

January 7, 2025

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Clay County Courthouse, 211 W. Main St., Vermillion, SD. Members present: Kevin Brady, Glen Gilbertson, Geoffrey Gray-Lobe, Travis Mockler, and David Thiesse.

Vice-Chairman Mockler called the meeting to order and asked for a declaration of any conflicts of interest regarding agenda items.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to approve the agenda with the addition of setting the date for the annual Ditch Board meeting with Yankton County.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the December 31, 2024 meeting.

The meeting adjourned and reconvened to reorganize for the ensuing year, and Auditor Carri Crum called for nominations for Chairperson. Thiesse nominated Mockler for Chairperson, and Gilbertson seconded the nomination. All voted aye; motion passed.

With Chairman Mockler presiding, the following proceedings were held.

The Chairperson called for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Gilbertson nominated Thiesse. Gray-Lobe nominated himself and voiced interest in serving on the ICAP Committee. Paper ballots were cast. Gray-Lobe received 2 votes, and Thiesse received 3 votes.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to adopt Modern Addition of Robert's Rules of Order Original 1876 Edition by Major Henry M. Robert Completely Revised by Darwin Patnode, Ph.D. as on file with the Auditor, no restrictions on the Chair, and minutes not to record motions not seconded.

Thiesse moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to appoint Rod Polley as Highway Superintendent for a 2-year term expiring 1/5/2026.

Thiesse moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to appoint Layne Stewart as Emergency Management Director for a one-year term expiring 1/5/2026.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to appoint Brady to Fair Board.

Brady moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to appoint Gray-Lobe as member of the Executive Board of SECOG.

Thiesse moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to appoint Gray-Lobe to Board of Directors of the Clay County Youth Trust Fund and the Youth Service Council.

Brady moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to appoint Thiesse to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to appoint Steve Waller to the Public Safety Board for a three-year term expiring 12/31/2027.

Thiesse moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to appoint Gilbertson and Highway Superintendent Rod Polley to the Vermillion Basin Advisory Board.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to appoint Gilbertson to the Joint Powers Solid Waste & Recycling Advisory Board.

Gilbertson moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to appoint Mockler to the VCDC Board.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to appoint Mockler to the Vermillion Now Advisory Council.

Thiesse moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to appoint Gray-Lobe to the Clay County Park Board.

It was discussed that the Chair and Vice-Chair always serve on the ICAP Committee.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to appoint Thiesse to the Point of Dispensing Committee.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to appoint Thiesse to the Local Emergency Planning Committee.

Thiesse moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to appoint Brady to the UAS (Drone) Committee.

Gilbertson moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to appoint Thiesse to the County's Employee Safety Program Board.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to designate the Vermillion Plain Talk and The New Era as the official legal newspapers for the County, with the Vermillion Plain Talk being the legal newspaper for the Joint Jurisdiction Zoning Area as The New Era does not serve that area.

Thiesse moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to designate the front door of the Courthouse and/or the Wakonda Post Office as the place for holding foreclosure sales, at the Sheriff's discretion regarding location.

Thiesse moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to designate First Bank & Trust, BMO Bank, CorTrust Bank/Vermillion, First Dakota National, Wells Fargo Bank/Vermillion, First Premier Bank/Wakonda, SD FIT, and Voyage Federal Credit Union as the official depositories.

Pursuant to SDCL 28-17-4, regarding county burials, the funeral director in charge shall furnish casket and outside container or cremation services and conduct the funeral services in customary manner, and the County shall allow the funeral director for merchandise and such services rendered a sum determined by the County which includes vault and opening and closing of the grave. Thiesse moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to set the sum at \$1,900 for services as required by SDCL 28-17-4.

Thiesse moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried that, pursuant to regulations adopted by the State Board of Finance which provide for rates in connection with travel reimbursement, the mileage be set at \$.67 per mile, and if the State raises mileage during the year the County will follow suit; rates for in-state meals set at \$40.00 per day (breakfast \$6.00, lunch \$14.00, evening \$20.00) and out-of-state meals set at \$56.00 per day (breakfast \$10.00, lunch \$18.00, evening \$28.00), and if the State raises meal per diem during the year the County will follow suit.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried that the allowance per diem for the Commissioners appointed to serve on all Boards outside of the normal County Commission Meetings as well as the per diem for Planning & Zoning Commission members be set at \$25.00 plus mileage.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to approve the building permit fee at \$75, the 911 signage fee at \$75 for new signs or replacement signs with a pole, the 911 signage fee at \$25 for replacement signs without a pole, and zoning appeals at \$100.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to approve fees for boarding prisoners for other counties at \$80 per day, or per contract, fees for housing work release prisoners at \$20 per day, and daily boarding rate at \$15 per day, adult electronic GPS monitoring at \$20 per day, juvenile electronic GPS monitoring at \$10 per day, applicant fingerprinting at \$20 per 2 cards, mug shots at \$8, UA test \$10, accident reports at \$2 per page, other reports or printing e-mailed civil process to serve at \$2 per page, production of video \$10 per CD/DVD or email/cloud share in addition to \$10 per hour for review and redaction if necessary.

Brady moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to hold Commissioner meetings the first, second and last Tuesday of the month.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to approve SD Public Assurance Alliance as the County's liability insurance and SDML for worker's compensation insurance.

Thiesse moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to approve worker's compensation insurance coverage for all election workers as listed on file in the Auditor's Office and Sheriff's Reserve Deputies as listed on file in the Sheriff's Office.

Thiesse moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to authorize the use of Sourcewell as a potential vendor source for the county.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady to pass and adopt the following Resolution #2025-01 for Establishment of Election Precincts/Polling Places for 2024. Roll call vote: Brady Aye, Gilbertson Aye, Gray-Lobe Aye, Mockler Aye, Thiesse Aye.

**RESOLUTION #2025-01  
Establishment of Election Precincts/Polling Places for 2025**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners in and for the County of Clay shall establish election precincts and polling places.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that hereinafter described precincts and polling places be hereby established.

Rural Ward #1: SESD Experimental Farm, 29974 University Rd., Beresford, SD  
Rural Ward #2: Gingrich-Dixon Post #13 Legion Hall, 101 Montana St., Wakonda, SD  
Rural Ward #3: 4-H Center/Fairgrounds, 515 High St., Vermillion, SD  
Vermillion City-All Precincts: National Guard Armory, 603 Princeton St., Vermillion, SD (Central 1 & 2/Northeast 1 & 2/Northwest 1 & 2/Southeast 1 & 2)

Commissioner Gray-Lobe moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution. Motion seconded by Commissioner Brady.

Vote of Commission: Brady Aye, Gilbertson Aye, Gray-Lobe Aye, Mockler Aye, Thiesse Aye.

Upon which voting the resolution was declared passed and adopted.

Dated at Vermillion, South Dakota this 7th day of January, 2025.

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Board of County Commissioners  
Clay County, South Dakota

ATTEST:

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Carri R. Crum, County Auditor

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse to pass and adopt the following Resolution #2025-02 for Establishment of Precinct Election Officials Fees for 2024. Roll call vote: Brady Aye, Gilbertson Aye, Gray-Lobe Aye, Mockler Aye, Thiesse Aye.

**RESOLUTION #2025-02  
Precinct Election Officials Fees for 2025**

WHEREAS, SDCL 12-15-11 made it the responsibility of the County Commissioners of each county to set the fee for precinct election officials of all units of government in the county.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the fee for precinct election officials in Clay County be set at \$225.00, and election superintendent at \$250.00, for each election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to SDCL 12-15-7 such election officials be allowed a fixed fee for attendance at a meeting called by the County Auditor for instruction on election laws and the duties of the judges and clerks of election as follows: \$30.00 compensation for election officials plus \$.67/mile, or the established county rate, roundtrip for those residing outside of city limits.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that there will be one cell phone provided by one precinct worker per polling place, and a \$5.00 fee will be issued for the usage of the phone for only that day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the person delivering the poll-books and ballot boxes to the County Auditor's Office at the county seat shall receive \$.67/mile, or the established county rate, for mileage as established pursuant to SDCL 7-7-24, for miles necessarily traveled in going to and returning from making the delivery (SDCL 12-15-11).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the judges, clerks, Resolution Board, Counting Board, and any other personnel deemed necessary by the County Auditor for receiving ballot boxes, supplies, and for tabulating ballots be allowed \$75 plus \$.67/mile, or the established county rate, for travel to the ballot tabulation location for those residing outside of city limits.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the persons setting up equipment at polling places be allowed \$75 for setting up equipment and/or \$75 for taking down equipment.

Commissioner Gray-Lobe moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution. Motion seconded by Commissioner Thiesse.

Vote of Commission: Brady Aye, Gilbertson Aye, Gray-Lobe Aye, Mockler Aye, Thiesse Aye.

Upon which voting the resolution was declared passed and adopted.

Dated at Vermillion, South Dakota this 7th day of January, 2025.

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Board of County Commissioners  
Clay County, South Dakota

ATTEST:

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Carri R. Crum, County Auditor

Weed Supervisor Corey Doherty met with the Board for a surplus declaration for the department's two Kubotas. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to declare surplus the 2014 and 2018 Kubotas and authorize the sale of one to the City of Wakonda.

The Board discussed Rural Access Infrastructure Fund (RAIF) Grants. State's Attorney Michael Smith encouraged the Board to review SDCL 31-34, specifically section 5 and subsection 12. The Board's decision is final and is not appealable. The decision has to be made by January 15<sup>th</sup>. Gray-Lobe said last year Garfield Township got all of the funds. It was the largest project ever awarded under the RAIF program in the entire state. Star and Bethel Townships were also awarded project funds in the past. Mockler said the Township has to pay 20%. They discussed the one application that requested 100%. Smith said they should ask them if they are prepared to pay 20% rather than to just not consider them. Gray-Lobe said with as much demand as there is, it makes sense to direct funds to the higher maintenance roads. Mockler discussed the 303 St. & 458 Ave. concrete structure. Thiesse said he reached out to Pollman Excavation because some estimates were from 2023. Pollman said he will honor the estimates. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to table the topic until the January 14, 2025 meeting.

Smith discussed the pay scale with the Board. He has hired Cameron Morgan, who will take the Bar Exam in February. He will not be licensed at first, but he can use a Dean's Certificate to operate under Smith's license. The County's pay scale does not have a spot for an unlicensed attorney. There was discussion about the salary for a Deputy State's Attorney vs. an intern. Smith suggested placing the position at a Grade 20 on the County's scale, which would be \$26.58/hour. Sheriff Andy Howe was present and supported the plan. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to create the position of Unlicensed Deputy State's Attorney and to place it at Grade 20 on the County's pay scale.

At 9:46 a.m., Thiesse moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to adjourn and convene as Clay County Ditch Board.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to set the date of the annual joint Ditch Board meeting with Yankton County for 1:00 p.m. on February 25, 2025 at the Clay County 4-H Center, 515 High St., Vermillion.

At 9:48 a.m., Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to adjourn and reconvene as Board of Clay County Commissioners.

Mockler reported that the overhead doors are done, and the loading dock door is to be installed this week on the new jail & law enforcement center.

At 9:49 a.m., Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to enter an Executive Session for legal/contractual matters per SDCL 1-25-2.

At 10:20 a.m., Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to exit the Executive Session.

The 2025 payroll to be reported in the minutes is as follows:

Last Name	Preferred/First Name	Base Rate	Per Unit
Aakre	Aaron	21.29	Hour
Aden	Cynthia	25.00	Meeting
Anders	Jeffrey	41.16	Hour
Antoine	Tarles	24.06	Hour
Armstrong	Aaron	36.14	Hour
Armstrong	Marcie	24.94	Hour
Averin	Victoria	26.99	Hour
Avery, Jr.	Walter	21.29	Hour
Baylor	Rozmus	22.92	Hour
Benway	Amber	24.06	Hour
Brady	Kevin	1,950.52	Month
Brinkmann	Kristina	25.32	Hour
Brown	Melissa	21.29	Hour
Campbell	Austin	30.56	Hour
Chamberlain	Tracy	21.21	Hour
Christopherson	Kaleb	31.62	Hour
Church	Ryan	27.68	Hour
Cook	Erin	24.06	Hour
Crum	Carri	40.03	Hour
Davis	Danielle	22.74	Hour
Doherty	Corey	28.61	Hour
Dommer	Caitlyn	45.37	Hour
Dooley	Timothy	29.82	Hour
Florke	Andrew	20.28	Hour
Ganschow	Dennis	32.10	Hour
Gilbertson	Glen	1,950.52	Month
Gilbertson	Marty	25.00	Meeting
Gray-Lobe	Geoffrey	1,950.52	Month
Gregg	Sarah	23.32	Hour
Gunderson	Drew	36.80	Hour

Hanson	Scott	31.89	Hour
Hays	Brent	38.91	Hour
Howe	Andrew	55.29	Hour
Howe	Rhonda	40.03	Hour
Huber	Kyle	30.56	Hour
Hubert	Joseph	25.00	Meeting
Husby	Tiffany	38.91	Hour
Johnson	Loren	19.28	Hour
King	Kase	22.90	Hour
Klunder	Nicole	27.02	Hour
Kymala	Shannon	31.62	Hour
Lucas	Jenna	50.00	Call-In
Lunn	Gene	24.00	Hour
Miller	Sarah	27.63	Hour
Mockler	Travis	2,092.61	Month
Morgan	Cameron	26.58	Hour
Olson	Matthew	23.47	Hour
Olson	Lennea	40.03	Hour
Paulsen	Andrew	37.07	Hour
Pederson	Paul	42.16	Hour
Peterson	Ina	36.05	Hour
Pittman	John	22.35	Hour
Plaatje	Julie	28.64	Hour
Polley	Rodney	44.24	Hour
Prentice	Jerry	25.00	Meeting
Proefrock	Robert	28.86	Hour
Rhodes	Preston	28.64	Hour
Robinson	Michaela	19.82	Hour
Sangster	Katie	50.00	Call-In
Schaeftbauer	William	35.71	Hour
Schuck	Tyler	27.68	Hour
Severson	Brianna	22.74	Hour
Simmons	Thomas	25.00	Meeting
Smith	Michael	57.20	Hour
Stewart	Layne	36.35	Hour
Styles	David	33.64	Hour
Sundet	Laura	25.73	Hour
Taggart	Rhonda	27.02	Hour

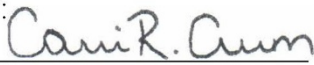
Terwilliger	Lisa	40.03	Hour
Thiesse	David	1,950.52	Month
Thompson	Emily	19.78	Hour
Waage	Patty	50.00	Call-In
Walker	John	24.46	Hour
Weber	Linda	36.84	Hour
Wood	Lisa	30.90	Hour

At 10:20 a.m., Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to adjourn and reconvene Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.



Travis Mockler, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:



Carri R. Crum, County Auditor

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January 14, 2025

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Clay County Courthouse, 211 W. Main St., Vermillion, SD. Members present: Kevin Brady, Glen Gilbertson, Geoffrey Gray-Lobe, Travis Mockler, and David Thiesse.

Chairman Mockler called the meeting to order and asked for a declaration of any conflicts of interest regarding agenda items.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to approve the agenda.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2025 meeting.

The Board considered Rural Access Infrastructure Fund (RAIF) Grant applications. Gray-Lobe and Brady visited the sites. Gray-Lobe said the Prairie Center structure stuck out to him. At \$43,000, it is the second least expensive application. There are approximately 20 residents affected. That township has not yet received funding from the program. Garfield Township got a large award last year. He is less inclined to fund Garfield this year. Gilbertson said he looked at condition. There is a need for all the projects. He and Thiesse discussed estimates from Pollman Excavation for approximately \$51,000 and \$29,000. Thiesse said he was looking at the arched bridge, Pleasant Valley, and Prairie Center Townships. Gray-Lobe said he read the things that must be considered under the funding. He feels the Prairie Center project meets criteria. He also feels the Pleasant Valley project is appropriate. Ron Peterson with Star Township said they had a 3-ton timber bridge with safety concerns. They spent their own funds to replace that. They are asking for funding again. Gray-Lobe said he appreciates the Township fixing that structure. He could not find rules against awarding funds for a project that has been completed. State's Attorney Michael Smith said he also could not find any rules against it. Thiesse asked Highway Superintendent Rod Polley if he has an opinion, and Polley declined to offer an opinion. Gilbertson discussed awarding the \$43,000 project for Prairie Center. Mockler said that and the Pleasant Valley Township project total about \$116,302. Gray-Lobe asked if they could give a partial award with the approximately \$4,500 remaining funds. Thiesse moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to award \$73,302.18 to Pleasant Valley Township and \$43,000 to Prairie Center Township. Gray-Lobe said it would be great if the State continues this funding. Mockler encouraged the Townships to hold onto their applications so they can change the date and re-submit them next year.

Vanessa Victor of Ulteig Engineering met with the Board to present the 2024 Bridge Safety Inspection report. She discussed conditions and deficiencies of the County's structures as well as priority projects.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to approve Gordon Anderson's Right-of-Way Application on 302 St, Sec. 25, T92, R52.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to pass and adopt the following Resolution #2025-03 for Weight Limit Enforcement.

RESOLUTION #2025-03  
CLAY COUNTY WEIGHT LIMIT ENFORCEMENT

Whereas, seasonal climatic changes can be detrimental to our highways, and

Whereas, the Clay County Board of County Commissioners desires to protect existing Clay County Highways, ultimately saving tax dollars, and

Whereas, South Dakota Codified Law 32-14-6 allows for the reduction of the legal weight limit which may be carried upon highways within Clay County, and

Whereas, the Clay County Board of Commissioners desire the enforcement of weight limitations on Clay County roads as set forth and posted by the Clay County Highway Superintendent.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED;

That the limits on Clay County roads shall be set at six (6) ton per axle on all hard surface roads. All gravel roads shall be posted at seven (7) ton per axel, or as posted. Also, all roads hard surface and gravel will be posted "NOT to EXCEED 80,000 LBS."

That the South Dakota Highway Patrol be and hereby is authorized and requested to enforce weight limitations on Clay County Roads.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the penalty for the violation of the load restrictions shall be as set forth in SDCL 32-22-55.

Vote of Clay County Commission:

AYE 5 NAY 0

Dated this 14<sup>th</sup> day of January 2025 at Vermillion, S.D.

ATTEST:

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Carri R. Crum  
CLAY COUNTY AUDITOR

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Travis Mockler  
CHAIRMAN, CLAY COUNTY COMMISSION

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to authorize the Chairman to sign the letter to the Highway Patrol requesting enforcement assistance for Resolution #2025-03.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to pass and adopt Resolution #2025-04 for Bridge Reinspection Program.

**RESOLUTION #2025-04  
BRIDGE REINSPECTION  
PROGRAM RESOLUTION  
FOR USE WITH SDDOT RETAINER CONTRACTS**

**WHEREAS**, 23 CFR 650 Subpart C, requires initial inspection of all bridges and reinspection at intervals not to exceed two years with the exception of reinforced concrete box culverts that meet specific criteria. These culverts are reinspected at intervals not to exceed four years.

**THEREFORE**, Clay County is desirous of participating in the Bridge Inspection Program.

The County requests SDDOT to hire Ulteig Engineering (Consulting Engineers) for the inspection work. SDDOT will secure federal approvals, make payments to the Consulting Engineer for inspection services rendered, and bill the County for 20% of the cost. The County will be responsible for the required 20% matching funds.

Dated this 14th day of January, 2025, at Vermillion, South Dakota.

ATTEST:

Carri R. Crum, County Auditor

Travis Mockler, Chairman  
Board of Clay County Commissioners

Polley reported that the County received approximately \$5,200 from FEMA for putting up barricades for the flooding. Everything else has been submitted to FEMA except the Tabernacle bridge. Mockler and Emergency Management Director Layne Stewart discussed requesting an extension for the ditches. Polley said he saw sluffs and debris that he will map out for the annual joint ditch board meeting.

Thiesse moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to declare surplus the Highway Department's old signs, bridge planks, and iron to be disposed of.

Stewart met with the Board to present the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Grant application. The amount of \$949.75 is based on the number of facilities in the County that store hazardous materials. Thiesse moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to authorize Stewart to sign the grant documents on behalf of the County.

Sheriff Andy Howe met with the Board. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to set the fingerprinting fee at \$20. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brayd and unanimously carried to authorize Howe to modify the Safety Center Custodial Contract with the City of Vermillion to be \$14,100 for the year. Howe said he already spoke to the City Manager and Vermillion Police Chief regarding the contract.

Thiesse moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to approve the following claims for payment.

(DUE TO OTHER GOVERNMENT)	PHARMCHEM, INC. 447.30
CLAY COUNTY TREASURER 5,465.50	GOVT. EXEC. MEDIA GROU 500.00
SDACO - M&P FUND PAYMENT 238.00	QUALIFIED PRESORT SVC 1,826.23
SD DEPT OF HEALTH 3,548.88	SANFORD HEALTH CLINIC 4,649.68
(WORKER'S COMPENSATION)	SATELLITE TRACKING OF 81.25
SDML WORKERS' COMP FUND 61,295.00	SCHAEFER, DEAN 132.00
(INSURANCE DEDUCTIBLE REIMBURSEMENT)	SCHILDHAUER, T. LEMBCK 1,065.00
WEBER, LINDA 500.00	SD ASSN. OF CO. OFFICI 1,628.25
(PROFESSIONAL SERVICES/FEES)	SD DEPT OF HEALTH LAB 670.00
ALTERNATIVE HR, LLC 2,843.94	SDACC OFFICE 4,493.00
BUHLS DRYCLEANERS & 58.07	ULTEIG 72,450.75
BUREAU OF ADMIN PMB011 12.96	YANKTON CO SHERIFF 50.00
CHILD'S VOICE ROUTE #6 300.00	OLSON, MOLLY L 205.00
CLAY AREA EMERGENCY SE 150.00	SD ATTORNEY GENERAL 1,384.00
FEDEX 38.14	UNION CO. SHERIFF 6,640.00
LEWIS & CLARK BEHAVIOR 900.00	JOHNSON, KATIE PLLC 221.50
LINCOLN COUNTY AUDITOR 769.50	(PUBLISHING)
MID-STATES ORG. CRIME 100.00	BROADCASTER PRESS 1,232.52

BROADCASTER PRESS 131.03  
NEW CENTURY PRESS ACCT 317.52  
NEW CENTURY PRESS ACCT 881.35  
PLAIN TALK/BROADCASTER 52.00  
(REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE)  
KALINS INDOOR COMFORT 320.00  
RUNNINGS SUPPLY INC CH 129.34  
VERMILLION ACE HARDWARE 93.76  
(DATA PROCESSING)  
MICROFILM IMAGING SYSTEMS 865.00  
SOFTWARE SERVICES, INC 1,700.00  
(SUPPLIES/MATERIALS)  
A-OX WELDING SUPPLY CO 146.55  
BARCO MUNICIPAL PRODUC 81.10  
BIERSCHBACH EQUIP & SU 810.00  
BROCK WHITE CAP L. P. 416.99  
BRUNICK SERVICE, INC. 142.49  
CINTAS 205.03  
D-WARE INC. 5,800.00  
LAYNE'S WORLD, INC. 48.24  
M & M FARM SUPPLY 10.48  
NEBRASKA SALT & GRAIN 2,503.43  
O'REILLY AUTO PARTS 19.98  
OLSON'S PEST TECHNICIA 150.00  
PFEIFER IMPLEMENT 51.82  
PROCHEM DYNAMICS 360.61  
QUALIFIED PRESORT SVC 141.52  
SD ASSN OF WEED & PEST 200.00  
SD DEPT OF TRANS 6,873.89  
UNION CO. SHERIFF 4.00  
VERMILLION ACE HARDWAR 109.97  
ONE OFFICE SOLUTION 196.46  
(TRAVEL/CONFERENCE)  
BRUNICK SERVICE, INC. 20.50  
SD ASSN OF WEED & PEST 175.00  
CENEX FLEET FUELING 234.38  
(UTILITIES)  
ANDERS, JEFFREY 180.00

ARMSTRONG, AARON 180.00  
AT&T MOBILITY 56.67  
BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATI 65.00  
CAMPBELL, AUSTIN 120.00  
CENTURYLINK HWY 149.99  
CHRISTOPHERSON, KALEB 180.00  
CLAY RURAL WATER SYSTE 110.60  
CLAY UNION ELECTRIC CO 651.17  
FISCHER'S DISPOSAL L.L 65.00  
HOWE, ANDY 180.00  
HUBER, KYLE 180.00  
HUSBY, TIFFANY 180.00  
KYMALA, SHANNON 180.00  
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY C H 42.97  
PAULSEN, ANDREW 180.00  
PEDERSON, PAUL 180.00  
WAKONDA TOWN 76.15  
(MACHINERY/AUTOMOTIVE)  
BOB'S SINCLAIR SERVICE 79.11  
BRUNICK SERVICE, INC. 80.00  
CENEX FLEET FUELING 2,188.29  
QUALITY MOTORS 78.29  
VERMILLION FORD 118.64  
(MEMBERSHIP DUES)  
SDACC OFFICE 3,847.00  
SE COUNCIL OF GOVTS. 13,380.00  
VERMILLION AREA CHAMBER 500.00  
(JURY/WITNESS)  
TOTAL JURY/WITNESS 1,443.04  
(SPECIAL EQUIPMENT)  
APPLIED CONCEPTS, INC. 17,310.00  
GLOCK PROFESSIONAL INC 300.00  
(FURNITURE/MINOR EQUIP.)  
CANON FINANCIAL SERVICE 164.00  
LOFFLER COMPANIES 373.85  
MICROFILM IMAGING SYSTEMS 215.00  
KOLETZKY IMPLEMENT INC 38,600.00

The Board discussed the progress of the jail and law enforcement center construction project.

It was reported that there is a Joint Jurisdiction Zoning Area committee meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

At 10:03 a.m. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to enter an Executive Session for personnel and legal/contractual matters per SDCL 1-25-2.

At 10:26 a.m., Brady moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to exit the Executive Session.

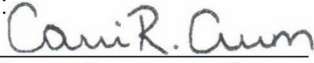
At 10:26 a.m., Thiesse moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to adjourn and reconvene Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

January 14, 2025

Handwritten signature of Travis Mockler in dark ink, consisting of a stylized 'T' followed by 'Mockler'.

Travis Mockler, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

Handwritten signature of Carri R. Crum in dark ink, written in a cursive style.

Carri R. Crum, County Auditor

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January 28, 2025

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Clay County Courthouse, 211 W. Main St., Vermillion, SD. Members present: Kevin Brady, Glen Gilbertson, Geoffrey Gray-Lobe, Travis Mockler, and David Thiesse.

Chairman Mockler called the meeting to order and asked for a declaration of any conflicts of interest regarding agenda items.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to approve the agenda with the correction that the last two time slots should read 10:00 and 10:15.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2025 meeting.

Rachel Gackle with Marsh McClennan Agency met with the Board for the annual employee insurance benefits renewal. She reported that the increase for Wellmark was only 4.23% as Wellmark's pool is performing well despite the County's claims being up in the past year. Mockler asked Auditor Carri Crum what she budgeted, and she said she budgeted for a 10% increase. Gackle presented a quote for long-term disability insurance. Thiesse moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to approve renewal of the Wellmark medical plan and other benefits but to decline the long-term disability coverage.

Facilities Manager Scott Hanson presented a quote for RenoDry. He said they tested the courthouse basement, and there is a lot of salt leaching in due to moisture. Over time, the salt eats away at the foundation. He called references, including another courthouse and the facilities department at USD. They said that RenoDry works. It is about \$20,000, but he feels it is a worthwhile investment to extend the life of the courthouse. He can cover it in his budget. Gray-Lobe said the County just invested a lot of money in the courthouse to help it last longer. Thiesse said this is an issue and should be addressed. He has seen it in many home inspections he has done. Gilbertson said time is a concern as the quote has an expiration. He does not want to drag it out and have the price increase. Gilbertson moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to authorize the purchase.

A public bid opening was held for the courthouse south and east entrance replacement. Mart Brothers bid \$85,795.63, Walker Construction bid the south entrance at \$46,244.88 and the east entrance at \$27,946.58, and L&L Builders bid \$83,474.00 total or the south entrance at \$43,500.00 and the east entrance at \$39,974.00 if the project were to be split into two. Hanson said he did not intend to split the project. He only budgeted \$80,000 for that budget line this year. Crum said they have enough in the account for building projects to cover the RenoDry. Mockler asked for a completion date, and Hanson said it is October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Hanson discussed the courthouse lawn mower. It was purchased in 2023 and is used for the courthouse and the 4-H grounds. A new mower is \$8,000, and trade in of the current mower is \$3,500. He asked if he should pass the current mower on to the 4-H grounds, or trade it in. Mockler said when budgets were cut, they allowed the mower to be used at the 4-H grounds as an in-kind contribution. He said the current mower does not have to be replaced, but the vendor said the best time to trade is now to

maximize the trade-in allowance. It will be trailered back and forth to the new jail & law enforcement center as necessary as well. Thiesse asked if the quote is for another Hustler. Hanson said it is, and that is because he has a mulching kit that he uses in the Fall. Gilbertson said it is a decent amount for a trade. Brady said 141 hours is not a lot. Thiesse said it is a lot of work for 3 locations. Gray-Lobe discussed January expenditures, and Hanson said he budgeted for the full value of the mower to be replaced. He would rather see the 4-H grounds have its own mower. Mockler said he can tell ACE Hardware that we are making the deal, but we have not decide whether we will have a trade-in or not. Brady said he will discuss it at the next Fair Board meeting.

State's Attorney Michael Smith returned to the entrance replacement project topic. He discussed bid requirements. Hanson said he wants to do the entire project.

David Weidler, SD Department of Legislative Audit, met with the Board for the Audit Closing Conference. He said day to day balancing looked good, but there is a software issue. Crum said she and Treasurer Rhonda Howe do a lot of work to make sure cash balances every day, and they are aware of the software issue. The County will be converting to a new software in the next few months. Gray-Lobe asked how other counties are doing. Weidler said he does a lot of corrections when they complete audits. One county he works with has not reconciled cash in over a year and another was not reconciling regularly, too. He said he is not trying to be hard on Clay County. He discussed including bond funds on some of the reports and a few publications that had not been completed. There are other counties he works with that have running issues with publishing. Thiesse moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to authorize the Chairman to sign the audit letter.

Brady moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to set the bid opening for highway materials for March 4, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

At 10:15 a.m., Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to adjourn and convene as Clay County Ditch Board.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to approve an invoice from Dakota Timber Clearing in the amount of \$8,163.28 for tree removal on Lateral 50.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to approve an invoice from Dakota Timber Clearing in the amount of \$12,244.92 for tree removal on the Yankton-Clay Ditch.

Thiesse moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to approve an invoice from TrueNorth Steel in the amount of \$19,444.80 for culverts on the Clay Creek Ditch.

Thiesse moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to authorize the Chairman to sign a contract with Ulteig Engineering for \$9,865.00 for a hydraulics analysis of a culvert on 453 Ave. as part of a FEMA project on Clay Creek Ditch.

At 10:23 a.m., Thiesse moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to adjourn and reconvene as Board of Clay County Commissioners.

Emergency Management Director Layne Stewart met with the Board to present the Quarterly Activity Report. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to approve the report and authorize the Chairman to sign it.

Treasurer Rhonda Howe met with the Board regarding the closure of her office for a day due to conversion to a new motor vehicle licensing software. The closure will be advertised in the newspapers and is announced on social media. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady to pass and adopt the following Resolution #2025-05 for Closing of Treasurer's Office February 14, 2025. Vote of the Board: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

RESOLUTION #2025-05  
Closing of Treasurer's Office February 14, 2025

WHEREAS, pursuant to SDCL 7-7-2, the Board of Clay County Commissioners may by resolution establish the hours of operation for County offices and;

WHEREAS, due to a planned software update and there being no working motor vehicle system in the state of South Dakota on February 14, 2025, leaving the Clay County Treasurer's Office being unable to provide for license, title, and registration services;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Clay County Commissioners hereby authorizes the Clay County Treasurer to close the Treasurer's Office on February 14, 2025, and instead work in office on February 17, 2025, not open to the public due to the Presidents Day holiday.

Dated this 28<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2025.

Vote of the Board: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Travis Mockler, Chairman  
Board of Clay County Commissioners

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carri R. Crum, Clay County Auditor

R. Howe discussed fees for providing tax documents in electronic format. She would like to set the fee at \$500. Other offices are also charging for their documents. It was discussed that it is out of state companies who are requesting the information. Gray-Lobe said he would like to limit scams for our citizens, and he asked if they can deny the requests unless the Board approves them. Mockler said charging for the information will eliminate a lot. Smith said these companies can do the work themselves as the information is public, so the Board could shut it down. Thiesse said they can compile the information themselves. Gray-Lobe said the County already pays to have public access with Beacon and TTECH. Thiesse said they could establish a fee but give R. Howe the ability to deny it if she is uncomfortable. Other offices' fees and information formats were discussed, such as the Register of Deeds and Director of Equalization. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to table the matter until the next meeting.

The Board discussed a contract renewal with Midco for internet at the Extension Office. Gray-Lobe had concerns about the speed and the future of the Extension Office building for the 5-year term of the contract. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to table the matter until a quote can be obtained from Bluepeak.



Thiesse moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to approve the following claims for payment.

(PAYROLL)

COMMISSIONERS 9,004.29  
 AUDITOR'S 9,827.42  
 TREASURER'S 18,387.99  
 STATE'S ATTORNEY'S 20,347.52  
 FACILITIES 8,260.20  
 DIR. OF EQUALIZATION 10,420.86  
 REG. OF DEEDS 6,723.53  
 VETERANS 1,633.95  
 SHERIFF'S 46,216.87  
 JAIL 39,089.31  
 EMERGENCY MGMT. 4,586.27  
 HIGHWAY 37,820.83  
 WIC 3,273.06  
 WEED 2,307.36  
 PLANNING & ZONING 3,228.69  
 PAYLOCITY 293,732.55  
 TASC (FLEX) 2,231.66  
 SD RETIREMENT SYSTEM 37,461.24  
 SD SUPPLEMENTAL RETIREMENT 8,293.18  
 SDRS ROTH 457(B) PLAN 610.00  
 AFLAC 778.97  
 COLONIAL LIFE 293.86  
 WASHINGTON NATIONAL 24.45  
 NEW YORK LIFE 258.57  
 THE STANDARD DENTAL 1,530.28  
 THE STANDARD VISION 475.60  
 THE STANDARD SHRT TERM DISABILITY 1,463.12  
 THE STANDARD LIFE 409.05  
 UNITED WAY OF VERMILLION 192.00  
 WELLMARK 58,890.69  
 (DUE TO OTHER GOVERNMENT)  
 SD DEPT. OF REVENUE 301,277.93  
 (INSURANCE)  
 SD PUBLIC ASSURANCE ALLIANCE 159,819.20  
 (PROFESSIONAL SVC./FEES)  
 AARMS 2,310.00  
 AVERA MCKENNAN HOSPITA 7,273.77  
 BECKENHAUER 1,554,604.22  
 BUHLS DRYCLEANERS & 87.15  
 CANON FINANCIAL SERVICE 164.00  
 CINTAS 22.41  
 CITY OF VERMILLION 5,832.69  
 ERICKSON SOLUTIONS GRO 966.94  
 FIRST DAKOTA CREDIT CARD 304.75  
 GEO TEK ENGINEERING & 9,053.00  
 OLSON'S PEST TECHNICIA 85.00  
 PRESTO-X COMPANY LLC 205.59  
 QUALIFIED PRESORT SVC 7,379.75  
 SANFORD HEALTH OCCMED 282.00  
 SCHILDHAUER, T. LEMBCKE 288.00  
 TRIMIN SYSTEMS INC. 9,371.00

TEGRA GROUP INC 21,676.28  
 YANKTON CO SHERIFF 50.00  
 YOUNGBERG LAW LLC 230.00  
 CITY OF VERMILLION 104,164.40  
 DEN HERDER LAW OFFICE 161.00  
 FRIEBERG, NELSON & ASK 1,774.22  
 KENNEDY, PIER LOFTUS & 521.50  
 PETERSON, STUART, KLENTZ 651.02  
 (PUBLISHING)  
 FIRST DAKOTA CREDIT CARD 21.23  
 (REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE)  
 BUHLS DRYCLEANERS 346.00  
 CENTURY BUSINESS PRODU 41.25  
 CINTAS 33.40  
 FIRST DAKOTA CREDIT CARD 265.99  
 MIDWEST ALARM CO., INC 330.00  
 O'CONNOR COMPANY 350.16  
 PRESTO-X COMPANY LLC 87.26  
 RUNNINGS SUPPLY INC 24.98  
 SD PUBLIC ASSURANCE ALLIANCE 153.49  
 VERMILLION ACE HARDWARE 228.86  
 (DATA PROCESSING)  
 TRANSCENDENT TECHNOLOGIES 24,365.00  
 CPS TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS 5,889.00  
 FIRST DAKOTA CREDIT CARD 917.19  
 AUMENTUM TECHNOLOGIES 2,563.24  
 TRIMIN SYSTEMS INC. 5,100.00  
 (DITCH BOARD)  
 TRUENORTH STEEL 19,444.80  
 DAKOTA TIMBER CLEARING 12,244.92  
 DAKOTA TIMBER CLEARING 8,163.28  
 (SUPPLIES/MATERIALS)  
 BARCO MUNICIPAL PRODUCTS 81.10  
 BROCK WHITE CAP L. P. 2,375.03  
 CHS INC. 445.50  
 CINTAS 177.39  
 FIRST DAKOTA CREDIT CARD 307.78  
 FLAGS UNLIMITED 440.00  
 HY-VEE, INC. JAIL ACCT 310.59  
 L.G.EVERIST, INC 3,023.18  
 LAWSON PRODUCTS, INC. 50.00  
 LAYNE'S WORLD, INC. 127.20  
 LEWIS DRUG, INC. 68.13  
 MICROFILM IMAGING SYSTEM 30.00  
 MISTER SMITH'S 64.99  
 NEBRASKA SALT & GRAIN 4,963.45  
 NORTHERN SAFETY CO. 186.72  
 O'CONNOR COMPANY 46.59  
 O'REILLY AUTO PARTS 109.39  
 OLSON'S PEST TECHNICIANS 240.00  
 PRESSING MATTERS 929.00  
 PROCHEM DYNAMICS 666.24

QUALIFIED PRESORT SVC 102.19	BUTCH'S PROPANE 2,258.79
QUILL LLC 38.28	CANON FINANCIAL SERVICE 96.00
RIVERSIDE HYDRAULICS 31.58	CITY OF VERMILLION 2,172.95
RUNNINGS SUPPLY INC 656.57	FIRST DAKOTA CREDIT CARD 230.59
TWO WAY RADIO SOLUTION 123.99	LOFFLER COMPANIES 772.62
VERMILLION ACE HARDWARE 263.97	MIDAMERICAN ENERGY 1,178.19
ONE OFFICE SOLUTION 97.37	VERIZON WIRELESS 103.17
FIRST DAKOTA CREDIT CARD 250.00	(MACHINERY/AUTOMOTIVE)
(TOURISM/INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT)	BRUNICK SERVICE, INC. 35.00
VERMILLION AREA CHAMBER 600.00	TWO WAY RADIO SOLUTION 65.48
(TRAINING/SPECIAL EQUIP.)	VERMILLION FORD 81.32
ON TARGET TRAINING 750.00	(JUVENILE DETENTION)
AXON ENTERPRISE INC. 7,071.84	MINNEHAHA COUNTY JDC 7,794.16
(TRAVEL/CONFERENCE)	(BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS)
WEBER, LINDA 96.48	SCHUMACHER ELEVATOR CO 46,557.50
HARLOW'S SCHOOL BUS 255.00	(FURNITURE/MINOR EQUIP.)
(UTILITIES)	CANON FINANCIAL SERVICE 313.31

Crum discussed Employee Handbook revisions with the Board. The department heads propose to change the pay period for all County departments to the 21<sup>st</sup> of the month through the 20<sup>th</sup> of the following month, with payroll remaining on the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month, or the business day prior. Departments would utilize the time clock function within Paylocity, the new payroll software. Vacation time carryover is currently a maximum of 160 hours, resetting at the end of the year. It would be changed to 160 hours, resetting each month. New employees would start accruing vacation time immediately rather than after 6 months. It was discussed that a payout of any vacation time upon leaving employment under favorable conditions should have an eligibility date of one year after hire. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to authorize the Employee Handbook to be revised to reflect that departments use the time clock in Paylocity, and the pay periods all change to the 21<sup>st</sup> of the month through the 20<sup>th</sup> of the following month effective February 21, 2025. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to authorize the Employee Handbook to be revised to reflect that the vacation carryover maximum is 160 hours, to reset monthly effective April 1, 2025. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to authorize the Employee Handbook to be revised to reflect that new employees begin accruing vacation time upon hire, to be usable immediately, with no payout of vacation leave upon favorable or unfavorable separation of employment until the employee has been employed at least 1 year prior to leaving employment, and employees who have been employed less than 6 months will begin accruing vacation immediately upon this revision to the Employee Handbook, with the revision being effective January 29, 2025.

Payroll changes to be reported in the minutes are as follows: Alfonso Alvarado Aguero was hired 1/28/25 as an Assessor I at \$19.78/hour.

The Vermillion Public Library Board and Sheriff's Office monthly reports as well as the following Auditor's Account with the County Treasurer Report were accepted and placed on file.

#### **AUDITOR'S ACCOUNT WITH THE COUNTY TREASURER**

To the Honorable Board of County Commissioners of Clay County, regarding items in the hands of the County Treasurer as of January 2, 2025. I hereby submit the following report of my examination of the cash.

Total amount of deposits in banks:	7,562,813.52
Amount of actual cash:	568.40
Amount of checks/drafts in Treasurer's possession not exceeding 3 days:	42,529.89
Itemized list of checks/drafts in Treasurer's possession over 3 days:	
Checks returned and not deposited	0.00
Cash Items	700.00
Investments	1,151,000.00
SDFIT Jail Bond	27,953,241.46
Cash Variation	0.00
Total	36,710,853.27

Dated this 2nd day of January, 2025.

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Carri R. Crum, County Auditor

Gray-Lobe reported that the Clay County Park Association had a year-end meeting. There are some exciting things coming for the park. The Association is excited about the FLAP grant study. Camping was up 5% in 2024, with 2,077 reservations, and park visitation was up as well with 9,579 visitors.

Gray-Lobe said he would like to have a public meeting regarding the FLAP grant study. He would be happy to host it at the library and can send information to previous commenters on the topic. It would be an opportunity for public input on proposal considerations, and it could be an opportunity for engineering firms to hear the public or ask questions. Brady and Thiesse said it is important to get public input and information. A date will be arranged, and it will be an evening meeting.

Sheriff Andy Howe and Mockler said the jail & law enforcement center project is progressing. Completion could be around the end of May, with an occupation date prior to Dakota Days. Smith said, on a related topic, Dick Strassburg with TEGRA Group has been working towards a design build proposal for the old Safety Center and courthouse court security remodeling. He will bring it to a future meeting, possibly even next week. Mockler said it can be a template for the future as long as design build laws do not change.

Brady said the Fair Board has a new President, Katie Heine. There is a fundraiser underway. He would like to discuss workers compensation coverage at the next meeting.

Gray-Lobe said he attended a Southeast Council of Governments orientation last Friday. They want the County to use their services more. They can try to find grants for the highway and offered annual bridge survey updates with mapmaking.

Thiesse said there was a Planning & Zoning Commission meeting last night. Someone wants to make a housing development by Highway 46 in the Ash Creek area.

At 11:41 a.m. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to enter an Executive Session for contractual matters per SDCL 1-25-2.

At 12:05 p.m., Brady moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to exit the Executive Session.

Mockler said the loan application for the road by the proposed grain elevator will be on the next agenda.

At 12:06 p.m., Thiesse moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to adjourn and reconvene Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.



Travis Mockler, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:



Carri R. Crum, County Auditor

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February 4, 2025

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Clay County Courthouse, 211 W. Main St., Vermillion, SD. Members present: Kevin Brady, Glen Gilbertson, Geoffrey Gray-Lobe, Travis Mockler, and David Thiesse.

Chairman Mockler called the meeting to order and asked for a declaration of any conflicts of interest regarding agenda items.

Thiesse moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to approve the agenda with the addition of discussion regarding the Veterans Service Officer/Zoning Administrator opening.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2025 meeting, with the correction that Clay County Park visitation numbers last year were 95,679, an increase of 6.6%.

Under Visitors to be Heard, Robin Schiro spoke about concerns regarding her recent bench warrant, her candidacy in the 2024 Primary Election, and IRS Contract Investigators.

At 9:08 a.m., Thiesse moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to adjourn and convene as Clay County Ditch Board.

The Board considered a contract with Ulteig in the amount of \$29,345.00 for services related to FEMA damage repairs. Thiesse moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to approve the contract and authorize the Chairman to sign it.

At 9:08 a.m., Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to adjourn and reconvene as Board of Clay County Commissioners.

Facilities Manager Scott Hanson met with the Board for a review of the bids for the Courthouse Entrance Replacement Project. He said bids all complied with specifications. Gilbertson moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to accept the low bid from Walker Construction for a total of \$74,191.46.

Treasurer Rhonda Howe met with the Board for consideration of an amended fee resolution for her office. The matter had been tabled at the previous meeting. Gilbertson moved, seconded by Thiesse to pass and adopt the following Resolution #2025-06 for Establishing Office Policy for Public Information and Pricing Schedule for County Treasurer. Vote of the Board: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

**RESOLUTION #2025-06**

## ESTABLISHING OFFICE POLICY FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION AND PRICING SCHEDULE FOR COUNTY TREASURER

WHEREAS, there is an inherent cost not only to generate records but to maintain records;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the following fee schedule be established for the request of property tax records.

**Property Tax Records:**

Property Tax Records .csv file	\$600.00
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Any copy or report request will not be released prior to approval by the County Treasurer, with the option to waive fee(s) for escrow companies, and prior to receipt of payment.

Dated this 4<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025.

Vote of the Board: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Attest:

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Travis Mockler, Chairman  
Board of Clay County Commissioners

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Carri R. Crum, Clay County Auditor

State's Attorney Michael Smith discussed a Design-Build template developed by TEGRA Group for using the Design-Build method of construction in compliance with South Dakota laws. He said there is a committee and a process for contractor selection which uses a formula rather than just the low bid. Other places in South Dakota use Design-Build. He cited Rapid City and the City of Box Elder. Smith said he spoke to the State Engineer, who is willing to be a resource as they use the process often. Gray-Lobe asked if there is legislation in the works that might change the Design-Build laws, and Smith said he is not aware of any. Thiesse asked if there would be a price threshold. Smith discussed the criteria and said this would be for smaller projects, not something as large as the jail and law enforcement center. He said without Hanson's qualifications as Facilities Manager, he would probably not use the Design-Build method. Gilbertson said it boils down to ranking, and they will be able to show what they used to determine the contractor choice. Smith said it is also anonymous, so the committee will not know who the contractors are. Thiesse said it also keeps the contractors more accountable to their bids. Mockler said the County also would not need to hire an architect or engineer. Gray-Lobe said it gives us the power to decide whether we need that.

The Board considered internet service quotes for the Extension Office. Gray-Lobe discussed the services and speeds. Bluepeak offered the fastest speeds for \$125/month with no equipment fees and router included. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to cancel internet service with Midco for the Extension Office and accept the quote from Bluepeak.

Gray-Lobe reported there will be a public meeting regarding the FLAP Grant recreation feasibility study at 7:00 p.m. February 10, 2025 in the Kozak Room at the Vermillion Public Library. The meeting is also planned to be available via Microsoft Teams as well.

Brady moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to cover 2 fair volunteers on the County's workers compensation insurance, with a list maintained on file in the Auditor's Office.

The Board discussed applying for the REED Fund loan for the road project 1 mile West of Meckling where the SE Farmers Elevator Coop. plans to build a grain storage facility. Smith discussed the timeline for submission. Gray-Lobe asked about the terms, and Mockler said it is up to the Board, but he would like to see the loan paid off within 5 years. He said they should apply for the \$600,000 loan, and they do not have to take it if they do not like the final terms. The remainder of the \$1.2 million project is to be paid with a \$600,000 agri-business grant that the County has been awarded. Thiesse moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to authorize submittal of the loan application.

Brady reported that there is a Wakonda Development Corporation being started. They are trying to foster growth in Wakonda. Some of the individuals are involved in the Irene Development Corporation as well. It was decided it would be placed on the next agenda for a Commissioner to be appointed to the Wakonda Development Corporation.

Brady said the Fair Board is interested in keeping the courthouse mower. It was decided that the matter will be placed on the next agenda so the mower can be declared surplus.

The Board discussed the hiring process for the Veterans Service/Welfare/Zoning Administrator. There are 9 applicants currently. Auditor Carri Crum said she will contact Alternative HR to ensure the Commissioners have access to review the applicant information. Duties of the position were discussed, and Smith said it makes sense that his office will take over the Welfare administration.

At 9:42 a.m., Thiesse moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to adjourn and reconvene Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.



Travis Mockler, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:



Carri R. Crum, County Auditor

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February 10, 2025

The Board of Clay County Commissioners hosted an information public meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 10, 2025 at the Vermillion Public Library, 18 Church St., Vermillion, SD. The purpose was a Federal Land Access Program Grant informational meeting. Members present were: Travis Mockler, David Thiesse, Kevin Brady, Glen Gilbertson, and Geoffrey Gray-Lobe.

Gray-Lobe gave a presentation of the history behind applying for the grant and the RFP document. Goal is to increase access and improve amenities to draw people to federal lands (i.e. MNRR and Spirit Mound). Can only be used for planning & feasibility studies. No money will come out of local pockets. It is a 100% federal grant with no local match required.

The four areas to be studied are:

1. Potential improvements to 452 Ave. will be studied. On the boundary of Clay and Yankton County is a section line highway. It is a way, without encroaching on property or purchasing an easement, that a new access point to the river could be developed. It could be a kayak access point, but no study has occurred yet. Public input will be important.
2. Myron Grove access enhancements will be studied. It is one of two public launch points in the county. Motorized and non-motorized uses sometimes conflict.
3. Clay County Park could potentially be redesigned to improve functionality and accessibility. There has been increased visitation over the past couple of years. The study could look at maximum visitation thresholds, or ways to attract people if there is additional visitation carrying capacity.
4. A multi-modal trail connection to Clay County Park will be studied to see if it is feasible within existing rights-of-way along Timber Rd. or Highway 50. Currently, it is not particularly safe for bicyclists. Gray-Lobe said he does not think this would be easy, but he is hopeful there would be a way to safely do that even though it would be tough.

Deliverables include environmental and cultural reviews, community engagement, and conceptual design, funding recommendations, a final written report, and presentations. Clay County has a tight budget, so it is critically important to find grant opportunities. The final written report is important for grant applications. The timeline is for deliverables to be due September 30, 2025, and Gray-Lobe acknowledged it is a tight budget due to the end of the federal fiscal year.

Criteria to be used in the selection process are project team experience and qualifications, relevant project experience, project understanding and approach, proposed timeline and cost, and quality of proposal and references.

David Lias asked if the goal is to narrow the potential projects to one. In response, Gray-Lobe said Thiesse has offered to help write a rubric to score proposals, and he asked the public present to fill out a slip of paper on what the top three criteria are that the Commission should prioritize when selecting proposals. It was suggested that they would need to study all four possibilities to determine what is the best option.



It was asked why Highway 19 south was not included vs. Clay County Park. Gray-Lobe said Highway 19 has wider shoulders, so a person would be safer visiting North Alabama Bend on a bicycle vs. Timber Rd., so making Timber Rd. safer would be a good option. A citizen suggested that the river is not cutting in that area, and it would be a nice area for trails. Gray-Lobe said it is an access grant, but the grant is not to be used for studying improvements on the federal lands. It is appropriate for studying improvements up to the federal land but not on it. There was also some discussion on access from the City of Vermillion.

Eric Ambrosion from District III Planning discussed having a long-term laundry list of projects to do over the next many years.

Harry Freeman asked if the four areas should have a weight applied.

Nicke Van Whye asked if the plan is to make a selection strictly on the proposals to the RFP, or will there be a short list and interview phase. Mockler said they reserve the right to interview the top candidate(s). Gray-Lobe said they should expect an interview if they are in the running for the first place.

Gray-Lobe said the intention of the paper questionnaire is to leave it pretty open to people to give their input regarding timeline, public engagement, or other criteria in the RFP that deserve the most weight.

Becky Aga asked Gray-Lobe if eminent domain could be used in this, since he did not specify that. Gray-Lobe said the scope includes only areas where eminent domain could not be used. There is nothing eminent domain could be used for in this scope. Ambrosion said eminent domain would be tough, but consultants might be able to propose easements if necessary.

There were questions regarding the deliverables from potential candidates for selection.

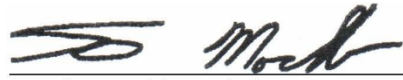
Kelley Ashby, a member of the Clay County Park Board, asked if the study could help the Park Board prioritize its investments in the park.

Aga asked, if this is a reimbursement grant, where are the initial funds coming from? Gray-Lobe said reserved funds could be used, with the structure being a 30-day reimbursement period, with the payments being divided into thirds. He discussed grant fund availability with the uncertainty surrounding grant money disbursements at the federal level.


Freeman asked if the proposals include cost estimates, and are the applicants working with a maximum budget? Gray-Lobe said yes, and the maximum budget is the \$250,000 grant.

Gray-Lobe encouraged people to email him with any questions and thanked the public for attending. He encouraged people to sign in if they have not already so that the list can be retained for future meeting notifications.

February 10, 2025

Handwritten signature of Travis Mockler in black ink.

Travis Mockler, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:   
Carri R. Crum, County Auditor

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February 11, 2025

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Clay County Courthouse, 211 W. Main St., Vermillion, SD. Members present: Kevin Brady, Glen Gilbertson, Geoffrey Gray-Lobe, Travis Mockler, and David Thiesse.

Chairman Mockler called the meeting to order and asked for a declaration of any conflicts of interest regarding agenda items.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to approve the agenda with the addition of discussion regarding library funding.

Thiesse moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2025 meeting.

Tyler Klatt, TEGRA Group, was present to discuss a Design-Build Policy for the County. Various aspects of the policy were discussed. State's Attorney Michael Smith said he thinks it is similar to what the state does, and Klatt said he modeled it after Rapid City and Box Elder's policies. Mockler asked if bids have to be opened in a public meeting because the policy makes the bids anonymous when considered by the committee. Klatt said the bids would go to the Auditor and be numbered for anonymity. Smith said he may need to ask the State Engineer how they handle the bid opening process. It was decided that approval of the policy will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to approve the following claims for payment, which include expenditures for items due to other governments, insurance, professional services/fees, publishing, repairs/maintenance, data processing, supplies/materials, travel/conference, utilities, automotive/machinery, jury/witness, and furniture/minor equipment.

Alternative HR, LLC	2,728.05	Moore Welding & Manufacturing	30.00
A-Ox Welding Supply	405.06	Nelsen Electric	1,207.83
AT&T Mobility	56.70	New Century Press	539.03
Beresford Public Library	750.00	O'Connor Company	69.95
Schaefer, Bill	36.00	Old Lumber Company, Inc.	2,702.64
Bob Barker Co., Inc.	347.55	One Office Solution	92.38
Boys & Girls Club, Inc. of Vermillion	1,750.00	O'Reilly Auto Parts	24.79
Broadcaster Press & Plain Talk	635.86	Peterson, Stuart, Klentz & Rasmussen, Prof. LLC	15,153.33
Brunick Service, Inc.	432.88	Pharmchem, Inc.	511.20
Buhl's Drycleaners and Linen Supply	244.56	Pressing Matters	1,461.00
Bureau of Administration Finance Office	51.00	Prochem Dynamics	633.94
Butler Machinery Co.	117,410.94	Qualified Presort Service, Inc.	2,409.21
Cenex Fleet Fueling	2,323.46	Quill, LLC	416.37
CenturyLink	149.99	ROCS Transit	468.75
CHS, Inc.	1,204.77	Roetman Auto Repair, LLC	791.75
City of Vermillion	38.72	Runnings Supply, Inc.	107.96
Clay County Fair Association	2,062.50	Rural Electric Economic Development, Inc REED	100.00

Clay County Treasurer	1,676.76	Salvation Army	1,300.00
Clay Rural Water System	129.80	Sanford Health	44.67
Clay-Union Electric Cooperative	794.17	Sanford Health Release of Information	17.95
Crescent Electric Supply Company	161.94	SD Association of Assessing Officers	225.00
Dakota Senior Meals	1,680.00	SD Association of Weed & Pest Boards	175.00
DB Trailer Sales, LLC	9,149.00	SD Association of Weed & Pest Supervisors	75.00
FedEx	114.15	SD Attorney General	1,583.00
First Dakota Credit Card	6,929.43	SD Department of Revenue	415,548.66
Graham Tire S.F. North	1,968.00	SD Department of Transportation	5,079.96
Ilchuk Enterprises, LLC	240.00	SD Dept. of Health Lab & State Remittance Center	1,260.00
I-State Truck Center	460.35	SD Public Assurance Alliance	362.52
Billings, John	6,210.00	Security Shredding Service	40.00
Jury/Witness Fees	538.44	SECURUS Technologies Monitoring Solutions	100.75
Kennedy Pier Loftus Reynolds & Brandt, LLP	521.50	T-Mobile	30.80
Doty, Kimberly	37.50	Tri-State EMA	20.00
Mansker, Kimberly	26.00	Union County Sheriff	12,191.44
Kober Funeral Home	520.00	Vermillion ACE Hardware	347.77
Stewart, Layne	214.00	Vermillion Food Pantry	1,250.00
Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health Services, Inc.	6,499.50	Vermillion Ford	7,338.92
Lewno Law Office	356.48	Vermillion Garbage Service	236.00
Loffler Companies	290.39	Vermillion Public Library	500.00
Katterhagen, Mark	36.00	Voyage Federal Credit Union Credit Card	117.64
Microfilm Imaging Systems	1,020.00	Wakonda Public Library	1,250.00
MidAmerican Energy	2,147.65	Wakonda Town	66.90
Midco Business	65.39	Yankton County Sheriff	900.00
Midwest Alarm Co., Inc.	119.85	Yankton County Treasurer	324.50
Minnehaha County Jail	3,696.00	Yankton Janitorial Supply	235.70
Minnehaha County Juvenile Detention Center	3,484.60	Yankton Winnelson Company	165.53
		CorTrust Bank	108.78

Thiesse moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to appoint Brady as the Commissioner Representative to the Wakonda Development Corporation Board.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to declare surplus the current courthouse lawn mower and pass ownership to the Fair Board upon purchase of the new courthouse law mower.

The Board considered modifying the Employee Handbook to cap the maximum vacation leave balance at 160 hours, to reset every 6 months, at June 30<sup>th</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup>. They had previously passed a policy to reset the vacation leave monthly, but Auditor Carri Crum explained that the payroll software, Paylocity, only has the option to reset annually or every 6 months. The County could probably ask for a custom program, but it seems to her like an unnecessary expense, and the other department heads agreed that every 6 months will be sufficient. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried

to authorize the Employee Handbook to be revised to reflect that the vacation carryover maximum is 160 hours, to reset every 6 months at June 30<sup>th</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup>, effective June 30, 2025.

It was reported that construction of the new jail and law enforcement center continues to move along quickly. Furniture delivery is scheduled for July 1<sup>st</sup>.

It was reported that there is a Joint Jurisdiction Zoning Area meeting with the City of Vermillion February 18, 2025.

Gray-Lobe said he intends to advocate for more library funding in the 2026 budget. He thought the County had allocated more to the libraries, but upon review, he said the current allocation is correct, although he feels the County should do more. Yankton pays more, about \$30,000, and their residents get library cards at half price, whereas ours are free.

At 9:26 a.m., Thiesse moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to enter an Executive Session for legal matters.


At 10:24 a.m., Thiesse moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to exit the Executive Session.

Mockler reported that he will not be in attendance at the February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting and annual ditch board meeting. He said the Ditch Board Vice-Chairman Ryan Heine will need to preside over the meeting, but Mockler will prepare a list of items that need to be discussed.

At 10:26 a.m., Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to adjourn and reconvene Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.



Travis Mockler, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:   
Carri R. Crum, County Auditor

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February 18, 2025

The Board of County Commissioners met in a joint meeting with the City of Vermillion City Council Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. for the Second Reading of Ordinance #2024-08, An Ordinance of Clay County, South Dakota, Amending Ordinance #2011-03, Being the 2012 Revised Joint Zoning Regulations for Clay County and the City of Vermillion by Rezoning Certain Property.


County members present: Travis Mockler, David Thiesse, Kevin Brady, Glen Gilbertson, and Geoffrey Gray-Lobe.


Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to approve the agenda.

City Engineer Jose Dominguez gave a brief presentation on the proposed rezoning, a zoning change from A1: Agriculture to RR: Rural Residential for property located at approximately 1702 SD 19 Vermillion, SD from A1: Agriculture to RR: Rural Residential 21 lot Housing Development. The legal description of the property is: Munger Tract 1 in the South Half of Section 11, Township 92N, Range 52W of the 5th PM Clay County, South Dakota. AND Munger Tract 2 in the NW ¼ of the SE ¼ and in the SW ¼ of the NE ¼ and Munger Tract 3 in the NW ¼ of the SE ¼ all in Section 11 T92N, R52W of the 5th PM Clay County, South Dakota for a housing development.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse to pass and adopt Ordinance #2024-08. Gray-Lobe Aye, Gilbertson Aye, Brady Aye, Thiesse Aye, Mockler Aye.

At 6:06 p.m., Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

  
Travis Mockler, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:   
Carri R. Crum, County Auditor

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February 25, 2025

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Clay County Courthouse, 211 W. Main St., Vermillion, SD. Members present: Kevin Brady, Glen Gilbertson, Geoffrey Gray-Lobe, and David Thiesse; Travis Mockler was absent.

Vice-Chairman Thiesse called the meeting to order and asked for a declaration of any conflicts of interest regarding agenda items.

Brady moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to approve the agenda with removal of Ditch Board and highway materials bids as they were advertised for bid opening March 4, 2025.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the February 10 2025, February 11, 2025, and February 18, 2025 meetings.

Tyler Klatt, TEGRA Group, was present to discuss a Design-Build Policy for the County. He clarified a question from the last meeting that the Request for Qualifications process has to happen each time for a project. The scoring method was confusing, so he simplified it, and the low score wins. He added a procedure for procurement in an emergency situation. Facilities Manager Scott Hanson said he spoke to the USD Facilities Manager, who sent him the form they use. Gray-Lobe asked if the Board needs to approve the policy. State's Attorney Michael Smith said it would be proper to approve that the County will utilize the process when it is appropriate. Gray-Lobe suggested passage of a resolution, and Smith said he will prepare one. Gilbertson asked if it will say "may" instead of "shall," and Smith said he will write it for flexibility.

Hanson gave a presentation on a proposed change to the court security project. The process started in 2022, and the County was awarded a grant from the Unified Judicial System. The project includes the north half of the courthouse from east to west on the third floor. The proposal for the large courtroom involved moving the jury box, which sounds easy, but they are finding that it involves moving the judge's bench, including the historical woodwork. That room was a little over \$100,000 due to technology needs, repairing walls, and flooring. That phase was put on hold due to the courthouse mechanical/electrical/HVAC project and the elevator project. Judge Bern is proposing a change to project plans that involves moving and constructing walls rather than moving the historical woodwork. It is a lot less intrusive to the historical parts of the courtroom, and it should end up cheaper overall. The committee likes the plan, and it makes more sense. Thiesse said it makes sense for protecting the historical value of the building, and Gray-Lobe agreed. Smith said the benefit is a large enough jury box for all the jurors and ADA compliance. Hanson said the next phase secures the court corridor and makes the jury room larger with the removal of a non-load-bearing wall. It also includes renovation of the restroom for ADA access. Smith said the current jury restroom is not private, and juries have been deliberating in the courtroom because the jury room is not big enough. Thiesse discussed security concerns for the restroom if it is available to both the jury and public at the same time. Smith said it will improve restroom access for men because the men's room is currently on first floor. Brady moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to approve the modified plans.

Director of Equalization Lennea Olson met with the Board to present a contract with Catalis for CAMA software. She said the office uses two software programs, and they have been having issues. Catalis has

the best solution. Smith said he reviewed the contract. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to approve the contract and authorize the Vice-Chairman to sign it.

Highway Superintendent Rod Polley met with the Board regarding an Emergency Relief Agreement with the State. Gray-Lobe said it seemed to be a clarification that if the federal government does not reimburse the state government, then they do not have to reimburse the county government. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to approve the agreement and authorize the Vice-Chairman to sign it.

Zoning Administrator Drew Gunderson met with the Board to present two plats. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Gilbertson to pass and adopt Resolution #2025-07 for Plat of 46875 311 St Burbank, SD 57010, legally described as Lots 1 and 2, O'Connor Addition in the W1/2 of the NE1/4 of Section 14, Township 93 North, Range 51 West of the 5<sup>th</sup> P.M., Clay County, South Dakota, O'Connor P&B Farms LLC, owner. Vote of the Board: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion passed.

**RESOLUTION #2025-07**  
**RESOLUTION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS it appears that the owners thereof have caused a plat to be made of the following described real property:

Plat of Lots 1 and 2, O'Connor Addition in the W1/2 of the NE1/4 of Section 14, Township 93 North, Range 51 West of the 5<sup>th</sup> P.M., Clay County, South Dakota, O'Connor P&B Farms LLC, owner.

Be it resolved that the Board of County Commissioners of said County has examined the same and that it appears that the system of streets set forth therein conforms to the system of streets of existing plats and section lines of said County, that adequate provision is made for access to adjacent un-platted lands by public dedication or section line when physically accessible, and that all provisions of the subdivision regulations of said County have been complied with, and that all taxes and special assessments, if any upon the tract or subdivision have been fully paid and that such plat and the survey thereof have been executed according to law, and the same is hereby accordingly approved.

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David Thiesse, Vice-Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

I, Carri R. Crum, County Auditor of Clay County, South Dakota do hereby certify that the within and foregoing is a true copy of the Resolution passed on February 25, 2025.

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Carri R. Crum  
County Auditor, Clay County, SD

Gunderson reviewed the second plat. Gilbertson moved, seconded by Brady to pass and adopt Resolution #2025-08 for Plat of 46994 Burbank Rd, Burbank, SD 57010, legally described as Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4, McInerney Addition, in the NE1/4 of the SE1/4 and Gov't Lots 1, 2, and 3, and All Accretion Land to Said Gov't Lots, All in Section 36, Township 92 North, Range 51 West of the 5<sup>th</sup> P.M., Clay County, South Dakota, The Mary Eby A/K/A Mary E. Eby Trust, The John L. Connolly Trust and The Edward J. Connolly Trust, owners. Vote of the Board: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion passed



**RESOLUTION #2025-08**  
**RESOLUTION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS it appears that the owners thereof have caused a plat to be made of the following described real property:

Plat of Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4, McInerney Addition, in the NE1/4 of the SE1/4 and Gov't Lots 1, 2, and 3, and All Accretion Land to Said Gov't Lots, All in Section 36, Township 92 North, Range 51 West of the 5<sup>th</sup> P.M., Clay County, South Dakota, The Mary Eby A/K/A Mary E. Eby Trust, The John L. Connolly Trust and The Edward J. Connolly Trust, owners.

Be it resolved that the Board of County Commissioners of said County has examined the same and that it appears that the system of streets set forth therein conforms to the system of streets of existing plats and section lines of said County, that adequate provision is made for access to adjacent un-platted lands by public dedication or section line when physically accessible, and that all provisions of the subdivision regulations of said County have been complied with, and that all taxes and special assessments, if any upon the tract or subdivision have been fully paid and that such plat and the survey thereof have been executed according to law, and the same is hereby accordingly approved.

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David Thiesse, Vice-Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

I, Carri R. Crum, County Auditor of Clay County, South Dakota do hereby certify that the within and foregoing is a true copy of the Resolution passed on February 25, 2025.

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Carri R. Crum  
County Auditor, Clay County, SD

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to approve the following claims for payment.

Clay County Treasurer	6,012.50	Pressing Matters	761.00
SD Department of Revenue	1,110.00	Presto-X Company, LLC	292.85
City of Vermillion	100,000.00	Prochem Dynamics	501.91
GeoTek Engineering & Testing	5,093.00	Qualified Presort Service, Inc.	2,829.61
JLG Architects	34,620.00	Quality Motors	78.29
TEGRA Group, Inc.	21,983.84	Renodry USA	19,586.00
Cross Pointe Innovations, LLC	8,088.00	Riverside Hydraulics & Labs, Inc.	14.97
A&B Business	458.81	Runnings Supply, Inc.	230.22
AFLAC	675.88	Schumacher Elevator Co.	128,950.00
Barco Municipal Products	8,038.14	SD Association of County Commissioners	7,540.00
Brunick Service, Inc.	167.00	SD Retirement System	37,915.34
Budget Blinds of Sioux Falls & North Sioux Falls	1,944.00	SD Supplemental Retirement System	8,323.18
Butch's Propane	31.29	SD Supplemental Retirement Roth	610.00
Canon Financial Services	260.00	SDACO - M&P Fund Payment	268.00
Century Business Products	41.25	Sturdevant's Auto	64.73
CHS, Inc.	634.00	Lembcke Schildhauer, Terri	567.00
Cintas	48.34	The Lumberyard, LLC	23.41
City of Vermillion	776.19	The Soap Guys	76.80
Clay-Union Electric Cooperative	750.00	The Standard Dental Insurance	1,615.96
Colonial Life Insurance	293.86	The Standard Vision Insurance	475.60

Doherty, Corey	120.00	Dooley, Tim	48.00
Styles, David	48.81	TLC Propane	2,730.55
Ganschow, Dennis	264.84	T-Mobile	30.80
DMC Wear Parts, LLC	350.00	Ulteig	101,636.25
Erickson Solutions Group	2,923.78	United Way of Vermillion	192.00
FedEx	38.19	University of Louisville	375.00
First Dakota Credit Card	2,837.17	Larson, Val	24.00
Gapp Counseling Services	2,610.00	Verizon Wireless	99.26
Hy-Vee, Inc.	367.48	Vermillion ACE Hardware	478.50
Interstate Power Systems, Inc.	1,160.87	Vollan Oil	3,848.28
Intoximeters, Inc.	721.75	Washington National Insurance	24.45
I-State Truck Center	1,612.22	Yankton County Sheriff	50.00
Pittman, John	83.00	Yankton Winnelson Company	213.23
Johnson Feed, Inc.	62.56	O'Reilly Auto Parts	652.08
Lawson Products, Inc.	567.11	Pollman Excavation, Inc.	10,363.52
Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health	450.00	Clay County Treasurer	4.00
Lewis Drug, Inc.	32.66	MidAmerican Energy	7,313.42
Lewno Law Office	258.73	Paylocity	302,704.51
Katterhagen, Mark	24.00	TASC	2,231.66
New Century Press	136.00	The Standard Life Insurance	409.05
New York Life Insurance	258.57	The Standard Short Term Disability	1,485.21
Olson's Pest Technicians	240.00	Wellmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield	60,212.36
One Office Solution	51.16		

Gray-Lobe reported that a group of over 70 volunteers, including some children, helped spread prairie seed by hand at Clay County Park in the section between the playground and campground. He also reported that the Park Board requested a financial audit, which reported no irregularities. Gilbertson asked about taking the 30 acres of land out of production for the prairie. Gray-Lobe said there had been no written agreement for rental of the crop land, so the Park Board bid it. They are now getting more rent for less acreage. Thiesse said the County Commission leases the land but does not control the crop land lease. Gilbertson voiced concerns about the revenue. Gray-Lobe said the Park Board does not receive any funding from the County, and they are getting an extra \$17,000 in donations for the prairie restoration. Gilbertson said he would like a report from the Park Board. Thiesse said it should be annually. Gray-Lobe agreed, especially with the recent audit.

Brady reported that the Wakonda Development Company is working on getting a Governor's home in town, and it is nice to see things happening in Wakonda.

The Board discussed the RFP process for the Missouri National Recreational River Study funded by the Federal Land Access Program grant. Gray-Lobe said he was happy to see 5 proposals, and some have a strong local connection. He has a draft rubric for scoring the proposals and is open to refining them to the top 2, then doing an interview. He asked for input from the Board. Thiesse said he looked at the proposals, but his biggest concern is whether the County will ever actually receive the grant funds, with the cuts happening at the federal level. Gray-Lobe said he was initially concerned, but every day he is a little less concerned as he has not received any emails indicating otherwise. They discussed the possibility of opening the County up to a \$250,000 liability. Gray-Lobe said the cuts at the federal level seem to be very willy-nilly. Thiesse is concerned that this project will not be a priority for anyone but Clay County. Gray-Lobe said it is transportation funding, so he hopes it is less likely to be cut. Gilbertson asked where the money is coming from out of the County budget, and Gray-Lobe discussed fronting the money from the Commissioners' Contingency budget, with reimbursements coming to

replenish it. Auditor Carri Crum explained the proper process of taking the expenditures from the Commissioners' Professional Services budget, then doing a Contingency Transfer Resolution. Brady said he has been concerned about receiving the federal funds as well. Recreation opportunities are important for Clay County, and the need is here, but the timing is scary. Thiesse said if something fell through, the Contingency budget would not cover the expense. Brady asked if there is an encumbrance process at the federal level, where those are guaranteed funds because they have already been approved. Gray-Lobe said the agri-business grant funds may also come from a federal source. Gilbertson said a grain elevator is a bigger need for the County than a recreation trail. Gray-Lobe said some constituents will disagree with that. Thiesse said he is going to be opposed unless something changes at the federal level. Gray-Lobe asked Smith if there is a legal precedent for those federal funds. Smith said he is concerned that there will be a large number of federal lawsuits, so the system would then become immensely bogged down. The question is "will they," not "can they," cut the funding. There are many more unknowns today than ever before. Gray-Lobe said he will contact state and federal officials and do some research before the next meeting.

The Sheriff's Office, Vermillion Public Library Board, and the following Auditor's Account with the County Treasurer monthly reports were accepted and placed on file.

#### **AUDITOR'S ACCOUNT WITH THE COUNTY TREASURER**

To the Honorable Board of County Commissioners of Clay County, regarding items in the hands of the County Treasurer as of February 3, 2025. I hereby submit the following report of my examination of the cash.

Total amount of deposits in banks:	9,124,382.42
Amount of actual cash:	1,963.02
Amount of checks/drafts in Treasurer's possession not exceeding 3 days:	42,529.89
Itemized list of checks/drafts in Treasurer's possession over 3 days:	
Checks returned and not deposited	0.00
Cash Items	700.00
Investments	1,151,000.00
Bond Funds	28,017,949.69
Cash Variation	0.00
Total	38,338,525.02

Dated this 3rd day of February, 2025.

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Carri R. Crum, County Auditor

Payroll changes to be reported in the minutes: Rozmus Baylor transitioned from part-time to full-time Correctional Officer effective 2/1/25.

February 25, 2025

At 10:26 a.m., Brady moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to adjourn and reconvene Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Handwritten signature of Travis Mockler in black ink.

Travis Mockler, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

Handwritten signature of Carri R. Crum in black ink.

Carri R. Crum, County Auditor

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March 4, 2025

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Clay County Courthouse, 211 W. Main St., Vermillion, SD. Members present: Kevin Brady, Glen Gilbertson, Geoffrey Gray-Lobe, Travis Mockler, and David Thiesse.

Chairman Mockler called the meeting to order and asked for a declaration of any conflicts of interest regarding agenda items.

Brady moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to approve the agenda with removal of Ditch Board and highway materials bids as they were advertised for bid opening March 4, 2025.

Thiesse moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2025 meeting.

At 9:02 a.m., Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to adjourn and convene as Clay County Ditch Board.

Thiesse moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to approve an invoice from Ulteig for \$280.00 for the FEMA portion of Clay Creek Ditch repairs.

Highway Superintendent Rod Polley reported that Ulteig is willing to attend the annual Joint Ditch Board meeting, or any other meeting where they are requested.

Polley said he and Brent Hays drove Laterals 1, 2, and 3. There are bank sluffs, corn stalks, and a couple of plugged culverts. He will map the locations of the sluffs. There is also a culvert lying in the ditch on Lateral 2A, and he is unsure what is happening with that as no one contacted him.

At 9:06 a.m., Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse, and unanimously carried to adjourn and reconvene as Board of Clay County Commissioners.

Polley reported that he is applying for hazard mitigation funding for some bridges. There is approximately \$6 million in funding available. He contacted the state about three bridges on Frog Creek Rd. and two on University Rd. There is a 10% match. Bridge work will involve rip rap around the back walls and abutments. They can delay some paving to make room in the budget if approved for this grant. Multi-million dollar bridges are more of a priority than paving. Emergency Management Director Layne Stewart said the grant is specific and competitive. Southeast Council of Governments usually helps with the application process on such grants.

Polley told the Board the County was awarded \$39,406.86 from FEMA for debris removal after the 2024 flooding. NRCS is taking care of the rest. Ulteig had applied to NRCS for funding. This will equal 10% County match.

Polley discussed a temporary easement that is needed for some work, and he said he spoke to landowners. Ulteig will be handling the paperwork.

Polley said the County's bridges are in good shape and encouraged the Commission to continue to protect them with maintenance. He will be turning in some projects to the Emergency Relief Program. The County will get 100% reimbursement for being done by April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Thiesse moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to approve the following claims for payment.

Blackburn & Stevens, Prof. LLC	180.73	Peterson, Stuart, Klentz & Rasmussen, Prof. LLC	15,165.33
Buhl's Drycleaners and Linen Supply	60.42	Quill, LLC	70.36
Canon Financial Services	313.31	SD Association of County Commissioners	125.00
CentralSquare Technologies	513.50	SD Department of Legislative Audit	10,340.00
City of Vermillion	6,768.85	Software Services, Inc.	2,300.00
Clay County Treasurer	4.00	Vermillion Ford	41,900.00
Sullivan, Gage	765.00	Vermillion Garbage Service	236.00
Gapp Counseling Services	270.00	Voyage Federal Credit Union Credit Card	159.36
Johnson Feed, Inc.	266.81	Yankton Winnelson Company	29.15
Microfilm Imaging Systems	1,110.00	Fischer's Disposal, LLC	65.00
Minnehaha County Auditor	6.07	Clay County Treasurer	4.00
National Sheriff's Association	250.00		

Brady moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to approve the 4-H Memorandum of Understanding with the State and authorize the Chairman to sign it.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse to pass and adopt the following Resolution #2025-09 for Implementation of Design Build and Construction Manager Procurement Methods. Vote of Board: Brady Aye, Gilbertson Aye, Gray-Lobe Aye, Mockler Aye, Thiesse Aye.

**RESOLUTION #2025-09**  
**Implementation of Design Build and Construction Manager Procurement Methods**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners, in and for Clay County ("Board"), shall establish procurement methods for public improvements and construction projects in compliance with state law; and

WHEREAS, the Board has established procedures for enacting design build procurement for future public improvement projects; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to South Dakota Codified Law, Clay County will utilize, at its discretion, **Design Build** (SDCL§ 5-18B-20 through 38) and **Construction Manager** (SDCL § 5-18B-39, 40, 41) procedures to fulfill future public improvement projects.

Commissioner Gray-Lobe moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution. Motion seconded by Commissioner Thiesse.

Vote of Commission: Brady Aye, Gilbertson Aye, Gray-Lobe Aye, Mockler Aye, Thiesse Aye.

Upon which voting the resolution was declared passed and adopted.

Dated at Vermillion, South Dakota this 4th day of March 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board of County Commissioners  
Clay County, South Dakota

ATTEST:

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Carri R. Crum, County Auditor

Facilities Manager Scott Hanson reported that the elevator project is complete except the emergency phone line. Midco can provide it, but they will need to replace equipment. It will require an internet outage. He discussed whether to close the courthouse while the work is being done as all the departments rely on internet-based software to work. It was decided that he would try to schedule the work to be done on the Juneteenth holiday because the courthouse will be closed.

The Board discussed the Veterans Service Officer position. Gilbertson said Yankton County Commissioner Dan Klimisch brought up the possibility of sharing a Veterans Service Officer. He asked if there is an issue with Clay County affording the position, to which the replies were that there is not a budget issue. Gilbertson said he would like to keep it in-house. Thiesse said we will decrease service to our own veterans by sharing with another county. Brady said some veterans cannot travel for services. Gray-Lobe said he is confident we have good applicants for the open position. Auditor Carri Crum said the current Veterans Service Officer, Drew Gunderson, was unable to attend this meeting, but he said there is a need in Clay County for veterans services. He regrets that with the boom in building permits and other Planning & Zoning duties while interest rates were low, he did not have the time to do more outreach, especially on the USD campus. Gray-Lobe said maybe the outreach events are something that Clay and Yankton County can collaborate on.

A public bid opening was held for highway materials for the year. Bids were open and read aloud. The Highway Superintendent will review bids to ensure they meet specifications and return at the next meeting for awarding of the bids.

Polley said he got a quote from Bluepeak for internet service at the Wakonda Highway Shop, and it is \$114/month. He asked if anyone has experience with Starlink. Thiesse said he has it at home, and Santel will be coming to the area. He has had a good experience with Starlink, but he will be signing up with Santel, so he would be happy to donate his Starlink equipment to the County. The Board discussed negotiating the rate with Bluepeak and checking rates for Starlink as well.

The Board discussed the RFP proposals received for the FLAP Grant study. Gray-Lobe said there were lots of reasonable concerns raised at the last meeting. He reached out to Dusty Johnson's office, Kris Jacobsen, and Jill Locken, the Lead Program Manager for the Federal Lands Access Program. Locken said the program is not scheduled to close. He spoke with Sophie Johnson from SECOG, and she suggested finding out if the funds are in the state or federal coffers at this time. Locken said the funds can be transferred to the SD Department of Transportation. Gray-Lobe said he has not reached out to other FLAP Grant recipients. Mockler said all of those federal funds are frozen until the court case is over in New York. Gray-Lobe said maybe we should get in line. Brady asked him to reach out to other recipients. He is still nervous about the situation at the federal level, but he knows what it could mean for growth in Clay County if the project were completed. Thiesse agreed. He said he knows Locken, but she does not have any real information that the program funding is not going to happen. He is sure she wants to keep her job and hopes the funding will go through. The National Park Service in Yankton was just cut by \$175,000. Gray-Lobe said he saw a list of leases to be terminated by the federal government. Gilbertson asked about the County's budget, and there was discussion about how the project would be

handled if the funding were to be guaranteed. Gray-Lobe said if there is no clarity on whether the funding will be cut, he is not comfortable spending the money.

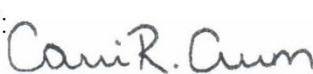
Gilbertson also discussed the FLAP Grant study, saying the Township Boards have been told their insurance does not cover them if something like a bicycle injury happens on the trails created by this project. Thiesse said it may be different if it is a designated bike route. They discussed Highway 19. Gray-Lobe said the corridor that is being suggested is County, so he would want to discuss that with the State's Attorney. Gilbertson said none of the proposals address liability. The SD Association of Towns and Townships is very concerned. Gray-Lobe discussed having the chosen company doing the study provide some clarity on that matter, or they could ask SECOG. Mockler asked how they would use 452 Ave. as it is vacated, so there is no section line anymore. Gray-Lobe disagreed. Mockler discussed river access as provided for in statute and said there is already river access in the area, but the Township closed the section line. Gilbertson said it is, and he has seen it. Gray-Lobe said he will attempt to get additional information. Brady moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to table the matter until the next meeting.

The Board discussed the farm ground that is being planted with prairie seed at Clay County Park. Gilbertson asked if the grants that were received to turn it into prairie are perpetual. Gray-Lobe said there were two \$5,000 anonymous grants and one Pheasants Forever grant, totaling about \$16,000. Gray-Lobe said no, but the additional rent on the remaining farm ground made it worthwhile to the Park Board. Gilbertson said it is good farm ground that could be worth \$10,000 in rent each year. Mockler and Gray-Lobe discussed why the land was not put into the CRP program. Gray-Lobe said there are two separate entities in the situation. The Park Board said there could be issues in the future with park management if it was in the CRP program. Mockler said the County Commission wanted them to look into it because it was income. If the Park Board has a lot of money then it's a different conversation. Gray-Lobe said he can speak to the FSA Office about it again.

At 10:25 a.m., Thiesse moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to adjourn and reconvene Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.



Travis Mockler, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:   
Carri R. Crum, County Auditor

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March 11, 2025

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Clay County Courthouse, 211 W. Main St., Vermillion, SD. Members present: Kevin Brady, Glen Gilbertson, Geoffrey Gray-Lobe, Travis Mockler, and David Thiesse.

Chairman Mockler called the meeting to order and asked for a declaration of any conflicts of interest regarding agenda items.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to approve the agenda with the addition of a Veterans Service Officer Grant opportunity.

Thiesse moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2025 meeting.

Sheriff Andy Howe met with the Board regarding the surplus of old confiscated weapons. He has a court order allowing him to dispose of them as well as 3 bicycles. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to declare the list of items surplus and authorize the sale or disposal of them.

At 9:04 a.m., Thiesse moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to adjourn and convene as Clay County Ditch Board.

Mockler said FEMA funding was received for Clay Creek Ditch, and the work will not be done until December. Thiesse moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to invest the FEMA funds in a certificate of deposit.

Brad Stangohr with Ulteig said they are ready to move to a bid letting for the repairs. In the past, they did a completion date of the end of December. They can go in to do the work before or after crops are in the fields.

At 9:06 a.m., Thiesse moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to adjourn and reconvene as Board of Clay County Commissioners.

Gray-Lobe said Gary Vetter from Yankton County called his attention to a benefits improvement act, which was intended to improve benefits through the VA. It's federal money and is a competitive grant. It has to be used to expand outreach and trainings. It may be a good opportunity to get some funding for the new Veterans Service Officer. Vetter thought none of the counties in this area would qualify on their own, but it could be a chance to pool together with other counties in the region to apply. Thiesse asked what commitments we would have to meet. Gray-Lobe said he does not exactly know at this point. He wanted to see if the rest of the Board wanted to dig a little deeper into this. Brady said it would be good to find out how funds will be distributed. He would be willing to start communications. Thiesse said it is worth exploring. Mockler asked if SECOG and District III will need to work together on. Gray-Lobe said yes, they probably would.

Thiesse moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to approve the following claims for payment.

A&B Business	218.01	MidAmerican Energy	41.08
AgTerra Technologies, Inc.	900.00	Minnehaha County Jail	4,492.38
Alternative HR, LLC	4,199.25	New Century Press	794.84
A-Ox Welding Supply	156.78	Northern Safety Co., Inc.	100.15
AT&T Mobility	56.70	One Office Solution	195.60
Blackstrap, Inc.	5,290.33	O'Reilly Auto Parts	98.64
Bluepeak	225.00	Pharmchem, Inc.	543.15
Bob's Sinclair Service	89.95	Prochem Dynamics	224.46
Broadcaster Press & Plain Talk	890.14	Qualified Presort Service, Inc.	1,604.93
Brunick Service, Inc.	430.50	Quill, LLC	15.48
Bureau of Administration	51.00	Runnings Supply, Inc.	264.32
Butler Machinery Co.	42,123.01	Sanford Health	2,848.69
Cenex Fleet Fueling	2,369.36	SD Attorney General	752.00
CenturyLink	149.99	SD Department of Revenue	138.11
Cintas	221.18	SD Dept. of Transportation	4,423.95
Clay Rural Water System	123.90	Stewart Oil & Tire Co.	30.00
CMoore Pit Service	570.00	Two-Way Radio Solutions, Inc.	764.97
Dakota Lock & Key	283.50	Union County Sheriff	6,529.53
Swensen, Daniel	750.00	Verizon Wireless	120.05
Dockendorf Equipment, Inc.	337.84	Vermillion ACE Hardware	158.28
Graham Tire S.F. North	740.80	Wakonda Town	66.90
Engle, Heather	12.00	Yankton County Sheriff	85.00
HOV Services, Inc./Exela Technologies Company	923.92	Yankton County Treasurer	477.75
I-State Truck Center	1,834.51	Yankton Winnelson Company	51.85
Larry's Heating & Cooling	201.00	Broadcaster Press & Plain Talk	57.50
Lincoln County Auditor	2,404.59	Clay County Treasurer	9,621.00
Microfilm Imaging Systems	30.00	VIAVI Solutions, Inc.	40,758.00

Highway Superintendent Rod Polley and Brent Hays met with the Board and reported that Corey Lewison requested to clean the roadside ditch. Hays told him it would be at his expense. It's along 313 St. and has drifted completely full of dirt. Gilbertson asked if Lewison told him about the other landowner a mile west that would like to also clean the ditch. Polley said he has been in contact with him, too. He said the grass was 6 feet tall, so they were instructed not to go any deeper than it is. Gilbertson said there won't be any issues because it's like sugar. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to approve Lewison's cleaning request.

Thiesse moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to accept the highway materials bids listed below per the Highway Superintendent's recommendations.

#### Clay County Highway Department 2025 Material Bid Recommendations

##### Asphalt concrete (Hot Mix)

Myrl & Roy's	Knife River	Barkley Asphalt
G-1 \$67.00	G-1 \$73.00 Yankton HMA	\$74.00 Sioux City pt
G-2 \$67.00	G-2 \$75.00 Madison St. Sioux Falls	
	D-2 \$88.00 Yankton	

18" \$48.00 each \$49.50 each

24" \$60.50 each	\$62.70 each
36" \$92.80 each	\$95.70 each
48" \$121.60 each	\$125.40 each

#### Arched Metal Pipe

2025 Prices	Bands	2024 Prices	Bands
24" =28"x20" \$34.96 per ft.	12" wide \$69.92	24"=28"x20" \$36.10 per ft.	12"wide \$72.20
54" =64"x43" \$134.32 per ft.	24"wide \$242.88	54"=64"x43"\$138.70 per ft.	24"wide \$250.80

#### Flex-o-mat

#### True North Steel

\$4.65 per sq. ft.

Recommend accepting Beadle County Bid Packet for Corrugated Metal Pipe and Flex-o-mat; True North was the only bidder.

Gray-Lobe said he requested the funds be transferred from the federal government to the state for the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Grant. That was suggested by the contact at the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and they replied to his request that they were working to get clarification on their end. Yesterday, he received another email from Jill Locken that Federal Highway is unable to transfer the funds because the FLAP program is currently under review. That does not give him a lot of confidence, and the Commission's pause in considering proposals for the project is appropriate. He suggested writing to the five companies that submitted proposals to let them know the reason for the hold. Brady said that is the only prudent thing to do at this point. Mockler asked how long we will be pausing it. Gray-Lobe said if the funds are transferred to the state within a week or two, for example, that might still be within the window where we could proceed, but if it goes out another month, then the timeline would be affected. Or he could write back to FHWA declining it. Brady said he appreciates Gray-Lobe's effort, but he does not foresee it happening in the next two weeks. He doesn't think we can tie up our funds like that. Gilbertson said he still has serious safety and liability concerns, and he doesn't see them addressed, so this is a good way out. Thiesse moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to stop the process and return the funds. Gray-Lobe said the County needs to notify those who submitted proposals.

Gray-Lobe thanked the Board for encouraging him to go back and ask about the CRP program for the parcel at Clay County Park that is being restored to prairie. He said he went after the last meeting. The CRP program is currently frozen, but he spoke to them about the needs of the park, and they referred him to the NRCS office. He spoke to them, and the Park Board would be able to apply for the program once it is unfrozen. He is excited to pursue that because there is potential for \$200-300/acre. There is also another program that could be used to provide ongoing payments for management work done such as prescribed burns. It would also apply to the neighboring forest. The cottonwoods are aging and starting to die off, so they have been

discussing how to manage that. The NRCS forester is meeting with the park manager this morning. There may be money available for those improvements. There is potential for ongoing income for the parcel that was taken out of production. Mockler said the main purpose is getting income off of the land. Gilbertson said they are not getting what they would get. It's probably 1/3 more than that if it were to be farmed.

A public bid opening was held for a low slump concrete overlay project on structure #14-103-090. BX Civil Construction bid \$297,500, Kramer and Associates bid \$332,992.35, Sioux Falls Construction bid \$218,811.20, and PCI Roads bid \$462,926.51 Brad Stangohr with Ulteig will review the bids to ensure they meet specifications and return at next meeting for the bid award.

The Board discussed the REED Loan for the road project around the site of the proposed grain storage facility the Southeast Farmers Elevator Coop. will be building. Gray-Lobe said this has been under discussion for a while. There would be construction on the county roads and addition of turning lanes on Highway 19 for the grain storage facility. The agri-business grant has been approved, but there is no formal agreement yet. Stangohr said the SDDOT agreement is in the works. Gray-Lobe said the cost of adding the turn lane is usually split into thirds between the State, County, and developer. In this situation, the County is paying 2/3 and the state is paying 1/3. The project is estimated at \$1.2 million. The County has a \$600,000 agri-business grant, so the REED loan could help the County pay the rest. Mockler said it is 5% for 5 years, paid monthly. It was discussed that they are waiting for a proposal from Pollman Excavation. Mockler said Pollman came up with a design that will be sent to Ulteig for approval. He will be bidding under the sealed bid process just like any other contractor. Stangohr said usually when you go with an asphalt section, you want to use enough base course. Mockler said it had more base course than the concrete base. Mockler said all he wanted was the drawing to see if Southeast was comfortable with it, and then it would go to Ulteig for review. Stangohr said it is usually 10-12 inches of base, although he has not studied the borings. Gray-Lobe said there was discussion about using a TIF to finance it. The new development's tax revenue would pay for the infrastructure. It seemed like a sensible way to fund it. He wonders where this fits into the County budget. He wants to make sure they are going into this with eyes wide open. It would be about \$136,000/year. It would be about \$86,000 interest plus about \$6,000 origination fee. This will grow the property tax base. Part of the argument for using this method is that the developer would have a favorable tax for the first 5 years. In the 5<sup>th</sup> year, the County will be getting \$28,750 annually at the current levy. As they are stepping up to it, they will be getting considerably less. Growing the tax base seems like not a strong argument to him. They are growing sectors of the economy, but the rest of the taxpayers are not going to see the benefit. It's something he wants to see happen, but it's important to weigh all taxpayers. The same argument that we need to invest money to grow the county, another argument to be made could be buying a parcel of land for the VCDC to develop for housing. He is not against the project, but he wants to make sure they are getting the best deal they can. Gilbertson asked how many roads they are going to be saving by doing this because all the other roads are getting beaten severely by the grain traveling away. Gray-Lobe said that would be quite a traffic study. It would change the traffic pattern. Thiesse said 306 St. is a prime example. Since the facility was built in Union County, 306 St. has gotten really bad. Stangohr said he likes that this is on a state highway.

Mockler said he hopes to send the message that Clay County is open for business. More businesses could develop out there and use the same state highway. Gray-Lobe discussed the potential need for more road improvements in the area for other businesses. Thiesse said he wouldn't be opposed to another \$600,000 loan if it brought a manufacturing business with 100 new jobs. Gray-Lobe said if we don't have housing for those 100 jobs, the people would be commuting. He thinks our taxes are already too high. Mockler said the TIF district being dissolved for Bliss Pointe will bring in tax dollars. He said they are not going to be able to save their way out of this. He hopes it spurs more growth, plus it will be the only grain elevator in Clay County. Not everyone will benefit from it initially. Thiesse said it is a long-term investment for the county. Farmers will have additional funds to spend locally with the fuel savings. It is a trickle-down effect. It's not direct savings to everyone, but cumulatively it is a long-term investment. Mockler said he hopes to see it grow like Elk Point's site where they expand over time. They just invested another \$5 million. Gray-Lobe said it's important to make sure they are recognizing it's a large outlay of public funds to benefit one entity. Mockler said it is not just one entity because there are a lot of individuals who will benefit from it. Gilbertson asked how many people would have benefitted from the bike path. Gray-Lobe said agriculture is not the majority of business in Vermillion, but those people would have benefitted from the bike path. There was discussion that federal taxpayer dollars would have funded the bike path. Mockler said the TIF would not have paid for this. He said this one business will not pay for itself, but he hopes it spurs other growth and that long-term it will. Gray-Lobe and Mockler discussed the terms of the loan as well as Executive Session items. Gray-Lobe said he did not have the terms of the loan until 4:00 yesterday, but Mockler said the terms were previously discussed that the loan would be 5%, and he would like to pay it off in 5 years. Thiesse said this is a long-term investment, and we need to start investing in our county's future. This is an investment that is not going away. The corn still needs to be sold every year regardless of the bushel price. He understands Gray-Lobe is worried about spending tax dollars, but there is a difference, and it does affect more than the agricultural community. Brady said the biggest movement of potential employees is ages 25-45, so unless we do something to attract them, we will be in a world of hurt in rural areas. Vermillion did miss the boat on businesses that went to Yankton instead. We are at a point where we either grow, or we die. Thiesse said this will be a simple facility at first, but it will bring more housing and add development. Brady said he understands we need to be financially prudent, but sometimes we need to stick our neck out a little. Gray-Lobe said Yankton is doing better with housing, and if those grain elevator employees cannot find housing in Vermillion, that's where they will go. Thiesse said we struggle with middle income housing. Gray-Lobe said he can easily see the benefit to investing \$600,000 in that. Thiesse said this opportunity is something that can go away pretty quickly. Thiesse moved, seconded by Gilbertson to pass and adopt the following Resolution #2025-10 and authorize signatures on the loan paperwork. A roll call vote was taken: Gilbertson Aye, Thiesse Aye, Brady Aye, Gray-Lobe Nay, Mockler Aye. Motion passed.

Resolution #2025-10

Resolution to Borrow from Rural Electric Economic Development, Inc.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of Clay County ("Borrower") hereby authorize borrowings from Rural Electric Economic Development, Inc. ("REED") in the amount of \$600,000.00, due on the date set forth in the

Note at the interest rate or rates and subject to other terms and conditions provided in the Loan Agreement between Borrower and REED and in the Note submitted to the meeting;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the proceeds of such borrowings shall be used by Borrower solely as specified in in the Loan Agreement;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any two (2) of the following: Travis Mockler, Chairman, David Thiesse, Vice Chairman, Kevin Brady, Commissioner, Glen Gilbertson, Commissioner or Geoffrey Gray-Lobe, Commissioner are hereby authorized to execute and deliver in the name of and on behalf of Borrower.

Dated this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025.

By: Travis Mockler, Chairman (signed)

By: David Thiesse, Vice Chairman (signed)

By: Kevin Brady, Commissioner (signed)

By: Glen Gilbertson, Commissioner (signed)


By: Geoffrey Gray-Lobe, Commissioner (not signed)

Under building project updates, Mockler said the jail and law enforcement center construction is still moving forward quickly. Brady said it's changing fast. Mockler said the front offices are painted and the hoods for the kitchen are in, and the block work should be done in a week or two.

At 10:16 a.m., Thiesse moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to enter an Executive Session for contractual matters per SDCL 1-25-2.

At 10:30 a.m., Brady moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to exit the Executive Session.

At 10:30 a.m., Thiesse moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to adjourn and reconvene Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

  
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Travis Mockler, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:   
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Carri R. Crum, County Auditor

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March 19, 2025

The Board of County Commissioners met in an Executive Session Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Clay County Courthouse, 211 W. Main St., Vermillion, SD. Members present: Kevin Brady, Glen Gilbertson, Geoffrey Gray-Lobe, Travis Mockler, and David Thiesse.

Chairman Mockler called the meeting to order.

At 9:02 a.m., Gilbertson moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to enter an Executive Session for personnel matters per SDCL 1-25-2.

At 9:19 a.m., Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to exit the Executive Session.

At 9:19 a.m., Thiesse moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to adjourn and reconvene Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.



Travis Mockler, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:



Carri R. Crum, County Auditor

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March 25, 2025

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Clay County Courthouse, 211 W. Main St., Vermillion, SD. Members present: Kevin Brady, Glen Gilbertson, Geoffrey Gray-Lobe, Travis Mockler, and David Thiesse.

Chairman Mockler called the meeting to order and asked for a declaration of any conflicts of interest regarding agenda items.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to approve the agenda.

Thiesse moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the March 11 & 19, 2025 meetings.

Highway Superintendent Brent Hays and Brad Stangohr, Ulteig Engineering, met with the Board for the bid award for the low slump overlay project. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to award the bid to the low bidder, Journey Group DBA Sioux Falls Civil Construction.

At 9:05 a.m., Thiesse moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to adjourn and convene as Clay County Ditch Board.

Thiesse moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to approve invoices from Ulteig in the amount of \$20,628.25 for Clay Creek Ditch and \$7,155.50 for the FEMA H&H portion of the Clay Creek Ditch.

Brady moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to approve an invoice from Complete Excavation in the amount of \$2,642.50 for a culvert on Yankton-Clay Ditch near Mark Fairley's property.

At 9:07 a.m., Gilbertston moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to adjourn and reconvene as Clay County Ditch Board.

Sheriff Andy Howe met with the Board regarding the surplus of old confiscated weapons. He has a court order allowing him to dispose of them. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to declare the weapons surplus and authorize the sale or disposal of them.

Zoning Administrator Drew Gunderson and Noah Westergaard met with the Board. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to pass and adopt the following Resolution #2025-11 for Plat of Tract 2 of Lundberg Addition an Addition in the SE1/4 of Section 3, Township 95 North, Range 51 West of the 5<sup>th</sup> P.M., Clay County, South Dakota, Amy R. Dravland, Trustee of the Gary D. and Diane K. Lundberg Family Trust, and Marlow Ralph Christensen, owners.

RESOLUTION #2025-11  
RESOLUTION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS it appears that the owners thereof have caused a plat to be made of the following described real property:

Plat of Tract 2 of Lundberg Addition an Addition in the SE1/4 of Section 3, Township 95 North, Range 51 West of the 5<sup>th</sup> P.M., Clay County, South Dakota, Amy R. Dravland, Trustee of the Gary D. and Diane K. Lundberg Family Trust, and Marlow Ralph Christensen, owners.

Be it resolved that the Board of County Commissioners of said County has examined the same and that it appears that the system of streets set forth therein conforms to the system of streets of existing plats and section lines of said County, that adequate provision is made for access to adjacent un-platted lands by public dedication or section line when physically accessible, and that all provisions of the subdivision regulations of said County have been complied with, and that all taxes and special assessments, if any upon the tract or subdivision have been fully paid and that such plat and the survey thereof have been executed according to law, and the same is hereby accordingly approved.

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Travis Mockler, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

I, Carri R. Crum, County Auditor of Clay County, South Dakota do hereby certify that the within and foregoing is a true copy of the Resolution passed on March 25, 2025.

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Carri R. Crum  
County Auditor, Clay County, SD

Brady moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to approve the following claims for payment.

AFLAC	640.00	One Office Solution	96.06
Automatic Building Controls	241.00	O'Reilly Auto Parts	445.91
Beckenhauer Construction, Inc.	2,074,923.65	Paylocity	279,685.24
Blue Tarp Financial, Inc.	139.94	Pharmchem, Inc.	1,151.34
Bluepeak	128.00	Presto-X Company, LLC	292.85
Bureau of Administration Finance Office PMB 0112	7.96	Prochem Dynamics	660.52
Canon Financial Services	260.00	Qualified Presort Service, Inc.	4,935.65
CentralSquare Technologies	513.50	Quill, LLC	8.59
Century Business Products	41.25	Roetman Auto Repair, LLC	4,673.31
Certified Languages International, LLC	37.95	Runnings Supply, Inc.	43.96
Cintas	205.36	Sanford Health	5,485.00
City of Vermillion	6,411.66	SD Department of Revenue	159,021.99
Clay-Union Electric Cooperative	814.34	SD Department of Revenue	137,740.34
Colonial Life Insurance	293.86	SD Department of Transportation	538.29
Complete Excavation, LLC	2,642.50	SD Dept. of Health Lab & State Remittance Center	715.00
CorTrust Bank	12.00	SD Federal Property Agency	158.00
Coyote Enterprise, LLC	179.98	SD Retirement System	36,369.42
Erickson Solutions Group	1,086.05	SD Supplemental Retirement System	8,920.00
FedEx	80.62	SD Supplemental Retirement System Roth 457(b) Plan	725.00
First Dakota Credit Card	12,887.77	SDACO - M&P Fund Payment	254.00
George Boom Funeral Home & On-Site Crematory	715.00	TASC	2,231.66
GeoTek Engineering & Testing Services, Inc.	2,577.00	TEGRA Group, Inc.	22,296.47
Hays, Brent	587.25	Terwilliger, Philip	295.00
Howe, Rhonda	45.56	The Standard Dental Insurance	1,615.96

Hy-Vee, Inc.	262.79	The Standard Life Insurance	379.13
I-State Truck Center	141.72	The Standard Short Term Disability Insurance	1,452.80
Jamar Technologies, Inc.	928.00	The Standard Vision Insurance	486.64
JLG Architects	27,280.00	The Trophy Place	50.00
Lawson Products, Inc.	882.48	The Village Family Service Center	1,650.00
Lewis Drug, Inc.	96.29	T-Mobile	30.80
Lindahl, MD, PhD, Josette	750.00	Total Flooring, LLC	682.54
Loffler Companies	1,804.22	Ulteig	74,809.50
Matter Law Office, Prof. LLC	735.00	United Way of Vermillion	192.00
Microfilm Imaging Systems	90.00	Verizon Wireless	107.23
MidAmerican Energy	957.53	Vermillion ACE Hardware	299.00
MidAmerican Energy	2,970.31	Walker, John D	360.00
Mid-American Research Chemical	1,329.08	Washington National Insurance	24.45
Miller, Sarah	500.00	Wellmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield of South Dakota	64,969.39
New York Life Insurance	258.57	Yankton Winnelson Company	288.91
Olson's Pest Technicians	85.00		

Recent payroll changes to be reported in the minutes are as follows: Rozmus Baylor moved from part-time to full-time on 2/1/25, Joselin Kludt was hired 3/15/25 as a full-time Jailer at \$22.35/hour, Kyle Nilsen was hired 3/21/25 as a part-time Jailer at \$22.35/hour, Rali Sykes was hired effective 4/7/25 as the Extension Office Administrative Assistant at \$19.95/hour, and Noah Westergaard was hired 3/17/25 as the Veterans Service Officer & Zoning Administrator at \$68,000/year.

Gray-Lobe reported that Clay County Park Association submitted its financial statements. They will be forming a budget committee for the first time ever.

Mockler and Howe reported the contractors are ahead of schedule on the jail and law enforcement center construction. Howe said all interior walls will be done in a couple weeks. The secure part is almost done. Substantial completion should be the end of May. Facilities Manager Scott Hanson said, with that, it is time to get ball rolling on construction plans for the current Safety Center when it is vacated. The Board needs to decide if they are going to use design build. Things are never as easy as you think. There is equipment in the walls. Gray-Lobe asked if conversations are in the works about offices that will be moving into that building. Hanson and Mockler said yes. Mockler said the State's Attorney's Office will go on the current Vermillion Police Department side of the building. The Treasurer's Office will occupy most of the other side. A couple jail cells will be bathrooms. The Director of Equalization will move out of the basement. Court Services needs to be together instead of split up. Hanson discussed air conditioning in the Commissioner Room. Gilbertson asked for a tour of the current Safety Center. It was decided that the topic will be put on the agenda for next week to create a Design-Build Committee for the project per the guidelines.

Hanson discussed trash receptacles for the new Safety Center. He received a \$7,500 estimate, and TEGRA Group said it is actually a good deal. The estimate for \$7,500 includes 101 office sized trash cans, 10 larger ones, and 7 recycling receptacles. He reached out to Waste Management for a quote. They sort in Sioux Falls, so it would eliminate recycling. They would pick up 2 times/week for \$360 or 3 times/week for \$480. Reviews are not good online. Mockler

said they need to weigh the savings long-term. Hanson said it's not a long-term savings, only about a year. The County pays \$167 now for a 3-yard container picked up twice a week.

The Sheriff's Office and Vermillion Public Library Board monthly reports and the following Auditor's Account with the County Treasurer report were accepted and placed on file.

**AUDITOR'S ACCOUNT WITH THE COUNTY TREASURER**

To the Honorable Board of County Commissioners of Clay County, regarding items in the hands of the County Treasurer as of March 3, 2025. I hereby submit the following report of my examination of the cash.

Total amount of deposits in banks:	7,232,213.65
Amount of actual cash:	4,361.48
Amount of checks/drafts in Treasurer's possession not exceeding 3 days:	58,537.98
Itemized list of checks/drafts in Treasurer's possession over 3 days:	
Checks returned and not deposited	457.50
Cash Items	700.00
Investments	1,151,000.00
Bond Funds	26,322,481.47
Cash Variation	0.00
Total	<u>34,769,752.08</u>

Dated this 3rd day of March, 2025.

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Carri R. Crum, County Auditor

At 9:33 a.m., Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to enter an Executive Session for contractual/legal matters per SDCL 1-25-2.

Patrick Mazour asked if he could speak as a Visitor to be Heard, and the Board decided to allow it prior to Executive Session.

At 9:34 a.m., Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to exit the Executive Session.

Under Visitors to be Heard, Mazour said he received pushback regarding the re-zoning of his property downhill from Bliss Pointe, so he would like to raise pheasants. He said he spoke to Mockler who said state law would apply. The State says they will not get involved because pheasants are not a regulated species. He said Gunderson refused to help him. He wants to use each parcel for 90 days and wants to start installing fence. Mazour wants to make 3 different lots and move the pheasants every 30 days. He could also do hogs or cattle on his property. He said he wants to make sure he doesn't deal with an injunction. Gray-Lobe said the proper procedure is for him to deal with the Zoning Administrator. Gunderson said anyone in the Joint Jurisdiction Zoning Area (JJZA) who is aggrieved with the Zoning Administrator has to appeal to the City Council & County Commission. Gilbertson asked, on the site against the hill, has he discussed it with the City? His concern is the people who own property at Bliss Pointe. Patrick said land is

zoned Ag, so he would like to use it for agriculture. Gilbertson said both parcels are notoriously wet. He asked what the effect will be on a wet year. Mazour said he will put the pheasant pens on the higher area. It will only be fence and netting in the wet area. If the County will allow a permit, he would make sure trees cover everything. Mockler asked if he was denied. Mazour said there was pushback so he rescinded his application. Mockler asked how many pheasants he plans to have. Mazour said if they change the code he would be grandfathered. Mockler said they are not changing anything. Mazour said he would like 5,000 and plans to expand from there. Mockler said he needs to get on an agenda. Gunderson said it has to be a joint meeting with the City Council. Mockler said what Gunderson has told Mazour, Mazour doesn't agree with, so Mazour will need to appeal to the City Council and County Commission jointly in writing.


At 9:50 a.m., Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to enter an Executive Session for contractual/legal matters per SDCL 1-25-2.

At 10:59 a.m., Thiesse moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to exit the Executive Session.

At 10:59 a.m., Brady moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to adjourn and reconvene Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.



Travis Mockler, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:   
Carri R. Crum, County Auditor

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April 1, 2025

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Clay County Courthouse, 211 W. Main St., Vermillion, SD. Members present: Kevin Brady, Glen Gilbertson, Geoffrey Gray-Lobe, Travis Mockler, and David Thiesse.

Chairman Mockler called the meeting to order and asked for a declaration of any conflicts of interest regarding agenda items.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to approve the agenda.

Thiesse moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2025 meeting.

Highway Superintendent Brent Hays presented a Right-of-Way Application from Clay-Union Electric on S. Dakota St., Section 24, Township 92N, Range 52W. Thiesse moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to approve the application and authorize the Chairman to sign it.

The Board considered a Driveway Application from Jeff Becker in 457 Ave. Brady moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to approve the application and authorize the Chairman to sign it.

Adam Schoenherr, Ulteig Engineering, met with the Board to discuss the road estimate from Ulteig for the proposed grain storage facility area. The engineer's estimate was 9" of concrete for \$1,013,357, 8" of concrete for \$950,627, or an asphalt/cement treated base for \$969,277. This does not include turning lanes on Highway 50. Mockler asked where they are with the turning lane agreement. Schoenherr said the SD Department of Transportation is working on that. Gilbertson asked about the base, and Schoenherr said it is 6" of treated base because he does not believe 5" of asphalt is enough. City streets are 5" and are not designed to handle the truck traffic. Gray-Lobe discussed the concrete options, and Schoenherr said concrete is less maintenance. Mockler suggested bidding all options. Gray-Lobe asked about the 9" concrete options, and Schoenherr said it was a comparison to Union County's road. GeoTek suggested 8", but Ulteig had planned 9", so he included it. Gray-Lobe and Mockler discussed the total project cost. Mockler said the only way to get a true cost is to bid it out. There was discussion regarding a second railroad crossing as well. Mockler said one thing to consider is that the County does not have equipment to fix concrete. Gilbertson said that is his concern. Gray-Lobe and Hays said SD Local Transportation Assistance Program should have information about maintenance costs. Gilbertson and Mockler said the road should be posted at 25 mph speed limit. Gray-Lobe and Hays discussed how a vehicle's weight affects the road.

Gray-Lobe, Hays, Emergency Management Director Layne Stewart, SouthEast Council of Governments (SECOG), and Ulteig had a teleconference recently regarding mitigation grant funds from FEMA. It would be a competitive program, and Stewart said the County needs to add the bridge projects to the mitigation plan. If the County were to be awarded funds, the local match is only 10%. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to

designate Highway Superintendent Brent Hays as the applicant agent. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse to pass and adopt the following Resolution #2025-12

RESOLUTION #2025-12  
APPOINTMENT OF APPLICANT AGENT  
For the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

WHEREAS, the Clay County is submitting a Hazard Mitigation Grant project to the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the State of South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners for Clay County is required to appoint an Applicant Agent for the purpose of signing documents and assuring the completion of all application documents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners for Clay County appoints Brent Hays as the Authorize Applicant Agent. Dated this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2025.

Appointing Authority

Name: Travis Mockler

Title: Chairman, Board of Clay County Commissioners

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 4/1/2025

Appointed Agent

Name: Brent Hays

Title: Highway Superintendent

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 4/1/2025

Hays reported to the Board that he has re-hired former superintendent Rod Polley part-time at \$30.00/hour effective 3/21/25. Another recent payroll change to be included in the minutes was the hiring of Justin Burge by Sheriff Andy Howe as a part-time Jailer at \$22.35/hour.

Mockler asked Hays if he had been contacted about tiling on Greenfield Rd. Hays said he did have a conversation, but he has not received paperwork yet.

Sheriff Andy Howe met with the Board regarding the surplus of old confiscated weapons. He has a court order allowing him to dispose of them. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to declare the weapons surplus and authorize the sale or disposal of them.

Director of Equalization Lennea Olson met with the Board to present two Applications for Abatement. The first application was submitted on time by the property owner, but the state's software did not send it to Olson. Thiesse moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to authorize the abatement for 2024 on parcel 03000-09553-333-06. Olson explained the second application was for a veteran's exemption, and it must remain anonymous per statute. Mockler asked for an abatement number, and Treasurer Rhonda Howe explained she typically assigns that when she is doing the abatement in the software. It was decided that she could assign

it a number prior to the next meeting. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to table the abatement until the next meeting.

Olson met with the Board for her annual review. She discussed at length the assessment process, requirements set forth by the State, property review work her office has been and will be doing, new law changes, and software. She presented the Appeals Guide for the upcoming Equalization Board meetings.

Thiesse moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to approve the following claims for payment.

Plutonium, Archimedes	60.72	MidAmerican Energy	1830.52
Beckenhauer Construction	1,713,349.70	New Century Press	729.31
Broadcaster Press & Plain Talk	341.12	One Office Solution	1118.62
Brunick Service, Inc.	80.00	McBride, Richard	52.68
Canon Financial Services	313.31	Bottorff, Scott	60.72
Crescent Electric Supply	40.51	Smith, Sheryl	79.48
Christensen, Douglas	83.50	Timekeeping Systems, Inc.	395.00
Walker, James	50.00	Vermillion ACE Hardware	371.52
Neumann, Janelle	50.00	Vermillion Garbage Service	176.00
Johnson, Joseph	50.00	Voyage Federal Credit Union	97.00
Layne's World, Inc.	27.77	Wang, Xuejun	54.02
Bothwell, Mark	58.04		

The Board discussed formation of a design-build technical review committee. Thiesse moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to appoint Facilities Manager Scott Hanson, Sheriff Andy Howe, and Commissioner Gilbertson as voting members and Treasurer Rhonda Howe and State's Attorney Michael Smith as non-voting members. The committee will be working on the remodeling of the current Safety Center and the Court Security project.

Sheriff Howe reported that the radio tower at the new jail and law enforcement center will be going up at the end of the month. Substantial completion will be at the end of May, and final occupancy will be in the fall.

It was reported that there will be a Joint Jurisdiction Zoning Area (JJZA) meeting April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Brady reported there were interviews for the open 4-H Educator position, and they went well. An offer will be made. He also reported that the Wakonda Development Corporation work is going well, and they are still working on getting a Governor's Home.

Gilbertson reported the Joint Powers Solid Waste Advisory meeting was canceled.

Gray-Lobe said he has a SECOG meeting tomorrow.

At 10:31 a.m., Thiesse moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to enter an Executive Session for legal matters per SDCL 1-25-2.

At 10:55 a.m., Brady moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to exit the Executive Session.



April 1, 2025

At 10:55 a.m., Brady moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to adjourn and reconvene Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Handwritten signature of Travis Mockler in black ink.

Travis Mockler, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:   
Carri R. Crum, County Auditor

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April 8, 2025

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Clay County Courthouse, 211 W. Main St., Vermillion, SD. Members present: Kevin Brady, Glen Gilbertson, Geoffrey Gray-Lobe, Travis Mockler, and David Thiesse.

Chairman Mockler called the meeting to order and asked for a declaration of any conflicts of interest regarding agenda items.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to approve the agenda.

Thiesse moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2025 meeting.

Highway Superintendent Brent Hays presented a Right-of-Way Application from Reid Jensen at Greenfield Rd. & 309 St. in Section 35, Township 94N, Range 51W. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to approve the application and authorize the Chairman to sign it.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to accept an engineering estimate from Ulteig for 313 St. & 456 Ave. reconstruction services in the amount of \$44,668.00.

Gilbertson moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to authorize the Chairman to sign bid award documents for \$218,811.20 from Journey Group Companies DBA SFC Civil Constructors for Low Slump Dense Concrete Overlay on Structure #14-103-090.

The Board discussed 2 Culverts under Burbank Rd. by the golf course. Mockler said the ditch on the south side needs to be cleaned. Brad Stangohr from Ulteig said he doesn't believe there is enough fall to be able to run the water back. He will visit with the City about it again. Mockler said it was 2016 when they last looked at it. The water is supposed to drain to the west where the City has storm sewer to go to the river. It takes the water from East Main St. The County has to address before East Main St. can be fixed. Stangohr said he doesn't think the City junction was deep enough. They discussed other drainage routes and said they are not ideal. The area is flat, and it's a difficult spot. If they can't make the junction work, they may have to reconstruct the well and pump. He will look at it and come back. Mockler asked about installing a tile line. Stangohr said he will look at things again.

Highway Superintendent Brent Hays reported he got invited to Myrl & Roys' new plant. He will be taking the guys out there to see it.

Director of Equalization Lennea Olson presented Abatement# CONF 1 for a veterans exemption. Gray-Lobe said he would want to provide the relief, but it becomes challenging when you start to move bars. They discussed date deadlines. Brady said he knows how slow the VA is. Thiesse restated they were late due to the date the disability was approved. State's Attorney Michael Smith said SDCL 10-4-40 gives leeway. Mockler said we have done the same before. Thiesse moved, seconded by Brady to approve Abatement #CONF 1. Gilbertson abstained due to avoiding conflict of interest. All voted aye; motion passed.

At 9:21 a.m., Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse to adjourn and convene as the Consolidated and County Boards of Equalization.

At 9:21 a.m., Thiesse moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to recess the Equalization Boards meeting until April 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. and reconvene as Board of Clay County Commissioners.

Facilities Manager Scott Hanson met with the Board to report on the meeting of the Design-Build Committee. They will use a prequalification process to select the top 3 contractors and send an RFQ to them. He gave Gilbertson a tour of the facilities. There is a department head meeting at 2:00 today to make sure they are not missing anything.

Hanson discussed needs for maintaining the new jail & law enforcement center. The new building is 1.5 times bigger. He presented information on projected maintenance needs of non-detention areas. Hanson compared the number of bathrooms, hallway square footage, office spaces, etc. He said he will need 2 full-time & 1 part-time staff to clean the new facility. He also discussed supply needs. Hanson recommended a sweeper vac, scrubbers, equipment to clean the garage/sally port, carpet cleaner, restroom cleaning machine, janitor carts, mop buckets, pallet jack (buying by the pallet saves \$12/case for toilet paper & paper towels and can cover both buildings), a tool cat sweeper, etc. Hanson estimated \$56,000-57,000 for equipment. Gray-Lobe asked if staff will move between buildings. Hanson said they will be assigned to one building. The current person does cleaning and small repairs, so he would like a similar situation at the new facility. Thiesse asked how this works now. Sheriff Andy Howe said the City pays a fee for maintenance time and supplies. It is based on a percentage of total square footage and time spent on maintenance. Thiesse clarified the County does all the purchasing. Howe said when they signed the newest agreement, the janitorial equipment became part of County property. Thiesse said it's a substantial increase for the City facilities, too. Howe said this equipment is part of the FF&E budget under the bond. Mockler asked if cleaning the garage can be done by the city street sweeper, and it was discussed. Hanson said there is only 1 water line in the new garage, and he wants another. He said they will be able to use the tool cat for frequent sweeping. Gray-Lobe asked if he budgeted for personnel, etc. this year, and Hanson said he did.

Brady moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to approve the following claims for payment.

Alternative HR, LLC	7,357.85	MidAmerican Energy	27.24
Anglin Handyman Service LLC	594.50	Midstates Equipment & Supply	58,807.20
A-Ox Welding Supply	232.41	Minnehaha County Jail	896.00
AT&T Mobility	56.70	New Century Press	304.08
Auto Value Vermillion	16.50	Olson's Pest Technicians	240.00
Boys & Girls Club, Inc. of Vermillion	1,750.00	One Office Solution	144.44
Broadcaster Press & Plain Talk	697.38	Peterson, Stuart, Klentz & Rasmussen	15,073.39
Brunick Service, Inc.	454.73	Pharmchem, Inc.	575.10
Buhl's Drycleaners and Linen Supply	150.29	Pressing Matters	547.00
Bureau of Administration	65.00	Prochem Dynamics	8,178.14
Butler Machinery Co.	124,482.45	Qualified Presort Service, Inc.	2,383.71

Cenex Fleet Fueling	2,469.70	ROCS Transit	468.75
CenturyLink	149.99	Runnings Supply, Inc.	17.98
Cintas	147.70	SD Association of County Officials	300.00
City of Vermillion	73,309.51	SD Attorney General	987.00
Clay County Fair Association	2,062.50	Software Services, Inc.	1,300.00
Coyote Enterprise, LLC	12.99	SuperCom, Inc.	126.75
Dakota Senior Meals	1,680.00	The Lodge at Deadwood	315.00
Dean Schaefer Court Reporting	90.00	Two-Way Radio Solutions, Inc.	267.71
Dockendorf Equipment, Inc.	378.03	Verizon Wireless	162.79
FedEx	102.15	Vermillion Food Pantry	1,250.00
Fischer's Disposal, LLC	65.00	Vermillion Ford	100.12
Graham Tire S.F. North	1,794.72	Vermillion Garbage Service	60.00
Heiman, Inc.	2,243.50	Vermillion Public Library	500.00
Johnson Feed, Inc.	749.00	Wakonda Town	62.65
Lindahl, MD, PhD, Josette	1,500.00	Yankton County Sheriff	525.00
Kennedy Pier Loftus Reynolds & Brandt	1,069.40	Yankton County Treasurer	163.25
Doty, Kimberly	37.50	Yankton Janitorial Supply	197.90
Lincoln County Auditor	217.34	Yankton Winnelson Company	50.95
McLeod's Printing & Supply	139.17	Youngberg Law, LLC	700.50
Microfilm Imaging Systems	155.00	SD Association of County Officials	400.00

The Board discussed procedures for the Joint Jurisdiction Zoning Area (JJZA) appeal hearing. Mockler discussed it with the Mayor. Gunderson will have 10 minutes to present. Masur will have 10 minutes. Public comment will be up to 2 minutes per person. Masur will have 5 minutes to respond. Then the Boards will discuss. Thiesse said he heard about a change of plans for the property. Smith said the only thing they can discuss is the appeal. Gray-Lobe asked about a packet, and Smith said there will be a packet sent out ahead of time. Pertinent information should be sent to Gunderson. Gray-Lobe clarified they will be in Board of Adjustment and will need a 2/3 majority. Smith confirmed that. Smith read SDCL 11-2-55 regarding the packet. Mockler said it will not be a big packet. It was mostly a conversation. Thiesse asked if a yes is to uphold Gunderson's decision. Smith said that will all be explained. Mockler said they can make it clear in the motion. The vote will be as separate bodies. Gray-Lobe asked, if they consider dissolution of the JJZA, what is the procedure. Smith said it would need to be an agenda item. There is a timeframe to close things out. Smith would need to work with the City's attorney. Mockler said the zoning would have to be put into place for the City and County first. Smith said generally on a contract either side can decide to withdraw. The most conservative approach would be to allow legal counsel to handle coming to an agreement. The JJZA should have had termination language, but the reality is it doesn't.

Gray-Lobe reported on the recent SECOG meeting where a NADO representative discussed new funding coming to SECOG. Clay County gets \$465 per \$1 spent as return on investment. SECOG also has a program to buy property and fix them for affordable housing.

Brady said the new Extension Administrative Assistant started yesterday. He has not heard any news regarding the 4-H Educator position.

April 8, 2025

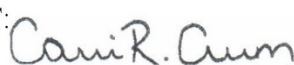
At 10:13 a.m., Thiesse moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to enter an Executive Session for legal matters per SDCL 1-25-2.

At 10:34 a.m., Brady moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to exit the Executive Session.

At 10:35 a.m., Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to adjourn and reconvene Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.



Travis Mockler, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:   
Carri R. Crum, County Auditor

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April 15, 2025

The Board of County Commissioners met in special session Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 12:45 p.m. at the Clay County Courthouse, 211 W. Main St., Vermillion, SD. Members present: Kevin Brady, Glen Gilbertson, Geoffrey Gray-Lobe, Travis Mockler, and David Thiesse.

Chairman Mockler called the meeting to order and asked for a declaration of any conflicts of interest regarding agenda items.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to approve the agenda.

Deputy State's Attorney Caitlyn Dommer met with the Board to discuss the office's domestic violence grant. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to approve the application for the grant and to authorize Dommer to sign it.

Treasurer Rhonda Howe met with the Board to discuss office hours. Since implementation of the new motor vehicle registration system, paperwork has doubled or tripled. Adjusting office hours will give them time at the end of the day to balance the banking and finish paperwork. It's currently very stressful for the staff. Many Treasurers are doing this around the state. Howe said her proposal is to start May 1 to give customers a chance to get through tax season. Gray-Lobe said it makes sense and is the right thing to do. However, he asked what the traffic is like at the end of the day. Howe said she understands and is not trying to do a disservice to constituents. They do get some traffic from 4:30 to 5:00. It will eventually become a new normal for people to have the office closed at 4:30. She has been putting this off for years. Other treasurers have been doing this for some time. Gilbertson moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe to pass and adopt the following Resolution #2025-13 for Establishment of New Hours for Treasurer's Office. Vote of the Board: Mockler Aye, Gray-Lobe Aye, Brady Aye, Thiesse Aye, Gilbertson Aye.

RESOLUTION #2025-13  
Establishment of New Hours for Treasurer's Office

WHEREAS, pursuant to SDCL 7-7-2, the Board of Clay County Commissioners may by resolution establish the hours of operation for County offices and;

WHEREAS, due to changes in the motor vehicle registration system, requiring more paperwork and documentation on the part of the Treasurer's Office staff;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Clay County Commissioners hereby establish hours of 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday for staff and authorizes the Clay County Treasurer to close the Treasurer's Office to the public at 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, effective May 1, 2025.

Dated this 15th day of April, 2025.

Vote of the Board: Mockler Aye, Gray-Lobe Aye, Brady Aye, Thiesse Aye, Gilbertson Aye.

Attest:

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Travis Mockler, Chairman  
Board of Clay County Commissioners

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Carri R. Crum, Clay County Auditor

The Board recessed until 1:00 p.m.

At 1:00 p.m., Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to adjourn as Board of Clay County Commissioners and reconvene as the Consolidated Board of Equalization.

Members present: Kevin Brady, Glen Gilbertson, Geoffrey Gray-Lobe, Travis Mockler, David Thiesse, Jon Cole, Richard Holland, Jay Thaler, and Jacob Skelton. Others present: Auditor Carri Crum, Director of Equalization Lennea Olson, Deputy Director of Equalization Melissa Brown, State's Attorney Michael Smith, Deputy State's Attorney Caitlyn Dommer, and Unlicensed Deputy State's Attorney Cameron Morgan.

Appeal #2025-00 – Hamad Assam Companies (15700-00100-000-03) The Director referred to SDCL 10-11-67 that states the deadline for appeals is the first Tuesday in April, which was April 1, 2025. She reported that an appeal postmarked April 8, 2025 was received from Assam Companies on April 9, 2025. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady not to hear the appeal as it was submitted past the deadline.

Appeal #2025-01 – James B. Neal (15340-00300-250-00) Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Cole to table the appeal.

Appeal #2025-02 – William & Cheryl Brown (15530-01800-070-00) The Director recommended lowering the structure value from \$228,332 to \$225,755 due to added carport and shed and correction of square footage. Gilbertson moved, seconded by Skelton and unanimously carried to accept the Director's recommended value.

Appeal #2025-03 – Keith B. & Tami Mockler (15260-01200-040-00) Travis Mockler recused himself and stepped out of the room. Thiesse presided over the meeting. The Director recommended lowering the structure value from \$482,996 to \$457,281 due to corrected square footage between the house and garage, removal of crawl space below the addition, fixed value of wood deck, and updated effective age and depreciation. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Cole and unanimously carried to accept the Director's recommended value.

Appeal #2025-04 – Verbillion LLC (15050-00100-090-00) The Director recommended lowering the structure value from \$423,738 to \$328,276 due to using income approach to arrive at value. Cole moved, seconded by Thaler and unanimously carried to accept the Director's original value of \$423,738.

Appeal #2025-05 – Verbillion LLC (15050-00100-100-00) The Director recommended lowering the structure value from \$423,738 to \$328,276 due to using income approach to arrive at value. Cole moved, seconded by Thaler and unanimously carried to accept the Director's original value of \$423,738.

Appeal #2025-06 – ARC HVVMNSDOO1 LLC c/o Hy-Vee (15295-00100-020-00) Brady moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to accept the Director's original value.

Appeal #2025-07 – Three Sisters LLC (15186-00100-010-00) Thiesse recused himself and stepped out of the room. Cole moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to table the appeal.

Appeal #2025-08 – Gregg M. & Nicole A. Peters (15880-09252-130-26) Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to table the appeal.

Appeal #2025-09 – Peters Family Rentals LLC (15550-00300-070-00) The Director recommended lowering the structure value from \$632,053 to \$348,391 due to recalculation of the effective age based on Marshall & Swift costs attributable to commercial guide. Thiesse moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to accept the Director's recommended value.

Appeal #2025-10 – Debra K. Maes (15130-00100-200-03) Thaler recused himself. The Director recommended lowering the structure value from \$221,976 to \$102,967 due to the structure having sustained major moisture damage, removal of basement square footage, lowered condition, and removed effective age as all previous remodel work will need to be redone. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Holland and unanimously carried to accept the Director's recommended value.

Appeal #2025-11 – Richard & Teri Heggestad (15880-09251-202-07) The Director recommended lowering the structure value from \$304,039 to \$280,608 due to correction of sketch and removal of square footage to reflect 18x22 area that is open to below, and updated plumbing fixtures and deck size. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to accept the Director's recommended value.

Appeal #2025-12 – Mark D. & Laura K. Mazour (15715-00400-080-00) The Director recommended lowering the structure value from \$469,974 to \$439,278 due to corrected sketch and square footage of house. Thiesse moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to accept the Director's recommended value.

Appeal #2025-13 – Kolly C. & Michaelle A. Fostvedt (15260-01400-020-00) The Director recommended lowering the structure value from \$482,996 to \$426,591. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to accept the Director's recommended value.

Appeal #2025-14 – Westgate MHP Vermillion LLC (15999-01700-009-07) The Director presented the Omitted Property to the Assessment Rolls of the County and recommended a value of \$27,280. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thaler and unanimously carried to accept the Director's recommended value.

At 2:55 p.m., Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to recess the Consolidated Board of Equalization until April 29, 2025 and reconvene the County Board of Equalization.



Members present: Kevin Brady, Glen Gilbertson, Geoffrey Gray-Lobe, Travis Mockler, and David Thiesse. Others present: Auditor Carri Crum, Director of Equalization Lennea Olson, Deputy Director of Equalization Melissa Brown, State's Attorney Michael Smith, Deputy State's Attorney Caitlyn Dommer, and Unlicensed Deputy State's Attorney Cameron Morgan.

The County Board of Equalization called a 5-minute recess.

Appeal #2025-15 – Kodie Lovejoy (05000-09452-082-01) The Director appealed the decision of the Pleasant Valley Board of Equalization. The Director's recommended value was \$90,800 for NA-C-S, \$106,726 for NA-C1-S, and \$8,593 for NA-C1. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to accept the Director's recommended value.

Appeal #2025-16 – Michelle M. Landeen Family Trust (02000-09551-041-04) The Director appealed the decision of the Glenwood Township Board of Equalization. The Director's recommended value was \$46,586 for AG-C, \$4,424 for AG-C1, and \$66,728 for NA-C1-S due to the local board changing status to AG but not updating values to productivity numbers, AG status application with qualifying management unit information having been turned into DOE office, and outbuildings will be subject to AG Discretionary and Exemptions moving forward. Thiesse moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to accept the Director's recommended value.

Appeal #2025-17 – Scott T. & Kay L. DeWitt (12700-00000-060-00) The Director recommended lowering the NA-C1 value from \$205,146 to \$176,611 due to incorrect calculation of square footage and finished area regarding detached garage having been sketched as attached, and updated heating and cooling information. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to accept the Director's recommended value.

Appeal #2025-18 – Farron G. & Michelle Pratt – (11000-09252-143-04) Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady to table the appeal.

Appeal #2025-19 – Mark A. & Amy Christensen (12700-00000-160-00) The Director's 2025 total value is \$823,478. Gilbertson moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to accept the Director's value.

Appeal #2025-20 – Brian A. Rupp (12000-09251-244-02) The Director's 2025 total value is \$344,172. Gilbertson moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to accept the Director's value.

Appeal #2025-21 – Russ D. Osterberg, Jr. (08000-09352-341-01) The Director's 2025 total value is \$174,435. Gilbertson moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to accept the Director's value.

Thiesse moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to instruct the Director of Equalization to make adjustment for Freeze on Assessment of Dwellings of Disabled and Senior Citizen per SDCL 10-6A.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to instruct the Director of Equalization to make adjustment for Veterans Exemption per SDCL 10-4-40 & 10-4-41.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to accept the additions and removal of Owner-Occupied status for 2025 for the following parcels.

<b>ADDITIONS</b>		
Parcel	Name	Address
15999-01100-000-31	Carter Sprock	911 E Duke Lot #31, Vermillion
15260-01200-120-00	Michael Flaherty	518 Sterling St, Vermillion
12000-09251-283-01	Shane O'Connor	31997 Saginaw Ave, Burbank
15280-07800-060-00	Charles Ross Keller & Susan Ellen Keller-Smith Joint Living Trust	304 Canby St, Vermillion
15280-07400-140-00	Charles Ross Keller & Susan Ellen Keller-Smith Joint Living Trust	304 Canby St, Vermillion
14000-01300-070-00	Chan Johansen & Kristy K Johnson	304 5 <sup>th</sup> St, Wakonda
15660-00500-010-00	Glenn & Anita Nelson	1524 Crestview Dr, Vermillion
04000-09453-094-00	Alexander & Michelle Wolhoy	45472 305 St, Volin
04000-09453-094-01	Alexander & Michelle Wolhoy	Lot 2 Orr's Addn, SE1/4, Volin
<b>REMOVAL</b>		
Parcel	Name	Address
10000-09253-051-03	Glenn & Anita Nelson	31545 454 Ave, Meckling

The Tax-Exempt Applications List for 2025 was presented. Brady moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to approve additions to the list.

Parcel	Name	Legal
15720-05600-140-00	Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Plains	Lots 1-14 Block 56 Snyders
15295-00700-040-00	Goodwill of the Great Plains	Lot 4 Block 7 Ericksons
15100-00100-01000	SESDAC INC	Lots 1 & 2 Block 1 Brechtels
01000-09551-174-00	Southeast South Dakota Experiment Farm	SE 1/4 Exc. Erickson Tract 1 SE 1/4

Gilbertson moved, seconded Thiesse and unanimously carried to approve the existing Tax-Exempt list as published in county legal newspapers. The list is on file in the Auditor's Office.


Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to recess the County Board of Equalization until April 29, 2025 and reconvene as Board of Clay County Commissioners.

April 15, 2025

At 4:13 p.m., Thiesse moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to adjourn and reconvene Tuesday, April 29, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Handwritten signature of Travis Mockler in black ink.

Travis Mockler, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST: 

Handwritten signature of Carri R. Crum in black ink.

Carri R. Crum, County Auditor

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April 15, 2025

The Board of County Commissioners met in a joint meeting with the City of Vermillion City Council Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. County members present: Kevin Brady, Glen Gilbertson, Geoffrey Gray-Lobe, Travis Mockler, and David Thiesse.

Thiesse moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to approve the agenda.

The first agenda item was an appeal of Zoning Administrator Drew Gunderson's decision that a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) is required for a proposed pheasant operation by Patrick Masur in the Joint Jurisdiction Zoning Area (JJZA). Mockler outlined the procedure for the appeal hearing. Gunderson reported that the pheasant operation is a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO). Gray-Lobe asked for an outline of the situation as there has been misunderstanding in the public as what the hearing is about. Gunderson said once a person starts bringing in animals to feed and putting up fencing, it becomes a CAFO and requires a CUP. Gray-Lobe looked at definitions and read from the ordinance. He asked if there is anything in State law. Gunderson said pheasants are not listed, but he determined they are similar to ducks, which are in the regulations. Mockler said the animal table says it can be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Masur said his property is zoned agricultural, so he is going to use it for pheasants. It's better than cattle. He said he doesn't know why he is here. He read from the ordinance and said he wants to raise the pheasants on one side of his property for 89 days and move to the other side for 89 days so that he is under 90 days. Masur said the State doesn't regulate pheasants. State law is 45 days, but the State doesn't regulate pheasants. If this doesn't pass, he has to use the land for something. People at Bliss Pointe will complain, so he can also complain about color of their houses. He only wants to keep the pheasants on the south side of the property. Masur doesn't think his operation is an AFO. He said if manure enters the water, the State can regulate things, but it will not because there is a berm. Gilbertson asked for more detail regarding plans. Masur said he is selling to a game farm. He said he needs to make money off of his property. If he can't have pheasants, he will have cattle and tear out the trees. Gray-Lobe said what they are deciding is whether Masur has to have a CUP. Mayor Cole again reiterated they are *only* considering whether he has to apply for CUP. Council Member Price asked how a CUP works. Mockler said there is a form to be filled out, a list of items to be met, and public hearings. Mockler said the Federal Clean Water Act is where the 45-day timeframe is listed. The County can be more restrictive, for example 30 days. Mockler said the State can regulate pheasants if they choose to because their table is the same as the County's. Gilbertson said it's an administrative decision. Mockler said he has had to jump through these hoops before.

Council Member Hellwege said it's not either body's responsibility to ensure Masur can make money from his property. The County can regulate pheasants even if the State doesn't, regardless of what the State says. She asked how long he plans to have animals. Masur said his plans include changing the location of the pheasants from side to side on his property. He said he can't do that more than once in a 1-year period. Hellwege said the operation is still continuous, even if animals are in one location less than 90 days.

Cole asked, does he plan to apply for CUP? Masur said he thinks it will be hard with the homeowners at Bliss Pointe. Cole asked if he is familiar with raising pheasants. Masur said his family had about 1,000 pheasants by Aberdeen. Hellwege said if they want to add pheasants to the JJZA ordinance, they can. Council Member Jennewein said other counties do list pheasants. She asked if the 5,000 head count is accurate. Masur said he wants to expand beyond that. Council Member Cheeseman asked how many total, and Masur said he has plenty of land. Cole asked how much usable land he has. Masur said he has about 100,000 square feet on each side of the property. Cole quoted square footage needed for each animal. Gray-Lobe said the JJZA only allows a small CAFO, so he would not qualify for 5,000. Mockler said ordinances can be incorrect, and they have found the 90 days is wrong, so in that case if an ordinance is incorrect, it falls back on State and Federal law. Cole and Masur discussed infrastructure, such as electricity, and Masur said he has electrical already. Chris Larson from Clay-Union Electric was present and said Masur requested a quote for what it would take to get electricity. It's not currently ready on the property but could be.

Susanne Skyrn spoke as a member of the public, and she thinks Gunderson is absolutely on the money, and 5,000 is a large CAFO. She said a person can't build a CAFO in a flood plain, and the Vermillion River is already very polluted. She discussed the distance to residential properties as well.

William Bultsma said the Boards need to uphold Gunderson's decision to make Masur apply for a CUP.

Sandy Pederson raised concerns about the bird flu and proximity of the pheasant operation to town.

Craig Thompson said he agrees with Gunderson's decision. All citizens have a vested interest in that area of town, and everyone would suffer from loss of property value, not just those at Bliss Pointe. It would affect property tax revenue for the entire County. Masur took the risk buying property in a flood plain. Thompson also discussed proximity to residences and Hillside Church.

Todd Mechling spoke about a documentary he produced for the SD Department of Environment & Natural Resources about CAFOs. They stink. Turkey confinements stink. It's a danger for that area of town when that area floods.

Masur said his land was always zoned agriculture when Bliss Pointe was built. He asked for someone to make an offer on his property. If not, he will profit off of it somehow. He cleaned it up to make it look nice. He said everything is portable, and he has a Bobcat, so he will figure something out if there is flooding.

Gray-Lobe and Mockler discussed the JJZA regulations for CAFOs. Thiesse moved, seconded by Brady to uphold Zoning Administrator Gunderson's decision. Under discussion, Thiesse said Masur needs to apply for a CUP. The motion does not mean they are not ending that for him. Roll call vote of the Board: Gilbertson Aye, Gray-Lobe Aye, Thiesse Aye, Brady Aye, Mockler Aye. Motion unanimously passed.

The second agenda topic was a discussion regarding whether the County would withdraw from the JJZA Agreement. City Engineer José Dominguez gave a report on the history of the JJZA. He said the County requested a meeting to discuss termination of the JJZA. The City has never requested termination, and the partnership is beneficial to both the City and County. One of the bodies has to formally decide to terminate. If the JJZA is dissolved, the City retains zoning within 1 mile of corporate limits and subdivision control up to 3 miles outside of limits. Adequate time should be given for both bodies to review and amend ordinances.

Gunderson said it would be a lot simpler for administration. He spends 1/3-1/2 of his time on JJZA matters.

Jerry Wilson said Clay County is the smallest county of the state. He gave a history from when he was on the County Commission. He thinks the JJZA is important because, even though we are a small county, we are one community.

Todd Mechling asked if Masur's appeal would have only been decided by the City, and the answer was yes.

Carol Geu asked if there are other issues besides Gunderson's workload. Mockler said he doesn't believe the City is following the ordinance and cited Section 2.07 of the JJZA. He said that Ag Opportunities didn't know their zoning had been changed, and they had no idea why. Their zoning should have come with them into the JJZA, and they had proof of what it had been, but it was denied. He also cited AMS and said the city held up the process because of an annexation agreement that isn't required.

Tom Geu said if there needs to be a better notice provision, amend the ordinance. He thinks communication is good. No matter what the problems, they would likely be aggravated if they didn't have a chance to visit about things. If there is an issue, change it, or sue them.

Bruce Gray said if you are going to put something in that is hugging city limits that wouldn't fit well in the community, he would hate to just throw it onto the City.

Thiesse asked, what are the pros for the county to stay in it? What is the benefit? Dominguez said he cannot speak for the County. Thiesse asked what kind of answer that is. What are they offering the County? Dominguez said the County can come to the table. Thiesse said he is required to have a piece of paper to come to the table. The distance regulations are in state statute. The City has always had the mile. Dominguez said the JJZA included the County in that, so the Commission can partake in the discussions. Both bodies have to agree. Thiesse said give the County 51%. Cole said he thinks what Dominguez is saying is that if the JJZA wasn't in place, the County wouldn't have any say in what just occurred with the appeal. There wouldn't be any authority to say yes or no.

Hellwege said the benefit to the County is the ability to jointly make decisions within one mile. The City can partake in 3 miles. She asked what portion of decisions are within 1 mile that the City would decide. She asked Mockler whether the examples were within 1 mile or outside of 1 mile. Was the outcome detrimental to the property owners or the community at large, or did they come to a compromise? Dominguez said the majority of items have been within 1 mile. Mockler

said they didn't follow the rules that the ordinance laid out for them. The annexation agreement was brought in, and is not required by the ordinance. If it needs to be in the ordinance, put it in. Don't just drop it on people. Ag Opportunities was supposed to keep their zoning, but instead the motion was to deny the request until they could change the ordinance.

Gray-Lobe asked if it would have been a better outcome if they had followed the rules. It sounds to him like an argument for JJZA rather than getting out. Mockler said they brought it up in that time, and it didn't matter. He doesn't want to be part of that. He doesn't have to like the rules, but they are there to be followed. Dominguez said the annexation agreement is in statute. It doesn't have to be in the zoning ordinance. The JJZA was adopted by all bodies. The County hasn't followed the ordinance either. The County put conditions on the rezone for Hovden. Mockler asked what conditions. Dominguez said it was limited to single family with slab on grade.

Mockler asked why we didn't give Ag Opportunities the original zoning. Dominguez said they had to change it because it didn't exist. Mockler said, according to the ordinance, it shouldn't have happened. Dominguez said they would have had to adopt another zoning district.

Cole asked if staff conferred with legal counsel regarding the annexation agreement. Dominguez said yes. Jennewein said it was not a conditional use. The previous topic demonstrates how residents both in and out of the city have something to say in and out of the JJZA. Residents benefit from both. It would be detrimental to those residents. If the challenge is 3 different zoning rules, she asked, can they follow one or the other for the JJZA? Discontinuing the agreement is not a good idea for anyone.

Council Member Holland said it is complex. Council Member Leber said there have been some benefits, so he asked if it is broken beyond repair, or can they make changes? Thiesse asked what are the County's benefits? Cole said the benefit is a voice at the table. He knows county residents have said it is unfair that the City can make decisions where they live because they don't get to vote for City Council, but they do get to vote for County Commissioners. So now they do have a voice at the table. Without the JJZA, the City would have more authority. He looks at it as a marriage, and throughout a marriage you will have fights and arguments, maybe even counseling. He thinks it's worth a discussion to work through it. Price said what is in it for the County is the citizens who live in the JJZA who are represented by the County. Lots of things have changed since it was created. It would be valuable to go through it, rework it, and figure out the broken things.

Mockler asked if a citizen is out there in the JJZA, and they want to do something, and the County is in favor of it, but the City says no, what is their recourse? Price said if there were no JJZA, there would have been no input from the County. Mockler asked what good it does if the City killed it anyway. The citizen cannot vote for City Council. Price said the opposite is also true. The County can stop something the City is in favor of. Cole said the city citizens are also the county citizens. Hellwege said the point is all the people in the audience, so the residents can come to the table. That's why the mess is worth it. Mockler said they can still come here. Hellwege said she is elected by the city residents, not by the county residents. Mockler said he would hope the City Council would listen to their concerns as much as a city resident. Gray-

Lobe said if someone comes from Yankton County, he will listen to them, but his constituents carry more weight. He thinks it's false to think about the questions as black & white. The reason is to facilitate discussion. Right now, there is a robust process in place that they need to make better.

Thiesse asked, has the JJZA affected anyone that wanted to come into Clay County, positive or negative? Gunderson said he doesn't think it has been a red carpet for anyone coming in.

Brady cited the fairgrounds potentially moving and said the Dakota Prairie housing development will be in JJZA also. He doesn't think JJZA is broken beyond repair. He understands the problem of not following the rules, but it needs to be discussed civilly. He doesn't want to lose the County's voice, and that is where he stands at this point.

Cindy Aden said the biggest problem she always had as a previous Zoning Administrator is there is no recourse for the applicant beyond a lawsuit. If they want to keep the JJZA, that has to be addressed. She said many times she told people, we can do this, but the City will say no. If they cannot fix that, she doesn't see any way to keep it together. Dominguez discussed appeals and said there is a recourse. Cole said it would be the same process as they heard tonight. Jennewein asked if there is an appeal process in state law. She said she is a little concerned when she hears people say, "The city will say no," or "The County will say no." They don't know what another body will say. Dominguez said there is an appeal process.

Brady asked if there is any way in between. Thiesse said Brookings County has a Board of Adjustment that has 3 council members and 2 commissioners. Hellwege said the majority is inside the 1 mile radius. There would be no difference by removing the JJZA. If they wanted to consider a body to handle appeals, the weight should be in favor of the City inside of 1 mile and in favor of the County outside of a mile. Gray-Lobe said the Board of Adjustment has to be a majority vote.

Cole said they came to the table discussing whether or not the JJZA should be dissolved. He is watching both bodies come to a compromise on how to fix issues. He asked if they need to continue to discuss dissolution, or do they just need to fix issues?

Gilbertson referred to the green line, the border of 3 miles and asked State's Attorney Michael Smith about it. Smith said it is in statute and there is an attorney general opinion. It is accurate for jurisdictional boundaries. Dominguez said it is in state statute. It can be that far out if the council decides it. Smith discussed the law pertaining to a subdivision ordinance. Dominguez said when the JJZA was initially adopted, the City had the 3-mile subdivision ordinance because they were not even aware the County had a subdivision ordinance. They stopped their ordinance at that time.

Kevin O'Kelley said they make better decisions if Aden or Gunderson are at the table, so he requested them to be there.

Leber asked for a vote as it seems like they are talking about the same thing over and over. Cole said if it is dissolved, how do they do that? The ordinance doesn't have a termination clause.



Dominguez said it can be one body choosing to withdraw. Cole said he thinks it's clear to the citizens what is wanted.

Gray-Lobe moved to ask both the City and County Planning Commissions to work jointly to identify concerns, elaborate on them, and take the next 6 months to see if they can find a resolution to the issues that is to the satisfaction of both bodies, and get clarity on a timeline for exiting the JJZA in the meantime. The motion was seconded by Brady. Under discussion, Mockler said they have had the same conversations. He has been on the Board since the adoption of the JJZA. They knew it was broken, and they keep saying let's talk about it, and here they are again. He doesn't see it working like it was intended. Council Member Thaler suggested they stay in the agreement and take 6 months. Cole asked if 6 months is too much or not enough. Mockler said he would be amazed if they had 3 meetings in the next 6 months because it is difficult to get everyone together. If they are going to do the 6 months, something better happen. Brady said he would like to see the discussion and give it a chance. He knows it is not beyond repair. Jennewein said they can have a smaller committee. Price clarified the motion was to have the Planning Commissions handle it. Gray-Lobe said maybe SECOG can help find other models that work less contentiously. Gilbertson said he hopes everyone understands their seriousness. He knows a lot of the past problems, and they don't take it lightly. He thinks they should reserve the right to exit moving forward. Thiesse said, speaking of the Comprehensive Plan, there are supposed to be 2 Commissioners on the committee, and there has only been one. Hammond is not on the Commission anymore, and no one has contacted him as the replacement. Dominguez said they are still working on it, and SECOG is to help. Dominguez said the County is supposed to have 3 people. Gunderson said there is one from the Commission and two from the Planning Commission. Mockler said don't waste time on the Comprehensive Plan until other issues are figured out. There was discussion regarding the timeframe for resolving problems vs. dissolution. Roll call vote of the Board: Gilbertson Aye, Gray-Lobe Aye, Thiesse Nay, Brady Aye, Mockler Nay. Motion passed.

It was discussed that 6 months from now is October 15<sup>th</sup>.

At 7:13 p.m., Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thiesse and unanimously carried to adjourn.



Travis Mockler, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:



Carri R. Crum, County Auditor

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April 29, 2025

The Board of County Commissioners met in special session Tuesday, April 29, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Clay County Courthouse, 211 W. Main St., Vermillion, SD. Members present: Kevin Brady, Glen Gilbertson, Geoffrey Gray-Lobe, and Travis Mockler; David Thiesse was absent.

Chairman Mockler called the meeting to order and asked for a declaration of any conflicts of interest regarding agenda items.

Brady moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to approve the agenda with the addition of another individual eligible for the Veterans Exemption per SDCL 10-4-40 & 10-4-41 under Equalization Boards.

Minutes of the April 15, 2025 County Commission, County Equalization Board, Consolidated Equalization Board, and April 15, 2025 Joint Meeting with the City of Vermillion City Council were amended and approved with a motion by Gray-Lobe, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried.

Robin Schiro appeared as a Visitor to be Heard to voice concerns about protection order applications she filed with the SD Unified Judicial System in Clay and Union Counties.

Emergency Management Director Layne Stewart met with the Board to present the SLA Quarterly Activity Report. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to approve the report and authorize the Chairman to sign it.

Stewart presented an update to the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan to include bridge abutments that need repairs. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to approve and adopt the update.

Brady moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to add Noah Westergaard as a UAS Drone Pilot.

Highway Superintendent Brent Hays met with the Board to present fuel quotes. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to accept the low bid of \$2.45/gallon from Brunick's Service.

The Board reviewed Right-of-Way Applications from Bluepeak in the Wakonda HUB Area on 302 St., 455 Ave. and 299 St., and in the Alsen HUB Area along Greenfield Rd. and 309 St. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to approve the applications and authorize the Chairman to sign them.

The Board reviewed easement documents for Voluntary Right-of-Way Donation from Weeg Family Farms and Todd & Gail Christensen. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to approve the two Voluntary Right-of-Way Donation documents and authorize the Chairman to sign them.

Brady moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to approve the following claims for payment.

Regarding the FLAP Grant, Gray-Lobe reported that Jill Locken from Federal Highway said the grant funds can now be transferred to the State. He said funds do not need to be used prior to the end of the fiscal year. He doesn't feel comfortable proceeding until the State has the funds. Gray-Lobe said he reviewed the RFP language, and it is flexible. The letter that was sent to proposers told them it may be revisited. He would like to request a transfer of funds and reach out to the proposers to allow them to revise deadlines. Gilbertson said he is not interested. Brady said he would be interested. He has been contacted by constituents who are in favor of the project. Mockler and Gilbertson said they have not heard from people who live out there and want it. Gray-Lobe said 90% of people at the public meeting who left comments were for it. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady to table the matter until the next meeting. Vote of the Board: 2 ayes, 2 nays; motion failed. Gilbertson said he looked up minutes from a year ago February, and it was said to be a want, not a need. It's still federal taxpayer dollars. The bike trail is not safe. Brady said Gilbertson's focus seems to be the bike path, but there is more to it. He spoke about the potential kayak launch. Gray-Lobe reviewed the 4 potential projects that would be studied. He said he is excited about using non-County dollars to explore ways to improve Clay County Park. There is no interest in eminent domain. He can't personally see a design for a bike route, but maybe an engineer can. Gilbertson said there is no way to make it safe. Brady said nothing is perfectly safe, so the key word is "safer." He thinks there are other options in the study. Gray-Lobe acknowledged that the 2 existing boat launches are the key items. The Board may direct engineers to focus on the most feasible options. Mockler and Gilbertson both raised concerns about the County fronting the money and having to apply for reimbursement. Gray-Lobe said the State is excited about this. Mockler and Gray-Lobe discussed ownership of Clay County Park. Mockler said the launches are on state property, and 452 Ave. is closed. Gray-Lobe said he has had to fight harder than expected to get a 100% grant and worked 2 years on it. There was a robust public meeting with a lot of input. He expressed frustration. Some of the funds can be used for the County portion of Clay County Park, and he would hope it can be considered as a whole. The State is impressed with the partnership thus far. He discussed improvements that have been made by the Park Board with no County funds. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady to table the matter until the next meeting. Vote of the Board: 2 ayes, 2 nays; motion failed. Gray-Lobe said he would like to consider the topic with input from the full Commission. He would like to do real work to see what can and can't be done for the potential projects. Mockler asked, if the matter is considered by the entire Commission when Commissioner Thiesse can be present, would that be resolution enough, and Gray-Lobe indicated that was favorable. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady to table the matter until the next meeting. Vote of the Board: Mockler Aye, Gray-Lobe Aye, Brady Aye, Gilbertson Nay; motion passed.

At 9:37 a.m., Brady moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to adjourn and convene as Clay County Ditch Board.

A public bid opening was held for the Clay Creek Ditch Project. Bids were opened and read aloud. Persing Backhoe Service bid \$321,000, Pollman Excavation bid \$156,300, Feimer Construction bid \$462,000, and Weiman Construction bid \$41,042. Ulteig Engineering will

review the bids to ensure they meet specifications and return at the next meeting for the Board to award the bid.

The Board considered invoices from Ulteig for work performed on Clay Creek Ditch in the amount of \$1,232.50 for the FEMA H&H work and \$1,776.25 for the Clean Out Project. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to approve payment of the invoices.

At 9:42 a.m., Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to adjourn and reconvene as Board of Clay County Commissioners.

Director of Equalization Lennea Olson presented Abatement Application #CONF 2 for a veterans exemption. State's Attorney Michael Smith reviewed the law with the Board. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to approve a partial abatement for 5 months per the individual's disability date.

At 9:47 a.m., Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to adjourn as Board of Clay County Commissioners and reconvene as the County Board of Equalization.

Members present: Kevin Brady, Glen Gilbertson, Geoffrey Gray-Lobe, and Travis Mockler. Others present: Auditor Carri Crum, Director of Equalization Lennea Olson, Deputy Director of Equalization Melissa Brown, State's Attorney Michael Smith, and Unlicensed Deputy State's Attorney Cameron Morgan.

Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried to instruct the Director of Equalization to make adjustment for the addition of another individual eligible for the Veterans Exemption per SDCL 10-4-40 & 10-4-41.

Appeal #2025-18 – Farron G. & Michelle Pratt (11000-09252-143-04) The Director's 2025 total value is \$756,147. Gilbertson moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to accept the Director's value.

At 10:16 a.m., Brady moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to adjourn the County Board of Equalization and reconvene the Consolidated Board of Equalization.

Members present: Kevin Brady, Glen Gilbertson, Geoffrey Gray-Lobe, Travis Mockler, Richard Holland, Jon Cole, and Jay Thaler. Others present: Auditor Carri Crum, Director of Equalization Lennea Olson, Deputy Director of Equalization Melissa Brown, State's Attorney Michael Smith, and Unlicensed Deputy State's Attorney Cameron Morgan.

Appeal #2025-01 – James B. Neal (15340-00300-250-00) The Director's 2025 total value is \$177,778. Brady moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to accept the Director's value.

Appeal #2025-07 – Three Sisters LLC (15186-00100-010-00) The Director recommended lowering the structure value from \$260,606 to \$213,834 due to changing the commercial occupancy. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to accept the Director's recommended value.

Appeal #2025-08 – Gregg M. & Nicole A. Peters (15880-09252-130-26) Thaler moved, seconded by Gilbertson to set the value of the new addition at \$365,550. Upon further discussion, Thaler amended his motion to set the value of the new addition at \$198,832 and change the abstract class from NA-D1 to NA-DC2, seconded by Brady and unanimously carried.

At 11:46 a.m., Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Thaler and unanimously carried to adjourn the Consolidated Board of Equalization and reconvene as Board of Clay County Commissioners.

Smith presented three County burials. He discussed SDCL 7-16-4 and also reported he will be utilizing a new application form. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to approve Welfare Cases #CW25-003, #CW25-004, and #CW25-005 as the individuals met current welfare guidelines.

Facilities Manager Scott Hanson met with the Board to report on the RFQ process for the remodeling of the current Safety Center and the court security project. The RFQ will go out for qualifications, and they will be scored by the committee. Then there will be an RFP process to follow. The RFQ requires a budget limit. Smith discussed ensuring that the court area is not out of commission for long periods of time. The Board discussed how the projects may be funded. The court security project is to be funded with grant money and a 20% match by the County. Smith suggested splitting the projects in a way that they can be completed independently of each other if one becomes not feasible. Hanson discussed where to end the specifications as an old building often creates more work than anticipated. Mockler discussed splitting it into 3 projects. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to set the budget at \$600,000 for the Safety Center and \$315,000 for the court security project.

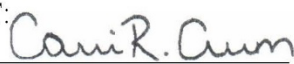
Mockler reported that they would like to add an employee parking lot at the new jail and law enforcement center between the garage and the jail space. It is within budget at \$130,000. Gray-Lobe moved, seconded by Gilbertson and unanimously carried to approve the expenditure.

It was reported that there will be a Clay County Youth Trust Fund meeting May 12<sup>th</sup>, and there was a UAS Drone Committee meeting with nothing notable to report.

At 12:26 p.m., Brady moved, seconded by Gray-Lobe and unanimously carried to adjourn and reconvene Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.



Travis Mockler, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:   
Carri R. Crum, County Auditor

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