

August 1, 2017

The Grant County Commission met at 8AM with Commissioners Buttke, Dummann, Mach, Stengel and Street. Chairman Mach called the meeting to order. Motion by Dummann and seconded by Stengel to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2017 meetings as presented. Motion carried 5-0. Minutes filed. Motion by Buttke and seconded by Stengel to approve the agenda with the deletion of item e under drainage as this permit will be moved to the August 15 meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Members of the public present were Bertha Johnson, Mark Johnson, Ben Wollschlager, David Kruger, Raynelle Mueller, Ginny Tostenson with the Valley News Express and Brent Wiethorn with KMSD Radio.

**Drainage:** Chairman Mach adjourned the Board of Commissioners and convened the commission acting as the Drainage Board. The Drainage Administrator presented the following permit requests.

Permit DR2017-23 for Bertha Johnson in the W ½ NE ¼ Ex Road in 30-118-48 (Adams Township). The request, if granted, would improve farmable land. The Drainage Officer reported the permit is in order. The adjoining landowner is Dennis Kohl and his signature has been obtained. The tile does go into a creek and into a tile line on the Kohl land. No objections received. Motion by Street and seconded by Stengel to approve DR2017-23 as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Permit DR2017-27 for Ben Wollschlager in the NW ¼ SW ¼ in 19-121-46 (Big Stone Township). The request, if granted, would improve cropland. The Drainage Officer reported the permit is in order and the land is not in the farm program. This is a cooperative project with Mark Mueller. The tile outlets into a creek on the Dave Van Veen property who has signed as the adjoining landowner for permission to drain. The tile will cross a township road and signatures of the Big Stone Township Supervisors have been received. No objections received. Motion by Stengel and seconded by Street to approve DR2017-27 as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Permit DR2017-28 for Ben Wollschlager in the S ½ NE & N ½ SE ¼ in 32-121-46 (Big Stone Township). The request, if granted, would improve cropland. The Drainage Officer reported Ben had received a permit in 2002 for a tile going to the natural run. Under this permit he would be adding patterned tile and run the tile to the lift pump permitted in 2002. The permit is in order and the land is not in the farm program. No objections received.

Motion by Stengel and seconded by Street to approve DR2017-28 as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Permit DR2017-29 for David Kruger in the NW ¼ in 31-121-49 (Kilborn Township). The request, if granted, would drain a side hill, seep to lower ground and back flood to tile for irrigating sandy ground. There are no adjoining landowners as the outlet is in the NW ¼. David will install gates to hold the water back and the water will be used to back flood approximately 4 acres. The tile will be installed to run with the grain of the hill. No objections received. Motion by Stengel and seconded by Dummann to approve DR2017-29 as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

This concluded the business for the drainage board. Chairman Mach adjourned the Drainage Board and reconvened the Board of Commissioners.

**Highway:** Supt Schultz presented right-of-way occupancy applications from ITC for construction of buried fiber optic cable in Alban and Vernon Townships along County Road 10 and 35. The sections of ROW involved in the project are 2, 3, 4, 5, 11, 14, 23, 26 and 35 in Alban and 2 and 11 in Vernon. The maps are on file in the Auditor's Office. Motion by Stengel and seconded by Dummann to approve ROW 2017-23, ROW 2017-24 and ROW 2017-25 as presented. Motion carried 5-0. Discussion was held on asphalt for the Summit Lake being applied this year, striping roads, bridges in the Albee area, washouts on culverts and reclaimed asphalt being hauled back to the shop. Kerwin reported over 30 roads are being vacated across the state due to townships unable to finance the costs.

**Weed:** At the last Commission meeting Commissioner Street had questions on spraying. Supervisor Nathan Mueller reported on all the regulations he is required to follow which includes the type of spray to use as well as when the application can be done. He reported he has a budget of \$16,000 for chemicals and has spent \$11,000 on chemicals through the end of June. He explained the County's policy is to complete a onetime blanket spraying of the ROW and then goes back and spot sprays where needed. He is working at converting the spray truck with larger hoses and nozzles which would allow the chemical to reach further out. Discussion was held on Canadian Thistle and Leafy Spurge. These noxious weeds are spread by different methods with one example of pulling in the shoulders of roads. While this may be a year with a high amount of these weeds, Commissioner Stengel stated if we take a look at other areas in the state or the surrounding states we will recognize for the amount of money and resources we have available, the county has a good program.

**Assessor:** Kathy Steinlicht requested approval to join the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) at an annual cost of \$125 per person. The Dept of Revenue recommends the assessor and staff be members of the national organization as some of the assessor's required courses may be taken online through the national organization's site. The benefit to the county would be the savings of travel and workshop expense. Motion by Buttke and seconded by Stengel to approve membership for the National IAAO. Motion carried 5-0.

**ROD Office:** Motion by Stengel and seconded by Buttke to approve the hiring of Annette Redepenning as a part time deputy in the Register of Deeds Office effective today at a rate of \$14.85 per hour and to approve training hours. Motion carried 5-0.

**Crowned Ridge:** Tyler Wilhelm, Associate Project Manager for Crowned Ridge Wind requested by email, a letter of support, to include with their State general application. The letter states support of the project with the poles to be located outside the ROW. Motion by Dummann and seconded by Stengel to authorize Chairman Mach to sign the letter of support. Motion carried 5-0.

**Unfinished Business:** Auditor Layher reported a check had been received from Grant Deuel School in the amount of \$680,202.86 with the amount of \$200,000.00 receipted into account 775-210.1 and \$480,202.86 receipted into 775-209.9. The outstanding bills for the school district being presented for payment today are in the amount of \$5971.53 to be paid out of account 775-209.9. **Cash Balance:** A report for ending cash balances for General Fund through Visiting Neighbor was reviewed.

**New Business:** David Lau with Dakota Range Wind stopped in and gave a brief update on their wind energy project on the west side of the county and on their project in North Dakota. He asked the Commission for their contact information if a Commissioner in Bowman ND would have any questions on the county's wind energy issues here in Grant County. **4-H:** Advisor Sara Koepke reported on the 2017 Achievement Day schedule. **Election Equipment:** An email from the Secretary of State Office was reviewed concerning purchasing the ExpressVote machines to replace the AutoMark that is presently used at each polling location. The purpose of the ExpressVote and the AutoMark is to allow any voter to vote independently. The SOS Office will purchase three ExpressVote machines with a carrying case for each county. The cost per machine is \$3380. The SOS has negotiated a state contract to allow counties to purchase at the negotiated prices.

The commission will need to decide at the August 15 meeting if the election equipment is upgraded for the 2018 election or wait until 2020.

**Correspondence:** The June 30, 2017 second quarter report for the Visiting Neighbor program was noted.

**Executive Session:** Motion by Dummann and seconded by Buttke to enter into executive session at 10:05 AM for the purpose of personnel issues pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1). Motion carried 5-0. Auditor Layher was present. Chairman Mach declared the meeting open to the public at 10:35 AM. No action taken.

**Claims:** Motion by Buttke and seconded by Stengel to approve the claims as presented. Motion carried 5-0. AVERA QUEEN OF PEACE, prof service 120.00; BITUMINOUS PAVING, hwy projects 36,713.29; BRENDA L HOLTQUIST, prof service 94.50; CHS-BORDER STATES, diesel fuel 4,764.60; CITY OF MILBANK, water & sewer 670.71; CLIMATE AIR, repair 979.22; DENNIS HOYLES, prof service 675.00; GRANT CO SHERIFF, postage 2.67; GRANT CO TREASURER, postage 39.54; GRANT/ROBERTS AMBULANCE, allocation 2,458.33; JEFFREY D. SEEHAFFER, prof service 405.00; MICROMARKETING, CD's 67.48; MILBANK AUTO PARTS, supplies 401.72; MUNDWILER FUNERAL HOME, county assistance 6,450.00; NORTHERN CON-AGG, hwy project 922.71; NORTHWESTERN ENERGY, nat gas 40.00; OFFICE PEEPS, supplies 101.53; PRO-WELDING, 4-H barns repair 653.30; ROGER A. BRIGGS, postage 8.00; SD DEPT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, teletype 2,340.00; THE SHOP, repair 914.44; THE PENWORTHY CO, books 137.72; THOMSON REUTERS, ref material 327.00; TRACIE JIBBENS, annual maintenance 240.00; TRUENORTH STEEL, iron 1,188.00; WILBUR ELLIS AIR, weed chemicals 10,805.00. TOTALS: \$71,519.76.

**GRANT DEUEL SCHOOL:** ADVANCE, tuition 660.00; BERKNER EXCAVATING, prof service 1,359.34; BUREAU OF INFO & Tele, phone 22.49; CLEAR LAKE COURIER, publishing 69.00; DAKOTA ASSEMBLIES, prof service 370.00; GRANT CO REVIEW, publishing 71.85; NORTHWESTERN ENERGY, nat gas 302.96; SD DEPT OF HUMAN SERVICES, tuition 1,860.48; SOFTWARE UNLIMITED, regis 50.00; WESTERN GUARD, publishing 74.93; WHETSTONE VALLEY ELECTRIC, electricity 1,130.48. TOTAL: \$5,971.53.

Payroll for the following departments and offices for the month of July 2017 are as follows: COMMISSIONERS 5013.60; AUDITOR 14,381.69; TREASURER 9841.53; STATES ATTORNEY 11,014.04; CUSTODIANS 5465.55; DIR. OF

EQUALIZATION 6802.00; REG. OF DEEDS 7023.97; VET. SERV. OFFICER 1297.08; SHERIFF 19,499.68; COMMUNICATION CTR 12,328.84; PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE 2252.32; ICAP 648.00; VISITING NEIGHBOR 2771.69; LIBRARY 12,108.67; 4-H 4668.65; WEED CONTROL 3837.18; PLAN & ZONING 1659.10; HIGHWAY 48,509.35; EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT 3223.71. TOTAL: \$172,346.65.

Payroll Claims: FIRST BANK & TRUST, Fed WH 16,448.04; FIRST BANK & TRUST, FICA WH & Match 20,744.54; FIRST BANK & TRUST, Medicare WH & Match 4851.56; AMERICAN FAMILY LIFE, AFLAC ins. 1879.46; WELLMARK-BLUE CROSS OF SD, Employee and Commission health ins. 45,507.92; DEARBORN NATIONAL, life ins. 243.73; LEGAL SHIELD, deduction 159.35; OPTILEGRA, ins 362.07; SDSR SUPPLEMENTAL, deduction 3185.00; SDRS, retire 18,355.54; US DEPT OF ED, deduction 188.29. TOTAL: \$112,925.50.

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 August 15, 2017 at 8 AM. Motion by Buttke and seconded by Stengel to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned.

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Karen M. Layher, Grant County Auditor

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Mike Mach, Chairman, Grant County Comm.