign up for a cybersecurity assessment to find vulnerabilities. SecureSD recommends that entities use the .gov domain for emails. Sherman noted that Tech Solutions (the county IT provider) already recommended this for county emails. The Board asked Sherman to sign up for an assessment.

The meeting adjourned subject to call.

Dated this 11th day of March 2025.

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Chairman, McCook County Commission

ATTEST:

Geralyn Sherman _____
Auditor, McCook County