

**RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
NOVEMBER 21, 2017**

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met on November 21, 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. Visitor Larry Haus attended a portion of the meeting.

**SANDY FOSSUM - FARM EXEMPTIONS**

Fossum is preparing to send out the 2018 Farm Exemption Applications and asked the Board if they were standing by the motion made at the August 1 Commission meeting - to approve Completed Farm Exemption Applications that have signatures, unless the Township Chairman raises questions.

Fossum explained it is the job of the County Assessor to treat everyone equally, value all like property the same and administer programs uniformly. She reported that the Assn of Counties did a survey on Farm Exemptions and those results indicate that Tax Directors in Cass, Ransom and Sargent Counties use income verification worksheets to determine property tax exemptions and they also follow ND guidelines as far as what is considered farm income and what is not. Richland County is the only County in the immediate area not following state guidelines; in addition, an AG opinion in regard to net income from farming activities/cash rents/etc. was discovered AFTER the Commission action at the August 1 meeting.

Following discussion a motion was made by Thompson to use the income verification worksheets and to follow the state guidelines for farm exemptions; motion seconded by Berg. Voting NO were Berseth and Ehlert. The remainder voted Yes and the motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Hage reported that signatures on Bank Accounts need to be updated due to the change of personnel in the Treasurer's Office.

A motion was made by Berg that the authorized signatures on all Bank Accounts handled through the Treasurer's Office be Harris Bailey, Leslie Hage and Tricia Kriel; motion seconded by Campbell. Vote was unanimous.

## **MISC/CORRESPONDENCE**

A motion was made by Berg to approve the Sale of County Property in Mantador to the City of Mantador, contingent on it not selling at the County Tax Sale scheduled for 10:00 A.M. today; motion seconded by Thompson. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Campbell to approve a Raffle Permit Application for the Richland County Wildlife Club; motion seconded by Thompson. Vote was unanimous.

- Correspondence from Central Power Electric Cooperative re- Hankinson Ethanol Substation Bay Addition Project

## **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

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

Bridge 123-24.3 - The final inspection was November 9; the remaining work to complete is seeding.

Bridge 123-09 - NDDOT rejected this bridge for funding; the Advisory Committee will look at others for construction.

Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) - Previously discussed County-wide striping, guardrail on CR3 and rumble strips on CH10 and CH87. Working on the final submits to the NDDOT, the deadline is December 31; bid letting is scheduled for April 2018.

LP Bids - A motion was made by Berg to advertise for LP bids; motion seconded by Campbell. Vote was unanimous. Bid opening will be 9:00 A.M. on December 19.

Motor Grader Bids - A motion was made by Thompson to advertise for a Motor Grader; motion seconded by Berg. Vote was unanimous.

### Other Department Matters -

- Snow Equipment is Ready
- Four employees attended a Bridge 101 class in Ellendale
- Road tour is scheduled at the conclusion of the Commission meeting today

**MISC/CORRESPONDENCE continued**

- Bailey reported the Buildings & Grounds Supervisor position was submitted to Triad HR Consulting for Evaluation. It is currently at a Grade 14, Step 8. The recommendation from Triad was to change the position to a Grade 16. The Board discussed the number of recent Grade Adjustment requests they have received, the RFP for a Vendor that is currently in the works, and completing a full evaluation for all positions. Following discussion a motion was made by Ehlert to change the Buildings & Grounds Supervisor position to a Grade 15, Step 8 and to make no further Grade adjustments until the RFP and the evaluation of all positions is complete; motion seconded by Berg. Voting NO was Campbell, the remainder Voted Yes and the motion carried.
- Notification from the City of Wahpeton regarding Assessments and a meeting November 30 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave North Project.
- Ehlert inquired about the MOA for the Economic Development Director position; McBeth replied he has not received the original from the City for review.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

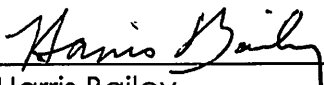
December

- 5 Commission Meeting
- 5 Executive Session to review applications for Director of Finance Administrator/Auditor
- 7 Interviews for Director of Finance Administrator/Auditor
- 19 Commission Meeting
- 19 Christmas Party

January

- 2 Commission Meeting
- 4 5-County Meeting
- 23 Commission Meeting

Being there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 A.M.

ATTEST:   
 Harris Bailey  
 Auditor/Administrator

 CHAIRPERSON  
 Nathan A. Berseth  
 Board of Richland County Commissioners