

**RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MAY 17, 2016**

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met on May 17, 2016 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Sid Berg, Nathan Berseth, Tim Campbell, Rollie Ehler and Dan Thompson. Others in attendance were Administration Personnel Bailey and DelVal; State's Attorney McBeth and a Daily News Reporter. Visitors DelWayne Hoefs, and Colleen and Rick Konwinski attended a portion of the meeting.

A motion was made by Berg to amend the Meeting Agenda for today and add a Special Recognition Award at 9:30 A.M.; motion seconded by Berseth. Vote was unanimous.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT**

House Fire - A house in Wahpeton was destroyed by fire on May 16. A family of five has been displaced but there were no injuries. American Red Cross provided assistance to the family.

Drowning of NDSCS Student - The Richland County Dive Team, Wahpeton Fire Dept, Wahpeton Police Dept, Richland County Sheriff Dept, Breckenridge Fire Dept, Breckenridge Police Dept and the Wilkin County Sheriff Dept all assisted with the call on May 6.

FEMA Projects - Applied for permits from the Army Corps, State Water Commission and US Fish & Wildlife Agency on May 6; waiting on closeout requests on County Projects and Elma, Grant, Duerr, Homestead, Liberty Grove and Moran Townships.

Haz Mat Training - Training is scheduled for July 13 in Hankinson on Common Spills and Farm Accidents.

**MISC/CORRESPONDENCE**

- Minnesota Dept of Natural Resources Final Environmental Impact Statement for proposed flood diversion project

A motion was made by Berseth to approve a Temporary Liquor License for Lidgerwood Bar & Lounge for an Event July 15-17; motion seconded by Berg. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Berg to approve a Temporary Liquor License for Brewzers, Walcott for an Event June 11-12, pending Township Approval; motion seconded by Thompson. Vote was unanimous.

Bailey distributed an Article from the ND Assn of Counties Newsletter - County Auditors in Need of Election Workers. Bailey reported he is still short one poll worker for the Christine Area.

### **EXPANDING BUSINESS EXEMPTION**

T & G Sanitation Inc, Hankinson - Applicant is requesting a 5-year, 100% property tax exemption for expansion of an existing business. Owner Charles Loll was present.

Fossum explained they are going to build outside of Hankinson in Brightwood Township.

Following discussion a motion was made by Berseth to approve a 5 year, 100% property tax exemption; motion seconded by Thompson. Voting NO was Berg, the remainder voted Yes and the motion carried.

### **MISC/CORRESPONDENCE**

County Agent Konwinski - Thompson reported he was contacted by Attorney Michelle Donarski, this past week, who was hired by NDSU. At the conclusion of the phone conversation, Thompson felt that NDSU seems to think the County is OK with the situation and termination of Colleen Konwinski.

Commissioners Campbell and Berg reported they also received calls.

Thompson suggested a letter be sent to NDSU stating the Boards position on the termination and that NDSU did not follow the procedures outlined in Century Code - the Board of Commissioners never met jointly with the Extension Service to review allegations nor to discuss her termination.

At this time the Board moved onto Scheduled Appointments - discussion continued later in the meeting.

## **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

Highway Personnel in attendance were Lowell Bladow, Ron Hohenstern and Moriah Herding.

HB 1176 Projects - A pre-construction conference was held May 5 with Central Specialties. Plan to move the hot mix plant this week and may start paving. Will start on CH#21 from Hwy 11 out to the gravel pits and then move on to CH#3 & CH#19.

Additional Federal Funding - Additional funding may be available for projects to be bid in Oct/Nov bid openings. Our current balance is \$0 with an annual allotment of \$335,000 per year; we can borrow ahead up to three years if the project is approved. To qualify, the project needs to be on a CMC route on the federal aid system.

Bladow reported asphalt prices are low at this time so an additional project could be identified for an Oct/Nov bid letting, however funds would need to be looked at first.

Bailey stated that the general fund balance is looking good but he also recommended getting a better handle on projects. There is no definite cut-off for projects; when we budget, charges from the prior year carry-over into the next years budget.

Arlan Willprecht - Drainage Concerns North of Colfax - Willprecht asked the Board if they would assist him with drainage; he is the lowest quarter in the section.

Discussion was held about lowering culverts, increasing the size of culverts, ditch cleaning, approval from downstream landowners, and the responsibility for the costs involved.

Willprecht reported he had not spoken with his neighbors or gotten their approval to make any changes, but he would be willing to. Berseth stated he would work with Willprecht.

Culvert through CH#1 - Berseth reported he received a call from Mark Yaggie Farms; they would like to bore through Co Rd 1, south of Co Rd 4 and install a new culvert.

Bladow recommended that they submit an application to the Highway Department; Bladow also stated a hydraulic study would need to be done to see if it warrants a new culvert and that they should also contact the downstream landowners.

**MAYOR HANSEY, CITY OF WAHPETON - LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER LEASE**

Mayor Hansey notified the Commission of the City's intent to vacate the Law Enforcement Center and terminate the Lease Agreement effective December 31, 2016.

Hansey reported the city is in the process of planning a new location for the Wahpeton Police Department and requested that the County allow the direct dial phone numbers, (9) currently assigned to the Police Department, remain assigned to the Police Department from the County block of numbers.

Discussion followed on the request to retain phone numbers from the County Block. Ehlert will do some further research before the Board makes a decision on their request to retain the numbers.

**MISC/CORRESPONDENCE continued**


County Agent Konwinski continued - Discussion continued from earlier in the meeting. Thompson stated at the April 5 meeting, the full Board expressed their disapproval of what happened - the decision to terminate was made by NDSU and the proper procedure was not done.

Following discussion a motion was made by Thompson to direct the State's Attorney to send a letter to NDSU stating the Board disapproved of the termination of Konwinski and violated state statute in doing so; motion seconded by Ehlert. Vote was unanimous.

**SHERIFF LSHOVSKY - AWARD PRESENTATION**

Sheriff Leshovsky presented a Special Recognition Award to a Group from the Fairmount First Responders. This group performed CPR and used an AED Device on March 29 to save the life of a heart attack victim who is expected to make a full recovery.

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

ATTEST:   
Harris Bailey  
Auditor/Administrator

 CHAIRPERSON  
Tim Campbell  
Board of Richland County Commissioners