

**RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 22, 2013**

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met on January 22, 2013 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Sid Berg, Tim Campbell, Jason Heitkamp, Perry Miller and Dan Thompson. Also present were Administration Personnel Bailey and DeVal; State s Attorney McBeth, and a Daily News Reporter.

JILL BREUER - HANKINSON TOWER

Others in attendance were Sheriff Leshovsky and Emergency Manager Lambrecht.

Breuer reported Homeland Security Grant Funds were received in the amount of \$91,152 and at the October 1st Commission meeting, the Board approved Option 2 which consisted of a new Barney Tower, moving the existing Barney Tower to Hankinson, and a PreFab Building for equipment. Since that time options/locations have been looked at taking into consideration a back-up generator, security, power, height of the tower, environmental s, etc.

Breuer presented a recommendation that included:

- new free standing tower at Hankinson and Barney
- no prefab building in Barney
- build a room in the existing Barney Shop
- removal and trade-in of old Barney Tower

The above recommendation would leave the County responsible for a total of \$64,388. We included \$40,000 in the budget, so would need an additional \$22,496.

The Board discussed where the additional funds would come from, Bailey said the funds could be transferred from the General Fund.

A motion was made by Berg to approve an expenditure of \$22,496 and the recommendation from Breuer; motion seconded by Heitkamp. Vote was unanimous.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway personnel in attendance were Tim Schulte and Lowell Bladow. Representatives from Butler and RDO Equipment were also in attendance.

Motor Grader Bid Award - Bids for a new motor grader were opened on December 17, 2012. The advisory committee met last week to discuss the bids and it was the consensus that this discussion take place at the Commission level since the decision will come down to the full Board.

Lengthy discussion followed.

A motion was made by Campbell to lease the 2012 CAT 140M2 AWD; motion seconded by Heitkamp. Voting NO were Thompson, Berg and Miller. The motion failed.

A motion was made by Miller to lease the 2012 JD 772GP; motion seconded by Berg. Voting NO were Campbell and Heitkamp. The remainder voted Yes and the motion carried.

State s Attorney McBeth left the meeting at this time. 8:55 A.M.

Highway Department Restructuring - Harlan Bladow s retirement has given the department an opportunity to determine if changes could be made to improve the department. Schulte presented a proposed organizational chart. The new chart would require the creation of an Assistant Engineer and a Bridge Supervisor position. The Road Foreman position has already been created. The job descriptions would be reviewed and classified by our HR consultant. At the advisory meeting it was agreed that Lowell Bladow should be brought up to Harlan s rate of pay Grade 18, Step 9, retroactive to last September.

Discussion followed and included:

- the normal County promotion/procedure policy
- moving Lowell to a Grade 18, Step 9 salary only on an interim basis, (until the Bridge Supervisor position is filled)
- Promoting Lowell to the Assistant Engineer s Step/Grade, (Bailey informed Lowell this position would likely come back from the HR Consultant at a higher Grade/Step than the Bridge Foreman position he currently holds; but would likely be at a lower pay rate than the Grade 18, Step 9 that is being proposed on an interim basis.)

Following lengthy discussion a motion was made by Berg to move Lowell Bladow to a Grade 18, Step 9 (retroactive to September 2012) on an interim

basis; motion seconded by Miller. Vote was unanimous.

Legislative Bills - We are currently tracking bills that may affect the Highway Department: SB2012, SB2176, SB2025, HB1121, HB1139 and HB1144.

In other business -

Berg commented that he was getting some calls on the intersection at Christine and Hwy 81. He asked if a 4-Way Stop could be looked at.

Schulte replied we have reduced the speed limit and put up flashing lights; he expressed concerns that a 4-Way stop may actually cause more accidents and it would be the only Stop on Highway 81 between Wahpeton and Fargo. He suggested more enforcement and that the intersection needs to be reconstructed.

Berg commented that flashing Red Stop Signs seem to be effective and suggested the County be adding one or two a year. Schulte said he can target areas where we have had accidents.

Upcoming Highway Meetings

1/23-25	NDACE Annual Conference, Bismarck
1/31	Advisory Meeting
2/4	County Board Meeting

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter from NDDOT re- Traffic Counts
- Letter from ND Dept of Corrections re- Richland County Jail Inspections

UPCOMING MEETINGS

February

4	Commission Meeting
19	Commission Meeting

March

4	Commission Meeting
18	Commission Meeting

Being there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 A.M.

ATTEST: _____ CHAIRPERSON
Harris Bailey Dan Thompson
Auditor/Administrator Board of Richland County Commissioners