March 25, 2025

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

Chairman Mehlbrech led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

The minutes from the March 11th meeting were sent to Board members for review prior to publication. Motion Liesinger to approve the minutes for publication. Second Gordon. Motion carried.

Public comments were provided by Roger Hofer.

Commissioner Reports: none.

Conflict of Interest: none noted.

Travis Raap, Hwy Supt, provided a road report for 245th St showing costs of upkeep over a span of ten years and is working on a cost study. Raap presented a utility permit on behalf of the City of Canistota for approval. Motion Dick to approve a Sewer Utility Permit to bore storm sewer drain across Railway Ave at 441 Railway Ave. Second Liesinger. Motion carried. Raap reported that 445th Ave will be closed for 4-5 months for bridge deck replacement at I-90. Raap informed the Board that he's checking into options for a truck box. It would be 2027 before Northern Equipment would have a truck box available and there is no guarantee on cost, checking with Vander Haag's now. Current projects include blading, picking trash out of road ditches, and will begin pulling shoulders next week. Auditor Sherman noted that a notice of responsibility to control noxious weeds & pests will be published this week.

At 9:30 a.m. Hwy Supt Raap read Ordinance 2025-02, An Ordinance Prohibiting the Unlawful Use of Engine and Compression Brakes (Jake Brake Ordinance). Following the reading and discussion, Chairman Mehlbrech asked for a motion to hold a 2nd reading. There was no motion to hold a second reading. The Board will not proceed with this ordinance.

Motion Gordon to enter Executive Session at 9:40 a.m. for personnel discussion, SDCL 1-25-2 (1). Auditor Sherman was present. Chairman Mehlbrech declared out of Executive Session at 10:00 a.m.

Motion Liesinger to convene as Board of Equalization. Second Dick. Motion carried.

Mike Fink, States Attorney, was asked to research whether a party can request a reduction in the tax imposed upon certain lots located in Salem City. Jeremy Grady and Glenda Blindert, representing the Salem Economic Development Corp, and Tyler Tordsen, Sioux Metro Growth Alliance, Anna Flogstad, Dir of Equalization, and Angie McCormick, Equalization Clerk, were present. Fink noted that the lots (Industrial Park), owned by SEDC, on the W side of town were exempt and those lots should remain tax exempt property; that is clear. The application for tax exempt status for the other lots (nursing home area) was late and the law doesn't give the County authority to grant exempt status because the filing deadline, November 1st, wasn't met. The question then is does the SEDC have any other remedy that provides a way of seeking a reduction in the taxes that are due. Fink recommended the SEDC talk with their attorney before filing a written application, noting that SDCL Chapter 10-18 relates to the abatement and refunding of property taxes. Mehlbrech noted that intent was there, someone dropped the ball. Fink noted that Salem City would have to approve the request before it comes to the County. Tordsen added that looking at the timeline, they don't know if proper notices were sent to Salem Economic Development Corp. There was email communication. Fink noted that for now, no application is before the Board, so no further discussion is warranted.

Auditor Sherman presented two abatements for the Industrial Park parcels for approval. Abatement #3, applicant Salem Economic Development Corp, parcel 17.52.4000, reason: Assessor error-development corporation exemption, amount abated $3349.08. Abatement #4, applicant Salem Economic Development Corp, parcel 17.52.3030, reason: Assessor error-development corporation

exemption, amount abated $676.34. Motion Heumiller to approve both abatements and authorize Chair Mehlbrech to sign same. Second Gordon. Motion carried.

The Board reconvened as the Board of County Commissioners.

Anna Flogstad, Zoning Administrator, and Angie McCormick, Zoning Clerk, discussed Nicole Siemonsma's request to rezone 1 acre to rural residential with the Board. Flogstad told the Board that after the last meeting, she reached out to Sean Hegyi, Secog Planner, to question the validity of doing this. In an email, Hegyi explained that the Comprehensive Plan states that Rural Residential is meant for neighborhoods, not for one person to separate a small parcel to build a home. Although this cannot be done as a rezone, a conditional use application can be done to transfer a building eligibility. Flogstad has contacted Siemonsma and provided her with this information.

Motion Heumiller, second Mehlbrech, and carried, to pay claims: GENERAL FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 3/15/2025: Commissioners 2183.80; Auditor 6297.89; Treasurer 5693.95; States Attorney 3730.38; Custodian 1397.62; Dir of Equalization 4641.71; Register of Deeds 3561.89; Veterans Service Officer 341.40; Sheriff 15166.88; Contract Law 8439.19; *pay increase: Todd Obele, Certified Officer, 3/7/25, $23.00/hour; Care of Poor 228.92; Welfare 325.35; Extension Secretary 1600.56; Weed 56.90; Drainage 127.16; Planning & Zoning 664.85. TransAmerica Employee Benefits, March GAP billing, 4235.69; Grand Jury, fees & mileage, 527.30; SD Dept of Revenue, SD Developmental Center-Redfield, 60.00; Century Business Products, monthly copier contracts, 718.74; Certified Language Inc., interpreting services, 9.90; The Crossroads Hotel, lodging for weed conference, 651.18; Mike Fink, February expenses, 401.19; Iron Wheel Heating and Cooling, buffer repair, 215.00; Lammers Kleibacker & Dawson LLP, court appointed attorney for Mike Karel, 1173.00; Lewis Drug, prisoner care, 25.18; Motorola Solutions, VHF mobile radio and add-ons, 3871.17; Kristin Nogelmeier, CPR, AED, Downed Officer training, 150.00; Kristin Norris, CPR, AED, Downed Officer Training, 150.00; ODP Business Solutions, office supplies, 90.52; Pennington County Jail, prisoner transport, 232.65; Melinda Songstad, grand jury transcription, 303.80.

COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 3/15/2025: Hwy Dept 23902.97; cell phone reimbursement 225.00. TransAmerica Employee Benefits, March GAP billing, 1579.11; Century Business Products, monthly copier contract, 147.56; Core & Main, culverts, 13888.80; Custom Truck Equipment, culverts, 35420.00; Lyle Signs, U-channel posts, 1550.00; Northwestern Energy, utilities, 85.44; SD Dept of Transportation, scour analysis, 965.79; Verizon Wireless, cell phone service, 165.50.

911 EMERGENCY REPORTING SYSTEM FUND: Motorola Solutions, wave PTX mobile app subscriptions, 169.00; Sioux Valley Energy, radio tower utilities, 79.39; Two Way Solutions, 3 repeaters, 31164.84, labor/programming repeaters, 1425.00.

EMERGENCY & DISASTER SERVICES FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 3/15/2025: EDS Director 1572.12. TransAmerica Employee Benefits, March GAP billing, 96.51.

24/7 SOBRIETY FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 3/15/2025: Sheriff Secretary/Dispatcher 223.44

PAYROLL CONTRIBUTIONS – ALL FUNDS: 3/15/2025: Dir of IRS, county share of FICA 4685.61, Medicare 1095.84; SD Retirement System, county share of retirement contribution, 4712.64; Wellmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield of SD, county share of health insurance contribution 22089.24.

TOTAL CLAIMS: $93,053.67.

The Auditor's Account with the County Treasurer for the month of February 2025: deposits in banks, $5,284,874.87; cash to deposit, $246.00; checks to deposit, $11,198.40; CC payments, $1,048.80; Cash Items (postage) $0; Treasurer's Cash, $1,570.00; Register of Deeds, $450.00; Sheriff, $500.00; CD's, $700,000.00. The total deposits on hand: $5,999,888.07.

Motion Heumiller to enter Executive Session at 11:00 a.m. for personnel discussion per SDCL 1-25-2 (1). Michelle Stubkjaer, HR Consultant, was present. Second Gordon. Motion carried. Chairman Mehlbrech declared out of Executive Session at 11:30 a.m.

Auditor Sherman presented a request from the Canistota Athletic Assn seeking support for their improvement project to the playground area at the Canistota baseball/softball fields. Following discussion, the Board agreed that the County is not going to make donations to help fund projects or fundraisers with taxpayer dollars; not something that's been done.

Stacey Sieverding, 4-H Youth Program Assistant, joined the meeting. A rental policy for use of the 4-H Exhibit Building was reviewed. The Board asked Auditor Sherman to send it to the county's insurance carrier for their review as to liability issues. Sieverding informed the Board that there is 2025 4-H Online & Fair Entry Training being held in Mitchell on April 7th, asking for approval to attend the 1-day training. Request approved.

Auditor Sherman presented an Application for Commercial Garbage Hauler License for United Sanitation Services, Mitchell SD, to the Board for approval. Motion Liesinger to approve the application and authorize Chairman Mehlbrech to sign same. Second Heumiller. Motion carried.

The SEFP Monthly Facilitator Report was noted.

Discussion was held regarding the current office space that is being used by the Dept of Health. Anna Flogstad, Dir of Equalization, was present. Auditor Sherman provided an email from the Dept of Health regarding the Salem Nurse's Office, dated March 18, to the Board. The email noted that services are occurring at the schools and colonies and the services are also done by phone, which has decreased in person visits. The Dept is now trying to determine if the expense involved with a move to shared space, is the best option. With that, the Dept of Health asked if the county would be interested in purchasing existing furniture in the nurse's office? Is there a room available if the Dept of Health does not move to the ICAP office? A nurse could schedule with the Auditor when there's a need to meet a client. Auditor Sherman will respond, asking what the State wants for the existing furniture, noting that a room would be available if a nurse needed to meet with a client. The commission took time to inspect the furniture in the nurse's office, the space in the ICAP office, and options for a room to meet with clients. Sheriff Norris, States Attorney Fink, and Dir of Equalization Flogstad were also present.

The meeting adjourned subject to call.

Dated this 25th day of March 2025.

Chuck Mehlbrech _____
Chairman, McCook County Commission

ATTEST:

Geralyn Sherman _____
Auditor, McCook County