

September 10, 2026

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

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

Chairman Gordon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

The minutes from August 25th meeting were sent to Board members for review prior to publication. Motion Dick to approve these minutes for publication. Second Mehlbrech. Motion carried.

Public comment: none.

Commissioner Reports: Comm Liesinger noted that George Leitheiser reported that there is a crack along bridge #44-010-185, located on 431st Ave. Liesinger asked that a thank you be noted to Dennis Buse and Paul Heiberger for providing gas to a stranded motorist.

Conflict of Interest: none noted.

Travis Raap, Hwy Supt, presented SDDOT Joint Powers & Funding Agreement for Bridge Preliminary Engineering of structure number 44-210-103 to the Board for their approval. This bridge is located on west city limits of Montrose. Motion Dick to approve the agreement and authorize Chairman Gordon to sign same. Second Liesinger. Motion carried. Hwy Supt Raap presented 2 utility permits for Board approval. Motion Liesinger to approve Communications Utility Permit for Golden West Telecommunications to plow a service drop from an existing vault to the residence, 24874 453 Ave. Second Dick. Motion carried. Motion Liesinger to approve Communications Utility Permit for Golden West Telecommunications to extend mainline fiber optic facilities on the N side of 260th St, beginning at intersection of 434th Ave & 260th St. Second Mehlbrech. Motion carried. The public meeting for review of the Five-Year County Highway and Bridge Replacement Improvement Plan will be held on Monday, September 14th, from 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Hwy Supt Raap informed the Board that a motion is needed to hold the 1st Reading of Ordinance 2026-05 an Ordinance Prohibiting Unlawful Use of Engine & Compression Brakes (revision of ordinance 2025-03). Motion Liesinger to set 9:30 a.m., September 22, 2026, as time and date for the 1st reading of Ordinance 2026-05. Second Mehlbrech. Motion carried. Current projects include gravel patching, asphalt patching, and mowing. Striping project was put off for 2 weeks by the contractor.

Beth Skaff, Food Pantry Coordinator, and Glenda Blindert, Blindert Insurance, joined the meeting. Hwy Supt Raap informed the group that the estimated cost for surveying and engineering on the E side of the food pantry for parking and driveway approach onto Main St is \$12,500. Following discussion, motion Dick to move forward with the project, approving payment of the survey and engineering. Second Heumiller. Motion carried. Auditor Sherman noted that the expenses for the food pantry will be paid out of the Courthouse Building budget because that is where previous bills for the building upgrades were paid from.

Trudy Billion, HR Consultant, presented updated job descriptions for Hwy Supt, Operations Manager, and Lead Equipment Operator, to the Board for their review and consideration. Hwy Supt Raap noted that he's reviewed the updates and is okay with the updated job descriptions. Following discussion, motion Liesinger to approve the updated job descriptions, implementing same. Second Heumiller. Motion carried.

Motion Heumiller to enter Executive Session at 9:50 a.m. for personnel discussion, SDCL 1-25-2 (1). Second Dick. Motion carried. Trudy Billion, HR Consultant, was present. Chairman Gordon declared out of Executive Session at 10:10 a.m.

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

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

Be it resolved by the McCook County, South Dakota, Planning Commission that the Plat of “Mentele Tract 1 in the NW1/4 of Section 6, Township 102 North, Range 55 West of the 5TH P. M., McCook County, South Dakota”, be and the same is hereby approved.

Adopted this 10th day of September 2026.

Chairperson, McCook County Planning Commission

Anna Flogstad, Zoning Administrator, noted that conversation regarding data centers began in March. At that time, Secog Planner, Nick Palmer, advised the county could either leave regulations as is or amend the current zoning regulations by adding a “data center” definition to Chapter 19, Definitions. Adding the definition would make Data Center not allowed in any of the districts. No action was taken. Flogstad was recently made aware more land inquiries from possible Data Centers were being made. With current inquiries, decided this was a topic that needed to be revisited to have a plan in place if an application was received. Twelve (12) individuals were present. Comments about data centers by those in attendance: noise 24/7, ground vibration, reservoirs, sterility of livestock, commission doesn’t know what it’s going to get, no jobs, it will depress land values, consumers will see increased costs for water & electricity, it doesn’t fit our county, too many unknowns, need to figure out pros & cons, and county isn’t preparing for the future. Questions asked: what do your constituents say/want, how do commissioners feel about it, does saying no now allow it in the future, what about a moratorium, location, and why even consider a data center? Comm Dick-my constituents don’t want a data center. Commission can say no with definition on record by ordinance. Comm Mehlbrech-hearing that you don’t want data centers. Comm Dick-proceed with having legal counsel and Secog Planner attend the September 22nd meeting.

Zoning Administrator Flogstad informed the Board that Union Twp has not signed off on a road agreement for Meadow View Colony regarding the Conditional Use Permit issued 05/26/2026 for Class A CAFO. There may not be a need for a road agreement with Union Township because the road that is referred to in the agreement won’t be used. This will be scheduled for the next meeting.

The Board reconvened as Board of County Commissioners.

At 11:15 a.m. the Provisional Budget hearing was held. Mark Norris, Sheriff, Laurie Schwans, Register of Deeds, Angie McCormick, Equalization & Zoning Clerk, and Rhonda Olinger, Deputy Auditor, were present. Budgets were reviewed with no changes being noted. The adoption of the 2027 Annual Budget will be held on September 22nd at 11:00 a.m.

Nicole Webster, SEFP Enterprise Facilitator, met with the Board to present the 2027 budget request of \$5000. Webster also presented a proposal for an annual county-funded grant that would be administered in partnership with SEFP. This grant would support McCook County residents pursuing a viable business startup, retention, or expansion project. \$20000 is the suggested annual amount but it can be anything the Board would choose.

The following building permits were issued in August 2026:

26-064	Alla Mayboroda	storage shed & dog kennel	S375.32’ of E535.46’ S2E4 7-103-56
26-065	Francis Tusha	addition to house	Lot 1 Tusha Add SE4 22-102-56
26-066	Larry & Frida Fossum	house	Lot 9 Sunset Bluffs Add W2SW4 35-102-53
26-067	Dreyer Farms Inc	replacing 50x200 cattle shed	E2SW4 27-102-56
26-068	Joshua & Dollyann Hanson	fence	Tr 9 “B” Battle Creek Shores 2 nd Add S2SW4 34-102-53
26-069	Andrew Holland	fertilizer dike	Tr 2 Holland’s Add in S2SW4 Sec 26 & E2SE4 27-103-53
26-071	Jay & Lorie Decker	house addition	Waechter Tr 5 in SW4NW4 3-101-53

August 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 13, animal complaints 18, assists 8, CHINS 2, disturbance 2, domestic assault 4, investigations 2, mental health 4, missing persons 1, motorist assists 15, other 11, protection order 1, thefts 1, transports 2, traffic stops 92 (warnings 68, citations 24), warrants 5, and welfare checks 4.

Motion Heumiller to authorize Chairman Gordon to sign the County Deed (Quit Claim) conveying property to Janice M Heumiller Trust. Legal description: Lot 4, in Blk 6, Original Town of Montrose, McCook County, South Dakota. (1942 tax deed property). Second Mehlbrech. Motion carried.

Auditor Sherman informed the Board that documentation for the applications for the Commercial Garbage Hauler License applications for Novak Sanitary Service, Sioux Falls, and United Sanitation Services, Mitchell, has been received and the fee paid. Motion Dick to approve the applications for license and authorize Chairman Gordon to sign same. Second Liesinger. Motion carried.

Auditor Sherman presented the 2027 Dept of Health Contract to the Board. Sherman noted that States Attorney Fink has provided/requested changes regarding liability referenced in this agreement and the State has not incorporated these changes because their agreement is generic throughout the State and cannot be changed. There has been no signed contract between the State and County since 2023. The county provides an office/room for a nurse when someone comes to the county, that's it. Motion Liesinger to not sign the 30-page contract. Second Mehlbrech. Motion carried.

Motion Mehlbrech, second Heumiller, and carried, to pay claims: GENERAL FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 8/29/2026: Commissioners 2293.00, mileage, 249.20; Auditor 6713.69; Treasurer 6392.64; States Attorney 3916.90; Custodian 1533.00, Dir of Equalization 5103.14; Register of Deeds 3761.89; Veterans Service Officer 256.00; Sheriff 17164.30; Contract Law 9597.07; Care of Poor 240.37; Welfare 375.71; 4-H Youth Assistant 1633.80; Drainage, 157.50, Planning & Zoning 767.88. Grand Jury, fees & mileage, 406.40; SD Dept of Revenue, SD Developmental Center-Redfield, 60.00. A&B Business, monthly copier contract, 86.74; Alternative HR, September HR services, 5600.00; Avera Patient Financial, blood draws, 274.00; Card Service Center, gas and postage, 371.08, K9, 105.14, supplies, 196.55; Central Farmers Coop, fuel and LP, 187.74; Century Business Products, monthly copier contracts, 706.08; Chesterman Co, bottled water, 121.00; City of Bridgewater, August ambulance appropriation, 3978.75; Corporate Translation, translation services, 18.82; Dakota Data Shred, shredding service, 94.40; Davison County Sheriff, August jail service, 10290.00; Mike Fink, August expenses, 709.50; Gordon Flesch, monthly copier contract, 37.00; Infotech Solutions, Managed IT services, 3832.50; Inter-Lakes Community Action, September-service worker hours, 1210.08; Interstate Power System, generator service & supplies, 661.00; Larry's Food & Auto, Durango maintenance, 204.95; Carol Lauer, mileage, 54.60; Lewis Drug, prisoner care, 286.63; Maynards, supplies, 17.07; McCook County EMS, September ambulance appropriation, 14941.41; McCook County Treasurer, postage, 361.49; McCormick Motors, vehicle maintenance, 1465.57; Kay McCormick, labor-Auditor's office, 91.00; Meyer Motor, vehicle maintenance, 545.44; Microfilm Imaging, scanning equipment rent, 656.00; Minnehaha County Auditor, reimburse mental illness service, 70.32; Morgan Law PLLC, court appointed attorney for Andrew Fryer, 2574.20; New Century Press, publishing, 798.95; Peterson Repair, vehicle maintenance, 2291.92; Presto-X, pest control, 89.53; RBS Sanitation, garbage service-courthouse, 111.46, food pantry, 115.20; Salem City, water & sewer-courthouse 168.22, food pantry 136.17; SD Achieve dba Lifescape, service for 5 residents, 300.00; SD Public Health Laboratory, lab services, 165.00; Stacey Sieverding, newsletter renewal, 99.00, State Fair expenses, 828.90; Sioux Falls Humane Society, August contract, 200.00; Triotel Communications, telephone/internet service, 725.77; Verizon Wireless, iPad service, 40.01 cell phone service, 397.30; Wash N Go, cash wash tokens, 200.00; Xcel Energy, utilities-courthouse, 928.46, food pantry, 44.18.

COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 8/29/2026: Hwy Dept 24904.38. All State Ag Parts, supplies, 330.23; Appeara, mat & towel rent, 108.10; Auto Value, supplies, 1086.46; Butler Machinery, supplies, 300.65, troubleshoot moldboard, 1936.92; Cap First Equipment, motor grader payment, 87724.71; Card Service Center, supplies, 266.86, conference registration, 400.00; Central Farmers Coop, LP, 32.00; Century Business Products, monthly copier contract, 153.83; Chesterman Company, bottled water, 72.00; Diamond Mowers, blades, 2012.12; Equipment Blades, carbide bits, 2878.60; Gessner Welding & Repair, supplies and repairs, 632.00; Knife River, asphalt, 21818.16; Michael Johnson, concrete sand, 4243.26; Puthoff Sales & Service, supplies, 2623.28; RBS Sanitation, garbage service, 86.96; Salem City, water & sewer, 254.16; Salem Lumber, supplies, 98.89; Sioux International, supplies, 358.65; Spencer Quarries, sand, 3036.02; Stan Houston Equipment, supplies, 106.80; Transource

Truck & Equipment, supplies, 1343.95; Triotel Communications, telephone/internet service, 109.30; Two Way Solutions, radio installation & supplies, 476.94; Vander Haag’s, supplies, 1065.89; Xcel Energy, utilities, 244.37.

911 SERVICE FUND: Golden West Telecommunications, 911 telephone service, 200.00; Triotel Communications, 911 telephone service, 173.20.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 8/29/26: EDS Director 1650.73. AT&T Mobility, EM iPad, 41.54; Brad Stiefvater Jr, August expenses, 162.87; Triotel Communications, telephone & internet service, 134.88.

24/7 SOBRIETY FUND: Bi-Weekly Payroll: 8/29/26, Sheriff Secretary/Dispatcher 254.12. PharmChem, sweat patch analysis, 159.75.

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$192,062.68.

PAYROLL CONTRIBUTIONS – ALL FUNDS: 8/29/2026; Dir of IRS, county share of FICA, 5076.26, Medicare 1187.20; SD Retirement System, county share of retirement contribution, 5158.26; Wellmark BlueCross/BlueShield of SD, county share of health insurance premium, 8034.20.

The Auditor’s Account with the County Treasurer for the month of August 2026: deposits in banks, \$5,783,306.56; cash to deposit, \$2498.00; checks to deposit, \$67,919.77; CC payments, \$3002.92; Cash Items \$361.49; Treasurer’s Cash, \$1208.51; Register of Deeds, \$450.00; Sheriff, \$500.00; CD’s, \$700,000.00. The total deposits on hand: \$6,559,247.25.

Motion Mehlbrech to enter Executive Session at 12:25 pm for personnel discussion, SDCL 1-25-2 (1). Second Liesinger. Motion carried. Trudy Billion, HR Consultant, and Auditor Sherman were present. Chairman Gordon declared out of Executive Session at 12:35 pm.

Trudy Billion, HR Consultant, reported that Austin Uhrich, Deputy Sheriff, passed testing and is now a Certified Law Enforcement Officer. Motion Heumiller to increase Uhrich’s hourly rate of pay to \$25/hour as a Certified Deputy Sheriff, effective 9/13/2026 pay period. Second Liesinger. Motion carried.

Trudy Billion, HR Consultant, informed the Board that Kimberly Berry has resigned her position with McCook County effective September 4, 2026. Motion Mehlbrech to accept the resignation of Kimberly Berry, Deputy Sheriff, effective September 4, 2026. Second Liesinger. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned subject to call.

Dated the 10th day of September 2026.

Steve Gordon _____
Chairman, McCook County Commission

ATTEST:

Geralyn Sherman _____
Auditor, McCook County