

Tripp County, South Dakota
May 23, 2023

The meeting of the Tripp County Commissioners was called to order by the Chair in the Commissioner Room at the Court House at Winner on May 23, 2023 at 10:00 A.M. Roll call showed Board members Joyce Kartak, Daniel Forgey, Cody Jorgensen and Michael Novotny. Absent was Larry Wilcox. Also present was Auditor Barbara DeSersa, Zane Hamiel and Kathie Cole, Ambulance and Dan Bechtold, Winner Advocate.

Novotny made the motion, seconded by Forgey, to add discuss accumulative vacation hours and approve the agenda as amended.

Roll call: All present ayes. Motion carried.

Forgey made the motion, seconded by Jorgensen, that the minutes of the meeting held on May 9, 2023 be approved as read.

Roll call: All present ayes. Motion carried.

Novotny made the motion, seconded by Jorgensen, that the claims be approved as follows:

BI-MONTHLY PAYROLL: COMMISSIONERS: \$2,310.35; AUDITOR'S OFFICE: \$6,031.99; TREASURER'S OFFICE: \$5,659.77; STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE: \$6,638.01; COURTHOUSE: \$1,480.77; ASSESSOR'S OFFICE: \$5,563.95; REGISTER OF DEED'S OFFICE: \$3,515.25; VETERAN'S SERVICE: \$512.00; INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES: \$1,990.38; SHERIFF'S OFFICE: \$7,757.20; WELFARE: \$461.54; AMBULANCE: \$8,140.43; LIBRARY: \$3,478.78; EXTENSION: \$3,125.47; WEED: \$1,464.62; ROAD & BRIDGE: \$23,112.49; EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: \$384.62; VARIOUS DEDUCTIONS: AFLAC, MAY CONTRIBUTION, \$615.11; FIRST FIDELITY BANK, WITHHOLDING, SOCIAL SECURITY & MEDICARE, \$17,243.65; DELTA DENTAL, CONTRIBUTION, \$95.00; LEGAL SHIELD, CONTRIBUTION, \$12.95; OPTILEGRA, MAY CONTRIBUTION, \$11.01; THE HEALTH POOL OF SD, INSURANCE, \$32,181.50; SD RETIREMENT SYSTEM, CONTRIBUTION, \$8,248.10; GENERAL DEDUCTIONS: COLONIAL LIFE, CONTRIBUTION MAY, \$1,144.16; TRIPP COUNTY AMBULANCE, AMBULANCE PAYMENT, \$25.00; TRIPP COUNTY TREASURER, AMBULANCE BILL, \$25.00; DIVISION OF CHILD SUPPORT, CONTRIBUTION, \$360.00; SD SUPPLEMENTAL RETIREMENT, DEDUCTIONS, \$712.50. COMMISSIONERS; FIRST BANK AND TRUST, RETIREMENT PARTY SUPPLIES, \$106.96; CIRCUIT COURT: LANGUAGE LINE SERVICE, PHONE INTERPRETOR, \$82.75; THOMSON RUETERS, ONLINE SUBSCRIPTION MAY, \$1,154.10; MONA G WEIGER, TRANSCRIPTS, \$132.30; AUDITOR: MCLEOD'S OFFICE SUPPLY, WINDOW ENVELOPES ½ TRIPP, \$72.95/ ½ TODD, \$72.95; TREASURER: INTELLECTUAL TECHNOLOGY INC., LICENSE PLATE ENVELOPES, ¾ TRIPP \$72.96/ ¼ TODD \$60.00; COURT APPOINTED ATTORNEY: AMY BARTLING-JACOBSEN, CAA FEES, \$792.30; GEORGE JOHNSON, CAA FEES, \$580.20; SANDY STEFFEN, CAA FEES, \$1,197.69; THE SCHREIBER LAW FIRM, CAA FEES, \$899.50; COUNTY MAINTENANCE: OLSON PEST TECHNICIANS, QUARTERLY PEST CONTROL, \$65.00; DIRECTOR OF EQUALIZATION: FIRST BANK AND TRUST, 15 HR NATIONAL USPAP, \$62.99; VERIZON WIRELESS, PHONE SERVICE, \$46.99; REGISTER OF DEEDS: MICROFILM IMAGING SYSTEM, RENTAL SCANNING EQUIPMENT TRIPP, \$353.00/RENTAL SCANNING EQUIPMENT TODD, \$123.00; PREDATORY ANIMAL: SD GAME FISH AND PARKS, ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL FUND, \$6,625.43; IT: FIRST BANK AND TRUST, AVG/AMAZON/PITNEY BOWES, \$93.98; DIRECT TECHNOLOGIES, MICROSOFT OFFICE LICENSE, \$609.72; PITNEY BOWES BANK, POSTAGE METER REFILL, \$620.99; SHERIFF: DARRYL SUESS, COURT SECURITY 4 HOURS, \$60.00; DILLON BATES, ON CALL, \$35.00; DIRECT TECHNOLOGIES, CYBER SECURITY UPGRADE, \$40,094.98; VERIZON WIRELESS, CELL SERVICE, \$187.20; CARE HEALTH AMERICA, US INSTANT TEST CUPS, \$93.50; JAIL: WINNER REGIONAL, BLOOD DRAW/CLINIC VISIT, \$350.00; BENNY AUDISS, TRANSPORTS X 2, \$80.75; SOLID WASTE; FIRST BANK AND TRUST, LAST PHONE BILL, \$45.47; OFFICE OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES, SCALE TEST, \$48.00; AMBULANCE: FIDELITY AGENCY, NEW AMBULANCE COVERAGE, \$2,383.00; MATHESON TRI-GAS INC., OXYGEN, \$36.85; VERIZON WIRELESS, CELL SERVICE, \$125.04; WINNER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES, 20% COST SHARE UTILITIES, \$610.24; THE WINNER PHARMACY, THERMOMETER, \$59.48; COUNTY FAIR, SUPPLIES, \$76.60; MENTAL ILLNESS: AUDRA HILL CONSULTING, MH HOLD QHMP, \$1,714.08; LIBRARY: FIRST BANK AND TRUST, AMAZON/ZOOM/DOLLAR, \$1,421.31; EXTENSION: VERIZON WIRELESS, CELL SERVICE, \$46.99; WEED: VERIZON WIRELESS, CELL SERVICE, \$41.80; ROAD & BRIDGE: ALL IN ONE SHOP, REPAIR PARTS, \$640.07; ATTEBERRY CONSTRUCTION, GRAVEL CRUSHING BURTZ PIT, \$40,000.00; LAWSON PRODUCTS INC., SHOP SUPPLIES, \$1,629.35; HUGHES BROTHERS 2, REPAIRS/PARTS, \$972.96; ROSEBUD ELECTRIC, UTILITIES, \$60.43; SCHWEIGERT CONSTRUCTION, PIT RUN AT BURTZ, \$50,000.00; VERIZON WIRELESS, CELL PHONE, \$41.80; WINNER REGIONAL, DRUG TEST, \$56.50; GARY'S REPAIR, REPAIRS, \$249.00; DEBT SERVICE: DAIMLER TRUCK FINANCIAL SERVICES, TRUCK PAYMENTS, \$12,426.27; 9-1-1: CITY OF WINNER, 9-1-1 SURCHARGE, \$7,408.80; DONATED AMBULANCE: FIRST BANK AND TRUST, SUPPLIES, \$132.91; NON-DEPARTMENTAL: SD ASSOCIATION OF CO OFFICALS, APRIL COLLECTIONS, \$140.00.

Roll call: All present ayes. Motion carried.

No conflict of interest was reported.

No one appeared for public comment.

Kathie Cole, Ambulance Director, came to the meeting to discuss an ambulance surplus or two. The county currently owns 6 ambulances. Ms. Cole would like to surplus the 1997 ambulance and a 2013 ambulance that is currently located in Colome, which will be replaced with a different ambulance. Novotny made the motion, seconded by Jorgensen, to surplus the 1997 and 2013 ambulances and advertise for sealed bids.

Roll call: All present ayes. Motion carried.

At 10:10 Commissioner Larry Wilcox and Paul Schueth, EMT, entered the meeting.

Mr. Schueth gave an update on the EMS SAMHSA Grant. There were 49 West River students that participated in the class and 17 of those were High School students. There were 14 students that participated in the practical portion of the course here in Winner. Mr. Schueth is very pleased with the program.

Duane Wetzel, Weed Supervisor, came to the meeting to discuss hiring summer help next year to cut down and remove the dead trees in the county right of way. Discussion was held about hiring someone this year. Forgey made the motion, seconded by Jorgensen, to give Mr. Wetzel permission to hire seasonal help, at least sixteen years of age, to cut and remove trees for \$15 per hour.

Roll call: All ayes. Motion carried.

Oakley Perry, Program Manager, 4-H County Operations and Professional Development, and Mandy Stady, State 4-H Director, entered the meeting. Commissioner Kartak asked Mr. Perry to come to the meeting to explain to the other commissioners the changes needing to be made in the Tripp County Extension Office moving forward.

Mr. Perry explained that finances for 4-H clubs should not be managed through the extension office, nor should the secretary handle money for workshops or write checks for these other entities. The Extension Secretaries role, according to SDSU, is to be a support role for the Youth Program Administrator. SDSU is currently advertising hiring a Youth Program Administrator for Tripp and Gregory County. Mr. Perry claims there were too many extra duties being done out of the extension office that did not pertain to 4-H and the 4-H Clubs should be the ones organizing the Mid-Dakota Fair.

4-H Leaders Kim DeMers, Dawn Covey, Scott Hollenbeck, Heather Heying and Nicole Brinda asked to come to the meeting to clarify some things that have been said. Kim DeMers explained that the Tripp County Extension Office has been used as a drop off location for the 4-H Leaders for many years. It is easier to have a central drop off location for sponsors that are donating money to the many programs that the Leaders fund for the 4-H programs. Dawn Covey explained that all fund raising the 4-H Leaders do is to pay for the awards, ribbons, judges, workshops, and 4-H recognition night. Mrs. Covey also explained that the county budget for the extension office pays for the secretary's wage, benefits, SDSU YPA and a few supplies. These five members of the 4-H Leaders all discussed their passion for 4-H and their years of volunteering to keep the program active in Tripp County. Mrs. Covey said there should be a 3-way partnership between the State, County and Leaders for the 4-H Program. Mrs. Covey would like to see the Commissioners allow Nicole Richey, Extension Secretary, the opportunity to reach out to Debbie Steinke, with her questions if needed and Mrs. Steinke should be compensated for her time.

Mr. Perry said 4-H is a program of the state and not the county. The state has rules, and one isn't to allow money to be exchanged in the extension office for other entities and any 4-H entity must abide by the state rules. Mr. Perry explained that this is a risk and a liability to the state 4-H program.

A discussion was held having a drop box in the extension office and Mr. Perry will allow that if the county employee does not process the money. Joyce Kartak said she will talk to Nicole and Debbie about training. Mr. Perry said the extension secretary in Gregory County is coming to mentor Nicole Richey. Mr. Perry, Stady and 4-H Leaders left the meeting.

Bonnie Rutten and Barb Watzel, 4-H Leaders entered the meeting to say they thought Mrs. Steinke had overstepped her boundaries and they are glad to hear there will be a drop box in the Extension Office. They also agreed that the committees should run the fair.

Greg Henderson, District III Representative, came to the meeting to give the Planning & Development District III 2022 Performance Report.

Robert Tate and Deb Kendrick entered the meeting. Mr. Tate wanted to discuss eminent domain and the CO2 Pipeline in South Dakota. Mr. Tate would like each Commissioner individually to write a letter to the PUC opposing the grant for the CO2 Pipeline in South Dakota. Eminent domain is for private gain only.

John Harter joined the meeting. Mr. Harter’s concerns are for the rights of the personal property owners. Discussion was held.

Jamie Van Zee and Eric Prunty, Brosz Engineering Inc, and Roger Sund, Highway Superintendent, entered the meeting. Mr. Van Zee came to the meeting to tell the Commissioners that the following projects 306th Ave. Structure Replacement Project, BRF 6581(00)22-1, PCN 08XG, and 318th Ave. Structure Replacement Project, BRO 8062(00)22-2, PCN 08XH is to be awarded to the lowest Bidder Prahm Construction Inc., contingent upon South Dakota Department of Transportation approval.

Forgey made the motion, seconded by Jorgensen, to award both Structure Replacement bids to the lowest Bidder Prahm Construction Inc., contingent upon South Dakota Department of Transportation approval.

Roll call: All ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Prunty discussed the cost analysis for the North County Road project that will be submitted for the Raise Grant when it is available. Discussion was held.

Mr. Prunty also asked about the Agribusiness Grant on 317th Ave that was denied. Mr. Prunty asked if the commissioners want to submit it again.

Fogey made the motion, seconded by Jorgensen, to apply for the Agribusiness Grant on 317th Ave.

Roll call: All ayes. Motion carried.

Wade Iszler, RDO, came to the meeting to bring proposals for a new John Deere grader. The options were discussed but no decision was made.

Roger Sund, Highway Superintendent, gave his report. The crews are blading roads, repairing signs, hand patched oil road projects 6139S-6139N-6132-6302 and repaired a washout by a culvert on project 43. Mr. Sund brought a timeline on the repairs on the Witten Bridge.

Zachary Pahlke, States Attorney, entered the meeting.

At 1:05 P.M. Forgey made the motion, seconded by Novotny, to enter into Executive session to discuss a personnel issue pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1).

Roll call: All ayes. Motion carried.

Dan Bechtold, Winner Advocate, left for the day.

At 1:15 P.M. Forgey made the motion, seconded by Novotny, to return to regular session.

Roll call: All ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Sund would like to make Kevin Osborne an Assistant Supervisor for the Highway Department.

Forgey made the motion, seconded by Wilcox, to adopt the following:

RESOLUTION (25-2023):

WHEREAS, Kevin Osborne, is named the Assistant Supervisor for the Highway Department,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Tripp County Board of Commissioners to increase Mr. Osborne’s salary to \$25.00 per hour effective May 28, 2023.

Dated at Winner, South Dakota this 23rd day of May, 2023.

Chair, Joyce Kartak

Larry Wilcox

Daniel Forgey

Cody Jorgensen

Michael Novotny

ATTEST:

County Auditor

Roll call: Ayes: Kartak, Wilcox, Forgey, Jorgensen and Novotny.

Nays: None. Resolution adopted.

Joyce Kartak said she would like to attend the District III meeting to be held in Mitchell on May 24 2023. Forgey made the motion, seconded by Jorgensen, to authorize the necessary expenses for Joyce Kartak, Commissioner, to attend the District III Committee Meeting in Mitchell, SD on May 24, 2023.

Roll call: All ayes. Motion carried.

The Register of Deed’s Statement of Fees collected during the month of April 2023 showed \$5,936.50.

Novotny made the motion, seconded by Jorgensen, to approve the township bonds as follows:
Treasurer \$20,000.00 Bonds: Ann Rose, Banner Twp.; Nancy Storms, Beaver Creek Twp.; Roni Phillips, Black Twp.; Kevin Keiser, Brunson Twp.; Rebecca Littau, Carter Twp.; Mary Donovan, Colome Twp.; Mark Winter, Condon Twp; Debra Hinman, Curlew Twp.; Debbie Engel, Dog Ear Twp.; Jeanne Pochop, Elliston Twp.; Alona Burtz, Greenwood Twp.; Denise Sell, Holsclaw Twp.; Shelley Sharp, Huggins Twp.; Tasha Vanneman, Ideal Twp.; Gerald Gergen, Irwin Twp.; Jack Storms, Jordan Twp.; Janet DeMers, Keyapaha Twp.; Corey Audiss, King Twp.; Lyle Krumpus, Lake Twp.; Dwight Covey, Lone Star Twp.; Tara Pajl, Lone Tree Twp.; Darnelle Novotny, McNeely Twp.; Jody Soles, Millboro Twp.; Mark Hansen, Plainview Twp.; Jacque Boerner, Pleasant Valley Twp.; Charleen Gill, Pleasant View Twp.; Nancy Richey, Rames Twp.; Ann English, Rosedale Twp.; Brad Fenenga, Roseland Twp.; Douglas Hartland, Star Prairie Twp.; Neil E. Lantz, Star Valley Twp.; Beverly Axtell, Stewart Twp.; Duane Bertram, Sully Twp.; Ryan Littau, Taylor Twp.; Paul Shanahan, Valley Twp.; John Tunnissen, Weaver Twp.; Joe Anderson, Willow Creek Twp.; Glen Novotny, Wilson Twp.; Jessie G. Elsasser, Witten Twp.; Brigett Sargent, Wortman Twp.
Treasurer \$50,000.00 Bond: Dalton Daughters, Bull Creek Twp.; James Fisher, Lamro Twp.
Clerk \$20,000.00 Bonds: Jason Bartels, Banner Twp.; Nancy Storms, Beaver Creek Twp.; Kevin Wagner, Black Twp.; Larry Wilcox, Brunson Twp.; Robert Littau, Carter Twp.; Vickie Nelson, Colome Twp.; Allen Schwandt, Condon Twp.; Betty Rowe, Curlew Twp.; Scott Docken, Dog Ear Twp.; Bernard Gergen, Elliston Twp.; Alona Burtz, Greenwood Twp.; Denise Sell, Holsclaw Twp.; Dan Harkin, Huggins Twp.; Nick Jorgensen, Ideal Twp.; G.W. Ekroth, Irwin Twp.; Sarah Myers, Jordan Twp.; Blake DeMers, Keyapaha Twp.; Cienna Cable, King Twp.; Gary Woods, Lake Twp.; Cally Schuyler, Lone Star Twp.; Darnelle Novotny, McNeely Twp.; Amy Davis, Millboro Twp.; Charlie Grossenburg, Plainview Twp.; Darel W. Boerner, Pleasant Valley Twp.; Kathy Nicholas, Pleasant View Twp.; Marge Wiley, Rames Twp.; Cal Swanson, Roseland Twp.; Cody Littau, Star Prairie Twp.; Lee A. Calhoon, Star Valley Twp.; Charles Axtell, Stewart Twp.; Marshall Spreckels, Sully Twp.; Paul E. Jensen, Taylor Twp.; Rod Graesser, Valley Twp.; Liz Farley, Weaver Twp.; Joe Anderson, Willow Creek Twp.; Michael S. Novotny, Wilson Twp.; Jessie Elsasser, Witten Twp.; Brigett Sargent, Wortman Twp.
Clerk \$25,000.00 Bond: Greg English, Rosedale Twp.
Clerk \$50,000.00 Bond: Mark Engel, Bull Creek Twp.; John Janecke, Lamro Twp.
Roll call: All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kartak would like to see an ice machine available in the courthouse. Jorgensen made the motion, seconded by Forgey, to purchase a touchless ice machine for the courthouse.
Roll call: All ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on accruing vacation hours, instead of expiring on the employee’s anniversary date. Novotny made the motion, seconded by Kartak, to adopt the following:

RESOLUTION (26-2023):

Therefore, Be it Resolved by the Tripp County Board of Commissioners to hereby amend and change the newly revised Tripp County Personnel Handbook, Under 601 VACATION LEAVE, C. to read;
C. Annual leave will be cumulative, up to 160 hours.

Therefore, Be it Resolved by the Tripp County Board of Commissioners to hereby adopt the newly revised Tripp County Personnel Handbook, and

Further Be it Resolved that the effective date of this Resolution is May 23, 2023, and that all other resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith be hereby repealed.

Dated at Winner, South Dakota this 23rd day of May, 2023.

Chair, Joyce Kartak

Larry Wilcox

Daniel Forgey

Cody Jorgensen

Michael Novotny

ATTEST:

County Auditor

Roll call: Ayes: Kartak, Wilcox, Forgey, Jorgensen and Novotny.

Nays: None. Resolution adopted.

At 2:35 P.M. Wilcox made the motion to adjourn until June 13, 2023 at 10:00 A.M., seconded by Jorgensen.
Roll call: All ayes. Meeting adjourned.

Chair, Joyce Kartak

ATTEST:

County Auditor