

McPherson County Board of Commissioners
Minutes of Proceedings
May 5th, 2020

The McPherson County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 5th, 2020 in the Commissioners chambers. Chairman Neuharth called the meeting to order at 9:00AM. Members present were Rick Beilke, Delmar Metzger, Sid Feickert, and Anthony Kunz.

Beilke moved and Metzger seconded to approve the agenda of the May 5th meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carried. No conflicts of interest were declared.

Metzger moved and Kunz seconded to approve the minutes of the April 7th Commissioner's meeting and April 14th Equalization meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

CLAIMS APPROVED:

3D Specialties Inc., Hwy Supplies, \$301.79; Agtegra-Leola Shop, Hwy/Soil Dist. Supplies, \$8,140.72; Amazon Capitol Services, Supplies, \$599.23; Ameripride, Linen Services, \$555.61; ATT, Cellphones, \$612.55; Auto Value, Hwy Supplies, \$842.08; Samantha Boshard, VSO Reimb., \$168.20; Butler, Hwy Supplies, \$1,980.26; Century Business Products, Copier Service Contract, \$6.97; CHS Farmers Alliance, Hwy/Courthouse Propane, \$2,201.33; McPherson Clerk of Courts, Payment, \$250.00; Crady's Radiator Shop, Hwy Supplies, \$250.00; Crawford Truck & Equipment, Hwy Supplies, \$759.98; Curt's Repair, Joint Law/Hwy Supplies, \$110.00; Waste Connections, Shredding, \$52.65; Dependable Sanitation, Courthouse Utilities, \$216.00; Dakota Supply Group, Hwy Supplies, \$680.11; Eureka City, Hwy Utilities, \$62.25; Eureka MFG, Hwy Supplies, \$554.14; Eureka Senior Center, 2020 Allocation, \$2,640.00; FEM, Utilities, \$362.02; Gene's Oil, Fuel, \$901.78; Gerdes & McNeary PC, Court Appointed Attorney, \$307.75; G&R Controls Inc., Boiler Chemical Mix, \$906.38; House of Glass, Courthouse Repairs, \$611.67; IAAO, Assessor Books, \$145.00; Ipswich Lumber, Courtroom Woodwork Supplies, \$112.04; Jensen Rock & Sand, Hwy Supplies, \$5,339.10; Kimball MidWest, Hwy Supplies, \$608.88; Lakeside Lumber, Hwy Supplies, \$20.97; Lakota Contracting, Sheriff Supplies, \$264.85; Leola City, Utilities, \$93.50; Leola Senior Center, 2020 Allocation, \$1,360.00; McLeod, Absentee Envelopes, \$408.24; McPherson County Herald, Publishing, \$472.93; MDU, Utilities, \$562.21; Menards, Supplies, \$254.32; Meyers Tractor Salvage, Hwy Supplies, \$125.00; Microfilm Imaging, Equip. Rent, \$1,509.40; MARC, Courthouse Supplies, \$440.32; Barry Mock, Courtroom Woodwork, \$725.00; NEOG, PDM Plan, \$11,250.00; Northwest Blade, Publishing, \$631.70; Peru, Inmate Ins., \$31.20; Pheasantland Industries, Face Shields, \$233.34; Poms Tire Service, Hwy Supplies, \$2,743.52; Praxair Distribution, Hwy Supplies, \$743.31; Premier Equipment, Hwy Supplies, \$3,066.24; Jackie Rau, Shooting Reimb., \$22.00; Dickey Rural Telephone Coop, Server Maint./Backup/Office 365, \$781.44; Runnings Farm and Fleet, Hwy Supplies, \$61.43; Share Corp., Hwy Supplies, \$409.74; Styles by Sylte, County Shirts \$1,535.00; Ten 45 Grocery and Café, Supplis, \$97.55; TrueNorth Steel, Hwy Supplies, \$380.08; ValleyTelco, Phone/Internet, \$796.18; Van Diest Supply, Weed Supplies, \$9.00; VISA, Supplies, \$1,563.55; Web Water,

Courthouse Water, \$171.00; Westside Heating and AC, Courthouse Propane Tanks/Hwy Propane, \$19,182.89; McPherson County Clerk of Courts, Payment, \$250.00; Barry Mock, Courtroom Woodwork, \$968.75; SDACC, M&P March Fees, \$134.00; State Treasurer, Money due to State, \$38,133.22; State Treasurer, Sales & Excise Tax, \$211.27; March amount remitted to Cities/Schools/Townships/Fire Districts, \$466,585.12; Avera Health, Dependent Insurance, \$747.45; Guardian, COBRA Insurance, \$51.18; CorTrust, Deliq. Tax Payments, \$1,255.03.

Metzger moved and Feickert seconded to approve the forgoing claims. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

SALARIES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES:

Commissioners, \$3,200.35; Auditor, \$6,491.64; Treasurer, \$6,591.64; State’s Attorney, \$6,248.09; Government Building, \$3,228.75; Director of Equalization, \$9,200.17; Register of Deeds, \$6,591.64; Veteran Service Officers, \$1,317.33; Sheriff, \$8,275.62; Extension, \$3,006.42; Road & Bridge/Secondary Roads, \$48,280.36; Emergency Management, \$833.35; Eureka Joint Law, \$3,496.91; Leola Joint Law, \$3,496.91.

McPherson County’s Share of the following:

Social Security and Medicare: CorTrust Bank: \$7,783.14

Insurance: American Family, \$528.26, Avera Health, \$10,509.19; Guardian Vision, \$200.13; MetLife, \$182.08; South Dakota Retirement System, \$6,327.26; Colonial Life Vision, \$76.24.

ADDED/INCREASED SALARIES:

Metzger moved and Kunz seconded to increase the salary for election workers from \$10/hr to \$15/hr. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION 20-5

“DESIGNATING PRECINCTS AND POLLING PLACES FOR THE JUNE 2, 2020 PRIMARY ELECTION”

WHEREAS South Dakota Codified Law §12-14-1 provides that a board of county commissioners shall by resolution provide for election precincts throughout its county and shall designate polling places within such precincts; and

WHEREAS, McPherson County, South Dakota, presently has the following precincts and polling places:

<u>Precinct Number</u>	<u>Cities/Townships</u>	<u>Legislative District</u>	<u>Polling Place</u>
#1	City of Leola – Ward 1, Spring Twp, Koto Twp, Weber Twp, Wachter Twp., Willow Twp – Sections 1-30, 32-36 Leola Twp – Sections 1-18	23	McPherson County Courthouse 706 Main Street Leola, SD 57456

#2	City of Leola – Ward 2, Ward 3 Willow Twp Section 31, Howard Twp Lincoln Twp, Wetonka Town, Washington Twp Leola Twp – Sections 19-36	23	McPherson County Courthouse 706 Main Street Leola, SD 57456
#3	Long Lake Town, Harrison Twp Wacker Twp, Highland Twp Hoffman Twp	23	Long Lake Fire Hall 101 Bacon Ave Long Lake, SD 57457
#4	Eureka City – Ward 3 Bergdorf Twp Sections 19-36, Long Lake Twp Stickel Twp, Kassel Twp, Moscow Twp, Arena Twp	23	Eureka Fire Hall 518 F Ave Eureka, SD 57437
#5	Eureka City – Ward 1, Odessa Twp, Bergdorf - Sections 1-18, Petersburg Twp, Detmold Twp, Rosenthal Twp, Spring Creek Twp Glucksthal Twp – Sections 1-33, 35, 36 Bauer Twp – Section 1	23	Eureka Fire Hall 518 F Ave Eureka, SD 57437
#6	Eureka City – Ward 2, Bauer Twp – Sections 2-36 Jackson Twp, Hillsvie Town, Hillsvie Twp, Cleveland Twp, Blaine Twp, Dewey Twp	23	Eureka Fire Hall 518 F Ave Eureka, SD 57437

WHEREAS, South Dakota Codified Law §12-14-9 provides that polling places shall be selected with reference to the convenience of the voters in the various election precincts, and should be as near the center of the election precincts as practicable, but if in the judgment of the board of county commissioners the convenience of the voters will be served thereby or if communication can be thereby made available, the polling place may be located outside the boundaries of the precinct; and

WHEREAS, an outbreak of a severe respiratory disease, COVID-19, which is caused by and is transmitted by the person-to-person spread of the novel coronavirus, started in late 2019 and has currently been detected in more than 100 countries, including the United States; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has designated COVID-19 a pandemic, and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has declared a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, Governor Kristi Noem, through Executive Order 2020-04, declared South Dakota to be in a State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and re-authorized said declaration and extended the State of Emergency through Executive Order 2020-15; and

WHEREAS, Governor Kristi Noem, through Executive Order 2020-12, ordered and directed certain precautionary actions to be undertaken by counties and municipalities to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19, including the implementation of CDC hygiene practices, restricting public gatherings of ten people or more, and protecting critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Governor Kristi Noem anticipates that both the COVID-19 pandemic and State of Emergency will last for a period of four or more months, during which time a statewide primary election has been scheduled for June 2, 2020; and

WHEREAS, in an effort reduce the potential for transmitting COVID-19 throughout the state during the election primary, the South Dakota Secretary of State's Office has contacted all eligible voters about considering the use of absentee balloting rather than in-person voting on June 2, 2020; and

WHEREAS, it is reasonably anticipated that the actions taken by the South Dakota Secretary of State will result in more eligible voters using absentee balloting than has otherwise previously occurred throughout the state to date, including an anticipated increase in absentee voting by eligible McPherson County voters; and

WHEREAS, while the McPherson County Board of Commissioners support the executive orders of Governor Noem, and the actions taken by the South Dakota Secretary of State, the McPherson County Commission also acknowledges the need to protect the suffrage rights of all eligible McPherson County voters to participate in the June 2, 2020, primary election through in-person voting at established precinct polling locations; and

WHEREAS, the McPherson County Board of Commissioners believe that CDC hygiene practices, public gathering restrictions, and such other orders and commands contained within Governor Noem's Executive Orders necessitate that the polling places made available for in-person voting in McPherson County on June 2, 2020, be appropriately staffed, carefully monitored, thoroughly sanitized, meet the handicap accessibility requirements of the Help America Vote Act, and meet such other accessibility requirements as established by state and federal law; and

WHEREAS, it is the belief of the McPherson County Board of Commissioners, following a review of all of the above-indicated requirements, the assessment of county resources, and the investigation of suitable public gathering sites, that the precincts of McPherson County be assigned to two consolidated polling places in-person voting during the June 2, 2020, primary election; and

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the McPherson County Board of Commissioners that the McPherson County Courthouse and the Eureka Fire Hall are the most suitable polling locations for in-person voting during the June 2, 2020, primary election.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the McPherson County Board of Commissioners that the polling location for Precinct #3 as described above be moved to the Eureka Fire Hall for the June 2, 2020, primary election.

Dated this 6th day of May, 2020.

ATTEST:

Lindley Howard
McPherson County Auditor

Jeff Neuharth
McPherson County Commission Chairman

Feickert moved for the adoption of Resolution Number 20-5, Beilke seconded the foregoing motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried and Resolution Number 20-5 was declared duly adopted.

OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED AND ACTION TAKEN:

COVID-19

Kunz moved Beilke seconded to address the COVID-19 health emergency and to protect the public from the unintended spread of the COVID-19 virus by closing the McPherson County Courthouse to the general public from 12PM May 5th, 2020 until the June 4th, 2020 regular County Commission Meeting; County Offices will be available to the public during regular business hours by telephone, email and fax; the Courthouse will be open for all voters on election day June 2nd, 2020. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

A drop box is available at the courthouse in the east vestibule. Any business placed in the drop box should include a contact phone number and if the customer wants completed work mailed back or wants to pick it up. Should the customer want to pick up completed work a staff member will review pickup instructions with the customer. Please allow additional time for essential business. The courthouse will be open for all voters on election day and In-person Absentee voting is available during regular business hours by calling the Auditor's office.

During the period of time of the closure of the McPherson County Courthouse, the McPherson County court system remains open and all people will have access to the court system. In order to access the court system all a person needs to do is contact the McPherson County Clerk of Courts at (605) 439-3361 or (605) 377-4291, or the McPherson County State's Attorney's Office (605) 284-5121. The court system in McPherson County remains accessible to anyone in the public that needs it.

Protective safety equipment will be installed prior to re-opening to protect the public and employees.

Highway Department

Metzger moved and Feickert seconded to accept Brandon Pickell's resignation and to advertise for the open position. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Glenn Spitzer updated the board on road conditions in areas that are experiencing high water or water over the road. Some roads have been closed. Machinery grant opportunities were discussed along with extended warranty options and prices for the new 140M purchased from Faulk County.

Feickert moved and Kunz seconded to sign the SDDOT road striping agreement for approximately 30 miles of road to be striped and McPherson County's share of the cost will be \$18,287.39. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Right of Way Permits

Feickert moved and Kunz seconded to approve the following right of way permits all submitted by FEM Electric Association Inc.:

1. To install a 2-inch power cable by boring between Sections 30 and 29 of 126-73.
2. To install a 2-inch power cable by boring between Sections 11 and 12 of 126-73.
3. To install a 2-inch power cable by boring between Sections 3 and 10 of 125-68.

All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Director of Equalization

Lanette Butler will be sending surveys to property owners soon in an attempt to update some property cards. Butler and Deputy Assessor Brooke Graves will be out in the communities to reassess properties soon.

Butler updated the board on a possible abatement that will be presented by the State's Attorney at the next meeting on a parcel near Long Lake.

Drainage Board

At 10:30AM Kunz moved and Feickert seconded to meet as the McPherson County Drainage Commission. All voted in favor. Motion carried. The commission met concurrently with the Board of Commissioners and their minutes are listed in a separate section.

Sheriff/Emergency Management Department

Updated plans from one architecture company has been received for the regional jail. The next regional jail meeting is scheduled for May 12th. An update on the West Nile grant and delivery of the new police patrol vehicle was given.

Beilke moved and Kunz seconded to sign the memorandum of understanding between the county and the McPherson County Conservation district regarding the use of the conservation districts refrigerated buildings. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Metzger moved and Beilke seconded to transfer \$1,694.47 from Emergency Management restricted for first responders to the Emergency Management restricted. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Executive Session

Metzger moved and Kunz seconded to enter into executive session at 11:05AM to discuss employment matters. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Kunz moved and Feickert seconded to exit executive session at 11:20AM.

As a result of executive session Kunz moved and Metzger seconded to accept Ted Smith's resignation and advertise for the open position. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Primary Election

Absentee Voting has begun and there has been an increased interest. The election worker needs and polling locations were discussed. With the covid-19 pandemic combining polling locations and promoting absentee voting should allow the county to hire less poll workers to work on election day. Personal protective equipment, plexiglass shields and disinfectants will be ordered to protect the public and election workers.

Miscellaneous Items and Reports

Feickert moved and Beilke seconded to sign the Veterans Service office space lease at 207 J Ave Suite 1B. Upon roll call vote: Beilke, Feickert and Neuharth voted in favor. Kunz and Metzger abstained from voting. Motion carried.

The following miscellaneous items and reports were reviewed and approved: Veterans Service Officer monthly report, notice and record of payments to poor persons January 2020 through April 2020, Register of Deeds statement of fees collected during the month of April 2020 for the amount of \$2,552.25, Register of Deed's Modernization and Preservation fees collected during month of April 2020 for the amount of \$380.00, Auditor's Account with the County Treasurer as of April 30th, 2020 as follows: total amount of deposits in Leola Bank, \$41,622.50; total amount of actual cash, \$853.77; total amount of checks and drafts in treasurer's possession not exceeding three days, \$279,697.34; CD's, \$1,160,582.51; Super savings, \$3,512,858.07; total, \$4,995,614.19.

At 12:15PM Beilke moved and Feickert seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carried. The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday June 4th beginning at 9AM.

ATTEST:

Lindley Howard

McPherson County Auditor

Jeff Neuharth

Chairman of Board of Commissioners