

March 5, 2024

The Grant County Commission met at 8 AM with Commissioners Buttke, Mach, Stengel, Street and Tostenson present. Chairman Tostenson called the meeting to order. Motion by Stengel and seconded by Buttke to approve the February 20 and 26, 2024 minutes. Motion carried 5-0. Minutes filed. Items added to the agenda under Highway were c. Approve Utility Agreement, d. Roberts County meeting. Motion by Mach and seconded by Buttke to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

Present from the public were Ben Wollschlager and Jim DeVaal. Staff members present were Commissioner Assistant Layher, Drainage Officer Berkner, Hwy Supt Peterson, and States Attorney Schwandt.

Public Comment: Chairman Tostenson called for public comment three times. There were no comments.

HWY: Annual Bids: Motion by Mach and seconded by Street to call for the annual highway bids for materials. Bids will be opened on March 28, 2024 and presented to the Commission at the April 2, 2024 meeting. Chairman Tostenson called for the vote. Motion carried 5-0. **New Hire:** Motion by Mach and seconded by Buttke to approve hiring Boaz Schultz as motor grader operator with hire date of March 11, 2024 and wage of \$22.55 per hour. Chairman Tostenson called for the vote. Motion carried 5-0. **Utility Agreement:** Supt Peterson requested the Commission to approve the utility crossing agreement ROW Permit 2024-01, OT-3-24 with Otter Tail Power to bore under the road by two of their substations. Motion by Street and seconded by Buttke to approve the utility crossing agreement Permit 2024-01, # OT-3-24 with Otter Tail Power. Chairman Tostenson called for the vote. Motion carried 5-0. **Roberts County:** Commissioners Stengel and Buttke attended a Roberts County meeting and reported that Roberts County is calling for a 90 cent Road and Bridge levy to repair their roads and bridges. That would be a \$90 of tax per \$100,000 assessed value for each property owner.

EM: Dept Report: Director Schuelke will set up CPR classes in March for county employees. He applied for the Homeland Security Grant, and there will be a meeting in March. Schuelke would like to use those grant dollars for dash cams for the sheriff department, and pagers and radios for the fire departments. Homeland Security also has extra grant dollars available for non-profits. Schuelke asked the

Commission if they think a burn ban is needed. Discussion was held and they decided to hold off on a burn ban. Schuelke is working on radio and tower issues. On Monday, April 8 there will be a weather spotter class in Revillo. Haz Mat Plan: The Haz Mat Plan needs to be updated. First District will do the update for \$7,500. There is a grant available through First District for \$6,000 and the remaining \$1,500 would come from our dues allocation with First District. Motion by Street and seconded by Buttke to approve the Haz Mat Plan grant application with First District. Chairman Tostenson called for the vote. Motion carried 5-0. Vehicle Purchase: Discussion was held on what vehicle to purchase for the EM Director and general use vehicle for county staff to use. Motion by Mach and seconded by Stengel to purchase the 2021 Yukon at Unzen Motors for the courthouse general use vehicle and surplus the white 2004 Suburban. Chairman Tostenson called for the vote. Motion carried 5-0. Motion by Street and seconded by Mach for Chairman Tostenson and EM Director Schuelke to negotiate the deal with Unzen's for the 2023 Chevy Silverado 1500 pickup for the EM Director's vehicle. Chairman Tostenson called for the vote. Motion carried 5-0.

Land Lease: The land lease sale was held with Doug and Jay Mielitz present, and the following bids were received:

1. Part of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 33-120-47 (About 15 Acres) Alban Twp. Leased to Mielitz Brothers for \$600.00.
2. S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of 8-120-51 (40 Acres) Mazeppa Twp. The lease will be offered to John Moes, who has leased the land in prior years.

P & Z and Drainage: Director Berkner presented drainage concerns of Ben Wollschlager to the Commission in Section 10 of Adams Township. A lengthy discussion was held. The Commission and States Attorney Schwandt advised Wollschlager this was a landowner issue and doesn't involve the county. Wollschlager should consult an attorney if he wishes to pursue this with the landowner. Updating Definitions: This discussion was continued from the February 20th meeting. Berkner advised that if we update the definitions in the county's zoning ordinance, the county will be setting a precedence. Berkner suggests having the cleanest ordinance to consider any pipeline or utility. Commissioner Stengel suggests we continue to use general terms as these definitions could change all the time with new technologies and innovations. Then the county would need to expand the ordinance on a continuing basis. States Attorney Schwandt advised by adding more definitions you will be restricting people's movements on their own property. Overall, the Commissioners agree the safety and protection of our

citizens is the county's biggest concern. The Commission decided to wait and see what the State enacts before making any changes to the definitions in the zoning ordinance.

4-H: Advisor Koepke reported they are in the middle of Shooting Sport season with approximately 96 kids participating in BB gun, air rifle, air pistol and archery. The 4-H Complex hosted the February blood drive. Koepke kicked off the Feed to Carcass program with six kids participating. **Board Member Stipend:** Discussion was held whether to have a quarterly stipend for 4-H Association board members. These board members oversee all the maintenance of the facility and grounds. Commission Mach advised the 4-H Association should have by-laws and job descriptions for this committee and the exact number of people who are on the board and what the stipend should be. Koepke will bring this information to the next meeting on March 19.

Sheriff: New Hires: Deputy Steffensen asked approval for hiring Shawndra Lesnar as a part-time dispatch/jailer. Motion by Stengel and seconded by Buttke to approve hiring Shawndra Lesnar as part-time dispatcher/jailer at \$19.10 per hour with hire date of 3-11-2024. Motion carried 5-0. Deputy Steffensen also asked for approval for hiring Kiefer Lesnar as a part-time Deputy Sheriff. Motion by Mach and seconded by Stengel to approve hiring Kiefer Lesnar as a part-time Deputy Sheriff at \$26.90 per hour with hire date of 3-11-2024. Motion carried 5-0. **Jail Town Hall Mtgs:** Several dates were given to work with for town hall meetings for the jail building project. Commissioner Assistant Layher will consult with the architect on the dates.

Executive Session: Motion by Mach and seconded by Street to enter executive session at 10:53 AM for the purpose of a personnel issue(s) pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1). Motion carried 5-0. Commissioner Assistant Layher, States Attorney Schwandt, 4-H Advisor Koepke, and Auditor Folk were present. Chairman Tostenson declared the meeting open to the public at 11:03 AM. Motion by Mach and seconded by Street to accept with regret Sara Koepke's resignation as 4-H Advisor effective July 18, 2024. Chairman Tostenson called for the vote. Motion carried 5-0.

Travel: Motion by Mach and seconded by Buttke to approve travel expenses for the 4-H Advisor to attend Spring Conference in Brookings, 4-H Camp in June, State Horse Show in July, State Fair and Extension Conference in September. Chairman Tostenson called for the vote. Motion carried 5-0.

County Assistance: None

Security Doors Quote: Motion by Street and seconded by Buttke to approve the quote for courtroom electronic security doors from Safe-N-Secure for \$18,917.79. Commissioner Assistant Layher presented the quote for electric locks and door reinforcements in the courtroom. Judge Elshere has suggested these upgrades for security purposes. There is a state grant of \$7,500 that will reduce the county's cost. Chairman Tostenson called for the vote. Motion carried 5-0.

Range Fire Suppression: A letter from the SD Dept. of Agriculture Wild Land Fire Suppression was received. The request is for the Commission to provide the department with a list of individuals who would be authorized to request assistance from the State of South Dakota, under the County Rangeland Fire Protection Agreement. Motion by Stengel and seconded by Buttke to approve the following resolution for appointing designees authorized to request state fire assistance. Motion carried 5-0. Resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION 2024-05

A Resolution for selecting designees authorized to request firefighting resources on behalf of the County Board of Commissioners:

“BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the list of individuals set forth below, are hereby authorized to request rangeland fire assistance, on behalf of the County of Grant as specified in SDCL 41-20A-11. The authority to request assistance as provided shall continue in full force and effect until terminated or modified by resolution of the County of Grant Board of Commissioners.”

County Fire Assistance Authorization List Through March 31, 2025.

Name of Individual	Position
Kevin Schuelke	EM Director
William Tostenson	Commissioner
Kevin Owen	Sheriff

Dated this 5th day of March, 2024.

William Tostenson, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Kathy Folk, Auditor

Unfinished Business: Commissioner Buttke told the board that the sewer backed up again at the Storm Shelter. This is the third time this has happened this winter due to a septic line being cut at the trailer park. Commissioner Assistant Layher

recommends disconnecting from the sewer, closing the bathrooms off, and using the building only as a storm shelter if needed until the septic system is repaired. Chairman Tostenson asked to find out the tax consequences of selling the shelter and put it on the next meeting's agenda.

New Business: Chairman Tostenson gave a GCDC update that they are interviewing candidates for the director. Commissioner Assistant Layher advised the Commission she is working with the City of Milbank due to an extremely high water bill the county received. States Attorney Schwandt said he is looking into a new blood and urine testing company in California instead of using the State. It has been taking 4-6 months to get these results from the State lab. The new company costs are \$9.00 more for blood labs and \$70.00 more for the drug tests with only a three-day turn-around time. But if the lab personnel are needed to testify in a case it is \$250 to do so by Zoom and if they need to be here in person to testify it is much more expensive.

Correspondence: Commissioner Assistant Layher advised the Commission that Governor Noem gave the State employees Good Friday and Easter Monday off.

Claims: Motion by Stengel and seconded by Buttke to approve the claims. Motion carried 5-0. ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES, supplies 69.95; AUSTIN, STRAIT, BENSON, THOLE, & KOEHN court appt atty 507.30; AUTOVALUE, supplies 103.92; BERENS MARKET, inmate groceries 1,079.38; SD MAGAZINE, periodicals 70.00; CARTNEY CORP, parts 155.13; CENTER POINT, books 566.36; CITY OF MILBANK, water & sewer 50.40; COTEAU DES PRAIRIE HOSPITAL, health services 5,940.71; VPD, prof services 700.00; DELORIS RUFER, lib rent 100.00; DEPT OF AG & NATURAL RESOURCES, dues 1,200.00; FREMAREK, supplies 235.11; GRAJCZYK LAW OFFICE, court appt atty 3,550.00; GUARDIAN FLEET SAFETY, repairs & maint 633.52; KRISTIN WOODALL, prof services 607.60; LEWIS FAMILY DRUG, supplies & inmate rx 486.32; MIDCO, lib internet 108.92; MILBANK AUTO PARTS, parts & supplies 1,127.50; MINNEHAHA CO AUDITOR, prof services 32.10; NASASP, dues 39.00; NORTHWESTERN ENERGY, natural gas 2,126.05; QUICK PRO LUBE, repairs & maint 240.47; RELX, online charges 725.00; RICE-STROMGREN ARCHITECTS, prof services 10,757.50; ROBERTS CO SHERIFF, inmate rx 92.68; SD ASSN CO COMMISSIONERS, clerp 695.00; STAR LAUNDRY, rentals & supplies 292.27; STATE OF SD, supplies 167.40; STERN OIL, supplies 6,597.73; VALLEY RENTAL & RECYCLING, allocation 650.00. TOTAL: \$39,707.32.

Payroll for the following departments and offices for the February 28, 2024, payroll are as follows: COMMISSIONERS 7,861.04; AUDITOR 10,607.78; ELECTION 238.65; TREASURER 6,506.04; STATES ATTORNEY 7,731.94; CUSTODIANS 3,460.70; DIR. OF EQUALIZATION 5,341.41; REG. OF DEEDS 5,292.23; VET. SERV. OFFICER 1,483.20; SHERIFF 16,372.49; COMMUNICATION CTR 9,032.10; PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE 1,583.35; ICAP 45.75; VISITING NEIGHBOR 2,544.12; LIBRARY 9,507.85; 4-H 4,680.55; WEED CONTROL 2,419.80; P&Z 2,090.50; DRAINAGE 90.40; ROAD & BRIDGE 35,314.44; EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT 3,071.25. TOTAL: \$135,275.59.

Payroll Claims: FIRST BANK & TRUST, Fed WH 9,827.18; FIRST BANK & TRUST, FICA WH & Match 16,143.00; FIRST BANK & TRUST, Medicare WH & Match 3,775.38; ACCOUNTS MANAGEMENT, deduction 80.76; AMERICAN FAMILY LIFE, AFLAC ins. 1,615.51; ARGUS DENTAL, ins. 605.97; WELLMARK-BLUE CROSS OF SD, Employee and Commission health ins. 55,337.08; COLONIAL LIFE, ins. 37.98; DEARBORN NATIONAL, life ins. 308.34; LEGAL SHIELD, deduction 38.85; OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT, child support 2,085.00; OPTILEGRA, ins. 459.67; SDRS SUPPLEMENTAL, deduction 1,208.33; SDRS, retire 15,315.39. TOTAL: \$106,838.44.

Consent Agenda: Motion by Stengel and seconded by Buttke to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

1. Approve Kim McCrea as a part-time library assistant at \$17.50 per hour effective 3-1-2024

It is the policy of Grant County, South Dakota, not to discriminate against the handicapped in employment or the provision of service.

The next scheduled meeting dates will be March 19, 2024 and April 2, 9 (Equalization) and 16, 2024 at 8 AM in the basement meeting room. Motion by Mach and seconded by Stengel to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned.

