

**COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
AUGUST 4, 2015**

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met on August 4, 2015 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Sid Berg, Nathan Berseth, Tim Campbell, Rollie Ehlert, and Dan Thompson. Others in attendance were Administration Personnel Bailey and DeVal; and States Attorney McBeth.

A motion was made by Campbell to approve the minutes of meetings July 7, July 21 and the Special Meeting on July 24; motion seconded by Thompson. Vote was unanimous.

**MISC/CORRESPONDENCE**

Campbell reported Red River & Western Railroad contacted the Highway Dept to discuss removal of a railroad track in Hankinson. The estimated project cost is \$10,000. The railroad would like the County and the City to participate in the cost and are requesting \$2500 from the County. A motion was made by Berseth to approve an expenditure of \$2500 for the Red River & Western Railroad Crossing in Hankinson; motion seconded by Campbell. Vote was unanimous.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A) Social Service - The Social Service Board met yesterday and discussed the budget.
- B) Buildings & Grounds Committee - No Report.
- C) Public Health - A meeting was held last week, it was the first meeting for newly appointed member Rick Jacobson.
- D) Job Development Board - The July meeting was held at the Crooked Lane Farm in Abercrombie. Applications have increased for loan requests.
- E) Weed Board - No Report.

F) Soils Committee - No Report.

G) Park Board - Bailey reported the Park Board is now part of the General Fund. McBeth reported that John Bullis is working on the easement for the Wildlife Club for property by Horseshoe Lake that will be run by the Park Board.

H) Administration - Busy with budgets. Jackie Babbitt has been hired as the new Deputy Recorder.

**MISC/CORRESPONDENCE continued**

Thompson reported that Brightwood Twsp may be interested in purchasing our 2009 Cat 140 M Motor Grader; we advertised it for sale in April but no bids were received. Campbell reported if an offer comes in, it will be brought to the full Board for consideration.

County Engineer Position - Thompson commented on the vacant County Engineer Position - we have advertised, but the position is still vacant; he also commented on Lowell Bladow being in a temporary position for quite a while and handling two positions.

Discussion followed and included:

- using an employment agency/head hunter to find a candidate
- cost of hiring a County Engineer vs contracting with Interstate Engineering for services
- responsibility of daily duties without an Engineer
- how the County Salary for the position rates with the rest of the State
- will we be adding a Bridge Foreman Position to the budget?
- County Engineer position removed from the budget for next year?

Damon DeVillers of Interstate Engineering entered the meeting - 8:35 A.M.

-DeVillers stated the County Salary of \$90,000 is a fair salary to offer an Engineer; he also reported that there is a shortage of Engineers right now, ND and MN are struggling to fill positions.

Ehlert asked about co-oping with the City of Wahpeton or Ransom, Sargent counties. Bailey replied the city has a Public Works position, not an Engineer. Campbell replied that former Engineer Schulte did work for the city off and on and it did not work well with the Council and Commission deciding differently.

Berseth asked why the County had not previously entered into a contract with Interstate Engineering instead of all the ad hoc or per project jobs. Thompson

replied the County Engineer attends a lot of meetings and is constantly at someone's beckoning - besides doing Engineering work, so he feels that the County does need an Engineer.

Berg commented that a contract with Interstate Engineering may take some responsibility off of Bladow. Bladow could refer calls/concerns directly to Interstate Engineering so it may be worth taking a look into contracting with Interstate Engineering.

Colfax Project - Berg reported he requested a cost estimate from Interstate Engineering for the Colfax Project. DeVillers reported he will put the cost estimate together and report back to the Board. Berg requested the Weed Board spray cattails along the ditch of this project.

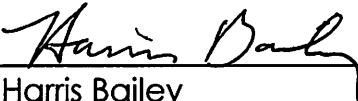
SB 1176 - DeVillers reported the NDDOT meeting with the SE Counties was held on July 27 at the Cass County Shop. All of the projects we submitted were approved.

Hydraulic Studies - Berseth commented that the Board needs to discuss the costs for hydraulic studies on requests for replacement of culverts in County ROW. The Board needs to determine whether the costs will be assessed to the landowners or absorbed by the County.

A motion was made by Campbell to approve the payment of bills; motion seconded by Berg. Vote was unanimous.

Being there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 A.M.

Reports Filed: Tax & Property Department - Revenue Voucher for June 2015.  
Sheriff Department - Revenue & Expenses and Civil Balance Sheet for June 2015.

ATTEST:   
Harris Bailey  
Auditor/Administrator

 CHAIRPERSON  
Sid Berg  
Board of Richland County Commissioners

The following claims were approved for July, 2015.

PAYROLL (inclusive)	
General	207,287.18
County Highway	80,713.97
Social Services	85,062.13
911 Communications	46,336.03
Drug Court	1,530.08
County Agent	4,502.75
Veterans Service	3,224.00
Weed Officer	2,592.00
Public Health Fund	63,935.10
SEMCA	9,116.06
JDA	675.00
<b>PAYROLL TOTAL</b>	<b>504,974.30</b>
EXPENSES: ** Refer to resolution records	
County General	233,831.98
County Highway	115,394.52
Bridge Repl Fund	4,980.40
15 Mill	26,994.98
Social Service	60,904.65
911 Communications	40,060.18
911 Wireless	2,397.24
Drug Court Fund	309.33
County Agent	4,492.02
Veterans Service	1,738.20
Weed Control Levy	52,223.84
Public Health	36,844.98
Haz Chem Fund	1,075.90
State Medical Levy	2,913.98
Game & Fish	13,477.00
FEMA Reimb	98,964.65
Garrison Div	3,560.22
Domestic Violence	280.00
Jail Concession	1,614.81
Sobriety Test Fund	1,010.00
County Park	13,439.28
SEMCA	57,512.08
JDA	29,472.89
ND State W/H Fund	11,700.85
Sr Citizens Fund	3,560.22
Historical Society	890.00
County Agent Special	118.19
Soil Conservation	3,560.22
Water Mngt Levy	14,240.93
Joint Water Resource	7,120.54
<b>EXPENSE TOTAL</b>	<b>836,584.08</b>
<b>TOTAL PAYROLL &amp; EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,341,558.38</b>

ATTEST: *Harris Bailey*  
Harris Bailey  
Auditor/Administrator

*Sid Berg* CHAIRPERSON  
Sid Berg  
Board of Richland County, Commissioners