

Gregory County Commission Proceedings

The regular meeting of the Gregory County Commission was held Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Burke with the following members present: Byrain Boes, Doug Janousek, Lance Matucha and Jeff Johnson (via telephone). Members absent: Jessy Biggins. Also present: Julie Bartling, Gregory County Auditor and Patty Connealy, Gregory Times Advocate.

Vice-Chair Byrain Boes called the meeting to order and all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Doug Janousek, second by Lance Matucha to approve the agenda with the following additions: Travel requests from the DOE and Sheriff's offices and approval of an abatement of taxes. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Lance Matucha, second by Jeff Johnson to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2024 meeting as read. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

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

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

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

Travel Requests: Motion by Doug Janousek, second by Jeff Johnson to approve the following travel requests:

- Defense Tactics Training (Sheriff Dept.):
Tevin Anderson – July 8-11, 2024 in Rapid City, SD
- SD Dept. of Revenue Appraisal Training (DOE Office):
Betty Jo Hoffman & Nichole Matucha – June 4-7, 2024 in Aberdeen, SD

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Abatement: Motion by Lance Matucha, second by Jeff Johnson to approve the following application for abatement of taxes:

Record #5522 - \$342.84 (Property owner qualifies for Disabled Veterans Property Tax Reduction)
All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Special Meeting: Motion by Lance Matucha, second by Doug Janousek to set May 22, 2024 as a date for a special meeting to hear an application for a Special Event Malt Beverage license and to begin 2025 budget discussions. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Holiday Observance: Motion by Jeff Johnson, second by Doug Janousek to allow July 5, 2024 off to county employees in observance of the 4th of July as proclaimed by the Governor of the State. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Post-Election Audit Discussion: Steve McCance and a few other county residents, met with the Board to inquire as to how the post-election audit will be setup, i.e., location, time, number of individuals auditing ballots, cost, etc.

Auditor Julie Bartling informed all as to the procedure that must be followed by statute. The Auditor advised that reimbursement for the post-election audit from the State of South Dakota will be for 1 precinct and two contests per SDCL 12-17B-20, selected randomly.

Sara Grim and Peggy Glover, as well as a few others who do not support the Initiated Measure on the ballot, raised questions as to why the proponents of the measure are suddenly concerned with the tabulators when there have not been issues in the county.

The testing of the tabulators will be held May 31, 2024. The public is welcome to watch the testing, watch the election night tabulating, and the post-election audit process. The post-election audit is slated for June 12, 2024.

Part-Time Employee: Motion by Jeff Johnson, second by Lance Matucha to approve hiring Karen Janousek as part-time employee for the DOE office (20 hours per week at \$15.00 per hour). Ms. Janousek will begin working on May 20, 2024. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Section Line Discussion: Tyler Plumbtree – Highway Superintendent, Henry Miller and Sam Schwartz, met with the Board to discuss a section line that lies between Section 32 of Burke Civil Township and Section 5 of Union Township, and as to whether or not a fence may be erected down the middle of said section line. Plumbtree is trying to ascertain if the section line was ever officially closed and what the adjoining landowners can legally do. The Board will be kept informed on the matter.

USDA/Community Services Grant: The Board looked over quotes for a payloader to be submitted to USDA for a community services grant/loan. The Board will submit a quote of \$291,500 for a 2024 John Deere 644G payloader – Planning & Development District III is helping the apply for funding.

Golden West Permit: Motion by Lance Matucha, second by Jeff Johnson to approve a permit application from Golden West Telecommunications for added service to Milk's Camp housing- Highway Number 358th Ave./299th St. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Highway Department Report: The Board and the Highway Superintendent discussed road work, culvert work and gravel hauling needing to be done throughout the county.

Equipment repairs were also discussed, as well as monitoring the maintenance of the machines.

HVAC Project Update: The Board received an update on the HVAC project. The bid letting will proceed with presentation and acceptance of a bid at the June 5, 2024 meeting. However, the project will not proceed until 2025 due to restrictive timelines.

Mid-Continent Restoration, contractor for the tuckpointing project is looking into the problem of water absorbing into the mortar joints of the courthouse. A sealant may be required.

The small storage shed for the courthouse maintenance equipment will need to be moved to accommodate the generator and fuel tanks for the HVAC system.

Adjourn: Motion by Byrain Boes, second by Doug Janousek to adjourn. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

ATTEST: _____
Julie Bartling, Gregory Co. Auditor

Byrain Boes, Vice-Chair