

Gregory County Commission Proceedings

The regular meeting of the Gregory County Commission was held Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Burke with the following members present: Jessy Biggins, Byrain Boes, Lance Matucha and Jeff Johnson. Members absent: Doug Janousek. Also present: Julie Bartling, Gregory County Auditor and Patty Connealy, Gregory Times Advocate.

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

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Lance Matucha, second by Byrain Boes to approve the agenda with the following additions: Set Public Hearing for Wind Energy Systems Ordinance; Release of Lien; Payment of Slip Liner Claim; and Job Listing for Highway Superintendent. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Byrain Boes, second by Lance Matucha to approve the minutes of the July 3, 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 Chair opened the floor for public input. The following individuals were presented to discuss the road situation on C.R. 57: Mark Williams, Roland Dummer, Todd Dummer, Eric Bruinsma, and Deb Herrmann. The group has concerns about the lack of maintenance on the road, and that the road needs to be fixed and become a safe, travelable road. The Board will discuss an alternative road location to eradicate flooding concerns.

Gregory County Conservation Report: Kenneth Steele and Todd Hoffman of the Gregory County Conservation District met with the Board to present their annual report for 2023.

Township Road Discussion: Ann Harding met with the Board to discuss the maintenance of a township road to her place and her need to place a gate across the road to keep vandals out. Betsy Senter and Bonnie Noziska were at the meeting to object to setting the road as minimum maintenance as they need to use the road to get to their pasture. Discussion was held to close the road from the gate of Senter's on, and maintain the rest of the road for all who need to use the road for access.

Ms. Harding also requested a sign on 342nd Ave., past Norma Dobesh's which indicates a horse and buggy traveled road for safety reasons. The Board will discuss the requests.

Transfer of Real Property: Billie Sutton, Deb Indahl, and Mary Hosford representing the Burke School District, met with the Commission to inform them that the Burke School District has approved building onto the existing structure to the north, thus requesting a transfer of the needed property to build. The Commission didn't have any concerns with the transfer. Motion by Jeff Johnson, second by Byrain Boes to approve transfer of the following described property to the Burke School District:

The West 147' of the South 52' of Block 50, Original Town of Burke, Gregory County, South Dakota
All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Payment of Transfer Costs: Motion by Byrain Boes, second by Lance Matucha to enter into an agreement with the Burke School District stipulating that all costs incurred from transfer of the property to the school are to be paid by the Burke School District. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Highway Department Report: Tyler Plumbtree, Highway Superintendent, reported on the gravel hauling throughout the county. The Board discussed putting gravel on County Road 57 to assist with the rough road conditions on the road, as well as immediate repairs that need to take place on roads and culverts as a result of the June flooding.

The Highway Department crew will begin training on road maintenance on Monday, July 22nd and will continue throughout the week.

Payment Authorization for Slipliner: Motion by Lance Matucha, second by Byrain Boes to approve a payment to Dakota Prairie Landscapes, LLC for completion of the Slipliner project on County Road 28 (Byron Grim area) in the amount of \$50,000, which is \$3,800 more than the bid received and approved on 6-20-23. The overage is due to extra work for installation and labor costs. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Travel Requests: Motion by Jeff Johnson, second by Lance Matucha to approve the following travel requests:

- Randall Reservoir Association:
Commissioners & Officials – August 12, 2024 in Lyman County
- SDACC & SDACO Annual Convention: Commissioners & Officials – September 17-18, 2024 in Rapid City, SD

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Lien Transfer/Release: Motion by Jeff Johnson, second by Byrain Boes to authorize the transfer of a lien in the amount of \$1,470.50 from a filing in and abuse/neglect child defense court appointed case against the mother of the child to the father. The mother is now deceased. It is further motioned to release a lien in the amount of \$3,032.00 against the deceased individual for a court-appointed attorney due to being uncollectible. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Wind Energy Systems Ordinance: Motion by Lance Matucha, second by Byrain Boes to hold a hearing on August 7, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. for the 1st reading of proposed Ordinance #2024-01-Wind Energy Systems Ordinance, amendment to the Gregory County Zoning Ordinance. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Variance/Re-Zoning Discussion: The Board had a discussion regarding the county's variance portion of the zoning ordinance, as well as the reclassification of properties process and the process of defining low, medium, and high density properties. The Board would like to continue the discussion at the next meeting with the P&Z administrator.

Highway Superintendent Position: Motion by Lance Matucha, second by Byrain Boes to advertise for applications for the position of Highway Superintendent, to be received by August 19, 2024. Mr. Plumbtree will continue as Highway Superintendent until any decision is made on hiring a Highway Superintendent. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

2025 Provisional Budget: The Auditor presented the compiled 2025 Provisional Budget. Motion by Byrain Boes, second by Lance Matucha to approve the Provisional Budget for 2025 and to schedule a hearing on September 4, 2024 for review of the budgets, making any necessary departmental changes prior to final adoption. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

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

ATTEST: _____
Julie Bartling, Gregory Co. Auditor

Jessy Biggins, Chair