

The Roberts County Commissioners met at 9:00 am in regular session with Tom Vergeldt, Ken Nelson, Brian Heinecke, John Dabek, Kristi Fritz, Dylan Kirchmeier, Robert Horton, Robert Vassalo and Gary Sheldon present. Faye Johnston absent. Jason Deutsch-Sisseton Courier livestream. Chairman Vergeldt presiding. Vergeldt called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

MINUTES/AGENDA

Motion by Heinecke, seconded by Dabek to approve the January 14, 2025, agenda and minutes for January 7, 2025, as written. All voted aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gary Sheldon discussed the bridge work scheduled for 2026 on Jim Creek and the need for shoulder work. Vergeldt said if additional work is to be done it will be in conjunction with bridge work. Sheldon also questioned the new public comment policy. The board stated that the policy is meant to establish decorum to meetings. Public Comment policies are not uncommon among counties, schools or other municipalities. Robert Horton questioned the selling of land to Wheaton Dumont Elevator. States Attorney Kirchmeier answered that a quiet title action had since been done by Delaney Law Offices and with there being no response- Wheaton Dumont now has a clear title to the land purchased. Kirchmeier is still waiting for the Register of Deeds to provide the States Attorney's office with a list of all land along railroad/roadways. Robert Horton postponed his 11:00 am appointment on the agenda until next week when there is a full board present.

STATES ATTORNEY

Dylan Kirchmeier-States Attorney met with the Commissioners.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Heinecke, seconded by Nelson to convene into executive session at 9:20 am to discuss litigation pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(3). Chairman Vergeldt declared meeting back into regular session at 9:48 am.

SHERIFF

Tyler Appel-Sheriff presented a prisoner count of 47. Appel may have found a nurse for the jail, and he'd like to hire at \$28.85/hr. Commissioners gave ok. The jail passed their 2024 audit, and they were found to be in compliance.

Appel discussed Guardian RFID which is a mobile tracking system which will allow staff to more accurately and efficiently track inmate observations, medical needs, supplies, meals and activities. Guardian RFID will assist in complying with tracking requirements needed by the state regarding juvenile incarceration. Guardian RFID can be purchased for \$7,553.00 with reimbursement through the Dept of Correction Juvenile Justice Grant. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Dabek to approve purchase of Guardian RFID for \$7,553.00. All voted aye, motion carried.

HIGHWAY

Joey Anderson-Highway Supt. had received an estimate from Ridge Electric, Webster to replace existing fluorescent fixtures with LED equivalent for \$5,930.00. Commissioners suggested checking with Ottertail for rebates.

Motion by Heinecke, seconded by Dabek to approve the replacement of lights for \$5,930.00. All voted aye, motion carried.

Anderson would like to increase a few of the seasonal permits. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Dabek to increase over width/overweight from \$125.00 to \$150.00; Overweight from \$50.00 to \$75.00 and Over width 12'6" from \$25.00 to \$50.00. All voted aye, motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2025-02

Motion by Nelson, seconded by Dabek to approve the following resolution. All voted aye, motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2025-02

**BRIDGE REINSPECTION PROGRAM RESOLUTION
FOR USE WITH SDDOT RETAINER CONTRACTS**

WHEREAS, 23 CFR 650 Subpart C, requires initial inspection of all bridges and reinspection at intervals not to exceed two years with the exception of reinforced concrete box culverts that meet specific criteria. These culverts are reinspected at intervals not to exceed four years.

THEREFORE, Roberts County is desirous of participating in the Bridge Inspection Program.

The County requests SDDOT to hire IMEG Corporation (Consulting Engineers) for the inspection work. SDDOT will secure federal approvals, make payments to the Consulting Engineer for inspection services rendered, and bill the County for 20% of the cost. The County will be responsible for the required 20% matching funds.

Dated this 14th day of January 2025, at Sisseton, South Dakota

Board of County Commissioners
Of Roberts County

Tom Vergeldt- Chairman of the Board

ATTEST: Kristi Fritz - County Auditor

LANDFILL

Motion by Heinecke, seconded by Nelson to authorize Chairman to sign the SD Surface Water Discharge Program Application for permit to discharge wastewater from the Dept of Agriculture and Natural Resources. All voted aye, motion carried.

WHETSTONE VALLEY ELECTRIC

John Christianson-Whetstone Valley Electric met with the Commissioners to discuss joint grant opportunities.

PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY

Motion by Dabek, seconded by Heinecke to adopt the following Public Comment Policy. All voted aye, motion carried.

**Roberts County Policy & Procedure
Public Comment Periods**

It is the statutory duty of the Roberts County Commission, as governing body of Roberts County, SD to allow time for members of the public to discuss or express concerns to the County Commission on policies and issues affecting County government and its function.

PUBLIC COMMENT: 'ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC.'

Per SDCL 1-25-1 Official meetings open to public-Exceptions-Public comment.

Th public body shall reserve at every official meeting a period for public comment, limited, at the public body's discretion as to the time allowed for each topic and the total time allowed for public comment, but not so limited as to provide for no public comment.

Public comment is not required at official meetings held solely for the purpose of meeting in executive session, an inauguration, swearing in of newly elected officials, or presentation of an annual report to the governing body, regardless of whether the activity takes place at the time and place usually reserved for an official meeting. At each official meeting of the County Commission, members of the public shall be afforded time, subject to reasonable restrictions, to comment on or ask questions of the County Commission under an agenda item called **Public Comment**. Action will not be taken during **Public Comment** on any issues brought forth that have not been properly noticed on the agenda.

ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC COMMENT RULES

1. The Chair will invite each speaker to identify themselves for the record.
2. Comments must be directed to the County Commission and not to individual Commission members, staff, other speakers, or audience members.
3. Comments must be presented in a professional demeanor and not in a threatening, profane, vulgar or abusive manner.
4. Comments shall be concerning matters within the scope of the jurisdiction of the County.
5. Individuals who engage in repetitive or threatening comments shall refrain and yield to the floor.
6. Public comment may be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker, and a total of fifteen (15) minutes in total duration.

It shall be the decision of the County Commission if it is appropriate to respond to a comment or question presented under Public Comment, and which Board member will respond.

Special Conditions:

This policy shall be considered a general policy and shall not prohibit the County Commission from deviating from this policy if special conditions exist which justify the deviation.

DOMESTIC ABUSE

Motion by Nelson, seconded by Dabek to transfer \$81.73 from Domestic Abuse Fund to General Fund according to SDCL 25-10-16. All voted aye, motion carried.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 50

Calvin Hove and Philip George of the American Legion met with the Board to discuss the urgency for Roberts County to hire a Veterans Service Officer. They also discussed the pay and condition of the current flagpole on the Courthouse lawn.

CLAIMS

Motion by Heinecke, seconded by Nelson to pay the following claims: JUDICIAL-Transcripts/Kelli Lardy 76.50, Total 76.50; AUDITOR-Supplies/McLeods Printing 246.50, Xerox 38.09, Repairs/TwoTrees Tech 1566.08, Rental/Xerox 101.99, Total 1952.66; TREASURER-Repairs/TwoTrees Tech 1566.09, Rental/Xerox 70.82, Supplies/Xerox 8.92, Total 1645.83; GOV BLDG-Supplies/ACE 200.61, Cole Papers 399.98, Mark Moen 7.12, Twin Valley Tire 12.97, Other/SD Assoc of Co Officials 150.00, Total 770.68; DIR OF EQUAL-Supplies/McLeods Printing 191.79, Repairs/Two Tree Tech 1566.08, Total 1757.87; VETERAN SERVICE-Rental/Xerox 79.20, Total 79.20; SHERIFF-Utilities/AT&T 653.70, Repairs/Steves Service 193.89, Twin Valley Tire 675.35, Total 1522.94; JAIL-Care of Prisoner/ACE 7.99, CentralSquare 36164.04, ICS 71.91, Prairie Lakes Hosp 3279.51, Summit Food 4871.82, Xerox 195.86, Repairs & Maint/First Call Auto 39.46, K&S Plumbing 719.62, TwoTrees Tech 4862.75, Rental/Langager Stack Movers 500.00, Total 50712.96; CORONER-Prof Fee/Terry Sorensen 2250.00, Travel/Terry Sorensen 1494.80, Total 3744.80; COUNTY FAIR-Supplies/SD 4H Office 56.00, Total 56.00; EXTENSION-Rental/Century Bus Prod 114.06, Total 114.06; WEED-Travel/Tammy Johnson 91.88, SD Weed & Pest 550.00, Fees/SDAWPS 75.00, Total 716.88; FIRST PLANNING DISTRICT-Other/First District Assoc Local Gov 22029.59, Total 22029.59; HWY & BRIDGE-Repairs/ACE 42.89, Aurora 4923.48, Cals Repair 10839.34, Force America 73.40, Supplies/ACE 61.56, Imperial Supplies 67.80, Tammy Johnson 19.36, Locators & Supplies 142.27, M&S Venture 2528.13, Machinery/Equip/First Call Plow 10288.00, Utilities/Traverse Elect 39.03, Total 29025.26; JAIL24/7-Other/24/7 Sobriety Program 1209.00, Total 1209.00; REG OF DEEDS-Supplies/Xerox 98.67, Total 98.67; LANDFILL-Repairs/Twin Valley Tire 1940.20, Supplies/USPS 73.00, Total 2013.20; 24/7 SOBRIETY-Program/24/7 Sobriety 7962.00, Total 7962.00, PAYROLL-Commissioner 4118.51, Auditor 5776.11, Treasurer 7250.44, States Atty 13126.92, Gov Bldg 2003.06, Dir of Equal 5105.21, Reg of Deeds 4733.21, Sheriff 27003.81, Jail 44667.98, Dispatch 24955.44, Juv Det 4207.04, Nurse 1933.95, Extension 2014.10, Planning & Zoning 2035.09, Road & Bridge 38198.42, 911 Tele 1841.45, Emergency Mgmt 1454.67, 24/7 2901.29, Landfill 17611.33, Total 210938.03. TOTAL 336426.13

ADJOURN

Motion by Heinecke, seconded by Nelson to adjourn at 11:21 am until January 21, 2025. All voted aye, motion carried.