

**RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2013**

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met on September 16, 2013 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Sid Berg, Tim Campbell, Jason Heitkamp and Dan Thompson. Commissioner Perry Miller was absent. Also present were Administration Personnel Bailey and DelVal; State's Attorney McBeth; and visitor Clarence Schutz.

**TREASURER'S OFFICE**

Hage distributed packets to each Board Member requesting they determine a minimum sale price on the foreclosure properties. There are 137 properties this year; 131 new properties and 6 from prior years.

**JUDGE CRUFF- DUI COURT**

Others in attendance were Heidi Arnholdt, Jason Weber, and Megan Kummer.

Judge Cruff presented a proposal for DUI Court. The mission is to rehabilitate and hold repeat alcohol and drug offenders accountable through an intensive court supervised regimen that effectively enhances public safety and preserves community resources.

They received a grant last fall; 7 team members received training to set up and train for DUI Court. Offenders would have intensive supervision and court every two weeks.

The position they are trying to fund would act as a probation officer. It would be a half time position; a phone and desk are available in the Law Library. The estimated cost is \$28,457- \$33,000.

This would be a one-time request for funding. The program would become self-sufficient and they hope to fund through Grants and Parole & Probation.

A motion was made by Heitkamp to approve the funding as requested to begin a DUI Court immediately; motion seconded by Campbell. Vote was unanimous.

## **DEB FLACK - WORKSITE WELLNESS GRANT**

The Health Department has been awarded the North Dakota Cancer Coalition Grant for \$5,000. The Goal is to improve the Health of Richland County employees with on-site wellness training. Flack requested a Letter of Support. A motion was made by Berg to approve a Letter of Support for the ND Cancer Coalition Grant; motion seconded by Campbell. Vote was unanimous.

In other business, Flack reported that Denise Biewer will be retiring in October.

## **MISC/CORRESPONDENCE**

- Sargent County will host the 5-County meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup>

## **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

Highway Personnel in attendance were Tim Schulte and Lowell Bladow.

HB1358 Regional Meeting - The Southeast and East Central regions met last week to approve projects submitted by each County. The process went very smoothly with each County presenting their projects. The two projects submitted by Richland County were approved and we can start the design process.

Advertising for Department Positions - We are accepting applications for two equipment operator positions until September 18 and hope to set up interviews for next week. The ad for the County Engineer position went to Job Service last week and we will be getting it out to some of the member associations and trade publications in North Dakota and Minnesota.

2014-2015 County Federal Aid Program - We have scheduled a meeting with Local Government for 9:20 A.M. on October 8<sup>th</sup> during the NDACo Annual Conference.

Certificate of Survey for the Galchutt Lot - The land sale ads started running this past weekend. Bids shall be received until 9:00 A.M. on October 1.

Mowing Notice - Mowing Notice is being published for the next three weeks.

In other business -

Barney Shop Tower - Thompson reported on the tower site for radio equipment. It will be set outside in a 2 x 6 frame on a cement slab with electrical heat. The cost is appx \$7,000. It is possible that the Weed Board could fund the project. A Weed Board meeting will be set up to discuss.

Upcoming Highway Meetings -

Sept 26 Road Advisory  
Oct 1 County Board Meeting  
Oct 1 Galchutt Land Sale Bid Opening 9 AM  
Oct 3 5-County Meeting  
Oct 6-10 NDACo Annual Conference  
Oct 8 Meeting with NDDOT Local Government 9:20 AM

**WATER RESOURCE BOARD**

Bridge on Drain 3 Replacement - No Problems with.

Thompson asked for a report on the Lauman Crossing. WRB Moffet replied the last correspondence received was they were going to try additional pipes in the bottom of it to increase flow.

Commissioner Heitkamp's letter requesting budget information - WRB Moffet commented on the letter received from Heitkamp.

- Regarding the Bank of NY Mellem. This is the bank Wells Fargo uses for pledging; it is not Water Board money to use.
- Each Legal Drain has its own budget
- Interest is only on the general fund money, not on drains
- The Water Board reviews the budget on a monthly basis at meetings and Heitkamp is welcome to come in, however they do not have the office staff to go through the information and provide as much detail as Heitkamp is requesting.

- Burvee commented that the Commissioners concern should only be on the General Operation of the Water Board.
- Heitkamp asked about the Findings given in the Annual Audit about the Segregation of Duties. Zentgraf replied this is standard in Water Board Offices and the Auditor's have no problem with it.
- Regarding Drain 95 Concerns - Zentgraf commented the Bond will be paid this year but those funds can't be used for maintenance. Burvee commented that they have done some repairs, but they can't do them all. It is treated like every other drain; once more revenue comes in from the Assessment Area we have more plans.
- Regarding Number of Drain tile applications received - In 2012 there were 67 and so far in 2013 there have been 49 and there is no benefit to the Water Board or the Commission to charge a fee. The money would go to legal or engineering and refunds would have to go through the office if the money wasn't used.

Thompson commented that the easiest answer when a Commissioner is approached with a Water Board issue is - "it is a Water Board issue." The Commissioners should not overlook or override their decisions.

#### **MISC/CORRESPONDENCE continued**

Courthouse Dedication - Berg reported there was a misunderstanding on asking communities for money; he won't be asking them for money.

McBeth reported he sent a letter to the AG Office asking if the County was authorized to spend funds. He has not received a written reply but did receive a phone call indicating that under the Home Rule Charter the County could pass an Ordinance authorizing the expenditure of funds because the Committee is under the County and not a separate entity.

Thompson commented at one time he thought \$5,000 would be a workable amount; the amount being proposed is \$50,000.

Berg agreed that \$5,000 was reasonable and asked if this could be addressed at the next meeting.

Campbell commented that he could not justify spending a lot of money on the celebration.

Bailey reported that because we are levying less money than last year, we are not required to run an Ad or hold an evening meeting. Bailey suggested that at the October 1<sup>st</sup> meeting the Board hold the Final Budget Hearing.

Bailey also commented that the Resolution adopted by the Board stated each Department would appoint one person to the Committee. Bailey said this is not practical because many of the Departments only have one person and they would have to close their offices to meet.

911 Cost Sharing Agreement with City of Wahpeton - Campbell reported on the meetings the Portfolio Commissioners held with representatives from the City of Wahpeton and NDSCS.

The City of Wahpeton has gone through the formula provided by Bailey and papers from Jill Breuer and feel that they are paying more than their fair share; they also have some concerns with the 911 fees being collected by the County. Campbell suggested \$225,000 to them and they are proposing \$100,000.

Heitkamp asked how this all came about and why they pay the County in the first place; what was in the original agreement. Bailey replied it was in place prior to him coming on 12 years ago and he feels that the 911 fees collected by the County are an issue for them however they do not pay for any equipment expenditures.

Bailey and Campbell reviewed the spread sheets and formulas so that Campbell could understand them better and explain them to the City. Bailey cautioned them to look at the Program Development Costs and all expenditures not just the revenue.

Campbell will take the information back to the City again to discuss further.

County Vehicles - Bailey suggested the Board consider a Policy for mileage reimbursement when an employee takes their own personal vehicle for travel when a County Vehicle is available for them to use.

- Thompson asked if some employees were consistently doing this?
- Berg did not feel this was an issue and recommended to just pay the employee for mileage. This would save wear and tear on County vehicles.
- Campbell suggested the Portfolio Commissioner meet and make suggestions for those of concern.
- Bailey recommended the Portfolio Commissioners review this item on expense reports as they sign off on them.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

#### October

- 1 Commission Meeting
- 3 5-County Meeting
- 6-8 NDACo Annual Conferences
- 14 Commission Meeting

Being there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:40A.M.

ATTEST: Harris Bailey  
Harris Bailey  
Auditor/Administrator

Dan Thompson CHAIRPERSON  
Dan Thompson  
Board of Richland County Commissioners