

Gregory County Commission Proceedings

The regular meeting of the Gregory County Commission was held Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in Burke with the following members present: Jessy Biggins, Bob Hausmann, Byrain Boes, Lance Matucha, and Jeff Johnson (via telephone). Also present: Julie Bartling, Gregory County Auditor.

Chair Jessy Biggins called the meeting to order and all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Oath of Office: Commissioner Jessy C. Biggins signed his oath of office for the next four years.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Bob Hausmann, second by Byrain Boes to approve the agenda as presented. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Lance Matucha, second by Byrain Boes to approve the minutes of the December 30, 2022 meeting as read. It is further motioned to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2023 meeting with the following correction: The 2023 approved salary for Tammy Thompson is \$34,155, which is the budgeted 6% salary increase. 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 have been any ex-parte communications by any member present. None were notated.

Public Input: The Commission opened the floor for public input.

Edward and Annie Dostal appeared and discussed the recent crisis of snow removal and the concerns of getting roads open for the needs of the public, and insurance concerns when a resident clears the road.

The Board advised the Dostals that contract companies/individuals who are assisting with snow removal are required to supply a certificate of insurance to the county before moving snow. The contractors work when and where the Highway Superintendent deems work is needed.

Approval of Plats: The following plats were presented to the Board for approval:

- 1) Plat of Lot 1, Throne First Subdivision, located in the SE ¼ of Section 26, T97N, R72W

Motion by Lance Matucha, second by Jeff Johnson to offer the following resolution of approval:

APPROVAL-GREGORY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS: the owner of the land herein platted as **Lot 1, Throne First Subdivision**, located in the SE ¼ of Section 26, Township 97 North, Range 72 West of the 5th P.M., Gregory County, SD, have presented to the Gregory County Board of Commissioners the described plat, and that the platted land is outside the platting jurisdiction of any municipality and that the plat conforms to all requirements of SDCL 11-3-8, NOW THEREFORE: BE IT RESOLVED: that the plat is hereby approved this 17th day of January 2023.

Upon roll call for vote: Bob Hausmann-aye; Byrain Boes-aye; Lance Matucha-aye; Jeff Johnson-aye; Jessy Biggins-aye. Resolution passed.

- 2) Plat of Lots 3-C and 5-C, a Re-Subdivision of Lots 3-A and 5-A, Johnson Fifth Subdivision, located in the SE 1/4 of Section 18, T97N, R71W.

Motion by Bob Hausmann, second by Byrain Boes to offer the following resolution of approval:

APPROVAL-GREGORY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS (SDCL 11-3-8)

WHEREAS: the owners of the land herein platted as **Plat of Lots 3-C and 5-C, a Re-subdivision of Lots 3-A and 5-A, Johnson Fifth Subdivision**, located in the SE ¼ of Section 18, Township 97 North, Range 71 West of the 5th P.M., Gregory County, SD, have presented to the Gregory County Board of Commissioners the described plat, and it appears that this plat conforms to all requirement of SDCL 11-3-8, NOW THEREFORE; BE IT RESOLVED: that the plat be approved this 17th day of January, 2023.

Upon roll call for vote: Bob Hausmann-aye; Byrain Boes-aye; Lance Matucha-aye; Jeff Johnson-aye; Jessy Biggins-aye. Resolution passed.

Informational Plat: The following plat, received by the Planning and Zoning Board, was presented to the Commission for informational purposes only:

Plat of Lots 1, 2 and 3, Highway Addition to the City of Burke, Gregory County, South Dakota

This plat required approval only from the City of Burke.

Weed Department Summer Program: John Jensen, Weed Department Supervisor met with the Board to discuss hiring seasonal help for spraying weeds in 2023. Mr. Jensen will return at the next meeting to discuss the request further.

Abatements: The following abatements were presented to the Board for approval:

Motion by Lance Matucha, second by Bob Hausmann to approve abatement of taxes on properties that qualified for the following assessment changes approved by action of the County Board of Equalization on May 3, 2022:

- 1) Abatement #2023-01: \$1,383.40 (Property Tax Reduction for Renewable Resources)
- 2) Abatement #2023-02: \$10,018.20 (Property Tax Reduction for Disabled Veterans/Spouses)
- 3) Abatement #2023-03: \$23,739.28 (Assessment Freeze for the Elderly & Disabled Citizens)

The correct valuations were not entered into the assessment rolls prior to tax calculations. The listing of properties with taxes abated are on file in the offices of the Director of Equalization and Auditor. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Jeff Johnson, second by Byrain Boes to approve the following abatement application:

- Abatement #2023-04: \$106.58
Douglas Ulmer-Record #4142-Structure Fire

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Bob Hausmann, second by Byrain Boes to approve the following abatement application:

- Abatement #2023-05: \$4.85
Larry Johnson-Record #7412-Uninhabitable Mobile Home

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Highway Department Report: Highway Superintendent, Kevin Green, reported on snow removal, equipment repair, and maintenance activity ongoing at the Highway Department.

Small Structures Funding Approval: Motion by Bob Hausmann, second by Jeff Johnson to award Rural Access Infrastructure funds for 2023 to the Gregory County Secondary Roads Program for structures listed in the applications for funding submitted on 11-1-2022. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Bid Letting Approval: Motion by Bob Hausmann, second by Jeff Johnson to authorize the Highway Superintendent to advertise for bids for the following:

- Gravel Hauling
- Crushed Gravel-Stockpile-As Needed
- Dust Control
- Chip Sealing
- Chip Seal Hauling
- Asphalt
- Equipment Rates

Bids are to be received on February 21, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Fire Suppression Designee: The following resolution was offered by Lance Matucha and seconded by Byrain Boes:

**Gregory County Designee Appointment
for Fire Suppression Assistance**

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in the event of an emergency wildland fire in Gregory County, the county may require assistance to suppress the fire; and,

WHEREAS, quick and decisive action is necessary in the event of a wildland fire for the safety of human life, livestock and individuals' properties; and,

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Department of Public Safety, Wildland Fire Division, is able to offer certain forms of assistance to Gregory County at no cost, per SDCL 41-20A-11;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gregory County Commission appoints Commissioner Bob Hausmann as its designee who will have the authority to obligate county funds in the event a request for fire suppression assistance from the State of South Dakota is required; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Commissioner Bob Hausmann shall serve as the Gregory County designee for the term of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

Upon roll call for vote: Bob Hausmann-abstain; Byrain Boes-aye; Lance Matucha-aye; Jeff Johnson-aye; Jessy Biggins-aye. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

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

ATTEST: _____
Julie Bartling, Gregory Co. Auditor

Jessy C. Biggins, Chair