

McPherson County Board of Commissioners
Minutes of Proceedings
February 6th, 2024

The McPherson County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 6th, 2024 in the Commissions chambers. Chairman Rick Beilke called the meeting to order at 10:00AM. Members present were Sid Feickert, Anthony Kunz, Jeff Neuharth, and Mark Opp.

Opp moved and Neuharth seconded to approve the agenda of the February meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carried. No conflicts of interest were declared, Neuharth disclosed phone conversations with the SD Canvassing Group.

Feickert moved and Kunz seconded to approve the minutes of the December 5th, December 28th and January 31st commissioner's meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Feickert moved and Kunz seconded to approve the minutes of the January 2nd meeting with the following requested correction: The published wording "The County Republicans also asked the board to vote on instructing the Auditor to bring the sealed 2020 general election ballots to a County Republican meeting to be used for training purposes" is corrected to read "The County Republicans also asked the board to allow that the 2020 ballots be used for hand counting training purposes". All voted in favor. Motion carried.

CLAIMS APPROVED:

Access Elevator & Lifts, Lift Parts, \$4,763.46; Agtegra, Fuel, \$2,843.06; Amazon, Supplies, \$780.94; Aramark, Supplies, \$962.22; ATT, Cellphone/Hotspot, \$523.63; Auto Value, Hwy Supplies, \$940.60; Brown County Sheriff, Prisoner Care, \$70.00; Butler, Hwy Supplies, \$2,709.61; Cartney Bearing, Hwy Supplies, \$16.18; Century Business Products, Printer/Printer Contract, \$6,191.68; CHS, Propane, \$6,660.41; Crawford Truck & Equipment, Hwy Supplies, \$2,979.33; CRS, Inmate Insurance, \$71.30; Curt's Repair, Oil Change/Oxygen Tank, \$122.97; Dakota Fluid Power, Hwy Supplies, \$17.40; Dakota Oil, Hwy Supplies, \$331.10; Dickey Rural Telephone Company, Server Maint/Backup/Fix, \$340.89; Eureka City, Utilities, \$86.50; Eureka MFG Inc, Hwy Supplies, \$1,218.50; Fastenal Company, Hwy Supplies, \$45.62; FEM, Utilities, \$566.33; Gene's Oil, Fuel, \$944.43; Glacial Lakes & Prairie Tourism, 2024 Allocation, \$300.00; Grow SD, 2024 Allocation, \$3,000.00; Heartland Waste, Utilities, \$40.00; JGE, Hwy Supplies, \$97.05; Ken's, Hwy Supplies, \$76.00; Anthony Kunz, Jan VSO Rent, \$266.00; Lakeside Lumber, Hwy Supplies, \$158.56; Leola City, Utilities, \$185.47; Lewis & Clark Behavioral, Mental Health, \$213.00; Linde Gas & Equipment, Hwy Supplies, \$689.91; Mac's, Hwy Supplies, \$160.23; Matheson Tri-Gas Inc, Hwy Supplies, \$102.91; McPherson Co Herald, Publishing/Sub, \$458.61; MDU, Utilities, \$1,175.75; Menard's, Hwy Supplies, \$29.18; Microfilm Imaging, ROD/M&P Equipment, \$1,093.20; City of Mobridge, 2024 Maintenance, \$2,349.23; National 4-H Council, 4-H Supplies, \$277.05; NW Blade, Publishing, \$427.93; Performance Oil, DEF, \$107.25; Pomp's Tire Service, Hwy Supplies, \$1,443.49; Premier Equipment, Hwy Supplies, \$996.02; Quill, Ink/Staples, \$759.45; Jackie Rau, Battery Reimbursement, \$17.18; Ron's Service Center, Tires, \$36.16; Runnings, Hwy Supplies, \$44.99; Sanford Health, Autopsy, \$1,366.00; Michael Schwingler, Clothing Reimb, \$153.99; SDACHS, Registration, \$100.00; SDACO, 2024 Dues, \$732.43; SDAE4-HP, Spring Conf, \$65.00; Security Safety Products, Sheriff Supplies, \$215.65; Share Corporation, \$845.48; Sioux Falls Two Way Radio, Sheriff Supplies, \$154.98; Streicher's Inc, Sheriff Supplies, \$179.97; Ten-45 Grocery, Hwy Supplies-Caulk, \$54.57; Transource Truck & Equipment, Hwy Supplies, \$27.66;

USPS, VSO Box Rental, \$72.00; Valley, Phone/Internet, \$922.68; Visa, Hwy Supplies, \$551.17; Visa, Supplies/Sub, \$385.57; Web Water, Courthouse Water, \$451.50; Becky Wolff, Fill in Janitor, \$28.54; Yankton County Treasurer, Mental Health, \$135.00; State Treasurer, Money Due to State, \$46,668.16; State Treasurer, Sales/Excise Tax, \$161.95; SDACC, M&P December Fees, \$84.00; December 2023 Apportionment remitted to Cities/Schools/Townships/Fire Districts, \$42,075.88; Dickey Rural Telephone Company, Maint/Backup/Fix, \$1,090.89; Cortrust, Deliq tax, \$62,836.64; Cortrust, Auto Deposit Fee, \$15.00; January Payroll Reimbursements: Rick Beilke, Comm Miles. \$153.00; Jeffery Neuharth, Comm Miles, \$727.26; Mark Opp, Comm Miles, \$788.97; Samantha Boshard, VSO Miles, \$71.40; Richard Kolb, Zoning Miles, \$3.57; George Hulscher, Zoning Miles, \$35.70.

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

SALARIES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES:

Commissioners, \$6,637.10; Auditor, \$9,596.96; Treasurer, \$9,305.87; State's Attorney, \$6,032.24; Government Building, \$4,555.78; Director of Equalization, \$14,449.60; Register of Deeds, \$9,505.87; Veteran Service Officers, \$2,569.06; Sheriff, \$6,717.75; Extension, \$4,401.12; Weed, \$28.42; Planning & Zoning; \$180.00; Road & Bridge, \$54,861.27; Snow Removal, \$4,338.86; Emergency Management, \$166.67; Eureka Joint Law, \$4,596.66; Leola Joint Law, \$5,196.66.

McPherson County's Share of the following:

Social Security and Medicare: CorTrust Bank: \$10,622.64

Insurance: American Family, \$420.40; Avera, \$3,375.96; Guardian Vision, \$123.89; MetLife, \$161.36; South Dakota Retirement System, \$8,213.06; Colonial Life Vision, \$57.18.

INCREASED SALARIES

Neuharth moved and Opp seconded to increase the pay for the members of the Zoning Board from \$60/meeting to \$100/meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Neuharth moved and Feickert seconded to pay fill in janitors Becky Wolff and Sharon Guthmiller \$22.83/hour. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED AND ACTION TAKEN:

Demkota Permit

Scott Langner, on behalf of Demkota, updated the board.

Neuharth moved and Kunz seconded to extend the 5-mile manure variance permit granted to DemKota Beef Plant until September 1st, 2024 the following conditions will continue: (1) To lessen road wear Demkota will travel the original route - hwy 10, north on C23, west on C2 and south on C21 to location for approximately 50% of the loads, the other 50% of the load will be hauled on the alternative route - enter McPherson County going west on C2, south on C21 to location, (2) approval must be obtained from Wachter and Weber Townships in McPherson County and also from Brown County and Dickey County if the approved route and/or alternate route includes any of their county roads. All voted in favor. Motion carried. The permit fees will remain as outlined in Resolution 24-2.

Director of Equalization

Discussion was held on the Housing and Redevelopment properties in Eureka and Leola. Assessment notices are going out by March 1st. County property valuations and correlated relationship with the school general fund max levies were discussed. School General Fund max levies are set by the legislature and updated each year.

Zoning

Hunter Heinrich Zoning Administrator spoke about the need for a set schedule for zoning meetings. A set schedule is necessary for efficiency for the Equalization office, permit applicants and the public. Neuharth moved and Opp seconded to set the zoning meeting schedule for the third Tuesday of January, April, July, and October; A zoning meeting costs McPherson County \$600/meeting. Should a special meeting be called by the permit applicant, for the purpose of securing their permit at an earlier date, the permit applicant will be responsible for paying \$600 for the special meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

A resolution will be drafted and presented at the next meeting.

Drainage Board

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

Abatements

Opp moved and Neuharth seconded to approve Abatement 24-1: City of Eureka (#7521, 7522, 7523, 7524), PAY 2024 County Portion \$78.10, property is tax exempt. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Kunz moved and Opp seconded to approve Abatement 24-3: City of Eureka (#8853), PAY 2024 County Portion \$4.87, property is tax exempt. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on a proposed Abatement for parcels #5879 and #5886 currently owned by the City of Eureka. Kunz moved and Opp seconded to deny full Abatement 24-2 and to have Auditor Howard reach out to the City of Eureka. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

At 10:45AM the following public comments were heard:

Mike Klipfel (teleconference) - asking on behalf of the County Republicans for a special meeting for election concerns; Tod Gohl, Mike Mardian, Kristin Schauer – all spoke their concerns about all or some of the following items: McPherson County State's Attorney's legal opinions, South Dakota Secretary of State, SB48, SB17, SB20, a Meade County Deputy Auditor, the Minnehaha County Commission, Post Election Audits, CO2 pipeline and SB201; Tiny Hoyle – requested from the hwy department provide minimum fall and spring maintenance on 2 miles of section line to improve access to cattle pastures.

Special Meeting

Feickert moved and Kunz seconded to hold a special meeting on Monday February 12th to discuss election items at the request of the McPherson County Republicans. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Veteran's Service Officer

Sam Boshard shared with the board that VA Secretary Whitlock will be visiting McPherson County on April 16th at 1pm at the Eureka School. She is notifying area veterans and will attempt to arrange transport from Leola to Eureka if the need is there. Boshard was nominated for and will receive the Rich

Kezar Veteran of Armed Services Award at the Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce Community Champions Luncheon on February 13th.

Boshard disclosed her recent election to the Treasurer position in the McPherson County Republicans group. The board did not note any concerns.

Eureka Office Space

Due to the sale of the building at 207 J Ave, the Veterans Service Officer and the State's Attorney's Offices will need to be moved by June 1st, 2024. Sheriff Ackerman is also requesting expanded office space in Eureka. Different permanent and temporary solutions were discussed. Opp will attend the next Eureka City Council meeting to continue the conversation.

Highway Department

Neuharth moved and Feickert seconded to call for hot mix asphalt, AE150S, CSS1H 50/50 to be opened at 10AM on March 5th, 2024. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Neuharth moved and Kunz seconded to call for gravel crushing bids to be opened at 10AM on March 5th, 2024. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Neuharth moved and Feickert seconded to forgive the remaining balance of \$29,981.64 in unpaid highway accounts receivables account, due to the township dissolving in 2023. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Highway Superintendent Glenn Spitzer updated the board on load limits that went into effect on Monday February 5th. Discussion was held with Dickey County North Dakota on turning the 3 miles west of Forbes back to gravel, a maintenance agreement would be necessary should we move forward. All farming should take place outside of the 33 foot off centerline on all roads and section lines. Areas of concern will be inventoried, and those landowners notified. Notices will also be placed in the papers. The signing project engineering is underway. Areas of concern with excessive signs and possible solutions were discussed. Changing the county speed limit to 55 mph was discussed. The commission received a request to ask the hwy department to maintain the road north of Eureka to the airport for emergency transfers.

Emergency Management/Sheriff's Department

Several items were purchased on a West Nile Grant in 2004/2005. These items have been used, stored, and maintained by the City of Eureka and City of Leola since purchase. Kunz moved and Neuharth seconded to surplus the following items, remove them from the Emergency Management inventory, and transfer ownership to the City of Leola, 1 Cougar Fogger, Backpack Sprayer, and Westnile Trailer. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Kunz moved and Neuharth seconded to surplus the following items, remove them from the Emergency Management inventory, and transfer ownership to the City of Eureka, 1 Cougar Fogger. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

State Bid prices for sheriff patrol vehicles were discussed, the price has increased and this will be considered at budget time for a replacement vehicle in 2025.

Executive Session

Kunz moved and Feickert seconded to enter executive session at 2:05PM to discuss personnel matters. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Neuharth moved and Kunz seconded to exit executive session at 2:25PM. All voted in favor. Motion carried. No action taken.

E911 Update

Sharon Guthmiller updated the board on the recent 911 meeting. McPherson County is a voting member. Guthmiller relayed discussion that all members will now be required to remit 100% of their surcharge. McPherson County is a 100% remittance county currently.

Courthouse Maintenance

Jim Wolf updated the board on the repairs needed to the chair lift. Replacement options versus repair were discussed. Kunz moved and Opp seconded to repair the lift for \$4,763.46 in parts and estimated \$2,100 labor/mileage. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Neuharth moved and Feickert seconded to pay out all fill in janitor hours as they accrue. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Wolf and Glenn Spitzer updated the board on the backup generator.

Meeting Authorizations

Kunz moved and Neuharth seconded to approve the following meetings: Glenn Spitzer to attend the SDACHS Short Course in Deadwood; Lindley Howard to attend the Election workshop in Pierre; Micheal Schwingler and Ronnie Ehresman to attend the Weed Conference. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Miscellaneous Items and Reports

The following miscellaneous items and reports were reviewed and approved: VSO Hours January 2024, Register of Deeds statement of fees collected during the month of January 2024 for the amount of \$3,442.50, Register of Deed's Modernization and Preservation fees collected during month of January 2024 for the amount of \$155.00, Auditor's Account with the County Treasurer as of January 31st, 2024 as follows: total amount of deposits in Leola Bank, \$52,850.27; total amount of actual cash, \$1,215.40; total amount of checks and drafts in treasurer's possession not exceeding three days, \$28,642.59; Itemized list of all items, checks and drafts in the Treasurer's possession over three days, \$1,263.68; CD's, \$1,173,205.63; Super savings, \$1,208,563.30; total, \$2,765,740.87.

The next commission meetings will be held on Tuesday, March 5th beginning at 10AM and in special session on Monday, February 12th beginning at 10AM.

At 3:15PM Opp moved and Neuharth seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Lindley Howard

McPherson County Auditor

Rick Beilke

Chairman of Board of Commissioners