

**RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OCTOBER 17, 2017**

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met on October 17, 2017 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; State's Attorney McBeth; and a Daily News Reporter.

**SHERIFF LESHOVSKY - PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

Sheriff Leshovsky presented Correctional Officers Jerry Arneson and Paige Bergstrom with the North Dakota Peace Officer Life Saver Award. On May 4<sup>th</sup> they assisted an unconscious inmate who fully recovered.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Lambrecht presented final calculations of amounts due back to FEMA - the total de-obligated amount is \$124,705.10 which is due back to FEMA by October 27.

Lambrecht also reported that \$81,306 is expected from FEMA for a bridge project but FEMA will hold that until all outstanding de-obligated funds are returned to them.

Discussion followed on where the \$124,705 should be paid from and whether the Townships involved should be responsible for a portion. Lambrecht reported he is still working with Senator Heitkamp's office.

Following discussion a motion was made by Ehlert to return \$124,705.10 to FEMA from the general fund; motion seconded by Thompson. Vote was unanimous.

**MINIMUM SALE PRICE HEARING**

No one from the Public was in attendance for the Hearing. Hage distributed a listing of the proposed minimum sale prices. (Copy attached to minutes).

9 properties were taken back this year and there are 3 from prior years; 2 of the properties have people living in them - will be working with the Sheriff Dept on evictions.

A motion was made by Berg to approve the Minimum Sale Prices as presented; motion seconded by Ehlert. Vote was unanimous.

## **DEB FLACK - POSITION EVALUATION**

Flack reported the Health Department has a new Web Site, it was developed by Matt Syvertsen, the County GIS Coordinator.

Flack reported the Financial Assistant Position was submitted to Triad HR Consulting for evaluation. It is currently at a Grade 12 step 8. The response from Triad was to change the position to an Exempt Position, change the title to Financial Manager and to change it to a Grade 16. The Health Board agreed with the recommendation.

Bailey distributed the Step/Grade charts to the Board and shared his concerns about going away from the normal procedure and not being consistent. Discussion followed.

Ehlert asked when the last complete assessment was done, Bailey replied 2001.

A motion was made by Berg to look into a complete assessment, and to put out a RFP. Berg withdrew his motion, HR will be directed to send out a RFP.

A motion was made by Campbell to go with the recommendation and change the position as recommended to a Grade 16, Step 3 effective October 1; motion seconded by Thompson. Voting NO were Berg, Berseth and Ehlert. Motion Failed.

A motion was made by Ehlert to change the Financial Assistant position to a Grade 14, Step 8; motion seconded by Berg. Voting NO were Campbell and Thompson. The remainder voted Yes and the motion carried.

## **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

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

Bridge 123-24.3 - Dakota Fence is finishing up on guardrail; wet weather is delaying graveling. Plan to open the bridge this week. The County will haul the excess topsoil to the Colfax Shop.

NDACo Conference - Met with the DOT at conferences to discuss federal aid. Co Rd 4 is the overlay programmed. We need to determine a bridge to add to the list and get ready for bid opening. Ehlert recommended the Highway Portfolio Commissioners and the Highway Dept make a decision on the bridge project.

Campbell suggested that Townships be asked to prioritize bridges at the Fall Township Meeting.

Other Department Matters -

- Heitkamp Construction has ridge cap and sides remaining on the Hankinson Shop, anticipate finishing this week.
- The Maintenance Agreement for Federal Aid Projects was signed by the appropriate County Officials
- Will try to schedule a Road Tour for after the meeting on November 7
- Two full-time employees will be working out of the Wahpeton Shop Location and bridge equipment will be moved to Wahpeton
- Have a new Organizational Chart for the Highway Department

**MISC/CORRESPONDENCE**

Ehlert explained that Dispatch Staff attended training in Fargo and did not get the state rate for the hotel, following discussion a motion was made by Berg to approve Hotel Charges for Dispatch on the County Credit Card; motion seconded by Campbell. Vote was unanimous.

Campbell explained that the Sheriff Department had a similar incident with the County charge card and hotel rates. A motion was made by Campbell to approve the Charges for the Sheriff Department on the County Credit Card; motion seconded by Berg. Voting NO was Berg, the remainder voted Yes and the motion carried.

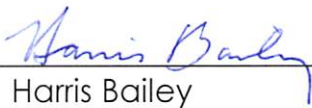
- Campbell suggested the Board look at Stabalizer on Roads for dust control and preservation; tiling of roads, and the need for flashing stops lights and speed limit signs.
- Bailey distributed the results of a survey done by the Assn of Counties regarding Farm Tax Exemptions
- Thank you note from Cheryl Kruger
- Melissa Braun has been hired as a County Assessor
- Notice of Retirement from Harris Bailey effective January 31, 2018. The Board discussed whether the County needed an Auditor or an Administrator, it was the consensus of the Board to look at comparable sized counties and their job descriptions for the position. Campbell will follow-up with HR and bring a recommendation back to the Board; Campbell would like to have the position filled by December 1.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

November

- 7 Commission Meeting
- 21 Commission Meeting
- 21 Tax Sale 10:00 A.M.

Being there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:05 A.M.

ATTEST:   
Harris Bailey  
Auditor/Administrator

 CHAIRPERSON  
Nathan A. Berseth  
Board of Richland County Commissioners