

August 11, 2026

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

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

Chairman Gordon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Gordon called for approval of the agenda. Deputy Auditor, Becky Hoiten, noted several changes to the agenda: 11:10 John McCormick, Custodian, instead of Care of Poor, and Nicole Webster, SEFP, unable to attend today. Need to change the legal description of 1st plat: Plat of Tract 1 of JS Addition NW4 34-101-53; Auditor given incorrect legal. Motion Heumiller to approve the agenda with changes noted. Second Mehlbrech. Motion carried.

The minutes from July 30th meeting were sent to Board members for review prior to publication. Motion Mehlbrech to approve these minutes for publication. Second Dick. Motion carried.

Public comment: none.

Commissioner Reports: none.

Conflict of Interest: none noted.

Dylan Warren, Hwy Dept Operations Manager, presented 3 utility permits to the Commission for approval. Motion Heumiller to approve an Electric Utility Permit for Southeastern Electric. Scope of project: install 1ph 1/0 URD for new service, 300’ N of Int 431st Ave/252nd St. Second Dick. Motion carried. Motion Mehlbrech to approve Communication Utility Permit for Golden West Telecommunications. Scope of project: extend mainline to provide service to Geronimo Power, 447th Ave. Second Dick. Motion carried. Motion Mehlbrech to approve Water Utility Permit for Kingbrook Rural Water. Scope of project: water service in NW4, Section 2, Greenland Twp. Second Heumiller. Motion carried. Warren noted that the road crew is chip sealing and hopes to be done next week.

Deputy Auditor, Becky Hoiten, informed the Board that the SDDOT engineer notified Hwy Supt Raap and told him that the county needs to remove the time from our Jake Brake ordinance. This information was passed on to States Attorney Fink. The ordinance can be amended to take off the time of enforcement. It would be good to get the reasoning behind the DOT request.

The following building permits were issued in July 2026:

26-053	Steven & Karen Lounsbery	2 new bins 48x24, 36x20	E820’ of N870’ SE4 25-103-54
26-054	Jenna Duxbury & Daniel Wackler	new home	Lot 2 River Ridge Estates Add, a Portion of Lot 8 in NE4SW4 22-103-53
26-055	Joseph & Kay Neubauer	garage 28x44	Tr8B Battle Creek Shores 2 nd Add S2SW4 34-102-53
26-056	Christopher & Kjerstin Lifo	garage	Tr 1 Battle Creek Farms Add SE4 24-102-54
26-057	Jason & Jennifer Hofer	60x120 cold storage	SW4 Ex 1.02Ac Hwy & Ex Lot H2 12-101-55
26-058	Dakota Ag Center Real Estate	office addition	Tr 1A Zimmer’s Add in W2SE4 27-103-53
26-059	John & Deborah Scheier	garage & sunroom	E2SE4SW4SE4 6-103-54
26-060	Tim Even	new house	Tr 1A of Twedt’s Add NE4 35-103-53
26-061	Tim Peterson	new home	Lot B Bezug’s Add N2 2-102-53
26-062	Osterberg Family Trust	new garage 26x28	SE4 4-104-54
26-063	Sioux Falls Tower	generator & concrete pad	Leased Site in SW4 1-102-53

July 2026 Law Enforcement Report and reports showing the breakdown of calls made and hours worked in each community, were noted and filed. County Report: 911 hang-ups 2, accidents 14, animal complaints 11, assists 8, DUI 1, investigations 9, mental health 2, motorist assists 14, other 15, thefts 2, transports 5, traffic stops 99 (warnings 71, citations 25, arrests 3), warrants 3, and welfare checks 9.

Motion Mehlbrech, second Heumiller, and carried, to pay claims: GENERAL FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 8/1/2026: Commissioners 2293.00, mileage, 303.80; Auditor 6961.03; Treasurer 6288.35; States Attorney 3916.90; Custodian 1533.00, Dir of Equalization 5565.67; Register of Deeds 3977.91; Veterans Service Officer 256.00; Sheriff 17745.45; Contract Law 9417.19; Care of Poor 240.37; Welfare 187.85; 4-H Youth Assistant 3613.12; Weed, 247.50; Planning & Zoning 767.87. SD Dept of Revenue, SD

Developmental Center-Redfield, 60.00; A&B Business, monthly copier contract, 86.74; Alternative HR, August HR services, 5600.00; Central Farmers Coop, gas for mower, 69.66; Century Business Products, monthly copier contracts, 799.29; Chesterman Co, bottled water, 132.00; City of Bridgewater, August ambulance, 3978.75; Corporate Translation, translation services, 11.98; Dakota Data Shred, shredding service, 140.38; Davison County Sheriff, July jail service, 13335.00; Mike Fink, July expenses, 709.50; First Dakota National Bank, rubber stampers, 94.27; George Boom Funeral Home, burial assistance, 1200.00; Gordon Flesch, monthly copier contract, 37.00; Lori Heumiller, post-election audit fee & mileage, 59.80; Infotech Solutions, Managed IT services, 3457.50; Inter-Lakes Community Action, August-service worker, 1210.00; Iron Wheel Heating Cooling & Plumbing, boiler repairs & supplies, 952.95; Joan Julson, post-election audit fee & mileage, 76.60; Lewis Drug, prisoner care, 201.04; McCook County EMS, August ambulance appropriation, 14941.41; McCook County Treasurer, postage, 1141.28; McCormick Motors, vehicle maintenance, 607.89; Linda Mehlbrech, post-election audit fee, 50.00; Microfilm Imaging, scanning equipment rent, 656.00; Minnehaha Co SD Juvenile Center, medical services for juvenile, 110.00; Morgan Law PLLC, court appointed attorney for Vincena Nadeau, 1041.80 (2 claims); New Century Press, publishing, 712.52; ODP Business Solutions, office supplies, 258.47; Pulse Electric, replace ballast in auditor's office, 159.01; Puthoff Sales & Service, use of power washer, 30.00; Salem City, water & sewer-courthouse 173.47, food pantry 136.67; Salem Lumber Co, supplies, 17.49; Laurie Schwans, office supplies, 79.64; SD Achieve dba Lifescape, service for 5 residents, 300.00; SD Public Health Laboratory, lab services, 350.00; SDACC, convention registrations, 1500.00; Tim Simmermon, candy-Canistota parade, 42.44; Sioux Falls Humane Society, July contract, 200.00; Southeastern Behavioral, 3rd quarter allotment, 1420.50; Triotel Communications, telephone/internet service, 760.47; Verizon Wireless, iPad service, 40.01 cell phone service, 397.30; Xcel Energy, utilities-courthouse, 1584.85, food pantry, 111.57.

COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 8/1/2026: Hwy Dept 26615.75. All State Ag Parts, supplies, 1012.65; Appeara, mat & towel rental, 112.29; Auto Value, supplies, 424.91; Central Farmers Coop, repairs, 150.00, supplies, 3335.70; Century Business Products, monthly copier contract, 140.61; Chesterman Company, bottled water, 6.00; CHS Inc., LP gas, 372.47; Cole's Petroleum, no lead & diesel, 19962.94; Dakota Fluid Power, supplies, 677.20; Flint Hills Resources, asphalt, 29665.20; Gessner Welding & Repair, supplies, 16.40; Maynards Salem, supplies, 22.65; Peterson Repair, repairs, 85.00, supplies, 44.73; Pomp's Tire Service, supplies, 2477.35; Powerplan, polybrushes, 2880.84; Puthoff Sales & Service, supplies, 535.32, work on skid loader, 120.00; RBS Sanitation, garbage service, 86.96; Salem City, water & sewer, 254.16; Salem Lumber, supplies, 163.83; SDACC, convention registration, 250.00; Sioux Falls Truck & Trailer, supplies, 277.70; Southeastern Electric, utilities, 55.44; Spencer Quarries, chips, 11433.28; Transource Truck & Equipment, supplies, 2606.31; Triotel Communications, telephone/internet service, 108.16.

911 SERVICE FUND: Golden West Telecommunications, 911 telephone service, 200.00; Triotel Communications, 911 telephone service, 177.20.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 8/1/26: EDS Director 1650.73. Brad Stiefvater Jr, July expenses, 134.87; Triotel Communications, telephone & internet service, 135.18.

24/7 SOBRIETY FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 8/1/26, Sheriff Secretary/Dispatcher 264.74.

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$136,900.60.

PAYROLL CONTRIBUTIONS – ALL FUNDS: 8/1/2026; Dir of IRS, county share of FICA, 5400.51, Medicare 1263.02; SD Retirement System, county share of retirement contribution, 5265.37; 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 July 2026: deposits in banks, \$6,618,846.39; cash to deposit, \$1481.03; checks to deposit, \$23,412.49; CC payments, \$7068.97; Cash Items \$1141.28; Treasurer's Cash, \$428.72; Register of Deeds, \$450.00; Sheriff, \$500.00; CD's, \$700,000.00. The total deposits on hand: \$7,353,328.88.

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

At 9:30 a.m. a public hearing was held regarding adoption of the 2026 Revised Drainage Ordinance of McCook County. Mike Fink, States Attorney, was present. Steve Dick, Drainage Administrator, read through ordinance changes, section 108 Definitions, add Road Authority; section 201 Permits Required, all districts; section 202 Application for a Drainage Permit, add Road Authority; section 203 Drainage Application Fee, amended - fee to be set every year by commission; and section 204 Authority of Administrative Official to Grant Drainage Permits, add Road Authority and Routine Maintenance. Public comment: Drainage Admin Dick noted input from two tilers, Eric Tieszen likes the changes and TJ Kaffar said to get rid of the drainage ordinance. With no further discussion, motion Dick to approve the 1st reading and set 9:30 a.m. on August 25, 2026, as time for the 2nd reading of Ordinance 2026-02 An Ordinance of McCook County, South Dakota, Amending the 2011 Revised Drainage Ordinance of McCook County. Second Mehlbrech. Ayes: Dick, Mehlbrech, Heumiller, Gordon. Nays: none. Absent: Liesinger. Motion carried.

The Board reconvened as Board of County Commissioners.

Deputy Auditor Hoiten presented the 2027 Prisoner Housing Agreement between McCook and Charles Mix counties to the Board. The daily housing rate is increasing to \$100/day. States Attorney Fink explained that this jail facility is the least expensive facility to house prisoners and is an option if we have someone who requires long term housing. Motion Dick to authorize Chair Gordon to sign the agreement. Second Heumiller. Motion carried. St Atty Fink left the meeting.

With time between agenda items, 2027 budgets were reviewed; increased salary to reflect longevity and increased professional services in Commissioners due to it being an audit year and decrease maintenance in Elections.

At 10:30 a.m. the 2nd reading of proposed Ordinance 2026-03, an Ordinance Rezoning the property at Tract 1A Zimmer's Add in the W2 SE4 & E2 SW4 27-103-53, from Agricultural District to Commercial District, was held. States Attorney Fink was present. Anna Flogstad, Zoning Administrator, read the proposed ordinance. No public comment. No questions from the Board. Motion Heumiller to approve & adopt Ordinance No 2026-03. Second Mehlbrech. Ayes: Heumiller, Mehlbrech, Dick, Gordon. Nays: none. Absent: Liesinger. Motion carried.

At 10:45 a.m. the 2nd reading of proposed Ordinance 2026-04, an Ordinance Rezoning the property at TR1 Sperling's Add in N2NE4 23-101-54 from Agricultural District to Commercial District, was held. States Attorney Fink and Bridget Duffus, Grant Solar Attorney, were present. Anna Flogstad, Zoning Administrator, read the proposed ordinance. Public comment. Flogstad noted that DJ Buseman asked if Grant Solar would have to sign a setback waiver if he would decide to apply for a Conditional Use for a CAFO. Comm Dick asked Attorney Duffus if they would sign a waiver. Attorney Duffus noted that there could not be a guarantee without any specifics but knows Grant Solar wants to be a good neighbor. No questions from the Board. Motion Mehlbrech, second Heumiller, to approve & adopt Ordinance No 2026-04. Ayes: Mehlbrech, Dick, Heumiller, Gordon. Nays: none. Absent: Liesinger. Motion carried.

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

Anna Flogstad, Zoning Administrator, presented 2 plats for approval. Following review of the 1st plat review form, motion Dick to approve the plat. Second Gordon. Motion carried.

Be it resolved by the County Planning Commission of McCook County, South Dakota, that the plat showing Tracts 1 of JS Addition in the Northwest Quarter of Section 34, Township 101 North, Range 53 West, 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 11th day of August 2026.

Chairperson, McCook County Planning Commission

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

Be it resolved by the County Planning Commission of McCook County, South Dakota, that the plat showing Lots 1A and 1B of Eagle Ridge Addition in the West Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 35, Township 102 North, Range 53 West, 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 11th day of August 2026.

Chairperson, McCook County Planning Commission

John McCormick, Custodian, informed the Board that he wants concrete in boulevard on E side of the courthouse yard (Main St), adding that this was supposed to be done by the city as part of the Sanitary Sewer project. McCormick noted the weeds are terrible and this would also help with snow removal. Comm Mehlbrech will check with Salem City to ask if this was to be included in the project and, if so, will Salem City pay for this or would original contractor be responsible. Brief conversation re partition in the men’s room in courthouse basement. No action taken.

With time between agenda items, 2027 budgets were reviewed; Ambulance-increase Bridgewater Ambulance Service appropriation by 8%, same as McCook EMS is receiving, Fair Board-revisit \$20000 request for pens, increase Modernization & Preservation Fund \$30000 for scanning of books in Register of Deeds office, increase Opioid Settlement Fund because more opioid distributions are being received, and lower Extension salary line because it was increased by more than 5%.

Motion Mehlbrech to enter Executive Session at 11:50 p.m. for personnel discussion, SDCL 1-25-2 (1). Trudy Billion, HR Consultant, was present. Second Heumiller. Motion carried. Chairman Gordon declared out of Executive Session at 12:34 p.m.

Motion Liesinger, second Heumiller, and carried, to approve the 2027 wage determination for newly elected officials, established by Alternative HR Consultant, Trudy Billion, as follows: Shane Johnson, Sheriff, \$60,944; Annette VanEmmerik, Auditor, \$58,032. Part-time pay for VanEmmerik to train, \$27.90/hour, maximum of 20 hours/week, through March 1, 2027, and no benefits will be offered.

2027 budget decisions: Treasurer-no part-time employee, this was decided when a 4th employee was hired for the office and 5% pay increase for deputies. Register of Deeds-5% pay increase for deputy. States Attorney-secretary stays at 2/3 time, receiving 5% pay increase. Suggest secretary keeps track of hours to show how much time is dedicated to the county and how much to Fink Law Office. The request to change States Attorney Secretary to a more full-time status will be reassessed in 2028 budget process.

The meeting adjourned subject to call.

Dated the 11th day of August 2026.

Steve Gordon _____
Chairman, McCook County Commission

ATTEST:

Geralyn Sherman _____
Auditor, McCook County