

BROOKINGS COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2023

The Brookings County Board of County Commissioners met in special session on Wednesday, April 5, 2023 with the following members present: Ryan Krogman, Larry Jensen, Michael Bartley, Shawn Hostler and Kelly VanderWal.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Krogman called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Bartley, seconded by Hostler to approve the April 5, 2023 Commission Meeting. All members voted “aye.” Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

The board discussed county grant dollars for townships. Commission Department Director Stacy Steffensen said a lot of townships applied for the Rural Access Infrastructure dollars, which are dollars that come from the state. Steffensen said the commission did budget \$100,000 for 2023 and asked the board what they want to spend those dollars on.

Krogman said the commission started budgeting \$100,000 to help townships out, but now the state has taken over and started the Rural Access Infrastructure program. Jensen asked if the townships who do not qualify for the Rural Access Infrastructure dollars have emergency needs. He also said townships always need road closure signs.

Krogman suggested they leave the \$100,000 in the budget for this year and take it out of the budget next year to spend it on something else. Steffensen said she will reach out to Highway Superintendent Brian Gustad and discuss township needs.

The board discussed the severe weather policy. Steffensen said it seems like they are always struggling to make the decision to close due to inclement weather and wondered if it should be more black and white within the employee handbook. Bartley asked who makes the declaration of no travel advised. Sheriff Marty Stanwick said he talks with County Development Director Robert Hill and Highway Superintendent Brian Gustad, and then makes the call to the media. Bartley said every storm is unique so it's really hard to make a black and white policy. Bartley said the chairman makes the decision based off all the communications that he has. Krogman suggested they keep the policy the same.

The board discussed potential changes to cellular authorizations. Steffensen said she is proposing changes to align the policy with that they are already doing. Steffensen proposed

eliminating the data plan from the form because everyone receives email on their phone already. She said she will bring the proposed change to an upcoming commission meeting.

The board discussed Government Center office changes. Steffensen said they put up permanent barriers in the Finance Office and they are looking at doing something similar in other offices. She said they are looking to get this project underway this year.

Steffensen said the County Development/Planning & Zoning office and the Equalization office will be swapping locations as part of this project, as well.

The board discussed the Courthouse roof project. Steffensen said there is a Request for Proposals out right now but because of the historical nature of the courthouse, it will have to go through the city historical commission. Steffensen said she doesn't think the project will get done this year, but it is moving forward.

The board discussed courthouse security upgrades. Steffensen said the board approved an agreement with Safe n Secure on Tuesday, April 4, 2023. Steffensen said it's for the cameras, panic buttons and door access readers. Steffensen said IT Support Specialist Shawn Plowman and IT Support Technician Eric Mette will be doing the work for camera views within each office.

The board discussed the Highway Department building. Steffensen said FEMA will not pay for the east shop because it's too late. Steffensen asked if they wanted to build onto the current highway shop or move the building to a different location.

Bartley said he and Highway Superintendent Brian Gustad looked at some potential locations for a new shop and the preferred location would be out by the Department of Transportation. Bartley said he doesn't know what's available but looking at the current footprint of the highway shop, they would need ten (10) to fourteen (14) acres.

Krogman asked if they wanted to talk to the city and see if they would be interested in purchasing the current highway shop land. If they are not interested in buying it, Krogman said maybe they could auction it off.

The board discussed Samara Avenue and 214th Street. Jensen said a meeting is being held later this month with Banner Associates to discuss both projects. Jensen said Samara Avenue is still in the design phase and after it's built, Highway Superintendent Brian Gustad will be responsible for maintaining the road. Jensen said the cost is unknown.

Jensen said the City of Aurora continues with their phases on the sewer project. He was informed that they are doing upgrades to Redmond Road and in two years, they will be doing sewer upgrades on that road. Jensen said the commission will need to decide if they are going to take over that road, similar to Samara Avenue in the City of Volga. Krogman said they are going to have to get some federal or state help for 214th Street. Jensen said they need to invite Aurora to the table so that they can have a better understanding of what the plan will be.

The board discussed the June budget meeting. Steffensen said the budget meeting will be on Monday, June 26th at 8:00 a.m.

The board discussed the strategic plan and work plan. Steffensen said changes were made to the strategic plan in 2021. Steffensen said there are objectives within the strategic plan that

pertain to certain departments. She said there is an upcoming department head meeting and will present the strategic plan to them to see if they have any changes.

Bartley suggested they try and get all of the towns together so everyone can hear what others are up to, similar to the annual township meeting. VanderWal said years ago all of the mayors would get together and share their upcoming plans. He said he doesn't think they do that anymore. Steffensen said she will reach out to BEDC CEO Tim Reed and see if they can get something together.

Motion by Hostler, seconded by VanderWal to adjourn. All members voted "aye." Motion carried. The next regular scheduled meeting is Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.

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