

September 10, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Reider called the regular meeting of the Davison County Board of Commissioners to order at 9:00 a.m. Members of the Board present were Claggett, Kiner, Nebelsick, Blaalid, Reider. Also present was Interim Auditor Wingert

PLEDGE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairperson Reider.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Claggett, second by Nebelsick to approve the agenda for the September 10, 2024, meeting. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Blaalid, second by Nebelsick to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2024, meeting. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE STATUS CHANGES

Motion by Blaalid, second by Nebelsick to approve new hire Salina Tatera as a Corrections Officer at the jail. Salina will start on 09/16/24 at an hourly rate of \$21.33 plus an increase of \$0.50 after successfully completing her introductory period. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Nebelsick, second by Kiner to start paying Karen Knadle a cell phone stipend of \$50.00 to offset her time not on the clock when she is getting inquiries. All members voted aye. Motion carried

HR Director/Interim Auditor Wingert presented a new payroll system, Paylocity. Wingert stressed the goals and expectations of Paylocity as well as all the services that Paylocity can provide at one cost versus utilizing several different systems to complete the payroll task. Implementation cost is \$3,884.30, monthly fee for the service is \$1,479.31, which totals \$18,674.72 a year. Wingert expressed we would need to get started on the process of implementation soon to ensure that the first payroll of 2025 is completed through the new system. Motion by Blaalid, Second by Kiner to approve the new system. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

BRIDGE BID OPENING

Six bids were received and opened during the 9:30AM Bridge Bid Opening. First, Graves, 10% bid security, total bid price 1,014,017.70. Second, Kea construction 10% bid security, total bid price \$1,009,225.71. Third, SFC, 10% bid security and total bid price 1,180,417.00. Fourth, Nolz Dragline and Construction, 10% bid security and total bid price 976,636.70. Fifth, Prahm Construction INC, 10% bid security and total bid price \$818,480.50. Last, A-G-E Corporation 10% bid security and total bid price \$1,181,340.00. Motion by Kiner, seconded by Nebelsick to recommend the lowest bid price, Prahm Construction INC contingent upon CDI review of bids for accuracy and SD DOT bid concurrence. All in favor. Motion carried.

TURNING LANE BID OPENING

Three bids were received and opened during the 10:00AM turn lanes bid opening. First, Rexwinkel Concrete, with a 10% security bid, schedule A total price \$478,697.80, schedule B \$578,460.50, schedule C \$274,200.30 for a total bid price of \$1,331,358.60. Second as Hulstein Excavating Inc. with a 10% security bid, schedule A \$504,672.50, schedule B \$622,558.50 schedule C \$281,677.50 for a total bid price of \$1,408,908.50. Last was Timmons Construction Inc with a 10% security bid, schedule A \$418,626.50, schedule B \$502,352.85, and schedule C \$242,603.10 with a total bid price of \$1,163,582.45. Motion by Nebelsick, seconded by Claggett to recommend the lowest bid price Timmons Construction Inc contingent upon CDI review of bids for accuracy and SD DOT bid concurrence. All in favor. Motion Carried.

FUEL QUOTE

Quote was originally approved telephonically due to needing to lock in the current prices. Quote #1, Brooks Oil, 3000 gallons unleaded @ 2.3947. Quote #2, CHS, 3000 gallons unleaded at \$2.79. Quote #3, Vollan Oil, 3000 gallons unleaded @ 3.04. Motion by Nebelsick to accept the lowest price, seconded by Claggett. All in favor. Motion carried

TIME SHEETS

Motion by Blaalid, seconded by Kiner to approve timesheets.

APPROVE BILLS

Motion by Nebelsick, seconded by Claggett to approve the bills. All in favor. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND:

; **COMM:** Publishing/Column Software PBC-501.78,; Utilities/Mitchell Telecom-22.79,; Utilities/Santel Communication-107.75,; Purr N Ruff/Creekside Veterinary-122.00,; Servicemen's Cemetery/Servicemen's Cemetery-1000.00,; **ELECT:** Supplies/{atzer Woodworking-391.93,; **JUD:** Interpreter Fees/Devy Alvizures-978.25,; **AUD:** Utilities/Mitchell Telecom-22.79,; Utilities/Santel Communications-50.88; **TREAS:** Utilities/Mitchell Telecom-59.56 Utilities/Santel Communications-70.12; **ST ATTY:** Diversion Service & Fees/Lutheran Social Services-250.00 Diversion Service & Fees/Jodi Reiners-400.00 Utilities/Mitchell Telecom-64.61 Utilities/Santel Communications-97.34; **CRT APPTED ATTY:** Crt Appted Attorney/Dailey Law Prof LLC-1874.50 Crt Appted Attorney/De Castro Law Office-9507.30 Crt Appted Attorney/Wantoch Law Office PLLC-1327.00; **PUB SFTY BLDG:** Repairs/Menards-488.35

RECESS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS/CONVENE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Motion by Nebelsick, seconded by Kiner to move into the Board of Adjustment. All in favor. Motion carried.

ADJOURN BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT/CONVENE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

At 10:52AM, a motion by Blaalid, second by Nebelsick to adjourn Board of Adjustment. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

APPROVE PLATS

At the request of James & Glenda Hohn, consider Plat of Tract A of Glenda's Addition, in the S1/2 of the NE1/4 of Section 16, T 102 N, R 60, West of the 5th P.M., Davison County, South Dakota. Motion by Blaalid, seconded by Claggett. All in favor. Motion Carried

At the request of Gerald & Joyce Tilberg, consider a Plat of Tract A of Windy Acres Addition, in the NW1/4 of the NE1/4 of Section 23, T 102 N, R 60, West of the 5th P.M., Davison County, South Dakota. Motion by Blaalid, seconded by Claggett. All in favor. Motion Carried

SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF COUNTY ORDINANCE #082724-1

Chairman Reider first walked through the rules of the hearing implementing a 4-minute time frame for each individual that would like to speak. Reider further expanded on the proposed ordinance. Reider noted that a few weeks back, several people shared fears of the lack of checks and balances over the ordinance, however he stated that there will still be a separation of duties, just like there is now and will continue to maintain the separation. Reider stated that many people have reached out to offer their help to ensure everything is done accurately. Reider then opened the floor to the public.

Chet Ellsworth from Rapid City shared that when other counties had made the change that continues to get referenced for combining their own Auditor and Treasures office that there isn't any documentation of people showing up to show their support- or lack of support- at these counties. Mr. Ellsworth continued to state that his concern is needing and wanting to be informed about what is going on in the community/county especially when it comes to new ordinances.

Robert Morano spoke next to voice his disapproval of the new ordinance. Robert continued to state that he and his family chose South Dakota to live because of the limited government interaction, and he feels doomed with this ordinance. Robert stated the board is missing the most important thing, which is separation of duties. He continued on to state that this was irresponsible oversight of taxpayers' dollars.

Patrick Clark spoke in favor of the ordinance. He continued to state that there would be obvious savings with the ordinance, not tremendous, but something is better than not saving at all. He believes this ordinance would create more efficiency. He stated in summary, we as a county voted on the commissioners to come in and to make a change for the county and he believes by passing the ordinance that this is a step in the right direction.

Dwight Stadler spoke next stating that he believes the way the ordinance came about was unethical. Dwight continued stating that there is a difference between what is legal and what is unethical. Dwight stated that just because this plan in other counties worked out well for them, doesn't prove that it will for Davison County. Dwight stated it is the right of the public to be able to vote on the Auditor, and by combining the offices, you are taking away that right. He stated in his opinion he doesn't believe there can be a separation of offices. Dwight asked for a cost benefit analysis as evidence that this ordinance would save the taxpayers money.

Gloria Montgomery spoke next. She stated that she and her husband have worked the elections for many years and believes there is great election integrity within the Auditors office. Gloria stated she had talked with employee Karen K on the matter and knows the office as it is now, will uphold the integrity of that office. Gloria wrapped up her time by stating that as long as there are good balances in the offices, then she doesn't see a problem with the ordinance.

Sonja VanErdwick came fourth next. She reiterated that the Davison County Republicans had passed a resolution on 8/15/24 against this ordinance. She continued to state that there has been no evidence of the cost savings that this could bring. Sonja shared about her presentation the week prior about hand counting and believes the county should and could save a lot of money by going to hand counting of votes on election night versus using the machine. She stated that she isn't claiming election fraud, rather our spending expenditures to save money in other areas versus combining offices.

Steve Sibson spoke next about internal control in the office. He stated this ordinance would lessen internal control and that management is in control of this. He stated by this ordinance we would be weakening the internal control. His second point continued on to state that he hasn't seen a cost savings report. He proposed this question; are we trying to save a little bit of money by weakening the internal control. His last point brought forth was that this ordinance would take away from the people who vote.

Larry Mathis spoke about not being informed about the decision to combine offices. He stated that as the public they weren't asked rather told that this would be happening. He believes that he, and everyone else, should have a say when the government structure is being changed. Larry continues to say that if this ordinance is passed, that inevitably there will be a referendum which would cost the taxpayers much more money. Dwight wrapped up by stating that he feels like the government within the county is getting bigger and bigger and that the control of the people is becoming less and less.

Donna Deinert spoke next to state that her concern is the role of the people-stating they don't get a voice. She stated voting is a constitutional right and by passing this ordinance you are taking that away from the public. She further stated if you want to save money- look at your elections- not by taking away "our" voice.

Brenda Bode spoke in favor of the ordinance stating that she took it upon herself by contacting other counties who have combined their offices. She stated she had several questions as to what she wanted to ask, such as is this a service to the public, is it an efficient use of taxpayers' dollars, is there any cost savings? What was/is the retention of your staff after combining the offices, was there a reduction in errors? She stated the city finance's officers that she spoke with were all informative and generous with their time. She stated that the counties she spoke with stated that this was a benefit to the people and that the checks and balances are still in check with a Chief Deputy on both sides of the office to ensure of it. She finished her presentation by stating now is the time and opportunity to move forward and asked the board to do so.

Terry Sabers spoke in favor of the ordinance. He stated it will be more efficient than before. He shared how people have heard about other counties struggling financially, and questioned when will this be us? If we can save a dollar, we need

to. Terry stated now is the time to reduce the cost of operating the county and stated the board owes this to the taxpayers.

Stephanie Ellwein spoke about her experience with the combining of offices. She stated she wasn't here to be for or against the ordinance, rather to share what she had experienced during her time working with Brookings County. She rebutted the comments made earlier by a citizen who stated that there was no public support in other counties who had passed a similar ordinance and stated that there were people at those hearings. Stephanie continued to state that the board has the power to maintain separation of duties and checks and balances.

Tona Rozum shared that efficiency is being missed in this discussion. She stated that we should have greater efficiency with people working together in these offices. She stated that change can be hard, but that doesn't make it bad. She also indicated that we have to be careful to ensure a qualified person is in office, and sometimes the vote of the people doesn't reflect that.

Doug (unknown last name) shared that he is all for the smaller government and more efficiency. Doug continued to state that we can always go back to the way it was if things don't work with the new ordinance.

Kevin Johnson stated that we as a community vote for our commissioners to come in and make these tough decisions. If we can save money and get the job done, then that's what needs to be done.

Dean Hansen asked if we know the actual dollar amount of what would be saved by this ordinance. He indicated that we should look at all the salaries of county workers as the previous auditor's salary seemed too high. He stated he believes that more money should go to the people who are saving our lives everyday.

Motion to end the public hearing. Motion by Nebelsick, seconded by Kiner. All in favor. Motion carried.

The commissioners were then asked if they had any input to the ordinance. Mr. Nebelsick indicated that he went out and talked to people, and a lot of them were worried about one person being in charge. He questioned what would happen if Dave would leave. He shared he was worried about burning out Dave as he will not only have to deal with the commissioners but also the public more. He finished up by stating this wasn't a bad idea, but good ideas don't always work on Mitchell soil either.

Motion to approve the second reading and approve the ordinance was made by Blaalid, and seconded by Claggett. Roll call vote was held- Blaalid- aye, Kiner- aye, Claggett- aye, Nebelsick- no Rieder- aye. 4-1 Motion carried.

Motion to exit the second reading hearing by Kiner and seconded by Claggett.

ADJOURN

At 12:25 p.m., Chairperson Reider adjourned the meeting and set the next regular Board of Commissioners meeting for September 24, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

ATTEST:

Kathy Wingert Interim Auditor

Randy Reider, Chairperson

Publish Once Approximate Cost

