

RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 21, 2016

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met on June 21, 2016 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Sid Berg, Nathan Berseth, Tim Campbell, Rollie Ehlert and Dan Thompson. Others in attendance were Administration Personnel DeVal; State's Attorney McBeth and a Daily News Reporter.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

FEMA Projects - Received request for more information for the Duerr Township Project and Richland County Projects from the original appeal, will be sending a letter with the information requested.

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 13th in Hankinson and for July 20th in Colfax.

Training & Exercise Plan - Finishing work to submit 3 year plan for Richland County to the ND Dept of Emergency Services.

Security Committee - The Security Committee has requested the east and west side doors on the lower level of the Courthouse be locked at all times with the only entrance to the public being the north or south doors.

The Board discussed security concerns. The Board had no objections to the east and west doors of the courthouse being locked with the only entrance to the public being the north and south doors.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by Berg to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented; motion seconded by Thompson. Vote was unanimous.

Hage reported the Foreclosure Notification will be published in the newspaper, the Certified Letters and Sheriff Notifications are done.

DEBRA REYNOLDS - DUI COURT UPDATE

Reynolds reported on the following:

- Reynolds began the position in February
- Currently there are two participants in the program
- Fees and criteria for the program were explained
- Participants are required to attend programs, attend court, and have sponsors
- Treatment Program options were explained
- Participants graduate through (4) phases
- Participants get surprise home visits and monitoring as well as random drug and alcohol testing

The two participants will be graduating in October, they are both in their early 30's, with families, limited driving privileges, and working. Without this program they would both likely be spending time in Bismarck because of multiple DUI's.

Judge Cruff has applied for grant funds for the Program, however the Program will not be taking any new applicants until they are sure funding will be there.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Personnel in attendance were Lowell Bladow and Moriah Herding. Also attending were Damon DeVillers and Jesse Sedler from Interstate Engineering.

HB 1176 Projects - Interstate Engineering has tabulated the bids received at the June 7 meeting. The low bid was Mark Sand & Gravel.

- Base Bid for Co Rd 1 - from CH#16 to State Hwy #13 (7 miles) - \$1,004,158.00
- Alternate Bids for 1-1/2 inch maintenance overlays
 - Co Rd 1 from Hwy 11 south (5.25 miles) and Co Rd #21 (1 mile) - \$504,065.27
 - Co Rd 81 from CH#22 north (3 miles) - \$303,111.29
 - Co Rd 23 from Hwy 46 south (4 miles) - \$535,130.18

The Alternate Bids do not include chip seal. Auditor Bailey attended the last Advisory Meeting and stated the County could financially handle it. The Board briefly discussed a long term strategy for projects. Campbell suggested a tour of structures and roads this fall.

A motion was made by Berseth to approve the base bid and all alternate bids from Mark Sand & Gravel; motion seconded by Ehlert. Vote was unanimous.

SB 2103 Projects - CH #1 and CH #3 Projects have been sealed and striped. CH# 21 & CH#19 will be done as soon as material is available.

Seal Coat Projects - Requesting authorization to advertise for bids for seal coating Co Rd #8 to Brushvale Bridge. A motion was made by Ehler to authorize the Highway Dept to advertise for bids for seal coating CR # 8 to the Brushvale Bridge; motion seconded by Thompson. Vote was unanimous.

RePlay Agricultural Oil Seal - Co Rd #2N from CH#81 to Red River (2.8 miles). A quote was received for \$53,222.40 for a new product to take the place of chip seal, it is a spray on clear chemical that goes right over the existing striping. A motion was made by Thompson to accept the quote from RePlay Agricultural Oil Seal for Co Rd #2N (2.8 miles); motion seconded by Berg. Vote was unanimous.

Other Department Matters -

- Started work on bridge near Richland Church

JOHN ANDERSON - AIR SYSTEM/MARTIN MECHANICAL

Brian Martin and John Foss from Martin Mechanical and Geoff Bosse and Mark Wolle from Honeywell met with the Board.

Representatives from Martin Mechanical reported on buildings and projects they have worked on. What they can do for the County will improve the environment, building and structure; ventilation and humidity issues will be resolved.

Geoff Bosse from Honeywell distributed a letter of intent for the design and engineering.

Discussion followed, the consensus of the Board was they were not ready to sign a letter of intent today - it is a 2-1/2 million dollar project; they need to have a good understanding and prioritize before rushing into anything.

Ehler said he would like to visit with a local manager for NDSCS to see what was done with a similar project locally.

The Board was in agreement to doing some further research and not taking any action on the Letter of Intent at this time; they will plan to meet with Honeywell reps again in August.

WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Red River Joint Water Resource District - The Richland County Commission received a request for 2 mills from the member Water Resource Districts to finance the Red River Joint Water Resource District for 2017. The Commission will consider the request in July at budget time.

Expenses for Diversion Opposition - The Water Board requested assurance that expenses they incur will be covered for their opposition to the taking of Richland County land by the Cass County WRD through eminent domain proceedings. The Water Resource District has incurred legal expenses as well as some engineering expenses and is not in a position to cover these costs. A bill in the amount of \$6761.15 was submitted to the Richland County Administration Office for costs incurred to date for these expenses.

No action was taken by the Commission pending input from Finance Director Bailey.

Quick-Take - Attorney Sean Fredricks testified at the Water Topics Committee meeting this past week on the subject of Quick-Take for Water Resource Districts.

Richland-Wilkin JPA Lawsuit - Berseth updated on the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals decision.

Tri County WRD Reconstruction Project - Work will proceed after July 1st.

Drain 2 Reconstruction Extension - The Water Board is waiting to hear from the Contractor about their start date.

DEB FLACK - ANNUAL REPORT FOR HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Flack distributed the Annual Report and highlighted on the following:

- a new "Home Alone Class" is being offered
- the Department received the "Most Improved Immunization Rate" award
- Plus Optix vision screenings will be offered to DayCare Centers
- petitions are circulating for an increase in cigarette tax (the Health Dept is not involved)
- square foot gardens through the worksite wellness project
- purchased second Jeep Cherokee to reduce travel costs
- revenue summary
- the Department is fully staffed

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

A motion was made by Berseth to appoint Daryl Eberhardt to the Wahpeton Planning Commission, representing Dwight Township; motion seconded by Thompson. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Berg to approve a Raffle Permit Application for the Wahpeton FFA Alumni Association; motion seconded by Thompson. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Thompson to approve Temporary Liquor License Applications for the Black Pelican for Events at the Bagg Bonanza Farm July 9-10 and July 30-31; motion seconded by Campbell. Vote was unanimous. The portfolio Commissioner was encouraged to follow-up with the Sheriff regarding security concerns.

RON WIEDERHOLT - NDSU EXTENSION STAFFING

A large group of visitors joined the meeting at this time.

Campbell reported Wiederholt was invited to the meeting today regarding concerns from the Public and the Commission.

Wiederholt stated he appreciated the Commissioners pro-active invitation to be here today. Typically when there is an opening they come to the County to ask the Commission for a motion to re-fill the position and move forward with the process. If it is the Commission's recommendation to move forward, NDSU could advertise for a new agent late in the week of June 27th, following the legal length of 20 days for advertising, they would interview candidates late in July with a realistic start date of mid-August.

Thompson replied that NDSU broke state statute and are proceeding like nothing happened.

Wiederholt replied it has not been determined if they did or did not break statute; moving forward to help improve communication he will work with the Chair of the Commission as well as the portfolio Commissioner. To fill the vacant position, he will need a motion from the Commission to advertise and re-fill the position. NDSU will do the posting and advertising and ask a local interview committee and a County Commissioner or two to review and interview.

Ehlert expressed his frustrations with not having a Family Consumer Science Agent in the office and how that is affecting local youth.

Berseth also expressed his frustrations with the lack of communication and is apprehensive to move forward due to the last four months. He feels there is a need for the services but wondered if we would be in the same situation six months down the road again.

Senator Jim Dotzenrod stated he would like to get to the bottom of the situation. He asked for a meeting with NDSU but they referred him to an attorney instead. Typically all stakeholders in the situation are involved, there are discussions, and agreements among the parties of actions to be taken. The County Agent position is to serve the public and we had that, that's why he wanted to talk with NDSU but that hasn't happened, he was referred to an attorney instead.

Berseth stated he was opposed to filling the position until the situation is addressed and the whole office is reviewed or evaluated.

Campbell agreed with Ehlert and Berseth and added he did not want to lose good support staff in the office.

Berg stated this was not a job performance issue - there were support letters and a full room of local people in support of Colleen. If it had been handled per NDCC we could have resolved the problem. He disagrees with Berseth and thinks the position should be filled to start the process and go on - we know how it happened.

Campbell asked what the wishes of the Board were -

Ehlert asked Wiederholt to come back to the next Commission Meeting and present the Board with information on the interview committee and interview questions, a job description and potential means to evaluate the Extension Office.

Wiederholt said he was willing to move forward and will put together the information requested by the Board and e-mail it to Portfolio Commissioner Thompson and Chairman Campbell before the next meeting.

Campbell requested the information be e-mail to DeIVal for distribution to the entire Board.


UPCOMING MEETINGS

July

- 6 Commission Meeting (Changed from the 5th)
- 7 5-County Meeting in Dickey County
- 18 Richland County Park Board
- 19 Commission Meeting
- 20 JDA Board Meeting

Being there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 A.M.

ATTEST:



Harris Bailey
Auditor/Administrator



Tim Campbell
CHAIRPERSON
Board of Richland County Commissioners