

March 9, 2026

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

Chairman Gordon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Public comments: none.

Commissioner Reports: none.

Conflict of Interest: none.

Prior to the continuation of the drainage hearing bids for gravel crushing were opened as advertised. Travis Raap, Hwy Supt, and Dylan Warren, Hwy Dept Operations Foreman, were present. Hwy Supt Raap informed the Board that Kevin Kueter resigned his position with the Hwy Dept. effective immediately.

At 10:00 a.m. the bid letting for Gravel Crushing was held as advertised. The following bids were received: Bowes Construction, Brookings, \$2.80/ton, First Rate Excavate, SF, \$4.15/ton, Pro Crush LLC, Olivet, \$2.60/ton, and Rechnagel Construction, Hurley, \$2.55/ton. Motion Liesinger to award bid to Rechnagel Construction. Second Dick. Motion carried.

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

At 11:00 a.m. the public hearing that was held on February 24th to receive input concerning a request to drain property was continued to today's meeting. Applicant: Bernard Stockwell. Permit #D25-044. Legal description of area to be drained: SW4 25-101-53. Location of outlet(s) of proposed drain: SW4SE4 25-101-53. Steve Dick, Drainage Administrator, noted that the initial drainage hearing was requested by Bernard Stockwell because not all downstream landowners signed off on the drainage permit application. Drainage Admin Dick noted that Dave Even and Spring Valley Twp did sign off on the application. Anna Flogstad, Zoning Administrator/Dir of Equalization, and other interested parties were present. Dave Even asked about blue-line streams. Drainage Admin Dick noted that blue-line streams are no longer referenced in the ordinance. Even asked if the outlet is 12" or 15", adding that he will rescind his approval if the water isn't kept moving. TJ Kaffar clarified that a 15" outlet is noted on the application. Comm Dick: we cannot address what ifs. Attorney Kiera Leddy, representing Eitreim & Arens, noted that she pulled vested drainage rights filed within this project area and would like to propose that ditch clean out be a condition of this permit, if approved. Comm Dick asked when they would like this to be done. States Attorney, Mike Fink, joined the meeting. Atty Leddy: clean out ditch when tiling project is done. Kaffar noted that lidar maps don't show any depressions, and agreed to clean out ditch on Eitreim side. Comm Dick asked Kaffar if he'd be willing to maintain the ditch. Kaffar said he can't answer for Stockwell. Atty Leddy asked about closing the ditch. St Atty Fink asked if bottom level of ditch would be changed. Kaffar: no. Atty Leddy voiced concerns with this process, inconsistent plans, property rights, responsible water management, and applicant history of dishonesty. Comm Mehlbrech: too many variables. Comm Liesinger: the tiling project will reduce surface water and erosion. Motion Dick to approve the drainage permit application with condition that ditch S of the road be cleaned out and required parties complete routine maintenance permits as part of the process. Comm Liesinger asked if a one-time cleanout is sufficient. Comm Dick: review project every so many years. Even: review every 5 years. Atty Leddy: Eitreims are ok with this. Drainage Admin Dick asked if county needs maintenance permit applications from landowners? Yes. Comm Dick added the following to his motion: the clean-out is to be inspected every 5 years by the drainage administrator. Second Liesinger. Ayes: Heumiller, Liesinger, Dick, Gordon. Nay: Mehlbrech. Motion carried. Atty Leddy: Eitreim's would like to use a different tiler. Is that ok? Commission: No. Kaffar: I do work with new technology. Comm Dick: there is a civil process available if individuals are not satisfied with the Commission decision.

The meeting adjourned subject to call.

Dated this 9th day of March 2026.

Steve Gordon _____
Chairman, McCook County Commission

ATTEST:

Geralyn Sherman _____
Auditor, McCook County