

Gregory County Commission Proceedings

The regular meeting of the Gregory County Commission was held Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in Burke with the following members present: Jeff Johnson, Myron Johnson, Jessy Biggins, Kelsea Sutton and Bob Hausmann. Also, present: Julie Bartling, Auditor

The meeting was opened and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Bob Hausmann, second by Myron Johnson to approve the agenda with the following change: Mr. Larry Jira will not be attending the meeting until a later date due to health concerns. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Kelsea Sutton, second by Jessy Biggins to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2020 meeting as read. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Conflicts of Interest: The Chair asked if there were any conflicts of interest from members present. None were notated.

Ex-Parte Communications: The Chair inquired if there has been any ex-parte communications by any member present. None were notated.

Public Input: The Commission opened the floor for public input. No one appeared at the meeting.

Grants/Loans Programs: Commissioner Kelsea Sutton discussed grants and loan programs that the county could apply for to assist with Courthouse repairs and updates.

Motion by Kelsea Sutton, second by Bob Hausmann to offer the following resolution:

AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION

U.S. Department of Agriculture Application for Federal Assistance

WHEREAS, the Gregory County Commission has identified the need for improvements to the Gregory County Courthouse; and

WHEREAS, the Gregory County Commission proposes to apply for a Rural Development Community Facilities Loan/Grant in order to meet local needs; and

WHEREAS, the Gregory County Commission is eligible for federal assistance for the proposed project; and

WHEREAS, with the submission of the Rural Development loan application, the Gregory County Commission assures and certifies that all program requirements will be fulfilled; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gregory County Commission duly authorizes the submission of the Rural Development loan/grant application to assist in the construction of the proposed addition project.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gregory County Commission Chairman be authorized to execute the Application for Federal Assistance for the County.

Upon roll call: Bob Hausmann-aye; Kelsea Sutton-aye; Jessy Biggins-aye; Myron Johnson-aye; Jeff Johnson-aye. Resolution passed.

Plat Approvals: The following plats were presented to the Commission for approval:

*Plat of Lots 1 and 4, a subdivision of a portion of Tract A, Mulehead Subdivision located in the SE¼ NE¼ and the NE¼ SE¼ of Section 20, T97N, R68W. Motion by Jessy Biggins, second by Myron Johnson to offer the following resolution:

APPROVAL-GREGORY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS: the owners of all the lands herein platted as **Lots 1 and 4**, a subdivision of a portion of Tract A, Mulehead Subdivision, located in the SE¼ of the NE¼ and the NE¼ of the SE¼ of Section 20, Township 97 North, Range 68 West of the 5th P.M. Gregory County, SD, have presented this plat to the Gregory County Board of Commissioners for their consideration and approval and it appears that the platted land lies outside the platting jurisdiction of any municipality and

WHEREAS: it appears that the plat conforms to all requirements of SDCL 11-3-8.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the plat be approved the 17th day of March, 2020.

Upon roll call for vote: Bob Hausmann-aye; Kelsea Sutton-aye; Jessy Biggins-aye; Myron Johnson-aye; Jeff Johnson-aye. Resolution passed.

*Plat of Lots 2 and 3, a subdivision of a portion of Tract B, Mulehead Subdivision located in the SW¼ NW¼ and the NW¼ SW¼ of Section 21, T97N, R68W. Motion by Jessy Biggins, second by Myron Johnson to offer the following resolution:

APPROVAL-GREGORY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS; the owners of all the lands herein platted as **Lots 2 and 3**, a subdivision of a portion of Tract B, Mulehead Subdivision, located in the SW¼ of the NW¼ and the NW¼ of the SW¼ of Section 21, Township 97 North, Range 68 West of the 5th P.M. Gregory County, SD, have presented this plat to the Gregory County Board of Commissioners for their consideration and approval, and it appears that the platted land lies outside the platting jurisdiction of any municipality and

WHEREAS: it appears that the plat conforms to all requirement of SDCL 11-3-8.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the plat be approved the 17th day of March, 2020.

Upon roll call for vote: Bob Hausmann-aye; Kelsea Sutton-aye; Jessy Biggins-aye; Myron Johnson-aye; Jeff Johnson-aye. Resolution passed.

Farm Land Lease Public Auction: The public auction for lease of 143.9 acres of county-owned land was held at 9:30 a.m. Motion by Myron Johnson, second by Bob Hausmann to accept the bid of Ponca Creek Farms, LLP for a 5-year lease at \$110.00 per acre. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

FSA Designations: Motion by Myron Johnson, second by Jessy Biggins to authorize Julie Bartling, Gregory County Auditor, to sign any required paperwork at the local FSA office and to designate ARC and/or PLC payments for the county-owned land to be sent to the Burke School District. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Travel Request: Motion by Kelsea Sutton, second by Bob Hausmann to approve the following travel request:

Chelsea Biehl, Dep. Sheriff- -SDNOA Conference- -May 6-8, 2020 at Deadwood, SD

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

The bid lettings for Chip Sealing, Chip Hauling and Asphalt Overlay were held at 10:00 a.m. The following bids were received:

Chip Sealing: The following bids for chip sealing of 4.5 miles of road were received:

TopKote, Inc.	\$24,223.44 average/mile
Bituminous Paving, Inc.	\$24,695.76 average/mile
The Road Guy Construction	\$19,874.00 average/mile

Motion by Jessy Biggins, second by Kelsea Sutton to accept the bid of The Road Guy Construction. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Chip Seal Hauling: The following bids were received for chip seal hauling:

Naper Transport, Inc.	\$16.99 per ton average
Sinclair Sand & Gravel, Inc.	\$18.99 per ton average

Motion by Jessy Biggins, second by Bob Hausmann to accept the bid of Naper Transport, Inc. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Asphalt Overlay – No bids were received for 2020 Asphalt Overlay.

Employment Advertisement: Motion by Jessy Biggins, second by Kelsea Sutton to advertise for 2 full-time employees for the Highway Department. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Fencing Projects: Motion by Jessy Biggins, second by Myron Johnson to advertise for temporary and permanent fencing needs in accordance with FEMA requirements. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Executive Session: Motion by Kelsea Sutton, second by Myron Johnson to enter into executive session at 10:55 a.m. to discuss personnel. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Kelsea Sutton, second by Jessy Biggins to adjourn from executive session at 11:03 a.m. with no action taken. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Highway Superintendent Pay Compensation: Motion by Myron Johnson, second by Jessy Biggins to pay an additional \$5,000.00 to Brad Ellwanger for the overtime spent on FEMA work during the latter half of 2019 and first few months of 2020. The additional pay will be reimbursed with FEMA funds. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Sheriff's Department Vehicle Purchases Update: Cody Spann and Darwin Grim, Deputy Sheriffs, met with the Commission to break down the costs of purchasing the 2018 Dodge Ram and 2020 Chevrolet Silverado pickups. The 2020 Chevrolet was actually purchased for less money including all added equipment. The Sheriff's Department is committed to staying under budget throughout the year.

Executive Session: Motion by Jessy Biggins, second by Myron Johnson to enter into executive session at 11:30 a.m. to discuss personnel. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Kelsea Sutton, second by Bob Hausmann to adjourn from executive session at 11:36 a.m. with no action taken. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Recess:

Motion by Jessy Biggins, second by Bob Hausmann to recess until 1:00 p.m. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

The commission resumed the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Covid-19 Meeting and Update: The Commission called the following individuals in to discuss the Covid-19 virus and concerns of a positive test happening in Gregory County:

Brad Christensen, EM&D Director
Anthony Timanus, Gregory Avera Hospital
Mistie Sachtjen, Sanford Hospital (via telephone)
Teri Schoenefeld, Community Health Nurse
Tim Drey, Sheriff
Darwin Grim, Deputy Sheriff
Megan Lindholm, Sheriff's Administrative Assistant
Brad Ellwanger, Highway Superintendent
Kathy Serr, Treasurer
Wendy Broome, Courthouse Maintenance

The conversation was held that concerns are, that it is not if a positive case happens, but when. The Commission discussed what should be done at the Courthouse to make sure social interaction is limited.

Motion by Kelsea Sutton, second by Bob Hausmann to implement the following protocols for the Courthouse and Highway Department until further notice:

- *The office to the Gregory County Highway Department will remain locked at all times.
- *All visitors to the Courthouse shall enter through the front door and will be screened before proceeding into the building. The back door will remain locked at all times.
- *Encourage county residents to call ahead to the department(s) that services are required of and to do business by phone or mail if at all possible.

* County employees who are experiencing illness, should stay home until cleared by their physician.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Request for Abatement of Taxes: David Gnirk and Luke Adams met with the Commission to discuss the classification of hog confinement structures, which is currently commercial. The request is to classify the structures as agricultural. This request is to abate \$7,074.79 of 2019 taxes payable in 2020.

The Director of Equalization stated that from 2020 going forward, the structures will be assessed and taxed as agricultural.

Motion by Myron Johnson, second by Jessy Biggins to approve the abatement of \$7,074.79 to follow the recommendation of the SD Department of Revenue's classification of Ag on confinement structures located on the S½ of Section 5-98-70. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Easter Holiday Leave: Motion by Jessy Biggins, second by Bob Hausmann to grant April 10, 2020 (Good Friday) and April 13, 2020 (Easter Monday) off to all county employees, following the State of South Dakota's policy. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Adjourn: Motion by Bob Hausmann, second by Kelsea Sutton to adjourn. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

ATTEST: _____
Julie Bartling, Gregory Co. Auditor

Jeff Johnson, Chair