

July 14, 2026

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

Members present: Charles Liesinger, Tom Heumiller, Marc Dick, and Chuck Mehlbrech. Tom Tott, Commissioner Elect, was present.

Chairman Gordon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Gordon called for approval of the agenda. Auditor Sherman noted the addition of a budget supplement for the Modernization & Preservation (M&P) Fund because books from the Register of Deeds office were scanned with no budget to do the work, so a formal budget supplement needs to be done. Motion Liesinger to approve the agenda with addition noted. Second Dick. Motion carried.

The minutes from June 25th meeting were sent to Board members for review prior to publication. Motion Liesinger to approve these minutes for publication. Second Heumiller. Motion carried.

Barb Hoiten provided public comment.

Commissioner Reports: Heumiller attended South Eastern Council of Governments (SECOG) meeting in SF. Liesinger attended a joint meeting with Southeast Enterprise Facilitation Project and Sioux Metro Growth Alliance via Zoom.

Conflict of Interest: none noted.

Travis Raap, Hwy Supt, met with the Commission. Clarence Waldner, Meadow View Colony, met with the Board to voice concerns about verbiage in the road haul agreement for proposed hog barn near Bridgewater. Clarence noted several issues with the Road Haul Agreement. The colony does not have a scale to weigh trucks, as noted in agreement. If colony ruins road, responsible for repairs. Colony is not the only one who uses 261st St, need to change to colony will assist with repairs. Waldner asked if county is aware of a program in that the colony can ask Dept of Revenue to send McCook County and township/s taxes paid by the colony for materials. This could be done instead of the colony paying for repairs. No guarantee that the request would be approved. They will work with Hwy Supt on these issues. Hwy Supt Raap presented a utility permit to the Board for approval. Motion Liesinger to approve Communications Utility Permit for Golden West Telecommunications. Scope of project: parallel road to extend mainline. Location of installation: beginning at intersection of 255th St & 453rd Ave, N 2665'. Second Dick. Motion carried. Raap reported that bridge inspections show two bridges in bad condition (44-123-190 and 44-210-103) and he'd like to apply for grant assistance for repairs. Motion Liesinger to approve applying for federal bridge replacement grants. Second Dick. Motion carried. Current projects include chip sealing.

In other business, Hwy Supt Raap, the Commissioners, and St Atty Fink discussed deeding a 2A gravel pit in NW4 of Section 19, Grant Twp, to Dale and Janet Becker, as they own land around this 2A site which is in the name of McCook County. Parcel 15.19.2000. Motion Dick to approve County Deed to Dale K and Janet K Becker Joint Trust. Legal description: that certain tract of land containing two acres in NW4, 19-101-54, described as beginning at a point 365' N and 67' W of center of Section 19, thence W 295', thence N 295', thence E 295', thence S 295', to the place of beginning, also described as, Lot No 1 of the NW4 of Section 19, 101-54. Second Liesinger. Motion carried.

Mark Norris, Sheriff, Shane Johnson, Sheriff Elect, Mike Fink, States Attorney, Tasia Dass, HR Consultant, and Trudy Billion, HR Consultant, met with the Commissioners to review and discuss law enforcement budgets including Sheriff, Contract Law, Jail, Juvenile Detention, and 24/7. Dass introduced Trudy Billion who will fill the role of HR Consultant for McCook County because Dass has taken on a new role with Alternative HR. Laurie Schwans, Register of Deeds, and Annette VanEmmerik, Auditor Elect, were also present. Auditor Sherman informed the Board that Supt Zach Campbell, Canistota School, did contact her regarding the termination of the SRO program. The unapproved minutes from the June 16th commission meeting were sent to each of the school superintendents. Discussion began with States Attorney Fink asking the Board about moving the position of investigator to the States Attorney office.

Norris asked how many deputies there will be, if there is no SRO program. Shane Johnson introduced himself to the Board and asked if an investigator is moved to the St Atty office, does the budget move also? Yes. Sheriff Elect Johnson: don't want to lose FTE to St Atty office, and if SRO program goes, law enforcement still must respond to calls. Comm Heumiller asked Johnson how many deputies the county needs. Johnson stated he'd like to keep 8 deputies, but needs a log listing 'calls for service' which would provide data allowing him to make an informed decision. Comm Heumiller: I-90 coverage costs the county. St Atty Fink: no city officers in McCook County. Norris: we have a duty to respond. Contract Law estimated revenue from the cities for 2027 is \$240,000 with budget expenditures totaling \$571,455. Norris noted that 2 new vehicles won't be needed and if an investigator moves to St Atty budget, it's a wash. Heumiller asked who's leaving and who's staying? The 2026 estimated revenue from school districts for the SRO program was \$57,000; actual revenue \$33,426, because Montrose dropped out prior to the end of the school year. Heumiller: in 2025 schools received \$91,471 in fines, county gets the bills and the schools get the revenue, not right. No budget decisions were made. Board asked Auditor Sherman to schedule an executive session on July 30th for personnel discussion regarding law enforcement.

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

Isaac Kipp, Staff Appraiser, presented 2 plats for approval. Following review of the 1st plat review form, motion Mehlbrech to approve the plat. Second Liesinger. Motion carried.

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.

Be it resolved by the Board of Commissioners of McCook County, South Dakota, that the plat known and described as Tracts 1A and 2A of Zimmer's Addition in the West Half of the Southeast Quarter and in the East Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 27, Township 103 North, Range 53 West, 5th P. M., McCook County, South Dakota, 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.

Adopted this 14th day of July 2026.

Chairperson, McCook County Planning Commission

Following review of the 2nd plat review form, motion Liesinger to approve the plat. Second Dick. Motion carried.

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.

Be it resolved by the Board of Commissioners of McCook County, South Dakota, that the plat known and described as Tract 1 of Rosemont Valley Farm Addition to McCook County, South Dakota, as located in the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 22, Township 103 North, Range 53 West, 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.

Adopted this 14th day of July 2026.

Chairperson, McCook County Planning Commission

Laurie Schwans, Register of Deeds, met with the Commission to review 2027 budget request. Schwans noted that she wants the same hourly rate for her deputy of 2 years as the deputy auditor with 16 years of service between the Treasurer and Auditor departments. Tasia Dass, HR Consultant, and Trudy Billion, HR Consultant, were present. Dass explained that the Pay Plan includes work experience and tenure, along with job duties of the position. Auditor Sherman asked about contacting Infotech to get the email address changed to the .gov Domain. Schwans said she won't change because the company that she rents computer equipment from says she's secure, and it will be a hassle. Comm Mehlbrech noted that the upgrade was to be completed due to cyber security concerns.

Auditor Sherman informed the Board that a formal budget supplement is needed for the Modernization & Preservation Fund because the scanning of books in the Register of Deeds Office, completed by Microfilm Imaging System, wasn't budgeted for, there's cash but no budget to pay for the project. Motion Liesinger to hold a public hearing on July 30, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. to consider adoption of a Supplemental Budget, \$30,000, for 2026 for the M&P Fund. Second Dick. Motion carried.

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

Coleen Hoffman, Executive Director, and Brooke Davis, Rural Outreach, Safe Place of Eastern South Dakota met with the Board to provide information about their services and educational programs noting that they started serving McCook County residents in 2024. Safe Place is requesting a \$3500 appropriation in the 2027 budget. No decision was made at this time.

Auditor Sherman presented an inquiry from Kidwell Inc (corporate office in Lincoln NE) to schedule a time to come to the courthouse, to check out sound system options for the Community Room and provide the Board with a quote. Consensus is to wait until January 2027 when the new board members are in office to make the decision about an audio/visual system.

The following building permits were issued in June 2026:

26-039	Cory & Erin Faber	new home	Tr2 Cedar Bluffs Add NE 22-102-53
26-040	Gerald & Jayne Eichacker	80x54 cattle barn	NE4 25-104-55
26-041	Harold & Diane Ericksen	new house	Tr2 Ericksen's Add E2NE4 27-102-53
26-042	Howard & Cheryl Trautmann	gazebo	S2SW4SW4 Ex RR & Hwy 32-102-56
26-043	Lois Hofer	2 grain bins	S2SE4 6-102-55
26-044	Bryant Hofer	grain bin 48x7 rings	W2SW4 20-103-54
26-045	Kristi Gillen	shop 32x48	Lot 6 of Tr 2A Erikson's Add NE4NE4 14-101-53
26-046	Ferlyn & Karen Hofer	garage 26x30	SE4SE4SE4 & SE4NW4SE4SE4 & E2SW4SE4SE4 & S2NE4SE4SE4 Ex Tract 1 Hofer Add 31-102-53
26-047	Ferlyn Hofer	grain bin	E2NW4 31-102-53
26-048	Jared Lynch	bunk house	Tr2 Cannon's Add Ex Lot A and Lot B NE4 20-101-54
26-049	Wayne & Connie Whistler	pole building 40x60	NW4 29-103-56
26-050	Charles Liesinger	house addition, 3bed,1bath	W606.44' of S1183.82' NW4 25-102-56
26-051	Tim Petersen	pole barn 48x45	Lot B Bezug's Add N2 2-102-53

June 2026 Law Enforcement Report and reports showing the breakdown of calls made and hours worked in each community, were noted and filed. County Report: accidents 9, animal complaints 9, assists 5, disturbances 5, domestic assault 1, DUI 1, investigations 2, mental health 1, motorist assists 5, other 14, thefts 2, transports 2, traffic stops 69 (warnings 57, citations 10, arrests 2), warrants 1, and welfare checks 1.

The SEFP Monthly Facilitator Report was noted and filed.

Auditor Sherman presented Bankruptcy Order Discharging Debtors (dated February 2005) re Jamie & Teresa Shape fdba Shape Dairy. Sherman noted that Auditor's Office staff is reviewing county aid liens, cleaning up files. The Order was reviewed with States Attorney Fink whose recommendation is to write off the lien balance. Motion Liesinger to release lien filed against Terri F Shape, balance \$727.14, filed in March 1992. Second Mehlbrech. Motion carried.

The Board reconvened as Board of County Commissioners.

Motion Mehlbrech, second Liesinger, and carried, to pay claims: GENERAL FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 7/4/2026: Commissioners 2293.00, mileage, 343.00; Auditor 6654.91; Treasurer 6173.18; States Attorney 3916.90; Custodian 1511.10; Dir of Equalization 5459.34; (new hire, seasonal worker, Savannah Hagemann, \$12.50/hour, effective 6/29/2026) Register of Deeds 3862.47; Veterans Service Officer 256.00; Sheriff 18548.88; Contract Law 10115.91; Care of Poor 240.37; Welfare 318.78; 4-H Youth Assistant 1832.58; Weed, 256.00; Planning & Zoning 767.87. Reemployment Assistance Division of SD, 2nd Qtr. contribution, 515.41; SD Dept of Revenue, SD Developmental Center-Redfield, 60.00. A&B Business, monthly copier contract, 86.74; AAA Collections, collection fees, 15.00; Alternative HR, July HR services, 5600.00; Avera Patient Financial, blood draws, 274.00; Card Service Center, fuel, Microsoft subscription, 981.20, dog supplies, 101.56, training, 745.00, office supplies, 248.50, supplies, 35.84, weather station renewal, 169.92; Central Farmers Coop, unleaded fuel, 162.74; Century Business Products, monthly copier contracts, 820.21; Chesterman Co, bottled water, 176.00; Dakota Data Shred, shredding service, 806.04; Davison County Sheriff, June jail service, 9240.00; FedEx, shipping charges, 20.51; Mike Fink, June expenses, 968.26; Fremar LLC, round-up, 56.68; Gordon Flesch, monthly copier contract, 37.00; Kathryn Heumiller, blood alcohol draw, 140.00; Lori Heumiller, mileage-post election audit, 9.80; Infotech Solutions, Managed

IT services, 3445.50; Inter-Lakes Community Action, July funds-service worker, 1210.08; Iron Wheel Heating Cooling & Plumbing, repairs & supplies, 1607.43; Joan Julson, mileage-post election audit, 26.60; Lammers Kleibacker, Dawson, Miller, court appointed attorney for Joseph Hanson, 2179.20, Antonio Garrett, 2947.60; Carol Lauer, office supplies, 7.97; Lewis Drug, prisoner care, 130.34; Manatron, Marshall & Swift rate table, 1633.45; Marshall & Swift, handbook, 413.15; Maynards Salem, supplies, 27.61; McCook Conservation District, 3rd Qtr appropriation, 3750.00; McCook County Treasurer, postage, 13.69; McCormick Motors, vehicle maintenance, 2366.49; John McCormick, chainsaw supplies, 115.72; McLeod's Printing, office supplies, 98.89, election supplies, 200.74; Microfilm Imaging, scanning equipment, 656.00; MidAmerican Energy, utilities-courthouse 48.15, food pantry, 9.25; Minnehaha Co SD Juvenile Center, juvenile housing, 3654.14; Morgan Law PLLC, court appointed attorney for Charlee Yellow Earrings, 355.80, Tionna Gordon, 1077.60, Devon Schoepf, 2266.73, Zachary Rose, 748.20; New Century Press, publishing, 333.16; ODP Business Solutions, office supplies, 112.16; Peterson Repair, vehicle maintenance, 80.74; Presto-X, pest control, 89.53; Puthoff Sales & Service, parts, 10.00; RBS Sanitation, garbage service-courthouse, 111.46, food pantry, 115.20; Salem City, water & sewer-courthouse 178.72, food pantry 136.17; SD Achieve dba Lifescape, service for 5 residents, 300.00; SD Public Health Laboratory, lab services, 50.00; Sioux Falls Area Humane Society, June contract, 200.00; Melinda Songstad, grand jury transcription, 171.50; Thomson Reuters-West, law books subscription, 199.50; Triotel Communications, telephone/internet service, 737.30; Verizon Wireless, iPad service, 40.01 cell phone service, 397.20; Xcel Energy, utilities-courthouse, 1201.96, food pantry, 57.87.

COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 7/4/2026: Hwy Dept 26205.94, cell phone reimbursement, 250.00. Reemployment Assistance Division of SD, 2nd Qtr. contribution, 242.76. Appeara, mat & towel rental, 108.10; Auto Value, supplies, 1971.88; Baldwin Supply Company, repairs & supplies, 365.14; Butler Machinery, repairs & supplies, 2705.16, Card Service Center, lodging, 232.75, supplies, 53.01; Central Farmers Coop, def fluid, 591.75; Century Business Products, monthly copier contract, 149.73; Chesterman Company, bottled water, 6.00; Cole's Petroleum, sulfur diesel, 13112.20; Flint Hills Resources, asphalt, 209773.35; Gessner Welding & Repair, supplies, 311.00; I-State Truck Center, supplies, 2106.57; Knife River-SD, asphalt, 29584.80; McCormick Motors, vehicle maintenance, 2185.74; MidAmerican Energy, utilities, 20.63; Northwestern Energy, utilities, 12.00; Puthoff Sales & Service, supplies, 921.63; RBS Sanitation, garbage service, 86.96; Salem City, water & sewer, 263.96; Salem Lumber, supplies, 11.98; SDACC, office personnel workshop, 60.00; Sioux International, parts, 410.70; Southeastern Electric, utilities, 70.27; Stan Houston Equipment, supplies, 286.69; Triotel Communications, telephone/internet service, 109.31; Two Way Solutions, supplies & radio installation, 500.94; Verizon, cell phone service, 79.74; Xcel Energy, utilities, 566.90.

911 SERVICE FUND: Golden West Telecommunications, 911 telephone service, 200.00; Mitchell Regional 911, 911 services (95% of surcharge collections), 7967.64; Triotel Communications, 911 telephone service, 175.20.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 7/4/26: EDS Director 1650.73. Reemployment Assistance Division of SD, 2nd Qtr. contribution, 31.08. AT&T Mobility, EM iPad service, 40.54; Card Service Center, weather station renewal, 169.92; Brad Stiefvater Jr, June expenses, 122.95; Total Stop, S&R fuel, 104.15; Triotel Communications, telephone & internet service, 134.88.

24/7 SOBRIETY FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 7/4/26, Sheriff Secretary/Dispatcher 254.52. PharmChem, sweat patch analysis, 688.95.

OPIOD SETTLEMENT FUND: City of Bridgewater, July ambulance appropriation, 3978.75; McCook County EMS, July ambulance appropriation, 14941.41.

RURAL ACCESS INFRASTRUCTURE FUND: Canistota Township, RAIF Grant, 6392.68.

LAW LIBRARY FUND: Thomas Reuters, law books subscription, 199.50.

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$355,981.27.

PAYROLL CONTRIBUTIONS – ALL FUNDS: 7/4/2026; Dir of IRS, county share of FICA, 5324.63, Medicare 1245.25; SD Retirement System, county share of retirement contribution, 5288.08; Wellmark BlueCross/BlueShield of SD, county share of health insurance premium, 6907.78.

The Auditor’s Account with the County Treasurer for the month of June 2026: deposits in banks, \$7,271,611.59; cash to deposit, \$769.77; checks to deposit, \$20,740.43; CC payments, \$2155.73; Cash Items \$13.69; Treasurer’s Cash, \$1,556.31; Register of Deeds, \$450.00; Sheriff, \$500.00; CD’s, \$700,000.00. The total deposits on hand: \$7,997,797.52.

Motion Heumiller to enter Executive Session at 12:20 p.m. for personnel discussion, SDCL 1-25-2 (1). Tasia Dass, HR Consultant, and Trudy Billion, HR Consultant, were present. Second Dick. Motion carried. Chairman Gordon declared out of Executive Session at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned subject to call.

Dated the 14th day of July 2026.

Steve Gordon _____
Chairman, McCook County Commission

ATTEST:

Geralyn Sherman _____
Auditor, McCook County