

Gregory County Commission Proceedings

The regular meeting of the Gregory County Commission was held Thursday, June 20, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Burke with the following members present: Byrain Boes, Doug Janousek, Lance Matucha and Jeff Johnson. 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 Lance Matucha, second by Jeff Johnson to approve the agenda as presented. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Jeff Johnson, second by Lance Matucha to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2024 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 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.

Bart Diekmann met with the Board to relay his concerns over a Dicamba spill between 295th St. and 399th Ave., approximately for 6 miles. This spill occurred on May 29, 2024. Mr. Diekmann gave a timeline of the incident and discrepancies between individuals spoken to. Mr. Diekmann spoke of health issues his family is experiencing, and of his concern for his neighbors.

Jessy Biggins arrived at the meeting and took over as Chair.

Jaden Siewert also relayed that his family is experiencing coughs, etc. Roy A. Stevicks also talked about the spill's affects on vegetation, trees, etc.

Representatives from CHS, the cooperative whose employee was involved in the spill, were present during public input but not at liberty to discuss the matter.

Brad Christensen, EM & DS Director, relayed his involvement in the process.

Chair Biggins closed public input and allowed commission members to ask any questions. The Board discussed the county's responsibility which, as of now, is to keep the road maintained. The matter is now between the SD-DANR and CHS. Discussion will continue on this matter.

2025 Department Budgets:

The Board reviewed the following departmental 2025 budgets:

EM & DS	-	\$	36,734
DOE	-		174,220/202,220 (w/ vehicle)
Planning & Zoning			22,320
States Attorney	-		124,377
Treasurer's	-		153,114
ROD	-		138,678
M&P	-		7,000
Weed Dept.	-		181,156
4-H	-		76,400
Nurse	-		
Auditor	-		117,629
Commissioners	-		104,483
Contingency	-		100,000
Elections	-		1,840
Crisis Shelter	-		600
911 Contract Services	-		83,000
Courthouse	-		282,368
Road & Bridge	-		4,273,089
Landfill	-		192,911
Rural Infrastructure	-		125,394

The Board will place these budgets into the 2025 Provisional Budget, to be adopted by the 2nd meeting of July 2024.

Executive Session: Motion by Byrain Boes, second by Jeff Johnson to enter into executive session at 9:48 a.m. to discuss personnel. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Byrain Boes, second by Jeff Johnson to adjourn from executive session at 10:01 a.m. with no action taken. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Water Proofing of Courthouse: Motion by Byrain Boes, second by Jeff Johnson to enter into a contract with Mid-Continental Restoration Co., Inc. to apply water-proofing material to the entire courthouse at a cost of \$13,486.00. The project will be completed this summer. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Building Relocation: Motion by Lance Matucha, second by Byrain Boes to approve the following quotations for relocation of the small generator shed for space needed for a new generator and propane tanks:

Joe Klein	-	\$7,000.00 (concrete slab/move bldg.)
Burke Building Center	-	4,326.69 (insulation)

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Employee Resignation: Motion by Lance Matucha, second by Jeff Johnson to accept the resignation of Chris Davis effective June 20, 2024. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Application for Occupancy: Motion by Byrain Boes, second by Doug Janousek to approve an application from Golden West to install fiber to 28858 - 347th Ave., Burke, SD. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Post Election Audit Report: Julie Bartling, Auditor, reported on the results of the Post Election Audit for the June 4, 2024 Primary Election. All precincts with all ballots cast at the election were audited by three boards, consisting of a total of 17 registered voters of the county. Results of the audit are as follows:

*Democrat Presidential:	100% match audit to tabulator
*Republican District #21 Senate:	100% match audit to tabulator
*Republican District #21 House:	1 added vote for Marty Overweg in Precinct #2
*Republican Precinct 2 Committee Woman:	100% match audit to tabulator
*County Initiated 1:	100% match audit to tabulator

Executive Session: Motion by Doug Janousek, second by Byrain Boes to enter into executive session at 11:34 a.m. to discuss personnel. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Jeff Johnson, second by Doug Janousek to adjourn from executive session at 12:14 p.m. with no action taken. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Vehicle Needs: Tyler Plumbtree, Highway Superintendent, discussed the need to replace a couple of pickups at the highway department.

Blade Operator Offer: Motion by Jeff Johnson, second by Doug Janousek to offer an hourly wage of \$23.50 per hour to Brad Ellwanger for employment as a blade operator. Upon call for vote: Jeff Johnson-aye; Lance Matucha-naye; Byrain Boes-naye; Doug Janousek-aye; Jessy Biggins-aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Ellwanger will need to advise if the hourly wage is agreeable.

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

ATTEST: _____
Julie Bartling, Gregory Co. Auditor

Jessy Biggins, Chair