

January 27, 2026

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

Members present: Charles Liesinger, Chuck Mehlbrech, Marc Dick, and Tom Heumiller.

Chairman Gordon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Gordon called for approval of the agenda. Auditor Sherman noted that Laurie Schwans, Reg of Deeds, asked to be added to the agenda. Motion Heumiller to approve the agenda, adding Schwans at noon. Second Dick. Motion carried.

The minutes from the January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting were sent to Board members for review prior to publication. Motion Mehlbrech to approve the minutes for publication. Second Heumiller. Motion carried.

Public comments were provided by Barb Hoiten, Gloria Rayman, and Doreen Quinn.

Commissioner Reports: Comm Mehlbrech asked Commission members to consider attending the Southeast Central District Meeting scheduled to be held in Brule County on February 11<sup>th</sup>. This is a good way to connect with other county commissioners and discuss issues affecting counties. Comm Liesinger attended the Southeast Enterprise Facilitation Project (SEFP) meeting and noted that Salem City is no longer a member of this organization. Mehlbrech noted that the city is working with someone else regarding economic development, and are no longer a member of Sioux Metro Growth Alliance either.

Conflict of Interest: none noted.

Travis Raap, Hwy Supt, and Dylan Warren, Hwy Dept Operations Manager, met with the Commission. Hwy Supt Raap presented information from States Attorney, Mike Fink, to the Board, regarding what a governmental entity can do if crops are planted in the right-of-way. There is a recent Attorney General Opinion related to this subject. Raap noted that notices have been and will be published in the newspaper and included with tax bill mailings. SDCL 31-32-9 provides that the County's remedy is to remove the obstruction and recover the cost in a civil action. Right-of-way markers will be installed beginning in March. Raap reported that 3 vehicles were sold through Purple Wave Auction: 2017 Ford Explorer \$1550.00, 2018 Ford Explorer \$1400.00, and 2013 Ford F150 XLT Crew Cab Pickup \$1550.00. Raap asked the Board to set a date and time for gravel crushing bid letting. Motion Liesinger to set 10:00 a.m., March 9<sup>th</sup>, as time for gravel crushing bid letting. Second Dick. Motion carried. Raap presented a bridge inspection resolution to the Board for approval and Chairman signature. Motion Liesinger, second Dick, carried, to adopt resolution 2026-02.

Bridge Inspection Program Resolution 2026-02  
For Use with SDDOT Retainer Contracts

WHEREAS, 23 CFR 650 Subpart C, requires initial inspection of all bridges and reinspection at intervals not to exceed two years with the exception of reinforced concrete box culverts that meet specific criteria. These culverts are reinspected at intervals not to exceed four years.

THEREFORE, McCook County is desirous of participating in the Bridge Inspection Program.

The County requests SDDOT to hire IMEG Consultants Corp. (Consulting Engineers) for the inspection work. SDDOT will secure federal approvals, make payments to the Consulting Engineer for inspection services rendered, and bill the County for 20% of the cost. The County will be responsible for the required 20% matching funds.

Dated this 27<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026, at Salem, South Dakota.

Board of County Commissioners of McCook County

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Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

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County Auditor

Motion Dick to enter Executive Session at 9:35 a.m. for personnel discussion, SDCL 1-25-2 (1). Second Mehlbrech. Motion carried. Tasia Dass, HR Consultant, and Travis Raap, Hwy Supt, were present. Chairman Gordon declared out of Executive Session at 9:55 a.m.

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

Steve Dick, Drainage Administrator, informed the Board that a drainage hearing has been requested by Bernard Stockwell because not all downstream landowners have signed off on his drainage permit application in the SW4, Section 25, Spring Valley Twp. Motion Liesinger to set 11:00 a.m., February 24<sup>th</sup>, as time for a drainage hearing. Second Dick. Motion carried.

Motion Heumiller to convene as Planning Commission. Second Mehlbrech. Motion carried.

Anna Flogstad, Dir of Equalization/Zoning Administrator, presented 2 plats for approval. Following review of the 1<sup>st</sup> plat review form, motion Heumiller to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> plat. Second Liesinger. Motion carried.

Be It Resolved by the County Planning Commission of McCook County, South Dakota, that the plat showing Tract 1 of Bies Addition in the Northwest Quarter of Section 22, Township 103 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 of 1967, Chapter 11-6, and any amendments thereof.

Adopted this 27<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.

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Chairman, County Planning Commission  
McCook County, South Dakota

Following review of the 2<sup>nd</sup> plat review form, motion Liesinger to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> plat. Second Heumiller. Motion carried.

Be It Resolved by the Board of Commissioners of McCook County, South Dakota, that the plat known and described as Tracts 3 and 4 of Weber's Addition to McCook County, South Dakota, as located in the East Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 10, Township 102 North, Range 53 West of the 5th P. M., is hereby approved and that the auditor is hereby directed to endorse on such plat a copy of this resolution and certify the same thereon. We, the County Planning Commission for McCook County, South Dakota, do hereby certify that this plat has been reviewed by me or under my direction and has been approved.

Adopted this 27<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.

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Chairman, County Planning Commission  
McCook County, South Dakota

Zoning Administrator Flogstad reviewed information from Ledcor with the Commission regarding a request for zoning requirements for an upcoming Fiber-Optic ILA (Integrated Line Amplifier) shelter project within McCook County. MMI (Middle Mile Infrastructure) are building Integrated Line Amplifier stations (ILA) to boost the signal for their private fiber network to provide a quality signal for between their Data Centers. Flogstad noted that the zoning regulations and a zoning map were sent to Ledcor. After consulting with SECOG, there is no specific use currently in the county's zoning regulations that would directly resemble an exact project such as this, but it would fall under a utility or communications project in the AG district, and would need a Conditional Use Permit before proceeding.

The Board reconvened as Board of County Commissioners.

Laurie Schwans, Register of Deeds, met with the Commission to let them know that she would like to scan documents/books in her office and funds are available in the Modernization & Preservation Fund to do this. The quote from MIS (Microfilm Imaging Systems) to come on site for this project is \$53,000. The quote to take the books off-site (Sioux City) is \$42,000. The Commissioners do not like the option of taking books off-site. Schwans noted her agreement. Auditor Sherman noted that a bid letting must be held if a project cost is over \$50,000 and suggested that Rod Fortin, Dept of Legislative Audit, be contacted before moving forward with this.

Motion Mehlbrech, second Liesinger, and carried, to pay claims: GENERAL FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll by Department: 1/17/2026: Commissioners 2293.00; Auditor 6642.12; Treasurer 5888.45; States Attorney 3916.90; Custodian 1533.00; Dir of Equalization 4879.54; Register of Deeds 3765.28; Veterans Service Officer 384.00; Sheriff 16245.12; \*new hire, Austin Uhrich, Uncertified Deputy Sheriff, \$21.71/hour\*; Contract Law 9472.36; Care of Poor 240.37; Welfare 500.94; Extension Secretary 1633.80; Drainage 410.66; Planning & Zoning 767.88. Transamerica Employee Benefits, January contribution-GAP coverage, 4156.25; Certified Languages Inc, interpreting services, 41.25; Devy Alvizures, interpreter services, 212.50; Steve Dick, mileage, 21.70; GR-Emergency

Vehicle Outfitters, radar cable, 225.00; InfoTech Solutions, Managed IT services, 3333.00; Jack's Uniforms, name plate, 24.94; Kansas Highway Patrol, 2 Dodge Durango's & accessories, 77650.00; Lammers Kleibacker Dawson & Miller, court appointed for Yvonne Cates, 2109.00; McLeod's Printing, assessment notices, 279.90. traffic tickets, 141.22, date stamp, 71.85; Mitchell Regional 911, annual fee for traffic services, 14509.11; Motorola Solutions, wave PTX mobile apps, 143.00; ODP Business Solutions, office supplies, 771.06; RBS Sanitation, food pantry garbage service, 115.20, courthouse 111.46; Roesler Construction, front door repairs, 438.32.

COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 1/17/2026: Hwy Dept 26904.34. \*New hire, Shawn Lupkes, \$23.00/hour; Hwy Maintenance Worker\*. Townships & Cities, 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr. 2025 wheel tax collections, 7061.42; Transamerica Employee Benefits, January contribution-GAP coverage, 1645.75; Avera Occupational Medicine, drug screen for new hire, 151.00; Crafc0, Inc., supplies, 1173.56; Equipment Blades, parts, 968.80; Infotech Solutions, computer supplies, 381.97; Northwestern Energy, utilities, 85.96; Novo Solutions, 1<sup>st</sup> year annual subscription fee, migration of data, training, 11152.00; Pheasantland Industries, clothing, 174.64; Salem Body Shop, 2020 Ford F250 repairs, 885.15; SD Dept. of Transportation, bridge inspection, 789.88; Spencer Quarries, chips, 5305.79.

911 EMERGENCY REPORTING SYSTEM FUND: Mitchell Regional 911, capital fee-equipment upgrades, 3000.00, 911 services (95% of surcharge collections), 8037.51; Motorola Solutions, wave PTX mobile app, 26.00; Sioux Valley Energy, radio tower utilities 81.30.

EMERGENCY & DISASTER SERVICES FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 1/17/2026: EDS Director 1650.73. Transamerica Employee Benefits, January contribution-GAP coverage, 96.51.

24/7 SOBRIETY FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 1/17/2026: Sheriff Secretary/Dispatcher 239.76. Pharmchem, patch kits, 575.67.

RURAL ACCESS INFRASTRUCTURE: approved culvert projects: Canistota Township, 44-1408-1417 ½ RAIF for 2026, 9600.00; Greenland Township, 44-2299-1302, 41,000.00, 44-1903-1378, ½ RAIF for 2026, 25,500.00; Pearl Township, 44-0198-0554 ½ RAIF for 2026, 20000.00; Ramsey Township, 44-2195-0545, ½ RAIF for 2026, 20000.00; Salem Township, 44-1146-1213, ½ RAIF for 2026, 44000.00; Spring Valley Township, 44-2128-2213, ½ RAIF for 2026, 4800.00.

PAYROLL CONTRIBUTIONS – ALL FUNDS: 1/17/2026: Dir of IRS, county share of FICA 5124.86, Medicare 1198.52; SD Retirement System, county share of retirement contribution, 5132.90; Wellmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield of SD, county share of health insurance contribution 25682.84.

TOTAL CLAIMS: \$298,617.56

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

Auditor Sherman noted that the SRO discussion today is to let the Board know that the schools won't be responding to the hourly rate of billing for SRO hours until after their respective school boards meet in February. Tasia Dass, HR Consultant, and Matt Alley, McCook Central School District, were present. Supt Alley asked what SRO duties the schools will be billed for, for example, patrolling the school zones. Dass noted that the duties need to be worked out between the SRO and school Supt as to what's expected. Supt Alley asked if the County will be covering more costs with the schools paying an hourly rate. Currently, we don't know because the number of hours that the SRO logs for a school will determine what the school will pay. Each of the schools has gone over the days allowed in the current agreement, but haven't been billed for those hours.

Auditor Sherman presented a letter from the SD Dept of Public Safety, Wildland Fire Division, regarding the appointment of a designee who can request county rangeland fire suppression assistance. Sherman noted that the Board adopted an on-going resolution in 2022, and she will send it to the contact person, if so approved. Motion Heumiller to send a copy of the resolution adopted in 2022 showing that Brad (BJ) Stiefvater Jr is the appointed designee for McCook County until replaced. Second Liesinger. Motion carried.

The SEFP Facilitator January Report provided 2025 statistics. The 2026 Regional Career Fair will be held on March 5<sup>th</sup> at Parker School District.

Auditor Sherman presented the following abatement applications to the Board for approval. Abatement #1, parcel 15.05.1000, Starlyn Church, reason-Assessor error-incorrect acres. Amount abated: \$89.36. Abatement #2, parcel 17.80.7404, Jocelyn Cartwright, reason-MH tax paid in prior year. Amount abated: \$134.06. Abatement #7, Troy & Jordyn Hofer, parcel, 09.10.4001, reason-special assessments. Amount abated: \$985.64. Abatement #8, Troy & Jordyn Hofer, parcel 09.10.4001, reason-MH tax paid in prior year. Amount abated: \$827.72. Motion Liesinger to approve the abatements and authorize Chairman Gordon to sign same. Second Dick. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned subject to call.

Dated this 27<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.

Steve Gordon \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, McCook County Commission

ATTEST:

Geralyn Sherman \_\_\_\_\_  
Auditor, McCook County