

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

The McPherson County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 6th, 2024, in the Commissions chambers. Chairman Rick Beilke called the meeting to order at 9:00AM. Members present were Sid Feickert (present until 2pm), Jeff Neuharth, and Mark Opp. Excused Anthony Kunz

Feickert moved and Opp seconded to approve the August 6th agenda with the addition of discussion on the November post-election audit. Feickert, Neuharth, Opp and Beilke voted 'Aye'. Kunz excused. Motion carried. No conflicts of interest were declared.

Neuharth moved and Feickert seconded to approve the minutes of the July 2nd commissioner meeting. Feickert, Neuharth, Opp and Beilke voted 'Aye'. Kunz excused. Motion carried.

At 9:05AM no public concerns or comments were brought before the board.

CLAIMS APPROVED:

Agtegra, Hwy/Soil Dist/Courthouse Supplies, \$3,398.01; Amazon, Supplies, \$1,423.65; Aramark, Supplies, \$277.86; ATT, Cellphone/Hotspot, \$493.73; Axon Enterprises, Taser/Supplies, \$1,915.60; Butler, Hwy Supplies, \$2,015.62; Cartney Bearing, Hwy Supplies, \$62.16; Century Business Products, Printer Contract, \$26.76; Dependable Sanitation, Utilities, \$261.00; Dickey Rural Telephone Coop, Server Maint/Backup, \$145.89; DMI, Hwy Supplies, \$4,548.35; Eureka City, Utilities, \$87.50; ECDC, Aug State's Attorney Rent, \$300.00; Eureka Fire Dept, Fire Tax, \$10,273.84; Eureka Comm Health Service, 3rd Qtr Nursing, \$7,125.00; Eureka Medical Clinic, Pre Employment Screening, \$185.00; Eureka Senior Center, 2024 Allocation, \$3,060.00; FEM, Utilities, \$435.75; Flint Hills, Hwy Supplies, \$173,795.68; Galls Inc, Sheriff Supplies, \$138.79; Gene's Oil, Fuel, \$10,587.88; Hosmer Fire Dept, Fire Tax, \$1,295.00; Seth Ketterling, Tire Casings, \$315.00; Leola Legion Bar, Room Rental-Upper Missouri Meeting, \$75.00; Leola City, Utilities, \$196.22; Leola Fire Department, Fire Tax, \$11,548.59; Leola Senior Center, 2024 Allocation, \$940.00; Leola Sports Mans Club, Training Reimb, \$250.00; Linde Gas & Equipment, Hwy Supplies, \$923.45; Long Lake Fire Dept, Fire Tax, \$2,374.12; Maxwell Electric, Generator Service, \$819.67; McPherson Co Herald, Publishing, \$272.92; MDU, Utilities, \$833.58; Menards, Hwy Supplies, \$144.00; Microfilm Imaging, ROD/M&P Equipment Rent, \$364.40; National 4-H Council, 4-H Supplies, \$214.83; North Central Regional E911, Apr-Jun Remittance, \$8,277.45; Northeastern Mental Health, 2024 Allocation, \$4,000.00; NW Blade, Publishing, \$305.98; Pomp's Tire Service, Hwy Supplies, \$1,672.89; PQL, Lights, \$944.27; Premier Equipment, Hwy Supplies, \$422.11; Quill, Ink, \$61.99; Jackie Rau, Reimb, \$135.00; RDO Equipment, Hwy Supplies, \$2,385.00; Ron's Service Center, Oil Changes, \$109.32; Runnings, Gloves, \$17.99; Safe Harbor, Marr & Divorce Fees, \$170.00; SD Public Health Lab, Tests, \$165.00; Streicher's Inc, Supplies, \$167.96; Valley, Phone/Internet, \$924.33; Vanguard, Service Fees, \$2,250.00; Visa, Hwy Supplies, \$33.41; Visa, Hwy Supplies, \$111.99; Visa, Supplies/Sub, \$483.90; Web Water, Courthouse Water, \$234.00; CorTrust, Auto Deposit Fee, \$15.00; ECDC, July State's Attorney Rent, \$300.00; Valley, Phone/Internet, \$991.74; State Treasurer, Money Due to State, \$76,101.21; State Treasurer, Sales/Excise Tax, \$9.92; SDACC, M&P June Fees, \$128.00; May 2024 Apportionment remitted to Cities/Schools/Townships/Fire Districts, \$119,257.72; July Payroll Reimbursements: Jeff Neuharth, Miles, \$451.67; Anthony Kunz, Miles, \$271.32; Mark Opp, Miles,

\$295.75; Brooke Graves, Meals/Reimb, \$96.66; Hunter Heinrich, Meals, \$94.00; Sam Boshard, Miles, \$35.70; Richard Kolb, Miles, \$4.59; Alvin Kallas, Miles, \$16.38; George Hulscher, Miles, \$45.85.

Neuharth moved and Opp seconded to approve the forgoing claims. Opp, Neuharth, Beilke voted 'Aye'. Feickert and Kunz excused. Motion carried.

SALARIES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES:

Commissioners, \$6,637.10; Elections, \$28.00; Auditor, \$9,596.96; Treasurer, \$9,405.87; State's Attorney, \$6,682.26; Government Building, \$4,692.76; Director of Equalization, \$14,449.60; Register of Deeds, \$9,505.87; Veteran Service Officers, \$1,969.06; Sheriff, \$11,914.41; Extension, \$4,401.12; Weed Control, \$800.80; Planning & Zoning, \$400.00; Road & Bridge, \$59,259.30; 911, \$14.00; Emergency Management, \$166.67; Eureka Joint Law, \$4,596.66; Leola Joint Law, \$4,681.01.

McPherson County's Share of the following:

Social Security and Medicare: CorTrust Bank: \$11,101.55

Insurance: American Family, \$373.25; Avera, \$3,375.96; Guardian Vision, \$114.36; MetLife, \$151.00; South Dakota Retirement System, \$8,102.90; Colonial Life Vision, \$57.18.

ADDED/INCREASED SALARIES

Opp moved and Neuharth seconded to add the following salary, Nathan Hoffman, Weed Supervisor, \$30/hour for up to 150 hours a year. Feickert, Neuharth, Opp and Beilke voted 'Aye'. Kunz excused. Motion carried.

Neuharth moved and Feickert seconded to add the following salary, Micheal Yost, Highway Department, \$25/hour. Feickert, Neuharth, Opp and Beilke voted 'Aye'. Kunz excused. Motion carried.

Neuharth moved and Opp seconded to increase the following salaries retroactively to July 1st, 2024 due to the adoption of a new sheriff salary scale: Justin Bentz and AJ Whited, Step 3 certified deputy sheriff, \$28.10/hour, \$58,448/year for 2080 hours; Jorge Olivar, Step 1 Non Certified New Hire, \$25.00/hour, \$52,000/year for 2080 hours. Feickert, Neuharth, Opp and Beilke voted 'Aye'. Kunz excused. Motion carried.

Feickert moved and Opp seconded to increase Justin Bentz to Step 4 (years 2-3) on the Sheriff Salary Scale, \$28.35/hour, \$58,968/year for 2080 hours as of 8/1/2024. Feickert, Neuharth, Opp and Beilke voted 'Aye'. Kunz excused. Motion carried.

OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED AND ACTION TAKEN:

Lot 4 Lindemann Addition

Opp moved and Neuharth seconded to have the chairman sign a quit claim deed, deeding Lot 4, Lindemann Addition, A/K/A the South 149.4 feet of the East 29.5 feet of the west 201.5 feet of the Southwest quarter of the Northeast quarter (SW1/4NE1/4) in Section thirty-five (35), Township One hundred twenty-seven (127), Range seventy-three (73) west of the fifth PM, to which lot 4 was dedicated for public use forever for street purposes on the plat, to the City of Eureka (parcel #8543). Feickert, Neuharth, Opp and Beilke voted 'Aye'. Kunz excused. Motion carried.

Abatement 24-6

Opp moved and Feickert seconded to approve abatement 24-6, record #8543 deeded to the City of Eureka, County General PAY 2019-2023 \$4.34, PAY 2024 \$0.89, Total County General \$5.23; Secondary

Roads PAY 2019-2023 \$0.95, PAY 2024 \$0.20, Secondary Roads Total \$1.15. Feickert, Neuharth, Opp and Beilke voted 'Aye'. Kunz excused. Motion carried.

Tax Deed Property

Treasurer's tax deed has been taken on parcel #7608, Lots 10 & 11A Block 11 Mil Land Co. 3rd Addition Eureka City, 906 I Ave. Feickert moved, and Opp seconded to declare Lots 10 & 11A Block 11 Mil Land Co. 3rd Addition Eureka City surplus property and to sell this property at public auction to be held at 10AM on September 24th. Feickert, Neuharth, Opp and Beilke voted 'Aye'. Kunz excused. Motion carried.

Auditor's Office

Feickert moved and Neuharth seconded to approve an automatic supplement to account for dissolved Weber Twps. expenses in Dissolved Township Fund 242; revenue 242-0-339 \$28,355.90; expense 242-311-433 \$28,355.90. Feickert, Neuharth, Opp and Beilke voted 'Aye'. Kunz excused. Motion carried.

Neuharth moved and Opp seconded make the following cash transfers: budgeted \$30,000 cash from General Fund to Leola Joint Law Fund; budgeted \$30,000 cash from General Fund to Eureka Joint Law Fund. Feickert, Neuharth, Opp and Beilke voted 'Aye'. Kunz excused. Motion carried.

Neuharth moved and Opp seconded to allow the SDACO to move McPherson County's website from .org to .gov. Feickert, Neuharth, Opp and Beilke voted 'Aye'. Kunz excused. Motion carried.

Courthouse Maintenance

Feickert moved and Neuharth seconded to order and replace the condensate boiler pump. Feickert, Neuharth, Opp and Beilke voted 'Aye'. Kunz excused. Motion carried. Wolf will contact GR Control to arrange the repair.

Clerk of Courts

Neuharth moved and Opp seconded to grant the clerk of courts request for up to \$800 total to purchase 10 blackout blinds for the ancillary 3rd floor rooms with courthouse maintenance installing. Feickert, Neuharth, Opp and Beilke voted 'Aye'. Kunz excused. Motion carried.

Nathan Hoffman/Weed Board:

Ronnie Ehresman on behalf of the weed board and Nathan Hoffman met with the board to discuss the open weed supervisor and weed sprayer positions. Hoffman is interested in the position and discussed the position with Ehresman and the board. Feickert moved and Neuharth seconded to offer the weed supervisor position to Hoffman to begin immediately, for up to 150 hours for the year, with Hoffman utilizing the county's spraying equipment. Feickert, Neuharth, Opp and Beilke voted 'Aye'. Kunz excused. Motion carried.

Ehresman presented the board with his letter of resignation from the Weed Board. The board thanked him for his 30+ years of service to the board. Commissioner Feickert will communicate the resignation to the weed board. The weed board will recommend a replacement for the commission to consider when filling the open seat on the board. Anyone interested should reach out to a weed board member or Commissioner Feickert. The next weed board meeting will be in November. Weed Enforcement through a court order was also briefly discussed.

Opening Conference FY2022-2023 Audit

Jason Hill from the Department of Legislative Audit presented the board with an engagement letter for the FY2022-2023 Audit. Audit reports will be issued at the conclusion of the audit. Past audit reports,

fraud hotline information and other resources are available on the Department of Legislative Audit's website.

Highway Department

Fences in the right of way were discussed. Three fences 20.5 feet to 23 feet off the centerline in a 33 foot right of way have been identified as structures that need to be moved. The commission will discuss the situation with the landowner if they reside in their district. The hwy superintendent will also have the State's Attorney draft a formal letter to the 3 landowners. Prior authorization must be given before a landowner installs a fence within the right of way, fences within the right of way may be allowed on a case-by-case basis. Fences currently approved and located in the right of way would need approval again if the fence is rebuilt. A notice will also be published. Right of way distances differ per road and are in the Register of Deeds office.

DENR has extended the county's mining permit on the Rath pit. Crushing may begin later this fall. Motor graders are out and the department is installing culverts on oil roads before hot mixing can be completed. Section line maintenance and farming in the right of way on section lines was discussed.

Executive Session 1-25-2(1)

Feickert moved and Opp seconded to enter executive session at 10:20AM to discuss personnel matters. Feickert, Neuharth, Opp and Beilke voted 'Aye'. Kunz excused. Motion carried. Feickert moved and Neuharth seconded to exit executive session at 10:40AM. Feickert, Neuharth, Opp and Beilke voted 'Aye'. Kunz excused. Motion carried.

As a result of executive session, Neuharth moved and Feickert seconded to hire Micheal Yost to fill the open highway department position at a starting rate of \$25/hour, beginning on August 7th, 2024. Feickert, Neuharth, Opp and Beilke voted 'Aye'. Kunz excused. Motion carried. Utilizing an employment contract for repayment of CDL expenses prior to beginning CDL training was discussed.

Drainage Board

At 10:40AM, Feickert moved and Neuharth seconded to forgo meeting as the McPherson County Drainage Commission for the month of August due to no new applications. Feickert, Neuharth, Opp and Beilke voted 'Aye'. Kunz excused. Motion carried.

Post Election Audit

Linda Schauer, Jodi Waltman, Marian Kallas, Melvin Kallas, Mike Mardian met with the board requesting the county perform a 100% post-election audit on every ballot cast in the November general election. The commission will place the agenda item on the September 3rd meeting agenda.

Taylor Durmeier – County Health Nurse

Durmeier updated the board on the services that she provides as county health nurse to residents of McPherson County including: WIC, baby-care, the safe sleep program, car seat program, footcare and immunizations. Durmeier serves on the Northeast Mental Health Board and is also doing the Growth and Development classes and preschool screenings at Leola and Eureka schools. This year there are two contracts, one for community health and one for WIC. Opp moved and Feickert seconded to sign the WIC contract with a \$14,250 contribution and sign the Community Health contract with a \$14,250 contribution, total county contribution for both contracts \$28,500. Feickert, Neuharth, Opp and Beilke voted 'Aye'. Kunz excused. Motion carried.

Sharon Guthmiller - Policies

Guthmiller met with the board to discuss the vacation policy. She would like to see the commission increase the yearly vacation day allotment for employees who have worked 16+ years from 18 days/year to 20 days/year. Discussion was held on the number of days the county currently lets an employee roll over to the next year. No action taken.

Sheriff Department

Sheriff Ackerman asked the board to consider amending the sheriff deputy pay scale.

Neuharth moved and Opp seconded to approve the following Sheriff Deputy Salary Scale retroactive to July 1st, 2024: Non-certified New Hire – 25.00/hour, 52,000/year; Certified New Hire – 27.00/hour, 56,160/year; Certified New Hire after 6 months' probation – 28.10/hour, 58,448/year; After certification at LET – 28.10/hour, 58,448/year; Years 2-3 – 28.35/hour, 58,968/year; Year 4 – 28.60/hour, 59,488/year; Year 5 - \$29.10/hour, \$60,528/year; Year 6-8 – 29.35/hour, \$61,048/year; Year 9 – 29.60/hour, 61,568/year; Year 10 – 30.10/hour, 62,608/year. Feickert, Neuharth, Opp and Beilke voted 'Aye'. Kunz excused. Motion carried.

Auditor

Fair Labor Standards Act Amendments were discussed with the board. On January 1st, 2025, several employees currently considered exempt will be nonexempt. Some best practices that should be implemented for 2025 were discussed with the board including, amending the time sheet, payroll policies, standardizing rates for employees performing multiple jobs during a normal day, comp time balance payout.

Neuharth moved and Opp seconded to begin paying nonexempt employee's remaining comp time balances on December 31st, 2024, and going forward paying balances each year on December 31st. Feickert, Neuharth, Opp and Beilke voted 'Aye'. Kunz excused. Motion carried.

2025 Provisional Budget

The commission reviewed and made several changes to the 2025 provisional budget. Wage scales were discussed. Neuharth moved and Opp seconded to approve the edited provisional budget for publication. Feickert, Neuharth, Opp and Beilke voted 'Aye'. Kunz excused. Motion carried. A draft of the 2025 budget is available in the Auditor's Office. A public hearing will be held on September 3rd at 9AM for the purpose of considering the provisional budget for 2025. Final budget adoption will take place on September 24th, 2024.

Meeting Authorizations

Feickert moved and Opp seconded to approve the following meetings, Lindley Howard to attend a workshop in Pierre at the end of August; Lindley Howard, Tiffany Weiszhaar, Vicki Geffre and Glenn Spitzer to attend the Fall Convention in Rapid City; Brooke Graves, Hunter Heinrich, Sharon Guthmiller to attend the Vanguard User Group Meeting August 7th-8th in Oacoma, office will be closed; Hunter Heinrich to attend Assessor's School September 16th-20th in Oacoma. Feickert, Neuharth, Opp and Beilke voted 'Aye'. Kunz excused. Motion carried.

Miscellaneous Items and Reports

The following miscellaneous items and reports were reviewed and approved: VSO Hours July 2024, Register of Deeds statement of fees collected during the month of July 2024 for the amount of \$1,585, Register of Deed's Modernization and Preservation fees collected during month of July 2024 for the amount of \$190, Auditor's Account with the County Treasurer as of July 31st, 2024 as follows: total amount of deposits in Leola Bank, \$331,272.41; total amount of actual cash, \$1,402.70; total amount of checks and drafts in treasurer's possession not exceeding three days, \$6,068.95; Itemized list of all items, checks and drafts in the Treasurer's possession over three days, \$1,388.28; CD's, \$1,181,774.94; Super savings, \$1,609,374.44; total, \$3,131,281.72.

At 2:45PM Neuharth moved and Opp seconded to adjourn the meeting. Neuharth, Opp and Beilke voted 'Aye'. Feickert and Kunz excused. Motion carried.

The next regular Board of Commissioners meetings will be held on Tuesday, September 3rd beginning at 9AM and Tuesday, September 24th beginning at 9AM.

ATTEST:

Lindley Howard

McPherson County Auditor

Rick Beilke

Chairman of Board of Commissioners