

Gregory County Commission Proceedings

The regular meeting of the Gregory County Commission was held Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Burke with the following members present: Jessy Biggins, Byrain Boes, Doug Janousek, Lance Matucha and Jeff Johnson. Also present: Julie Bartling, Gregory County Auditor, Peggy Glover, District 2 Commissioner-elect, 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 Byrain Boes, second by Lance Matucha to approve the agenda with addition of tax abatement applications and the MOU with SDSU to be presented. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Lance Matucha, second by Doug Janousek to approve the minutes of the November 6, 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. Commissioner Boes declared a conflict regarding the fence line in the Right-of-Way discussion.

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

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

Abatement of Taxes: Motion by Byrain Boes, second by Doug Janousek to approve the following applications for abatement of taxes:

- Record # 5522 - \$ 342.84 (Disabled Veterans Exemption)
- Record # 2768 - 5,623.52 (Tax Deed)
- Record # 2786 - 733.82 (Tax Deed)
- Record # 5580 - 3,418.10 (Tax Deed)
- Record # 6273 - 9,706.67 (Tax Deed)
- Record # 6279 - 1,384.59 (Tax Deed)

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Memorandum of Understanding: Motion by Lance Matucha, second by Byrain Boes to authorize the chair to sign the MOU with SDSU for the 2025 4-H Program year. 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 November General Election. Precinct #3 was audited, with the ballots cast at the election for the following contests being audited:

*SD Representative, District 21:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Jim Halverson – 263 votes | 100% match audit to tabulator |
| Marty Overweg – 231 votes | 100% match audit to tabulator |

*Amendment G

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Yes Votes – 89 | 100% match audit to tabulator |
|----------------|-------------------------------|

The Board reviewed the PEA certificate and tally sheet for verification.

Renewal of Liquor License: Motion by Doug Janousek, second by Byrain Boes to approve the renewal of the on-sale liquor license for 2025 for The Run of the Mill establishment. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Community Health Needs Assessment: Tony Timanus, Administrator for Gregory Avera, met with the Board to discuss a community health needs assessment presently underway. Katie Biggins, R.N., Quality Improvement Coordinator for Gregory Avera, also met with the group to explain the reason and need for the assessment.

Respondents to a Facebook survey commented that the most recognized need is care for mental health, cancer and obesity; also risky behaviors. Similar responses are found in the community served by the Sanford Health facility.

The Commission will discuss the assessment further over the next few meetings.

Removal of Fenceline from R-O-W: The motion to allow a fence line in the right-of-way on a township road south of Herrick was brought back up for discussion, and the liability that having the fence in the right of way poses for the county.

Mr. Michael Preslicka, met with the Board to further discuss the matter, citing moving the fence line would be workable, however, he does have concerns about the drop off and if the road is situated in the proper location.

Bob Nelson, Highway Superintendent, was available commenting that extensions on an existing culvert would be best and survey where the road should be located.

Motion by Jeff Johnson, second by Doug Janousek to rescind a motion approved at the October 16, 2024 meeting allowing a fence line in the R-O-W on the township road south of Herrick and to approve extensions to an existing culvert in the road. Upon call for vote: Members voting aye- Janousek, Matucha and Johnson; Abstaining-Boes; Voting naye-Biggins (The Chair believes the county has the responsibility to take care of the roads and right-of-ways, while the property owner has the responsibility for their property). Motion carried.

Highway Department Salary Change Discussion: Jessy Biggins, Chair, expressed his frustration and anger at a motion to lower Tyler Plumbtree's salary from \$21.00 per hour to \$19.00 per hour. The Chair was concerned that the Highway Superintendent was not consulted.

Bob Nelson, Highway Superintendent, requests that the motion be rescinded and leave Mr. Plumbtree at \$21.00 per hour.

Motion by Jeff Johnson, second by Doug Janousek to rescind the motion passed at the November 6, 2024 meeting to lower Tyler Plumbtree's salary to \$19.00 per hour and to keep his salary at \$21.00 per hour. Upon call for vote: Members voting aye- Janousek, Boes, Johnson and Biggins; members voting naye- Matucha. Motion carried.

Highway Department Report: Bob Nelson, Highway Department Superintendent, reported on the following activities ongoing at the Highway Department:

- 1) Gravel Hauling commencing from the Standy pit
- 2) Mowing continues on county-township roads
- 3) Signage project underway
- 4) William's Bottom – C.R. 57 relocation survey completed

The Board requested that the Highway Superintendent contact the landowners affected by the road location involving C.R. 57, and to discuss an easement price of \$1,500 per acre, plus cattle crossing installation, so that the FEMA project can proceed. Mr. Nelson will report back to the Board.

Travel Request: Mileage has been requested by Ashley Frank, 4-H Administrative Assistant, to travel to and from Winner to assist and train a new 4-H assistant for Tripp County - 4 to 5 trips. Motion by Doug Janousek, second by Jeff Johnson to deny the request, feeling the expense should be that of Tripp County. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

ALICE Training: Cody Spann, Deputy Sheriff, advised the Commission that sometime before January 1, 2025 an active shooter drill will occur at the Courthouse.

The Sheriff's Department will also begin wanding the public for illegal weapons on Court and Commission meeting dates, being proactive in sensitive situations.

Executive Session: Motion by Lance Matucha, second by Jeff Johnson to enter into executive session at 10:15 a.m. to discuss personnel issues. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Lance Matucha, second by Doug Janousek to adjourn from executive session at 10:28 a.m. with no action taken. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

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