

Hand County Board of Commissioners
Miller, South Dakota
Commission Chambers (video via Facebook Live)
August 4, 2020

Chairman Jim Jones brought the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M with commissioners Jim Eschenbaum, Greg Palmer, and Gib Rodgers present. Commissioner Luke Wernsmann arrived at 9:55.

Mary Breitling and Mike Donlin spoke to the board about the weather damage to the library's roof. The insurance adjuster estimated the loss at \$15,711.50 but applied \$7,855.75 in depreciation for a payout of \$7,855.75 (minus \$250 deductible) for a final reimbursement of \$7,605.75.

Weather All Roofing, Inc of Pierre estimated repairs at \$15,250 and Pro-Tec Roofing and Sheet Metal of Watertown estimated \$44,268 to remove the existing roof and replace it.

After considerable discussion it was decided upon motion of Palmer / Eschenbaum, passed to accept the proposal from Pro-Tec and have the roof replaced.

Auditor DeBoer presented the commission with the provisional budget for consideration. The provisional budget was based on the requests for expenditures and projections of revenue. The commissioner approved the provision budget for publication upon motion of Rodgers/Palmer, passed. The provisional budget will be published separate of the minutes.

The chairman reviewed the consent agenda, which upon motion of Rodgers/Eschenbaum, passed, contained the following items: Approval of the minutes of the July 7 and July 21 meetings, the amended Register of Deeds Fee Statement for June and acknowledgment of building permits of: Gavin & Rachel Osvog (house), Lee Naber (garage) and Kent & Jodi Baumberger (garage).

The commission addressed the requests for policy changes related to payment of accumulated sick leave at end of employment, holding over 40 hours of annual leave instead of zero hours; funeral leave, and compensation for unused annual leave. The commissioners approved the creation of draft policies on the mentioned items. The commission also approved a request from the auditor to have Quoin Financial Bank speak to them about the possible benefits and implementation of direct deposit for payroll.

At 10 A.M. the board heard from various parties concerned with a "prairie pothole" which has consumed 176th Street in Plato Township in the past and again now, even after grade raising had taken place. Francis Schaeffer (Precision Soil Management of Redfield) provided a presentation on the topography of the Plato Township area in question and provided illustrations of the elevations and potential water flows to reduce the amount of water standing on 176th Street.

The group addressed the possibility of using drain tile to lower and manage the water level (not drain it completely) to the east and eventually to a creek just into Spink County.

Other options included: building a replacement right of way to the north, on Sheila Muellenberg's property. Muellenberg was present and expressed her interest in the bypass because it would allow her tenant to fence off the area and keep livestock from wandering off via the water, or the last option being to invest more into raising the grade again but keeping it above water may remain an issue.

Much discussion was held on the possible remedies but ultimately no action was taken. The commission instructed the highway superintendent to do a cost analysis of the various ways to fix the problem and report back.

Kirk and Linda Luymes (Total Oil-Wessington Springs) spoke to the board about having their fuel related material man's lien paid. The auditor explained that Sobros had a contract to crush cement for reclaim. Sobros in turn had Total Oil furnish fuel. Sobros ended the project without finishing so Total Oil filed for a material man's lien. The lien was recorded in the Register of Deeds office. Hargens said he had advanced on payment to Sobros but had not paid the remainder so the county still had not spent the funds. It was moved by Eschenbaum, seconded by Rodgers, passed, to have the county issue payment. Jeff Hargens was told to provide this payment information to Sobros so they know the county paid their debt.

The auditor explained that the statewide conference for commissioners and county officials is still to be held in Sioux Falls. The auditor asked which commissioners would be attending. No one immediately expressed interest.

The commission next heard from Sheriff Croeni who provided the office activity report. Croeni informed the group that Bryton Black had been given extended leave for a military deployment. Upon returning to the states, Black informed Croeni he would not be returning to work. As of the meeting, Black had not submitted a written resignation but Croeni said he is not coming back to work here, instead he will be working for the Watertown Police Department. Croeni was given authority to advertise for a replacement.

The group spent some time discussing how the CARES ACT will be refunding a large sum of money the sheriff's office uses for payroll. Croeni recommended they replace the 2008 GMC Envoy since they will likely have funds closer to the end of the year. Croeni say a Chevy Tahoe is on state contract for \$36,000. The commissioners agreed. Croeni also told the board that his goal is to still get a drug detection dog but the deputy with the interest in the dog was Bryton Black and he is now gone. The commission agreed to leave the funds for a dog in the 2021 budget in hopes Croeni can find a suitable applicant who is interested in being a dog handler.

Mike LeBrun with DICE Financial Services spoke to the commission about the changes in the health insurance coverage. LeBrun went through each plan and its premium changes. After considerable discussion it was moved by the recommendations laid out in the previous meeting. Considerable discussion was also spent discussing whether the commissioners should be able to participate in the health insurance plan. It was noted that the board used to be eligible for health insurance but gave it up when they raised their salary. Commissioner Rodgers said he believes that more, possibly younger, people would consider running for the position if they knew health insurance was a buyable option.

It was moved by Rodgers/Wernsmann, passed (Palmer & Jones voted nay), to allow the county commissioners to participate in the county's health insurance plan. [The full cost of a policy, per employee is \$965.84 per month]

It was also moved by Rodgers/Eschenbaum, passed, to change the hourly employee benefit threshold to 30 hours per week, as recommended by LeBrun and Auditor DeBoer.

Emergency Manager, Arlen Gortmaker addressed the commission about the CARES ACT recovery funds, the various local government boards he had spoken to, and requested permission to start buying equipment related to the 911 radio system renovation. The request was approved upon motion of Wernsmann/Eschenbaum, passed to begin purchasing the equipment.

Custodian Will Page met with the board to review his report and projects. Page distributed estimates on the work related to relining the sanitary sewer lines throughout the building. After much consideration and discussion it was moved by Palmer/Wernsmann, passed, to employ Midwest Pipe Lining to complete the job of relining the pipes.

Page also reported on service work done to the generator and the need to explore deeper into the renovation work on the third floor.

Rod Kusser, Venture Communications, met with the board to explain their offering for replacement of the network cabling, hosted telephone system and high speed (fiber) internet. The Venture price per hosted phone is \$32 which includes the services, features and tolls. Kusser said they would provide internet at 250mb up & down (asynchronous). Kusser also said that Venture would provide the routers for each of the facilities on the system and wireless access points for seamless internet throughout the courthouse. The install costs were projected previously but Venture recalculated the fee and decided to match the fee of the other (current) Vendor. This \$1,000 includes all four buildings so the system is customer ready. The previous / initial estimate to rewire the building for phone and internet was projected at about \$12,000. The commission asked Kusser to recalculate the cost projection to include the building rewires. Kusser said he would do and return.

Kusser left the room. The commissioners spoke about the network cabling in place presently and the need to improve it either now or in the future. Chairman Jones asked if the commission was in favor of making a decision on the project today, having heard from three vendors for hosted phone system and two of those vendors on the rewire. It was then moved by Wernsmann/Eschenbaum, passed, to employ Venture Communications to complete or provide all three parts of the project, capping the costs at \$12,000.

Upon request of the auditor, the commission, upon motion of Palmer/Eschenbaum, passed, entered into executive session to discuss personnel.

Upon motion of Palmer & Wernsmann, passed, the commission reconvened in open session and took no formal action.

Rod Kusser reentered the meeting and told the commissioners that his estimate on the re-wire was \$9,925. This is a 25% discount over the original estimate of \$13,232.95

The claims approved for payment on 08-04-2020 are:

For: BOARD OF COUNTY COMM		
CONNECTING POINT	BACK UP	20.00
FARM & HOME PUBLISHERS, LTD.	2020 DIRECTORIES	536.00
ON HAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	MONTHLY SUPPORT	2500.00
KAYLA RAUSCHER, INC.	DEPOSITION TRANSCRIPTS	265.00
THE MILLER PRESS	PUBLISHING	211.50
THOMSON REUTERS	CODIFIED LAWS BOOKS	38.92
VERN'S MFG., INC.	INCINERATOR	1150.00

		4721.42

For: ELECTIONS*****

THE MILLER PRESS	PUBLISHING	57.50

		57.50
For: AUDITOR*****		
A & B BUSINESS, INC.	COPIER MAINTENANCE CONTRACT	18.07
AMERICAN SOLUTIONS FOR BUSINES	SUPPLIES	78.77
CONNECTING POINT	SUPPORT CONTRACT	4015.00
OFFICE PEEPS, INC.	SUPPLIES	18.35

		4130.19
For: TREASURER*****		
CONNECTING POINT	SUPPORT CONTRACT	2565.00
MADISON CO SHERIFF	TAX DEED SERVICE	50.00
OFFICE PEEPS, INC.	SUPPLIES	11.86

		2626.86
For: STATES ATTORNEY*****		
ANSON LAW	RENT	325.00
ANSON LAW	SUPPLIES	312.50
ANSON LAW	UTILITIES	300.00
AVERA HAND CO. MEMORIAL HOSPIT	BLOOD TEST	97.00
SD DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	BLOOD TOXICOLOGY	165.00

		1199.50
For: COURT APP. ATTORNEY*		
BLUE, WHEELER & BANKS LLP	COURT APPOINTED ATTORNEY	6462.22

		6462.22
For: GOV. BUILDING*****		
AMERIPRIDE SERVICES, INC.	SUPPLIES	196.18
BOB'S DISPOSAL SERVICE	GARBAGE DISPOSAL (2)	200.00
BUILDERS CASHWAY, INC.	SUPPLIES	24.27
CARROT TOP INDUSTRIES, INC.	BALL FOR FLAG POLE	38.78
INTERSTATE POWER SYSTEMS	GENERATOR SWITCH	101.22
MID AMERICAN RESEARCH CHEMICAL	SUPPLIES	118.03
CITY OF MILLER	UTILITIES	1226.00
STATE FLAG ACCOUNT	U.S. FLAGS	85.18

		1989.66
For: DIR. OF EQUAL*****		
A & B BUSINESS, INC.	COPIER MAINTENANCE CONTRACT	27.50
CONNECTING POINT	SUPPORT CONTRACT	3445.00
MILLER REXALL DRUG	SUPPLIES	8.72
THE MILLER PRESS	SUPPLIES	225.00

		3706.22
For: REG. OF DEEDS*****		
AMERICAN SOLUTIONS FOR BUSINES	SUPPLIES	117.50

		117.50
For: SHERIFF*****		
316 SUPPLY & UPFITTING, LLC	PICKUP SUPPLIES	205.00
MILLER BOOSTER CLUB	MHS ATHLETIC PROGRAM ADV	200.00
OFFICE PEEPS, INC.	SUPPLIES	189.25

THE MILLER PRESS	PUBLISHING	97.50
VISA	MAINTENANCE	8.00
VISA	SUPPLIES	168.26
VISA	SUPPLIES	322.25
VISA	SUPPLIES	48.01
VISA	CELL PHONES	167.02

		1405.29
For: COUNTY NURSE*****		
HAND CO MEMORIAL HOSPITAL INC. COUNTY HEALTH NURSE		2954.21

		2954.21
For: MENTAL HEALTH*****		
CENTER FOR INDEPENDENCE	MONTHLY SUPPORT	180.00

		180.00
For: LIBRARY*****		
A & B BUSINESS, INC.	COPIER MAINTENANCE CONTRACT	50.46
BOOK SYSTEMS, INC.	ATRIUM/OPAC SUBSCRIPTION RENEW	1885.00
BOOKLIST	3 YR SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL	394.50
DEMCO	SUPPLIES	95.35
DRAMSTAD REFRIGERATION	AIR CONDITIONER MAINTENANCE	128.78
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES	BOOKS	465.25
CITY OF MILLER	UTILITIES	315.41
RECORDED BOOKS, LLC	AUDIO BOOKS	152.96

		3487.71
For: WEED CONTROL*****		
BUILDERS SOLUTIONS, LLC	SUPPLIES	2.53
CITY OF MILLER	UTILITIES	512.91
NUTRIEN AG SOLUTIONS, INC.	CHEMICAL	3610.50
OAKLEY FARM & RANCH SUPPLY	SUPPLIES	3.41
PREFERRED TRANSMISSIONS	REPAIRS	423.66
WARNE CHEMICAL & EQ CO	SUPPLIES	117.22

		4670.23
For: HWY RDS BRIDGES*****		
AMERIPRIDE SERVICES, INC.	SUPPLIES	964.58
CK WELDING & REPAIR LLC	SUPPLIES	28.60
COMPANION LIFE INS.	LIFE INS.	12.57
CONNECTING POINT	SUPPORT CONTRACT	1390.00
DAKOTA OIL	SUPPLIES	630.75
FLINT HILLS RESOURCES LP	ROAD OIL/PUG MIX	160394.51
HYDE COUNTY HIGHWAY	SCHULTE MOWER	2000.00
JEBRO INC.	ASPHALT	13244.42
MIDCO BUSINESS	PHONE & INTERNET SERVICE	167.96
CITY OF MILLER	UTILITIES	274.74
OAKLEY FARM & RANCH SUPPLY	SUPPLIES	288.25
OAKLEY REPAIR	REPAIRS	1716.44
OAKLEY REPAIR	SUPPLIES	275.55
THE MILLER PRESS	PUBLISHING	23.68
TRANSOURCE TRUCK & EQUIPMENT	SUPPLIES	70.61
TRUENORTH STEEL, INC.	SUPPLIES	786.89
TWIN VALLEY TIRE OF MILLER	REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	649.08

		182918.63
For: E-911*****		
TWO WAY SOLUTIONS, INC	ROUTER	250.00

		250.00
For: EMERG. & DIS. SERV.*		
KESSLER'S	SUPPLIES	8.98
M & T FIRE & SAFETY	DISINFECTANT	172.00
MILLER REXALL DRUG	SUPPLIES	37.73
OFFICE PEEPS, INC.	SUPPLIES	603.75
VISA	CELL PHONE/SUPPLIES	617.35
VISA	CELL PHONE	50.12

		1489.93
For: LAW LIBRARY*****		
THOMSON REUTERS	CODIFIED LAWS BOOKS	402.26

		402.26

Total Checks: 222769.33

In accord with SDCL 7-10-3, the Auditor's account with the Treasurer as of the close of business on the last day of the preceding month, the treasurer had \$1507.40 of cash on hand, \$19248.14 of checks in possession less than 3 days, \$0.00 of checks in possession more than 3 days, \$0.00 of cash items, and \$300.00 of petty cash. The reconciled demand deposits were: \$178,474.80 in the American Bank & Trust and \$58,591.87 in the Quoin Financial Bank. The time deposits were: \$1,814,236.85 in the American Bank & Trust and \$1,954,730.91 in the Quoin Financial Bank. The library investments were: \$11,995.86 in the checking account, \$12,400.00 in certificates of deposit and \$7,551.00 in stocks. The total cash assets equaled \$4,059,036.83

It was moved by Palmer & Wernsmann, passed, to adjourn the meeting [2:42 P.M.].

The next regular meeting is scheduled for September 1, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.