

Gregory County Commission Proceedings

The regular meeting of the Gregory County Commission was held Wednesday, January 7, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in Burke with the following members present: Jessy Biggins, Doug Janousek, Peg Glover, and Jeff Johnson. Members absent: Byrain Boes. Also present: Julie Bartling, Gregory County Auditor and Patty Connealy, Gregory Times Advocate.

The meeting was opened and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Oaths of Office: The oaths of office were signed by Peg Glover, Commissioner District 2 and Doug Janousek, Commissioner District 4, who were both elected for four-year terms (2025 through 2028).

2025 Chair: The Auditor opened the floor for nominations for Chair for the 2025 year. Motion by second by Jeff Johnson, second by Peg Glover to nominate Jessy Biggins for Chair, to cease nominations and to cast a unanimous ballot. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

2025 Vice-Chair: The Chair opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chair for the 2025 year. Motion by Jeff Johnson, second by Peg Glover to nominate Doug Janousek for Vice-Chair. Motion by Doug Janousek to nominate Byrain Boes, which died for lack of a second. Upon call for vote, Doug Janousek was elected Vice-Chair. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Jeff Johnson, second by Peg Glover to approve the agenda with the additions of a condition use permit and a variance to be considered by the Board of Adjustment. 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. No one appeared before the Commission.

Board of Adjustment: Motion by Doug Janousek, second by Jeff Johnson to adjourn as a Board of Commissioners and to convene as a Board of Adjustment. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Conditional Use Permit Application: The following conditional use permit application was presented:
*Dan & Brenda Steiner from 5 Lot Campground with utilities to build a metal building 54x75 for cold storage in an Ag District in Sec 15-95-66 Lot 1, Olson Second Subdivision in SE4 Randall Township, Gregory County.

Motion by Jeff Johnson, second by Doug Janousek to approve the application. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Variance Application: The following variance application was presented for approval:

*Dan & Brenda Steiner from 5 Lot Campground with utilities to build a metal building 54x75 for cold storage in an Ag District in Sec 15-95-66 Lot 1, Olson Second Subdivision in SE4 Randall Township, Gregory County.

Motion by Jeff Johnson, second by Peg Glover to approve the application. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Adjourn: Motion by Jeff Johnson, second by Doug Janousek to adjourn as a Board of Adjustment and to reconvene as a Board of County Commissioners. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Appointments: Motion by Jeff Johnson, second by Doug Janousek to approve the following Commission appointments for the year 2025:

Doug Janousek: Regional Landfill Delegate
Jessy Biggins: Zoning Board
Jeff Johnson: Legislative Contact; District III Alternate
Byrain Boes: Weed Board; RC&D Council
Peg Glover: District III Delegate; 4-H/Youth Advisory Board

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

2025 Salaries/Appointments: Motion by Peg Glover, second by Jeff Johnson to approve the following personnel appointments and salaries for 2025, as budgeted for in the Annual Budget:

Commissioners: Jessy Biggins - \$8,355.40; Byrain Boes - \$8,355.40; Peggy Glover - \$8,355.40; Doug Janousek - \$8,355.40; Jeffrey Johnson - \$8,355.40

Auditor' Office: Julie Bartling - \$52,275; LaNeal Schonebaum - \$18.38 per hour

Treasurer's Office: Kathy Serr - \$56,526; Jessica Reis - \$18.68 per hour

Register of Deeds' Office: Kerri Grim - \$52,275 Stacey Genzlinger - \$18.68 per hour

Director of Equalization's Office: Betty Jo Hoffman - \$52,275; Nichole Matucha - \$19.01 per hour; Karen Janousek – \$15.60 per hour (not to exceed \$15,600 annually)
\$6,000

Sheriff's Office: Timothy Drey - \$60,333; Cody Spann - \$54,425; Darwin Grim - \$54,952; Tevin Anderson - \$53,314; Megan Lindholm - \$18.70 per hour

D.A.R.E.: Mark Green - \$2,628

State's Attorney's Office: Amy Bartling Jacobsen - \$45,720; Dulcie Swan - \$18.35 per hour

Extension/4-H Office: Ashley Frank - \$18.38 per hour

Courthouse: Wendy Broome - \$21.07 per hour

Veterans Service Office: Dale Reber - \$14,277 (\$22.88 per hour – 12 hrs. per week)

24/7 Sobriety Department: Megan Lindholm - \$18.37 per hour

Emergency Management Office: Brad Christensen - \$20,800 (\$21.67 per hour – 40 hrs. per pay period)

Highway Department: Robert Nelson, Jr., Highway Superintendent - \$60,000; Tammy Thompson - \$18.65 per hour; Tyler Plumbtree - \$21.91 per hour; Tony Shattuck - \$23.46 per hour; Dale Bartling - \$21.41 per hour; Alan Peterson - \$20.63 per hour; Anton Jensen - \$20.42 per hour; Richard Bailey - \$21.00 per hour; David Jaros - \$20.17 per hour; Hayden Hay - \$19.86 per hour; Bradley Ellwanger - \$24.21 per hour; Trey Bingen - \$18.87 per hour; Jesse Tyburec - \$17.25 per hour; John Jensen - \$25.00 per hour; Christopher Reinartz - \$20.25 per hour.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Planning & Zoning Board Appointments: Motion by Doug Janousek, second by Jeff Johnson to appoint the following to the 2025 Planning & Zoning Board:

3 Year Terms: Chair – Matt Steffen
Vice-Chair – Sonny Plugge

2 Year Terms: Sue Chytka
Meg Weborg
John Jacobsen

1 Year Term: Aaron Hogrefe

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Sheriff's Deputy Appointments: Motion by Jeff Johnson, second by Peg Glover to appoint Cody Spann, Darwin Grim, and Tevin Anderson as full-time deputy sheriffs for 2025. It is further motioned to appoint Mark Green and Cheyanne Colton as part-time deputy sheriffs for 2025 at \$26.28 per hour, to work as needed. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Highway Superintendent: Motion by Peg Glover, second by Jeff Johnson to appoint Robert Nelson, Jr., as Gregory County Highway Department Superintendent for a two-year term of 1-1-25 through 12-31-27. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Weed Board Appointments: Motion by Doug Janousek, second by Peg Glover to appoint Ron Konechne, Bart Diekmann, Tim Pepper and Matt Frank to the 2025 Weed Board. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Official Newspapers: Motion by Jeff Johnson, second by Peg Glover to designate the Bonesteel Enterprise, Burke Gazette and Gregory Times Advocate as official newspapers of the county for 2025. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Official Depositories: Motion by Peg Glover, second by Doug Janousek to designate 1st Fidelity Banks of Burke, Bonesteel and Gregory, Bank West of Gregory, and Consumer Federal Credit Union of Gregory as official depositories for 2025. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Investment of County Funds: Motion by Jeff Johnson, second by Doug Janousek to approve the following investment policy for Gregory County for the year 2025:

GREGORY COUNTY SOUTH DAKOTA INVESTMENT POLICY

1. POLICY

Pursuant to SDCL 4-5-8 it is the policy of Gregory County, South Dakota to invest idle public funds in a manner to meet the daily cash flow demands of the County with the primary objectives, in priority order, being: a) Safety b) Liquidity and c) Return.

2. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

Authority to manage the investment program is granted to the Gregory County Treasurer, who shall refrain from personal business activity that could impair his/her ability to make impartial decisions. The Gregory County Treasurer acting in accordance with written procedures and this investment policy and exercising due diligence shall be relieved of personal responsibility for an individual security's credit risk or market price changes, provided deviations from expectations are reported in a timely fashion and the liquidity and the sale of securities are carried out in accordance with the terms of this policy. In case of extended leave of absence, the Governing Board shall appoint a replacement Officer.

3. AUTHORIZED FINANCIAL DEALER AND INSTITUTION

The Governing Board authorizes the placement of cash resources in the following financial institutions:

- First Fidelity Banks – Burke, Bonesteel, Gregory;
- BankWest - Gregory;
- Consumers Federal Credit Union – Gregory;
- and
- South Dakota Public Funds Investment Trust (FIT)

4. AUTHORIZED AND SUITABLE INVESTMENTS

Gregory County is empowered by statute to invest in the following types of securities:

- Interest bearing checking accounts
- United States Treasury bills, bonds, and notes (SDCL 4-5-6)
- United States Government Agencies (SDCL 4-5-6)
- Certificates of Deposit (CDs) (SDCL 4-5-6) *

- Certificates of Deposit (CDs) purchased through CDARS – (Certificate of Deposit Account Registry Service) (SDCL 4-5-6.1) *
- Money Market Mutual Funds – open-end, no-load (SDCL 4-5-6)
- Repurchase Agreements fully collateralized by allowable securities (SDCL 4-5-6)
- Local Government Investment Pool

*When investing in Certificates of Deposit (CDs) public funds will be invested at the highest rate of interest possible after attempting to secure three quotes.

The County Treasurer shall deposit and at all times keep on deposit the money in his/her possession as county treasurer in state or national banks within the county. In the event that such deposits exceed the limit prescribed in 7-20-10 or if there is but one bank located within the county then such deposits may be made in other banks or branch banks within an adjacent county of this state having an approved and responsible financial standing. (SDCL 7-20-1)

5. COLLATERALIZATION

In accordance with the SDCL 4-6A, 51A-10-9, and 52-5-20 Qualified Public Depositories will furnish collateral in the sum equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the public deposit accounts that exceed deposit insurance. The financial institution shall submit a copy of their collateralization report to the Gregory County Treasurer.

6. REPORTING

The Gregory County Treasurer shall prepare an investment report yearly that provides a clear picture of the status of the current investments. The report will include the following:

- Percent invested in each security type (CD, US Treasury, Money Market Funds, etc.)
- Listing of investments by maturity date
- Percent held by each financial institution

7. INTEREST EARNED

The interest earned from investments shall be credited to the respective fund, except agency funds (SDCL 4-5-9).

8. DIVERSIFICATION

It is the policy of the Gregory County Treasurer to reduce overall risks while attaining average market rates of return by diversifying its investments.

- Investment maturities will be staggered in such a manner that all investments will not come due at the same time
- At least \$500,000 of the investable funds shall be accessible for use by Gregory County in one day's notice

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

4-H Advisor Presentation: Chelsea Hutchison, 4-H Advisor, met with the Board to request the following:

*National Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals Spring Conference-March 4-6, 2025 at Mitchell, SD- \$160.00 (1/2 share with Tripp County)

Motion by Jeff Johnson, second by Peg Glover to approve the request. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

*Summer Assistant Hiring-Ms. Hutchison advised the Board that she will begin the process of hiring a 4-H Summer Assistant for 2025.

*2024 Gregory County 4-H Program-Ms. Hutchison reported to the Board 2024 activities/achievements of the Gregory County 4-H program

Gregory County Predator Control Discussion: Mark Ohm and Brent Vanderlay representing SD Game, Fish and Parks, met with the Board to explain the Department's role in predator control throughout Gregory County.

Gregory County pays \$4,625.00 annually to the SD Department of Agriculture for predator control per SDCL 40-36-11. This program does not involve the Gregory/Tripp County Predator Control District. The local District's special assessment is independent from the State and is governed by SDCL 40-37.

Mr. Ohm assured the Commission that SD GF&P will always be available to Gregory County producers for predator control.

County Road 27 Bid Letting: The bid letting for culvert replacement on County Road 27 was held at 10:00 a.m. as advertised. The following bids were received:

Contractor	Amount
Sjolie Construction	\$ 381,907.00
BX Civil & Construction	579,690.00
Precision Dirtwork	386,744.45
Midwest Contracting, LLC	530,883.00
Alliance Construction	629,797.20
Brock Contracting	489,619.00
Northern Plains, LLC	701,025.20

Brad Stanghor of Ulteig Engineering will review the bids received. Motion by Jeff Johnson, second by Peg Glover to table a decision until the January 21st meeting so that the Highway Superintendent can visit with FEMA about allocating additional funding for the project. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Highway Department Report: Bob Nelson, Highway Superintendent, reported to the Board regarding Highway Department activity:

- *Equipment Repair Update
- *Snow Removal progress
- *2025 Tractor leases pending

Executive Session: Motion by Doug Janousek, second by Jeff Johnson to enter into executive session at 10:50 a.m. to discuss legal matters. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Jeff Johnson, second by Peg Glover to adjourn from executive session at 11:25 a.m. with no action taken. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

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

ATTEST: _____
Julie Bartling, Gregory Co. Auditor

Jessy Biggins, Chair