

Gregory County Commission Proceedings

The regular meeting of the Gregory County Commission was held Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in Burke with the following members present: Jeff Johnson, Myron Johnson, Jessy Biggins, Kelsea Sutton (via telephone) and Bob Hausmann. Also, present: Julie Bartling, Auditor, Amy Bartling Jacobsen, States Attorney; Tim Drey, Sheriff; and Patty Connealy, Gregory Times Advocate (via telephone).

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

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Jessy Biggins, second by Bob Hausmann to approve the agenda. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Bob Hausmann, second by Myron Johnson to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2020 meeting with the following corrections:

<u>Claims Paid:</u>	<u>Delete</u>		<u>Insert</u>	
	Matucha Trucking	\$110,076.06 (incorrect)	Matucha Trucking	\$ 16,787.30
	Galls's LLC	\$ 656.34 (split out)	Gall's, LLC (Sheriff)	\$ 264.20
			Gall's, LLC (24/7)	\$ 392.14

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Myron Johnson, second by Bob Hausmann to approve the minutes of the April 14, 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. The following appeared at the meeting to discuss the Public Health Crisis Resolution No. 03-24-20:

Suzanne Braun, Gregory/Dallas Area Chamber of Commerce, representing Get Fit With Jenny (Fitness Gym in Gregory) and Tamara Cook (Barbershop in Gregory), met with the Commissioners to discuss the amended Public Health Crisis Resolution No. 03-24-20 and the adverse effect the closures have had on the businesses.

J.J. and Rose Wolf, owners of The Studio hair salon in Gregory also met with the Board to convey their concerns with the recent closures, and discuss the therapeutic needs that hair salons provide to their clients. Ms. Wolf is speaking on behalf of the cosmetologists who operate her salon.

Both parties commented on the health and sanitation requirements that the businesses must adhere to.

Amy Bartling Jacobsen, State's Attorney, reminded the group that essential businesses are permitted to remain open per Executive Orders of the Governor of the State of South Dakota. The Executive Order

also requires that Counties follow all protocols regarding social distancing and the business operations of all essential and non-essential businesses.

Ms. Braun commented that hair salons, gyms and barbershops are prepared to put practices into place to protect the public and the business owners.

Teri Schonefeld, Community Health Nurse, stepped into the meeting and commented that the reason for the instituted measures of social distancing and protected clothing, etc. is because the coronavirus travels up to six feet, causing widespread infection.

Carla Schmitz (via telephone), owner of The Gab hair salon, commented that her salon has been closed since the Governor issued the proclamation, and that she supports the Commissioners' decision to close business such as hers.

Commissioner Myron Johnson questioned as to whether hair salons had been taking temperatures of their clients, which they have not, but are prepared to do so.

Anthony Timanus, Administrator of Gregory Avera Health, expressed his appreciation to the Commission for keeping the lines of communication open, and for doing all they can to protect county residents. Mr. Timanus is concerned for his employees and for the residents of the Rosebud Country Care Center.

Mistie Sachtjen, Administrator of Community Memorial Hospital, commented about concerns for people that are in too close of proximity to each other during this period.

Dan and Serena Bakke (via telephone) commented on the tremendous reduction in sales they have experienced, and now with the closing of the video lottery casino in their business, they have received another hit to their income. Mr. Bakke stated that they can make adjustments to control the number of people in their establishment at all times, including the casino area.

J.J. Wolf commented that hair salons can also clearly control the number of people in their businesses, while other businesses are not controlling social distancing.

The Chair closed the public input portion of the meeting.

Commissioner Jessy Biggins commented that it's important to have an exit strategy from the closure restrictions.

Commissioner Kelsea Sutton stated that she would like to see May 5, 2020 as a potential date for re-opening businesses, rather than immediately, as there is new information coming out daily.

Commissioner Myron Johnson added that he would like to see a slow rollout of opening non-essential businesses, and to have the health care professionals assist the businesses in putting plans together that provide for a safe and healthy environment.

Amy Bartling Jacobsen reminded the Commission that they need to be prepared to address issues when people do not follow regulations as prescribed the Commissioners or the State.

Commissioner Bob Hausmann commented that the business owners must take responsibility in managing their businesses to comply with said regulations.

Patty Connealy, Gregory Times Advocate (via telephone), asked what statistics are our local health providers using to define timelines for peak infection rates in this area. Gregory County has modeled its resolution after Beadle County following the break out in their county. Health professionals on the telephone commented that they continue to follow the South Dakota Department of Health and CDC guidelines, as events and timelines change daily, if not hourly.

Motion by Kelsea Sutton to delay considering amending Public Health Crisis Resolution No. 03-24-20 until April 28, 2020, giving the county businesses the opportunity to prepare business plans as to how they would restructure their business operations upon opening/re-opening, being mindful of CDC requirements and the parameters set out by the Governor of South Dakota in Executive Proclamation #2020-12. The motion was seconded by Myron Johnson. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Myron Johnson, second by Bob Hausmann to move forth with the requirement of a public announcement for adoption of an ordinance to establish regulations governing the operation of businesses across the county, the protocol to be followed by said ordinance, and the penalties for failure to comply with said ordinance, upon formal adoption. The first reading of the ordinance will be held April 28, 2020 at 9:30 a.m., with the final adoptions on May 5, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

The Commissioners thanked everyone for their input and discussion on this difficult situation the County and its residents are presently experiencing.

Executive Session: Motion by Kelsea Sutton, second by Bob Hausmann to enter into executive session at 10:50 a.m. to discuss personnel issues. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Myron Johnson, second by Bob Hausmann to adjourn from executive session at 11:20 a.m. with no action taken. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Employee Travel Policy: Motion by Bob Hausmann, second by Kelsea Sutton to adopt the following personnel policy addressing travel outside the county during any proclaimed/declared public health crisis:

SECTION V – Travel Policies

507 – Travel Outside of County

- A. A County employee shall not travel outside Gregory County during any proclaimed/declared public health emergency unless prior approval is given by their supervisor or for emergency purposes. In the event of emergency travel, the employee shall inform their supervisor of the travel needs and reasons as soon as possible.
- B. A County supervisor that travels outside of Gregory County shall inform the Chair of the County Commission, following the same protocol as all other employees.
- C. Any violation of this policy shall result in disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the employee's supervisor or County Commission.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Highway Department Report: Brad Ellwanger, Highway Superintendent, reported on road and bridge projects underway throughout the County.

Milling/Reclamation Contract: Motion by Jessy Biggins, second by Kelsea Sutton to accept the Brown County contract with Loiseau Construction, Inc. for Milling and Reclaiming equipment rental with an operator – Grind with Lay-Back Process, Grind with Additive Injection and Lay-Back Process, and Milling. The bid documents and price charts are on file in the Gregory County Auditor’s office. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Engineering Services Proposal: Motion by Myron Johnson, second by Bob Hausmann to approve the engineering services contract with Ulteig Engineers, Inc. for the Town of Gregory Drainage Study for a fee of \$25,954.25. The project is located on the northeast side of Gregory and adjacent to Gregory County Road 24. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

County Highway Department Employee Hire: Motion by Kelsea Sutton, second by Bob Hausmann to approve the re-hire of Richard Weller, Jr. at \$15.40 per hour effective April 20, 2020 with the probationary period starting over on the new hire date. Upon call for vote: Members voting aye - Kelsea Sutton, Bob Hausmann, and Jeff Johnson. Members voting naye - Myron Johnson and Jessy Biggins. Motion carried.

Free Dump Day: Motion by Jessy Biggins, second by Myron Johnson to set May 9, 2020 as free dump day for all county residents. Advertisement for such will be handled by the municipalities. Free items include concrete, rubble, iron and freon-free appliances; tires will be half price; and household waste at full price. No mixed loads will be allowed and will be subject to rejection. All loads must be tarped to avoid a \$25.00 fee. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Abatement of Tax: Motion by Bob Hausmann, second by Kelsea Sutton to approve an application for abatement of tax on the following property for 2019 taxes due in 2020:
Lots 13-14-15-16, Block 20, Original Town of Fairfax (Deniece Warnke – eligible for Assessment Freeze)
All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

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

ATTEST: _____
Julie Bartling, Gregory Co. Auditor

Jeff Johnson, Chair