

BROOKINGS COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

WORK SESSION

TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021

The Brookings County Board of County Commissioners met in a work session on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 with the following members present: Larry Jensen, Angela Boersma, Lee Ann Pierce, Ryan Krogman and Michael Bartley.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Jensen called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Pierce, seconded by Krogman to approve the agenda for the Tuesday, May 11, 2021 Work Session. All members voted “aye.” Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL DISCUSSION

Weed & Pest Supervisor Misty Moser discussed the Weed Department with the board. Moser said the department experiences a lot of turnover. She said they leave the position and go work for the highway department making \$2.00 more for essentially doing the same thing.

Moser suggested increasing the wage match the Equipment Operator position in Highway at \$18.89 to prevent that from happening. Commission Department Director Stacy Steffensen said she'd talk with Highway Superintendent Brian Gustad about it and let the board know during budget hearings.

BCOAC Director Dustin Huber discussed the mission of the Brookings County Outdoor Adventure Center. Huber said he has been working with Game, Fish and Parks as well as other outside resources to try and hold as many events as they can while coordinating with 4-H and their schedule.

Bartley said the building was purchased for 4-H and their needs. Boersma said she doesn't think they should be in the business of competing with the private rental places for wedding receptions and things like that. Krogman said the focus is 4-H and Game, Fish and Parks, and suggested they bump up the rates to host other types of parties/events.

Commission Department Director Stacy Steffensen and Commissioner Boersma discussed the Veterans & Human Services department. Steffensen said the current deputy cannot move into the Director's position because she is not a Veteran. Steffensen said the deputy does most of the welfare and schedules DAV drivers.

Boersma said they are proposing to move the welfare department under the State's Attorney's Office and move the full-time Veteran's Director under the Commission Department.

Boersma said the States Attorney would still cross train their staff to perform the welfare duties. Steffensen said the challenge with this proposal is that welfare shouldn't live on third floor; it should stay on second floor. Steffensen said she'd bring a proposal to the board to advertise the director's position at a wage grade 8 with 80% of the work being veteran's affairs and 20% assisting the Commission Department.

Commission Department Director Stacy Steffensen discussed maintenance needs at the highway department, detention center, courthouse, and new jail. Steffensen said they currently have two positions, but would like to hire an additional full time employee to act as a supervisor. She said that position would be a wage grade 5, step 1.

Pierce asked Steffensen to put together a list of maintenance contracts the county has with each entity and the cost.

By consensus, the board agreed to hire another full-time buildings, grounds and maintenance employee to act as a supervisor.

Sheriff Marty Stanwick discussed his need for an additional Deputy Sheriff. Stanwick said there is a COPS Grant available for community policing and asked the board for permission to apply for that grant. He said it's a three year grant with a 25% match. Pierce asked if the law enforcement contracts with the small towns would cover the 25% match. Stanwick said it would. By consensus, the board agreed to hire an additional Deputy Sheriff contingent on the COP's Grant.

Stanwick said they will need sixteen mobile and sixteen portable radios by June 24, 2023. He said they will start converting them in 2022.

Senior Finance Assistant Jenna Byrd discussed SB 152 with the board. Byrd said SB 152 authorizes counties to issue off-sale liquor licenses. Byrd said she will work with Steffensen and States Attorney Dan Nelson on amending Ordinance #2015-01 to reflect the change.

Commissioner Ryan Krogman discussed township grant dollars with the board. Krogman said letters were sent to all of the townships asking for small structure information. He said no one responded to the letter. Krogman suggested offering \$1,900 to every township as an incentive to get the work done.

Commission Department Director Stacy Steffensen discussed the vacation and sick leave policy for elected officials. Steffensen said she and HR Specialist Kristen Witchey will draft a policy and present it during a future meeting.

Commissioner Krogman left the meeting.

Motion by Boersma, seconded by Pierce to adjourn. All members voted "aye." Motion carried. The next regular scheduled meeting is Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

It is the policy of Brookings County, South Dakota not to discriminate against the Handicapped of Employment or the Provision of Service. The County of Brookings is responsive to requests for communication aids and the need to provide appropriate access, and will provide alternative formats and accessible locations consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Jenna Byrd
Senior Finance Assistant
Brookings County

Published once at the approximate cost of_____.