

ZIEBACH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

July 22, 2025

The Ziebach County Commissioners met in special session at 2:00 PM with Rick Farlee, Bill Henderson, Shane Farlee, Dave Pesicka, and Tucker Stocklin present. Chairman Rick Farlee called the meeting to order.

OLD BUSINESS: The Board discussed the surplus gravel at the Bear Creek Pit. After discussion with the State's Attorney and some additional research, they found that according to law, the gravel can only be purchased by residence of the county. The current rate of the gravel is \$2.65/ton. The board contemplated raising the rate of the gravel. They will make a decision at the next meeting for the rate of the surplus gravel. If anyone is interested in purchasing the gravel, they must first contact the Auditor's office.

NEW BUSINESS: Along the lines of the surplus gravel, the Rodeo Committee requested 10 loads of the Bear Creek Gravel for the Rodeo Grounds. The board agreed to give the Rodeo Committee the requested gravel, up to 15 loads since it is for the betterment of the community. The Rodeo Committee will have to haul the gravel themselves, however.

AUDITOR POSITION & DRIVER'S LICENSING: With no current applicants for the auditor position, the Commission discussed the best way to operate the office until the position is filled. The board decided that the best plan of action is to have the Treasurer, Jessica Donovan, temporarily run the office. Olivia Dosch, the current auditor, offered to help train the Treasurer and whomever the new Auditor will be on an as needed basis, and as long as her schedule allows. She requested to be paid her current wage in an hourly rate to compensate for the training time. The hourly rate is equivalent to \$24.48/hr. The board agreed. With the Treasurer stepping in, she won't have as much available time to do Driver's licensing. She suggested that the commission hire another full time deputy to work part time in Driver's Licensing and part time in the Register of Deeds office. She also suggested hiring a full time Deputy in the Auditors

office to assist the full time Auditor. The Treasurer also requested that she be compensated for the extra work load by receiving half of the Auditor pay until the position is filled. The board decided to proceed with this plan. Commissioner Shane Farlee motioned to advertise for a full time Auditor, a full time Deputy Auditor, and a full time position for the Deputy Register of Deeds and Driver's Licensing. Seconded by Commissioner Bill Henderson. All aye, motion carried. Commissioner Dave Pesicka motioned to hire Jessica Donovan as the temporary auditor at the monthly rate of \$6,366.24 beginning on the August payroll until the position is filled. Seconded by Commissioner Tucker Stocklin, all aye, motion carried.

PRAIRIE DOG LETTER: The board received a letter on July 10th requesting an extension for the extermination of the prairie dogs in order to protect the Bald Eagles that live on the land. Comm. Stocklin has been in touch with Jeremiah Phelps to discuss options on how to proceed. Comm. S. Farlee motioned to have the State's Attorney write a letter requesting an action plan by September 1st, with treatment by November 1st, 2025. Seconded by Comm. Henderson, all aye. Motion carried.

MOTOR GRADERS: The Chairman has been in discussion with the bank on financing options for purchasing two new motor graders. At the current financing rate, the yearly payments would be over \$100,000, which the county would not be able to afford in the 2026 budget. The board discussed a seven year financing option which would reduce the payments to approximately \$70,000 per year, which is more affordable for the county. The auditor will reevaluate the budget and notify the board at the August meeting.

FUTURE GRAVEL MINING: The board discussed how they would like to proceed with gravel mining in the near future. There is \$240,000 budgeted for mining for 2026. They talked about what it would take to begin testing and possible locations for pits. They also discussed the possibility of purchasing gravel on an as needed basis from existing pits.

ADJOURNMENT: As there was no further business before the Board, Comm. Shane Farlee moved to adjourn at 3:38 PM, seconded by Comm. Pesicka, all voted aye, meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

Rick Farlee, Chairman

Olivia Dosch, Auditor

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