

September 23, 2025

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

Members present: Charles Liesinger, Steve Gordon, and Tom Heumiller. Absent: Marc Dick.

Chairman Mehlbrech led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Motion carried.

The minutes from the September 4th meeting were sent to Board members for review prior to publication. Motion Liesinger to approve the minutes for publication. Second Heumiller. Motion carried.

Public comments were provided by Roger Hofer.

Commissioner Reports: Commissioners Gordon and Heumiller attended a tour of the new Minnehaha County Juvenile Detention Center facility. Comm Liesinger noted that fire departments have asked why McCook County Search & Rescue is the only one that gets dispatched to watch severe storms. Mehlbrech said he would ask Brad (BJ) Stiefvater, Emergency Manager, about it and what determines who goes out.

Conflict of Interest: none noted.

Marc Dick joined the meeting.

Motion Heumiller to enter Executive Session at 8:45 a.m. for personnel discussion, SDCL 1-25-2 (1). Second Liesinger. Tasia Dass, HR Consultant, was present. Chairman Mehlbrech declared out of Executive Session at 9:20 a.m.

Travis Raap, Hwy Supt, presented a utility permit for approval. Motion Dick to approve an Electric Utility Permit for Southeastern Electric to install 1/0 URD for a new service, 930' N of intersection 445th Ave/254th St. Second Gordon. Motion carried. Raap reported that the public meeting for the McCook County Transportation Plan was held on September 15th. Motion Gordon to authorize Chairman Mehlbrech to sign the McCook County Transportation Plan Certification. Second Heumiller. Motion carried. Bridge #44-180-068 on 448th Ave (north of Montrose) was opened this morning. Raap asked the Board to accept a Harding County bid for Equipment Rental with Operator, for the road grinding project on 245th St. Harding County Commission accepted three bids due to the variance of equipment and prices submitted on each bid. Bidders included Steve Beylund Construction, Loiseau Construction Inc, and Melvin Miller Construction Inc. Motion Liesinger to accept bid provided by Loiseau Construction, Flandreau, for milling/reclaiming equipment rental with operator and grind with lay-back process. Second Dick. Motion carried. Raap informed the Board that in 2016, county-wide signing was completed with grant funds and within 12 years, all regulatory signs must be replaced, so over a 4-year time frame, the Hwy Dept will be replacing these signs. The county will be divided into 4 quadrants and signs will be replaced in one quadrant per year to spread the cost over four budget years. The total cost of this project is \$19,000, per year, with signs being purchased from Lyle Signs. The 2014 Cat 950K Loader was vandalized; police report and insurance claim filed. Current projects include mowing, hauling gravel, and fall spraying.

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

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

D25-027	George Weber	NW4 Ex Tr 1 & Tr 2 Weber's Add 10-102-53
D25-028	Rod Marten	SE4 4-104-56

Kreutzfeldt noted that the date and times are needed for two drainage hearings, Chase Family Farms and George Weber. Motion Liesinger to set October 14th at 9:45 a.m. for George Weber hearing and 9:50 a.m. for Chase Family Farms hearing. Second Gordon. Motion carried.

The Board reconvened as the Board of County Commissioners.

Motion Dick, second Heumiller, and carried, to pay claims: GENERAL FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 9/13/2025: Commissioners 2183.80; Auditor 6449.82; Treasurer 4858.23; States Attorney 3730.38; Custodian 1460.20; Dir of Equalization 4707.70; Register of Deeds 3718.37; Veterans Service Officer 944.54; Sheriff 16260.43; Contract Law 8974.47; Care of Poor 228.92; Welfare 303.66; Extension Secretary 1934.01; Drainage 190.50; Planning & Zoning 671.21. SD Dept of Revenue, SD Developmental Center-Redfield 60.00, TransAmerica Employee Benefits, September GAP billing, 4252.76; A&B Business, monthly copier contract, 82.97; AAA Collections, lien collection fees, 879.00; Avera McKennan Hospital, mental health hold, 3452.00; Central Farmers, unleaded gas, supplies, 235.34; Century Business Products, monthly copier contracts, 650.11; Chesterman Co., water, 132.00; Corporate Translation, translation services, 1.88; Dailey Law, court appointed-Charles Babcock, 600.00, Robert Zino, 891.00, Theresa Roebuck, 1421.00; Dakota Data Shred, shredding services, 105.02; Davison County Sheriff, August jail services, 11550.00; Mike Fink, August expenses, 819.22; Anna Flogstad, mileage & meals, 242.20; Galls LLC, 7 drug test kits, 2630.00; Gordon Flesch Company, 4 copier contracts, 222.61; Inter-Lakes Comm Action, Sept. CSW hours, 1107.58; Interstate Power System, maintenance & supplies for courthouse generator, 1054.95; Iron Wheel, snaked 2 sinks, 453.47; Jack's Uniforms, law enforcement clothing, 325.79; KW Electrical, installed 2 LED bulbs, 210.69; Lammers Kleibacker Dawson & Miller, court appointed attorney, Andrew Reha, 261.00, Andrew Reha, 237.00; Leads Online, total track investigation, 1801.00; Lewis Drug, prisoner care, 107.73; Lincoln County Auditor, reimburse mental health evaluation, 110.00; McCook County Wildlife Club, clay targets, 100.00; McLeod's Printing, tax notices, 365.00; MidAmerican Energy, utilities-courthouse & food pantry, 54.42; Minnehaha Co SD Juvenile Center, 7 days juvenile housing, 3484.60; Mitchell Regional 911, law enforcement traffic services, 3347.41; Motorola Solutions, wave ptx mobile apps, 143.00; Puthoff Sales & Service, supplies, 5.72; Laurie Schwans, mileage & meals, 246.20; SD Achieve dba Lifescape, service for 5 residents, 300.00; SD Public Health Laboratory, lab services, 500.00; SD Sheriff's Assn, uniform patches, 55.45; Sheraton Sioux Falls, lodging-VSO training, 330.00; Geralyn Sherman, mileage & break room supplies, 260.68; Melinda Songstad, grand jury transcription, 289.10; Tech Solutions, managed IT services, 3904.00; Xcel Energy, courthouse & food pantry utilities, 1181.53

COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 9/13/2025: Hwy Dept 25466.69; cell phone reimbursement 250.00. TransAmerica Employee Benefits, September GAP billing, 1493.57; Avera Occupational Medicine, employee drug screen, 37.70; Avera Medical Group, new hire physical, 88.00; Blackstrap, road salt, 3705.34; Central Farmers Coop, unleaded gas, Lp, 2009.26; Century Business Products, monthly copier contract, 148.03; Chesterman Co, water delivery, 39.00; Cole's Petroleum, diesel, 14655.00; Dustpods, road stabilizer, 17820.00; Gessner Welding & Repair, supplies, 184.90; IMEG Corp, engineering design & professional services, 17661.74; Knife River, G2 asphalt, 5813.28; Lyle Signs, road signs, 819.15; Michael Johnson Construction, concrete sand, 6511.01; MidAmerican Energy, utilities, 20.10; NAPA Auto Parts, supplies, 36.28; Northwestern Energy, utilities, 12.00; Pomp's Tire Service, supplies, 150.00; Puthoff Sales & Service, parts, 1942.49; Ramkota Hotel, conference lodging, 224.00; Salem Lumber, supplies, 106.25; Spencer Quarries, chips, 1436.58; Verizon Wireless, cell phone & iPad service, 79.73.

911 SERVICE FUND: Golden West Telecommunications, 911 telephone service, 200.00; Mitchell Regional 911, 3rd qtr. 911 services, 22316.06, capital fee for equipment improvements, 750.00; Motorola Solutions, wave ptx mobile app, 26.00; Sioux Valley Energy, radio tower utilities, 81.30.

EMERGENCY & DISASTER SERVICES FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 9/13/2025: EDS Director 1572.12. TransAmerica Employee Benefits, August GAP billing, 96.51.

24/7 SOBRIETY FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 9/13/2025: Sheriff Secretary/Dispatcher 230.78.

PAYROLL CONTRIBUTIONS – ALL FUNDS: 9/13/2025: Dir of IRS, county share of FICA 4931.28, Medicare 1153.28; SD Retirement System, county share of retirement contribution 4970.48; Wellmark BlueCross/BlueShield, county share of health insurance premium 23355.18.

TOTAL CLAIMS: \$141,023.87

Motion Dick to approve \$50,000 Cash Transfer from General Fund to EDS Fund. Second Gordon. Motion carried.

Motion Dick to convene as the Planning Commission. Second Heumiller. Motion carried.

At 10:30 a.m. the Board of Adjustment held a public hearing to receive input concerning a request for a variance. Applicant: James McGregor. Legal description: Tract 1 McGregor's Addition NE4 31-103-54. Reason: reduce setback from right-of-way to 35' for new construction. Anna Flogstad, Zoning Administrator, presented the application to the Board. Following discussion, motion Heumiller to approve the request for variance. Second Dick. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

At 10:40 a.m. the Board of Adjustment held a public hearing to receive input concerning a request for conditional use. Applicant: Jason Dabbert (present). Legal description: Tract 3 of Buckmiller's Addn in SE4 11-101-53. Reason: transfer building eligibility from NW Qtr Qtr to NE Qtr Qtr. Anna Flogstad, Zoning Administrator, presented the application to the Board. Following discussion, motion Dick to approve the request for conditional use. Second Gordon. All members voted aye. 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 showing Tract 1 of Hofer Addition in the Southeast Quarter of Section 4, Township 101 North, Range 55 West of the 5TH 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 23rd day of September 2025.

Chair, County Planning Commission
McCook County, South Dakota

The Board reconvened as Board of County Commissioners.

Matthew White, Dept of Legislative Audit, presented audit report findings of the financial statements of the County as of December 31, 2024, for years 2023 & 2024. No material violations of laws were noted. Immaterial violations include MH parcels weren't published as part of the Delinquent Tax List, distress warrants weren't issued on delinquent MH taxes, no tax certificates were created for the tax year 2020 pay 2021 and have not been issued, and tax deed procurement process not initiated after three years. White commended the Auditor's Office for their assistance during the audit process. Several department heads were present.

Amanda Smith, Family Heritage, met with the Commission to present options for cancer, accident, and heart & stroke insurance coverages, noting that she wasn't sure that she needed to present to them. The plans assist with indirect costs such as loss of wages (income replacement), co-pay costs, etc., and there is a return of premiums after 25 years. Smith added that the premiums are not a payroll deduction. Auditor Sherman asked Smith why she was meeting with the commissioners if the premiums are not payroll deductions. Sherman added that she's not comfortable with giving employee information out, but can include Smith's contact information in the next payroll. Several employees were present.

Auditor Sherman presented information re Colonial Life insurance policies from Mike Emery, Risty Benefits, to the Board. Types of policies include accident, cancer, critical illness, dental, disability, hospital confinement, and life. The Commission agreed that there is no need for them to hear about more insurance options and policies.

Auditor Sherman asked the Board if they'd like to have a representative from SD FIT attend a future meeting to provide them with investment information. The Commission isn't interested in having that conversation, they want to leave taxpayer dollars in our local banks.

Brief discussion was held re tax deed process. Present: Mark Norris, Sheriff, Laurie Schwans, Register of Deeds, and Carol Lauer, Treasurer. Schwans told the Board that they need to hire an abstract office to do the process. Norris added that his office receives tax deed information from the States Attorney. Lauer stated that the Commission will have it by the end of the year.

At 11:45 a.m. review of the 2026 Provisional Budget was held. Present: Mark Norris, Sheriff, Laurie Schwans, Register of Deeds, Anna Flogstad, Dir of Equalization/Zoning Administrator, and Tasia Dass, HR Consultant. Lauer stated that she wants something in writing on how pay is/has been determined for employees. Sherman noted that the Treasurer's budget does include another FT employee. Mehlbrech stated that no decision has been made on that yet, but the budget will be left as it is. Dass added that documentation is needed to show the need and that is being worked on with the Treasurer. Following review/discussion, the changes made from the publication of the 2025 Provisional Budget to the adoption of the 2025 Annual budget are: Additions: Hwy Dept \$150,000; Commission \$18,250; Sheriff Dept \$19,850; Contract Law \$10,500; and Ambulance \$67,036. Motion Heumiller, second Gordon, to adopt the 2026 Provisional Budget as the 2026 Annual Budget with changes noted, with adoption of the following resolution. Ayes: Heumiller, Gordon, Liesinger, Mehlbrech. Nay: Dick, because I want a paper trail/an accounting from McCook County Emergency Medical Services for where the funds are used. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2025-12

ANNUAL BUDGET FOR MCCOOK COUNTY, SD
For the Year January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026

ADOPTION OF ANNUAL BUDGET FOR McCook County, South Dakota

Whereas (7-21-5 thru 13), SDCL provides that the Board of County Commissioners shall each year prepare a Provisional Budget of all contemplated expenditures and revenues of the County and all its institutions and agencies for such fiscal year, and

Whereas the Board of County Commissioners did prepare a Provisional Budget and cause same to be published by law, and

Whereas due and legal notice has been given to the meeting of the Board of County Commissioners for the consideration of such Provisional Budget and all changes, eliminations and additions have been made thereto.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that such provisional budget as amended and all its purposes, schedules, appropriations, amounts, estimates and all matters therein set forth, SHALL BE APPROVED AND ADOPTED AS THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE APPROPRIATIONS AND EXPENDITURES FOR McCook County, South Dakota, and all its institutions and agencies for calendar year beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026 and the same is hereby approved and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of McCook County, South Dakota, this 23rd day of September, 2025.

The Annual Budget so adopted is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the office of the County Auditor, McCook County, South Dakota.

The accompanying taxes are levied by McCook County for the year January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026.

Total Taxes Levied by County: \$4,704,458
County Levy: 3.234/thousand

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF McCook County, South Dakota

_____ Chairman
_____ Commissioner
_____ Commissioner
_____ Commissioner
_____ Commissioner

ATTEST: _____ County Auditor

Tyler Ruhd, Infotech Solutions, met with the Board at the request of Auditor Sherman. Ruhd informed the Board that McCook County is already an Office365 customer, and questions regarding this have been directed to SecureSD. The County can get .gov through Infotech instead of being locked in with grant funds that will eventually be depleted, leaving the County with potentially higher

costs to maintain .gov emails; working through this with SecureSD. Kaylee DeVries, Sheriff Administrative Assistant, was present.

The Commission thanked Ruhd for his time and the update.

The meeting adjourned subject to call.

Dated 23rd day of September 2025.

Charles Mehlbrech _____
Chairman, McCook County Commission

ATTEST:

Geralyn Sherman _____
Auditor, McCook County