

# **BROOKINGS COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING**

**Tuesday, August 4, 2009**

The Brookings County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 4, 2009 with the following members present: Donald Larson, Alan Gregg, Mary Negstad, and Deanna Santema. Dennis Falken was absent.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Larson called the meeting to order.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda for the August 4, 2009 commission meeting was approved as amended without objection.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

The consent agenda was approved without objection from the board.

The consent agenda consisted of the minutes from the July 21, 2009 commission meeting. Commissioner Larson noted that he had mistakenly voted against approving the Brookings County Drainage Plan during the July 21, 2009 Commission Meeting.

Welfare Matters: case #09-087 for Sioux Valley Electric was approved; case #09-029 for Sanford Medical Center was approved; case #09-109 for rent and medication was approved; case #09-090 for Brookings Utilities was denied; case #09-006 HSC for admit fee was approved; case #09-110 for rent was approved; case #09-065 for Avera McKennan was denied; case #09-063 for Avera McKennan was denied; case #09-108 for COBRA premium was approved; case #09-102 for Avera McKennan was denied; case #09-082 for Avera McKennan was approved; case #09-113 for rent was approved.

Travel/Education Requests: Brad Whaley and Karen Belau to attend the 2009 National Citizen Preparedness Conference August 9-13, 2009 in Arlington, VA; Laurie Tangen to judge at the Moody County Fair July 18, 2009, to judge at the Turner County Fair August 17, 2009, to attend University Week for Women in Mitchell, SD August 28, 2009, to attend the Relay for Life Dermascan in Flandreau, SD August 29, 2009, and to attend the South Dakota State Fair September 1-7, 2009 in Huron, SD; Rose Stee to judge public presentations August 10, 2009 in Flandreau, SD; Robert Hill to attend the South Dakota Planners Association Annual Conference September 8-11, 2009 in Spearfish, SD, to attend the SDACC Annual Conference-sessions on pipelines and wind towers September 21-23, 2009 in Watertown, SD, and to travel to Pierre, SD to meet with the Public Utilities Commission and/or staff on multiple occasions August 4-December 31, 2009.

Personnel Action Notices: routine step increase-Linda Gross to \$15.12; routine step increase-Kristen Witchey to \$15.32; routine step increase-Stacy Steffensen to \$16.47.

## **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

Director of Equalization Joyce Dragseth discussed the OHE decision on the Brown County/3M appraisal.

Planning and Zoning Director Robert Hill discussed the Aurora City Council meeting and their discussion on a possible joint jurisdictional area with Brookings County as their city grows. Hill also discussed the 2010 Census budget, the September 16, 2009 Basin Electric PUC meeting in Pierre, and the Zoning Board topics for the August 4, 2009 meeting. He also discussed his department's continued work on developing several different ordinances.

Highway Superintendent Larry Jensen updated the board on the seal coat project and bridge projects.

Sheriff Marty Stanwick updated the board on inmate, SCRAM and 24/7 numbers. Stanwick also informed that board that he was approved for the COPS grant he had applied for and will be putting that topic on a future agenda for possible approval.

Extension Agent Jon Kieckhefer discussed soybean aphids, a leak in the ceiling and a concrete pad that was driven on and broken up at the County Resource Center. He also discussed Rose Stee's retirement and upcoming retirement party.

### **ROUTINE BUSINESS**

Deputy Finance Officer Stacy Steffensen presented the Finance Officer's Report.

Be it noted the payroll totals by department for the month of July 2009 were presented to the board: Commission/HR \$14,300.72; Finance Office \$14,720.47; State's Attorney \$18,142.55; Equalization \$13,235.90; Register of Deeds \$5,843.28; Veterans Services/Welfare \$5,375.16; Sheriff's Office \$54,672.60; Community Health \$4,031.04; Extension \$3,327.63; Weed \$8,962.60; Planning/Zoning \$5,798.52; Highway \$37,641.47; Emergency Management \$4,579.77.

### **REGULAR BUSINESS**

Motion by Gregg, seconded by Negstad to approve and authorize Chairperson Larson to sign Agreement #09-44: an application for occupancy of right-of-way of county highways by Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota Company d/b/a Xcel Energy. Highway Superintendent Larry Jensen provided background information and recommended approval. Roll call vote: Gregg "aye," Negstad "aye," Santema "aye," Larson "aye." Motion carried.

Motion by Santema, seconded by Negstad to approve and authorize Chairperson Larson to sign Agreement #09-45: an application for occupancy of right-of-way of county highways by Sioux Valley Energy. Highway Superintendent Larry Jensen provided background information and recommended approval. Roll call vote: Negstad "aye," Santema "aye," Gregg "aye," Larson "aye." Motion carried.

Motion by Gregg, seconded by Santema to approve and authorize Chairperson Larson to sign Agreement #09-46: Amendment #1 of Agreement #410349 with Banner Engineering-Work Order LGA-100-07. Highway Superintendent Larry Jensen provided background information and recommended approval. Roll call vote: Santema "aye," Gregg "aye," Negstad "aye," Larson "aye." Motion carried.

The board discussed permits for self-application of dust control. Highway Superintendent Larry Jensen said that they've come up with a written permit process to protect the county from liability. Be it noted, the board recognizes Larry Jensen, as Highway Superintendent, has the authority to grant these permits.

Highway Superintendent Larry Jensen updated the board on the 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue project. He explained to the board that the project is not part of the STIP, State Transportation Improvement Program, and they need funds allocated for the project or have the funds available before the

project can become a part of the STIP. Commissioner Santema said that from the very beginning the county said it would put funds toward the project as they became available and she doesn't want to rob from other places or projects to put money into an account for the 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue Project now. She said that the county doesn't have the funds right now and they were up front with everyone about that from the start. Commissioner Gregg said that even if funds were available, they are a long way from submitting the project for the STIP because they don't have a plan or a cost estimate. Commissioner Larson said that they should start visiting with the city of Brookings about the project and that it's going to take creative financing to get the project done.

Motion by Gregg, seconded by Negstad to approve Agreement #09-47: a sub-agreement between the South Dakota Secretary of State and Brookings County, South Dakota for Help America Vote Act Payments. Deputy Finance Officer Stacy Steffensen provided background information and recommended approval. Roll call vote: Gregg "aye," Negstad "aye," Santema "aye," Larson "aye." Motion carried.

Motion by Santema, seconded by Negstad to approve and authorize Chairperson Larson to sign Agreement #09-48: a Memorandum of Understanding between Brookings County, South Dakota and First District Association of Local Governments. Commission Assistant Stephanie Vogel provided background information and did not recommend approval stating that the request goes against the county's policy for sharing electronic information. Roll call vote: Negstad "no," Santema "no," Gregg "no," Larson "no." Motion failed.

Commission Assistant and Human Resources Director Stephanie Vogel presented the Commission/HR report.

Vogel discussed the Chamber's Congressional Luncheon, the Sioux Valley Commissioner's Meeting, an upcoming Senior Companions Event, and informational correspondences included in the board packets. She also provided information on the composition of drainage boards in the area, and the South Dakota Public Assurance Alliance annual meeting and election. Vogel provided information on how the board might proceed with building a new administrative facility and she discussed possible dates for a joint city/county meeting. Vogel said that she had visited with BEDC Executive Director Al Heuton and he said that that space needs task force may have their presentation finalized in the next couple of weeks. Vogel also discussed the 2010 budget.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Gregg reported on the NACo National Convention.

Commissioner Negstad discussed the August 11<sup>th</sup> Special Election and her concern that voters do not realize it is a countywide issue. She also reported on the Extension Board meeting.

Commissioner Santema reported on the NACo National Convention and an informational letter she received from the Juvenile Detention Center planning group.

Commissioner Larson reported on the NACo National Convention.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion by Santema, seconded by Negstad to enter into Executive Session at 10:08 a.m. for personnel reasons. Roll call vote: Santema "aye," Gregg "aye," Negstad "aye," Larson "aye." Motion carried. The board came out of Executive Session at 10:15 a.m. No action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairperson Larson declared the meeting adjourned until 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, August 11, 2009.

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Stacy Steffensen  
Deputy Finance Officer  
Brookings County Finance Office

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