

September 2, 2025

The Grant County Commission met at 8 AM with Commissioners Mach, Street, Tostenson, and Stengel present. Due to the death of Commissioner Marty Buttke, Auditor Folk must act as a voting member of the board until an appointment is made. Chairman Tostenson called the meeting to order. Motion by Mach and seconded by Stengel to approve the August 19, 2025, minutes. Motion carried 5-0. Minutes filed. Commissioner Assistant Layher requested to remove Item #3 from the Consent Agenda, approving the maintenance contract extension for the fingerprint equipment, Auditor Folk added approving a voucher for Midcontinent Communications, Commissioner Mach asked to add discussion of NextEra Energy to the agenda. Motion by Street and seconded by Stengel to approve the agenda with the changes stated. Motion carried 5-0.

Present from the public were Annelies and John Seffrood, Dale Tuchscherer, Gene Boerger, Tim Miller, Natalie Zirbel and Kasie Ingraham. Staff members present were Commissioner Assistant Layher, Hwy Supt Peterson, Drainage Officer Berkner, and States Attorney Schwandt.

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

Statistics: Statistics for the month of July 2025 for the Sheriff's Office were presented by report. Average daily inmate population 3.41; Number of bookings 13; Work release money collected \$440.00; 24/7 Preliminary Breath Test (PBT) fees collected \$185.00; SCRAM (alcohol detecting bracelet) fees collected \$361.00; 24/7 PBT participants 2; SCRAM (Sobriety Program) participants 4; UA participants 6; Calls for Service (does not include walk-in traffic) 199; Accidents investigated 0; Civil papers served 57; Cumulative miles traveled 17,708; 911 calls responded to (including Milbank) 112.

Drainage: Chairman Tostenson adjourned the Board of Commissioners and convened the Commission acting as the Drainage Board.

Drainage permit DR2025-39 for Annelies Seffrood for property located in the SW1/4 of Section 12, in the FORMER SISSETON WAHPETON INDIAN RESERVATION in Blooming Valley Township.

Chairman Tostenson called for a motion to approve DR2025-39 for Annelies and John Seffrood. Motion by Mach and seconded by Stengel to approve permit DR2025-39.

Drainage Officer Berkner reported permit DR2025-39 is a 60 acre drainage tile project located in the Big Sioux River Watershed. The permit has one inlet located near a small wetland and one 15" outlet with a design flow capacity of 450 gpm if installed at a .1 % grade. It is Berkner's opinion that the drainage project conforms with the county's drainage ordinance.

Chairman Tostenson asked the Seffroods for any additional comments. Annelies said the project is cleaning up some wet spots. Tostenson opened the public hearing for DR2025-39 asking three separate times for comments in favor or against the drainage project. No one responded. Tostenson closed the public hearing, inviting drainage board discussion. During board discussion, the Seffroods were asked to explain the need and location of the open inlet. John said it would be outside of a newly determined wetland area and would follow all necessary setbacks. Tostenson called for the vote. Motion carried 5-0.

This concluded the business of the Drainage Board. Chairman Tostenson adjourned the Drainage Board and reconvened as the Board of Commissioners.

NextEra Energy: Commissioner Mach discussed the NextEra Energy meeting he attended last week. It will be a 450-megawatt battery energy storage system and recycling of lithium-ion battery cells. They will incorporate setbacks or noise abatement systems into the design of each battery energy storage project to mitigate the noise level. The Commission and P & Z Board have started the discussion of amending the county's current 45 decibels noise level.

Melrose Township: Dale Tuschcherer, Gene Boerger and Tim Miller, Melrose Township Supervisors, were present to ask for financial assistance to repair the low water crossing on 481st Avenue. They have an estimate to install a 120' by 25' with 8" deep concrete with rebar spillway. This increases their original estimate by approximately \$10,000. Melrose Township doesn't have the funds for the additional cost. All the RAIF dollars are currently spoken for unless some of this year's projects come in under the bids. The county will inform them if they do.

Engagement Conference: SD Dept of Legislative Audit State Auditors Kasie Ingraham and Natalie Zirbel were introduced to the commission. They are on site

to conduct the 2023-2024 bi-annual audit of the financial records. Chairman Tostenson signed the letter of intent for the audit.

Highway 5 Year Plan: The public hearing for the County's Five-Year Highway and Bridge Plan was held. Chairman Tostenson opened the meeting for public comment. The review of the 5-year project list includes replacing bridge structures by the county crew, striping, asphalt, gravel, equipment, and bridge replacement. No members of the public were present. Chairman Tostenson closed the public hearing for the 5-year plan. The second reading of the plan will be on the September 16 agenda for the Commission's approval and then sent on to SD DOT by October 11th.

HWY: BIG Grants: Motion by Street and seconded by Mach to authorize Chairman Tostenson to sign the Preliminary Engineering BIG grant agreement and approve the 20% match for bridge 26-035-100. Motion carried 5-0. **Banner Contract:** Hwy Supt Peterson stated bridge 26-260-079 survey and hydraulic phase was not approved for a BIG grant. The county will have to solely fund this phase in 2026 for approximately \$50,000 to keep it on the bridge replacement schedule. Motion by Street and seconded by Mach to approve funding 100% of the survey and hydraulic phase of bridge 26-260-079. Tostenson called for the vote. Motion carried 5-0.

2026 Budget Hearing: The public hearing for the 2026 budget was held. Chairman Tostenson opened the meeting for public comments. No members of the public were present. Tostenson closed the public hearing. The Commission reviewed revenue and expense changes to the provisional budget. The Centrally Assessed valuations have been received from the Dept of Revenue. The final growth factor and the county tax call may now be finalized for final budget approval and adoption at the September 30th meeting.

Travel: Commissioner Assistant Layher requested travel approval for Kevin Schuelke to attend the SDEMA conference in Sioux Falls and for Kathy Folk, Jennifer Waniorek and Vicki Karrasch to attend Election Workshop in Pierre. Motion by Mach and seconded by Stengel to approve the travel requests. Motion carried 5-0.

County Assistance: None

Change Order: Commissioner Assistant Layher presented a change order to the Jail Project for \$5,876 to run conduit underground from the Detention Center radio tower to the new jail. Motion by Stengel and seconded by Street to approve the change order. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Appointment: Discussion was held on the process to appoint a qualified candidate from District 5 to complete the term of Marty Buttke.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Correspondence: None

Claims: Motion by Stengel and seconded by Street to approve the claims. Motion carried 5-0. AL'S BODY SHOP, repair & maint 50.00; AUSTIN, STRAIT, BENSON, THOLE, KOEHN, court appt atty 1,276.68; AUTOVALUE, supplies 374.75; AVERA MEDICAL GROUP MILBANK, health services 248.00; AVERA QUEEN OF PEACE, health services 120.40; BANNER ASSOCIATES, contracted proj 4,597.00; BIG STONE CO SHERIFF, prof services 80.95; BOOS JENNEN LAW FIRM, prof services 210.00; BRENT PETERSON, repair & maint 57.47; CENTER POINT, books 259.85; CITY OF MILBANK, water & sewer 679.66; CITY OF WATERTOWN, 911 surcharge 10,617.34; CITY OF WATERTOWN, non-emergency dispatch 6,000.00; DELORIS RUFER, lib rent 100.00; CLEAR CHOICE CLEANING, prof services 2,350.00; FREMAREK, supplies 599.37; G A JOHNSON CONSTRUCTION, prof services 707,061.19; GRAJCZYK LAW OFFICE, court appt atty 3,600.00; GRANT/ROBERTS AMBULANCE, prof services 559.00; HMN ARCHITECTS, prof services 7,893.00; INNOVATIVE BENEFIT CONSULTANTS, insurance 5,503.26; INTOXIMETERS, supplies 420.00; JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL, supplies 64.90; LEWIS FAMILY DRUG, supplies 39.65; MARSHALL & SWIFT/BOECKH, ref books 1,469.95; MIDCO, lib internet 131.04; MILBANK AREA HOSPITAL AVERA, health services 61.00; MINNEHAHA CO AUDITOR, prof services 103.09; MUNDWILER FUNERAL HOME, prof services 5,000.00; NORTHWESTERN ENERGY, natural gas 36.00; PHOENIX SUPPLY, supplies 439.95; QUICK PRO LUBE, repair & maint 125.97; REDWOOD TOXICOLOGY, supplies 331.26; SAFETY-KLEEN SYSTEMS, supplies 250.05; SECUR SERV, prof services 7,464.45; THE SHOP, repair & maint 56.23; TRAPP PLUMBING, repair & maint 129.54; VALLEY RENTAL & RECYCLING,

allocation 650.00; VOGEL PAINT, supplies 515.52; YANKTON CO SHERIFF, prof services 50.00; YANKTON MEDICAL CLINIC, health services 194.00; ZAHRBOCK CHAPEL, prof services 5,000.00. TOTAL: \$774,770.52.

Payroll for the following departments and offices for the August 28, 2025, payroll are as follows: COMMISSIONERS 8,120.60; AUDITOR 10,499.92; ELECTION 286.88; TREASURER 6,752.88; STATES ATTORNEY 8,182.50; CUSTODIANS 4,545.20; DIR. OF EQUALIZATION 4,977.60; REG. OF DEEDS 5,637.60; VET. SERV. OFFICER 1,402.50; SHERIFF 21,441.81; COMMUNICATION CTR 8,229.50; VISITING NEIGHBOR 2,069.51; LIBRARY 10,057.65; 4-H 4,611.39; WEED CONTROL 3,595.90; P&Z 1,217.43; DRAINAGE 1,095.10; ROAD & BRIDGE 37,960.05; EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT 2,803.95. TOTAL: \$143,487.97.

Payroll Claims: FIRST BANK & TRUST, Fed WH 8,379.87; FIRST BANK & TRUST, FICA WH & Match 17,351.12; FIRST BANK & TRUST, Medicare WH & Match 4,057.90; ACCOUNTS MANAGEMENT, deduction 134.16; AMERICAN FAMILY LIFE, AFLAC ins. 1,611.51; RELIANCE STANDARD LIFE DENTAL, ins. 402.10; RELIANCE STANDARD LIFE VISION, ins. 354.41; WELLMARK-BLUE CROSS OF SD, Employee and Commission health ins. 51,766.59; RELIANCE STANDARD BASE, life ins. 372.14; RELIANCE STANDARD SUPPLEMENTAL, life ins. 153.76; MASA, air ambulance 302.00; LEGAL SHIELD, deduction 38.85; OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT, child support 3,364.01; SDRS SUPPLEMENTAL, deduction 1,635.83; SDRS, retire 16,671.89. TOTAL: \$106,596.14.

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

1. Approve transfer from blade operator to truck driver position for Adam Kvam effective 8-22-2025 at \$22.85 per hour.
2. Declare surplus to be sold or discarded: copier stand-asset 8364A, chairs-asset 09697, 09255, 06860, 10291, 10292, 01277, 00905, folding tables-asset 08260, 05660-05664, 06159, 06160, 06163, 02291-02296, form file-asset 00523, computer stand-asset 06826, DVD player-asset 09686, directional light bar-asset 10820, iron rake-asset 12189, crack sealing kettle-asset 12418, security panic buttons-asset 08191, 09159, 09160, courthouse lift-asset 10522, light fixtures-asset 08374, trimmer-asset 12331, reference books/CDs-asset 10792, 11041, Apex software-asset 11039, 2004 white Chevy Suburban-asset 08887 (sold in 2024), 2004 maroon Chevy Suburban and accessories asset-08944, 10474, 09492, 09106, 10630, 10814 transferred to Summit Fire Dept.

4. Approve Kim McCrea to IT Coordinator (library) effective 8-6-25 at \$20.00 per hour.

Executive Session: Motion by Stengel and seconded by Street to enter executive session at 1:40 PM 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 and Auditor Folk were present. Chairman Tostenson declared the meeting open to the public at 2:10 PM. No action was taken because of the executive session.

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 September 10 (Special), 16, and 30 (Adopt Budget) and October 7 and 21, 2025 and will be held at the Grant County Commission room in the courthouse basement at 8 AM. Motion by Stengel and seconded by Mach to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned.

Kathy Folk, Grant County Auditor

William Tostenson, Chairman, Grant County Commissioners