

December 23, 2025

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

Chairman Mehlbrech led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Mehlbrech called for approval of the agenda. Auditor Sherman noted an addition under Miscellaneous Items, a request for a lien compromise. Motion Gordon to approve the agenda with this addition noted. Second Liesinger. Motion carried.

The minutes from the December 9th meeting were sent to Board members for review prior to publication. Motion Dick to approve the minutes for publication. Second Gordon. Motion carried.

Public comments: none.

Commissioner Reports: Commissioners Mehlbrech & Heumiller attended Sioux Metro Growth Alliance (SMGA) meeting held on December 9th in Sioux Falls.

Conflict of Interest: none noted.

Travis Raap, Hwy Supt, informed the Board that he met with a representative from Geronimo (Grant Solar) to discuss a ground penetrating test on 446th Ave prior to construction beginning on the solar panel site, to determine the condition of the road. IMEG will be part of the discussion. Hwy Supt Raap presented an Application for Bridge Improvement Grant (BIG) Funds for 2026 to the Board for approval and adoption. Motion Gordon to approve the following resolution and authorize Chairman Mehlbrech to sign same. Second Liesinger. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2025-17

2026 Bridge Improvement Grant Program Resolution Authorizing Submission of Applications

WHEREAS, McCook County, South Dakota wishes to submit an application(s) for consideration of award for the Bridge Improvement Grant Program.

STRUCTURE NUMBER(S) AND LOCATION(S):

44-210-203 -West City Limit of Montrose, SD

and WHEREAS, McCook County, South Dakota certifies that the project(s) are listed in the county's Five-Year County Highway and Bridge Improvement Plan;

and WHEREAS, McCook County, South Dakota agrees to pay the 20% match on the Bridge Improvement Grant funds and 100% of ineligible expenses;

and WHEREAS, McCook County, South Dakota hereby authorizes the Bridge Improvement Grant application(s) and any required funding commitments.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the South Dakota Department of Transportation be and hereby is requested to accept the attached Bridge Improvement Grant application(s).

Vote of Commissioners/Council: Yes 5 No 0

Dated at Salem, SD, 23rd day of December 2025.

ATTEST:

County Auditor

Chairman

Hwy Supt Raap asked for a motion to declare 2 law enforcement vehicles surplus property and approve sale of same through Purple Wave Auction on January 20, 2026. Motion Liesinger to declare 2017 Ford Explorer, fixed asset #1054, and 2018 Ford Explorer, fixed asset #1066, as surplus property as they are no longer usable for purpose acquired, and sell them through Purple Wave Auction. Second Dick. Motion carried. Raap informed the Board that McCormick Motors can order a 2026 Ford F250 pickup, for

\$49,990, which is below the expenditure amount requiring a bid letting. Motion Heumiller to approve this purchase. Second Liesinger. Motion carried. Raap reported that scrap tin from the fairgrounds has been hauled to the Hwy Dept yard.

Motion Gordon to enter Executive Session at 9:20 a.m. for personnel discussion, SDCL 1-25-2 (1). Second Liesinger. Tasia Dass, HR Consultant, and Geralyn Sherman, Auditor, were present. Auditor Sherman left Executive Session at 9:40 a.m. Chairman Mehlbrech declared out of Executive Session at 10:00 a.m.

Motion Heumiller to amend Overtime Policy, adopting new policy verbiage. Second Dick. Motion carried. The amended overtime policy will be included with 12/24/25 payroll direct deposit statements.

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the County Planning Commission of McCook County, South Dakota, that the plat showing the same shall be known and described as Tracts A, B, and C of Ortman Addition in the Northeast Quarter of Section 33, Township 101 North, Range 54 West of the 5TH Principal Meridian, McCook County, South Dakota, having been examined, is approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL 1967, Chapter 11-6, and any amendments thereof.

Adopted 23rd day of December 2025.

Chair, County Planning Commission
McCook County, South Dakota

The Board reconvened as Board of County Commissioners.

In other business, Anna Flogstad, Dir of Equalization, informed the Board that SDCL requires that the median level of property assessment for taxation purposes must represent 85% of the property's market value. This requirement is governed by SDCL 10-3-41 and related statutes within Title 10, which address taxation. **Market Value:** properties in SD are initially assessed at their "full and true" market value. **Taxable Value:** the market value is then equalized to 85% to determine the property's taxable value. This is the value to which local tax levies (tax rate) are applied. **Equalization:** the SD Dept of Revenue determines an annual equalization factor for each county to ensure the 85% standard is met across different property classes (agricultural and non-agricultural). If a county's assessments fall below this 85% threshold, a factor greater than 1.0 may be applied to raise the valuation to the statutory minimum. This 85% level is a key standard for ensuring fair and uniform property taxation across different counties and properties within SD. **McCook County sales ratio was 70% last year and our factor was 1.23.** Flogstad noted that non-ag property will see an increase. Steps are being taken to ensure that the 85% assessment level is met based on market value. Some areas of the county will see an increase in their assessment values this year.

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

Steve Dick and Mic Kreutzfeldt, Drainage Administrator, met with the Commission to inform them that Steve Dick has accepted the employment offer for Drainage Administrator. Tasia Dass, HR Coordinator, and Mike Fink, States Attorney, were present. Dick provided background information about himself, noting previous and current jobs that he held/holds. Dick also disclosed local family relations. Motion Gordon to appoint Steve Dick as Drainage Administrator, effective 12/23/2025, pay rate \$30/hour. Discussed adjusting drainage permit fees in 2026. Kreutzfeldt noted that the fee has been \$100 since 2004. No fee is charged for routine maintenance drainage applications. Auditor Sherman asked if fees were noted in the Drainage Ordinance and if so, are hearings required to make changes. States Attorney Fink noted that Section 203 does reference the fee to be charged for filing drainage applications. Hearings will have to be held to change the fee/s to be charged. The Board thanked Kreutzfeldt for his years of service.

Board reconvened as Board of County Commissioners.

Auditor Sherman informed the Board that an 18-month CD, CD #97771, at Security State Bank, Montrose, was renewed at 3.65% rate.

Auditor Sherman presented the 2026 Memorandum of Understanding between SDSU and McCook County to the Board. No action was taken. The MOU will be placed on January 13, 2026, meeting agenda.

Auditor Sherman presented the 2026 Animal Control Services and Impoundment Facility Operation Agreement between the SF Area Humane Society and McCook County to the Board. The County will pay a flat rate of \$200 per month for services. Motion Gordon to authorize Chairman Mehlbrech to sign the agreement. Second Dick. Motion carried.

Auditor Sherman and the Board reviewed the Care of Poor Report for November & December, and the list of lien payments received in November. A Notice of Hospitalization was received from Avera Queen of Peace Hospital (2025-12). An individual who received a disconnection notice from Xcel Energy picked up an Application for Energy Assistance and an Application for County Assistance, neither application has been returned.

Auditor Sherman presented a request for a lien compromise from Cayla Sederstrom to the Board. Following discussion of the request, motion Dick to not compromise the lien. Second Heumiller. Motion carried.

Motion Gordon, second Heumiller, and carried, to pay claims: GENERAL FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 12/20/2025: Commissioners 2183.80; Auditor 6325.48; Treasurer 5492.90; States Attorney 3730.38; Custodian 1460.20; Dir of Equalization 4707.69; Register of Deeds 3710.78; Veterans Service Officer 341.40; Sheriff 16659.14; Contract Law 8443.51; Care of Poor 228.92; Welfare 569.36; Extension Secretary 1556.10; Drainage, 152.49; Planning & Zoning 671.21. TransAmerica Employee Benefits, December GAP billing, 4156.25; 2026 Grand Jury fees & mileage, 1041.80. AAA Collections, lien collection fee, 60.63; Avera McKennan Hospital, mental health hold, 873.00; Darin K Construction, counter updates, 1548.21; Dept. of Legislative Audit, audit for 2023 and 2024, 19313.60; G & R Controls, check operation of snow melt system, 290.70; Infotech Solutions, computers, 9399.93; Isaac Kipp, mileage, 78.60; Lammers Kleibacker Dawson & Miller, court appointed attorney for Edward Merrill Brother of All, 788.00; Lincoln County Auditor, reimburse mental health evaluations & hearings, 612.00; McLeod's Printing, office supplies, 65.96; Morgan Law PLLC, court appointed attorney for William Escobar, 468.00; Morgan Theeler LLP, court appointed attorney for Zachary Iron Cloud Goings, 609.00, Joelynn Herbranson, 695.00; Motorola Solutions, mobile PTX apps, 143.00; ODP Business Solutions, office supplies, 839.47; Peters Distributing, alarm monitoring, 662.28; Salem City, bulk water, 264.50; Sioux Falls Area Humane Society, care of 3 stray kittens dropped off by private citizen, 186.00; Sunset Law Enforcement, ammunition, 2207.30; James D Taylor, 2025 mental health matters, 2016.75; TNT Tree Service, snow removal, 540.00; Trittech Software Systems, annual maintenance, 8886.55; Two Way Solutions, labor, 144.00; US Postal Service, envelopes for tax notices, 2700.60; Dava A Wermers, court appointed attorney for juvenile, 205.75.

COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 12/20/2025: Hwy Dept 30259.27. TransAmerica Employee Benefits, December GAP billing, 1636.15; Detco Industries, shop supplies, 485.96; Equipment Blades Inc, 8 blades, 6400.00; Infotech Solutions, computers, 2899.98; Iron Wheel Heating Cooling, tube heating system, 10821.45; Loiseau Construction, layback, 8084.25; Mac's-SF, supplies, 145.50; Northwestern Energy, utilities, 53.57; Ryan's Repair, truck blade, 3479.60; Salem City, bulk water, 82.90; SD Dept. of Transportation, share bridge inspection costs, 387.71; Southeastern Electric, utilities, 45.42; Spencer Quarries, chips, 55970.70.

911 SERVICE FUND: Motorola Solutions, Wave PTX mobile app, 26.00; Sioux Valley Energy, radio tower utilities, 81.75.

EMERGENCY & DISASTER SERVICES FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 12/20/2025: EDS Director 1572.12. TransAmerica Employee Benefits, December GAP billing, 96.51.

24/7 SOBRIETY FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 12/20/2025: Sheriff Secretary/Dispatcher 239.76.

RURAL ACCESS INFRASTRUCTURE FUND: Greenland Township, 2nd half payments for project 44-1904-1613, 2728.00.

PAYROLL CONTRIBUTIONS – ALL FUNDS: 12/20/2025: Dir of IRS, county share of FICA 5182.90, Medicare 1212.11; SD Retirement System, county share of retirement contribution 5256.28; Wellmark BlueCross/BlueShield, county share of health insurance contribution, 25682.84.

TOTAL CLAIMS: \$145,291.62.

Motion Heumiller to approve Cash Transfers from General Fund as follows: Opioid Fund \$12,383.00 and Hwy Road & Bridge Fund \$750,000.00. Second Gordon. Motion carried.

Motion Heumiller, second Gordon, and carried, to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 2025-17

Whereas insufficient appropriations were made in the 2025 budget to discharge just obligations of said appropriation.

Whereas SDCL 7-21-32.2 provides that transfers may be made by Resolution of the Board from the Contingency appropriation established pursuant to SDCL 7-21-6.1 to other appropriations.

Therefore, be it resolved that the appropriation of \$28,900.00 be transferred from the General Fund Contingency to the following budgets: Commission 19,000.00; Treasurer 8,000.00; States Attorney 1,000.00; Director of Equalization 500.00; Weed 300.00; and Court Appointed Attorney 100.00.

Dated 23rd day of December 2025.

Charles Mehlbrech _____
Chairman, McCook County Commission

ATTEST:

Geralyn Sherman _____
Auditor, McCook County

Discussion regarding the School Resource Officer Agreement with school districts was held. Present: Mark Norris, Sheriff, Anna Misar, Deputy Sheriff/SRO, Tasia Dass, HR Consultant, Mike Fink, States Attorney, Becky Hoiten, Deputy Auditor, Matt Alley & Kathy Kaufmann, McCook Central School, Jamie Miller, Canistota School, Zach Campbell (by phone) Canistota School, Lonny Johnson & Makenzie Miles, Montrose School, Lori Jansen, Bridgewater/Emery School. This meeting was scheduled due to concerns raised about the increase in costs to the schools. Superintendent Alley noted that the schools have questions regarding how the numbers were determined and would like clarification of the daily rate and # of days being paid for. Business Manager Kaufmann noted that 2080 hours is full year of employment, adding that it looks like each school is paying for both SROs. Supt Campbell noted that Canistota School can continue with 2 days vs 3 days, due to increased costs. Supt Alley added that the schools are charged 75% of the SRO salary & benefits for an entire year, instead of the days that the SRO's are actually in the schools. HR Consultant Dass explained the process used for determining the daily rate and the number of days. Supt Alley asked if schools are paying for days that they are not in session, not sure the 75%/25% breakdown is fair. Comm Heumiller asked if the schools need the county, can they do it (hire a school resource officer) on their own? Sheriff Norris noted that he thought the schools were charged an hourly rate like the cities for contracted law services. No. Comm Mehlbrech noted that the County can re-figure using costs per day, per officer, and actual days in each school, but the schools also need to do some of their own research on SROs within other school districts as well as letting the Commission know what they believe would be fair regarding the SRO Memorandum of Understanding. This discussion will continue January 13th, at 11:30 a.m., during the Commission meeting.

The meeting adjourned subject to call.

Dated 23rd day of December 2025.

Charles Mehlbrech _____
Chairman, McCook County Commission

ATTEST:

Geralyn Sherman _____
Auditor, McCook County