

BROOKINGS COUNTY RAILROAD AUTHORITY MEETING

Thursday, March 30, 2023

The Brookings County Railroad Authority met on Thursday, March 30, 2023 with the following members present: Larry Jensen, Kelly VanderWal, Craig Howell and Michael Schulte. Also present were Stacy Steffensen, Josh Jones and Ben Kleinjan.

CALL TO ORDER

County Commissioner Larry Jensen called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and introductions were held.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by VanderWal, seconded by Schulte to approve the agenda for the March 30, 2023 Railroad Authority Meeting. All members voted “aye.” Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by VanderWal, seconded by Howell to approve minutes from the April 10, 2015 Railroad Authority Meeting. All members voted “aye.” Motion carried.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

Motion by Howell, seconded by VanderWal to nominate Larry Jensen as Chairperson for 2023. All members voted “aye.” Motion carried.

Motion by Howell, seconded by Schulte to nominate Kelly VanderWal as Vice-Chairperson of 2023. All members voted “aye.” Motion carried.

REGULAR BUSINESS

The board discussed the Brookings Regional Railroad Safety Authority board. Deputy States Attorney Ben Kleinjan said he was looking at the South Dakota Department of Transportation website and determined that the Brookings Regional Railroad Safety Authority board is a defect entity. Kleinjan said it’s not even listed on the South Dakota State Rail plan. Kleinjan said the Brookings County Regional Railroad Authority is an active entity. From a legal standpoint, Kleinjan suggested the City of Brookings dissolve their entity and join Brookings County.

Commission Department Director Stacy Steffensen said she spoke with City Manager Paul Briseno and Assistant City Manager Jake Meshke and talked about scheduling a meeting to discuss just that. She said she will update the board after that meeting.

The board discussed the idea of holding annual meetings and member terms. Commission Department Director Stacy Steffensen suggested this board meet at least once a year to give a

quick update and make sure members are still on board. Kleinjan said this board can appoint an at-large member, and if the City of Elkton wants to join, they can or they can appoint at-large members. Steffensen said the board needs to be an odd number.

Motion by VanderWal, seconded by Howell to appoint Josh Jones as an at-large member of the Brookings County Regional Authority Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Schulte, seconded by Howell to adjourn. All members voted “aye.” Motion carried. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, June 5, 2023 at 3:30 p.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
Finance Specialist
Brookings County

Published once at the appropriate cost of_____.