

**RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER 5, 2017**

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met on December 5, 2017 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Sid Berg, Nathan Berseth, Rollie Ehlert and Dan Thompson. Commissioner Tim Campbell was absent. Others in attendance were Administration Personnel DelVal; State's Attorney McBeth; and a Daily News Reporter.

A motion was made by Berg to approve the minutes of Meetings November 7 and November 21, 2017; motion seconded by Ehlert. Vote was unanimous.

BOARD REORGANIZATION

Berg nominated Ehlert as Chairman of the Board; a motion was made by Thompson that nominations cease and to call for a unanimous vote for Ehlert as Chairman; motion seconded by Berg. Vote was unanimous. Berseth turned the meeting over to Chairman Ehlert.

Berg nominated Thompson as Vice Chairman; a motion was made by Berseth that nominations cease and to call for a unanimous vote for Thompson as Vice Chairman; motion seconded by Berg. Vote was unanimous.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

A motion was made by Berseth to approve the Sale of two properties in Hankinson to the City of Hankinson; motion seconded by Thompson. Vote was unanimous.

JILL BREUER - EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

Currently the County uses the Code Red System for emergency notification and weather warning, the cost is \$10,252 for these services. With the Code Red System we do not own the data and the system can be cumbersome to use; we share 50,000 minutes with Stutsman County.

A quote of \$6,750 per year has been received from Everbridge for automated weather, community engagement and IPAWS; it includes unlimited minutes and we would own the data. There is a one time fee of \$600 for set up and a combined three-day training fee of \$8,000 (split between Richland, Stutsman and Barnes or \$2,667 per County).

A motion was made by Berseth to approve the Everbridge proposal (allocating up to \$7,500 for the annual payment), including the training and set-up fee; motion seconded by Berg. Vote was unanimous.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Hankinson Grassland Fire, November 29 - Fire Departments from Hankinson, Mantador, Lidgerwood, Great Bend, Dwight, Fairmount, and New Effington SD responded as well as the Hankinson Ambulance, US Fish & Wildlife and several farmers with their tractors - because of this assistance several farmsteads were saved.

SunOpta Elevator Fire in Breckenridge, November 29 - Wahpeton, Dwight and Mooreton Fire Departments assisted.

5-Star Dairy Fire, November 29 - Wyndmere Fire Dept responded, a hay shed was lost in the fire.

Grass Fire north of Christine on Hwy 81, November 29 - Christine Fire Dept responded.

House Fire in Barney, November 28 - Fire Departments from Barney and Wyndmere responded to an electrical fire on the home entry way.

FEMA Projects - Received \$81,306.32 in FEMA funds for the Bridge project; also received funds for 3 large project closeouts that will be paid to Grant, Moran and Liberty Grove Townships.

SANDY FOSSUM - ABATEMENT APPLICATION

Others in attendance were Carla Broadland and Steve Dale from the City of Wahpeton.

The Wal-Mart Store in Wahpeton is requesting a reduction in the value from \$7,396,300 to \$4,485,100 for the 2015 tax year. They are asking that the true and full market value of the property be reduced to reflect the market value of the property as established by an appraisal.

Fossum reported that the abatement was heard and denied by the Wahpeton City Council on November 20. The comparative sales that were submitted by the tax rep were mostly dark store sales. (When a retail business has closed and the building is empty). With the Wahpeton Wal-Mart being a viable operating business the sales are not reflective of the true value. Wal-Mart has filed abatements all over the state. Fossum recommended the Board support the City Council and deny the abatement application.

A motion was made by Berseth to deny the Abatement Application; motion seconded by Thompson. Vote was unanimous.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

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

Federal Aid Bridge Project - Options were discussed at the Advisory Meeting for the Federal Aid Project, propose replacing bridge 116-34.1 in Belford Twsp. Discussion followed - it was the recommendation of the Board to look at Bridge 115-02, the Hertsgard Bridge. Sedler will submit to DOT and report at the next meeting.

Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) - Previously discussed County-wide striping, guardrail on CR3 and rumble strips on CH10 and CH87. Have submitted the final paperwork to the state; bid letting is scheduled for May 2018. The total estimated cost is \$1,108,898 with the local match being approximately \$111,000. Will team up with Sargent County to get better bids. A motion was made by Thompson to move forward with the project; motion seconded by Berseth. Vote was unanimous. Funds will be transferred from the 15 mill fund to the sign and safety fund.

Drain Tile - The Advisory Board discussed Drain Tile at the last Advisory Meeting and reviewed drain tile conditions and drain tile language from the RCWRB; they also discussed a "letter of approval" regarding applications. In the language, the applicant will have a choice of providing 30 days notice of the project to the County or waiving the 30 day notice.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Berseth to appoint the County Engineer as the Agent for the County and authorize the County Engineer to sign the Letters of Approval for drain tile applications and to give recommendations or stipulations for such projects; motion seconded by Berg. Vote was unanimous.

Other Department Matters -

- LP Bids will be opened December 19 at 9:00 A.M.
- Snowplow truck is ordered with expected delivery in April/May
- 6 employees attended Gravel Class in Valley City

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A) Social Services - The SE Human Service Center Advisory Board will meet on January 10.
- B) Buildings & Grounds - May look at some dual fuel options.
- C) Public Health - No Report.
- D) Job Development Board - The MOU has been signed by all entities; they will be advertising for a Director for that Board.
- E) Weed Board - A meeting is scheduled for December 7.
- F) Soils Committee - No Report.
- G) Park Board - No Report.
- H) Administration - No Report.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

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

A motion was made by Berg to move to Executive Session per NDCC 44-04-19.1 for review of Applications for the Director of Finance Administration/Auditor position; motion seconded by Thompson. Vote was unanimous.

The Board moved to Executive Session at 9:00 A.M. The meeting was called back to regular session at 9:35 A.M.

Ehlert announced the recommendation from the Executive Session was that there will be an Executive Session on Thursday, December 7 at 9:00 A.M. to interview applicants for the Director of Finance Administration/Auditor position.

Being there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:36 A.M.

Reports Filed: Tax & Property Dept - Revenue Voucher for October 1-31, 2017; and Sheriff's Department - Revenue & Expenses for October, 2017.

ATTEST: Harris Bailey
 Harris Bailey
 Auditor/Administrator

Rolle Ehlert CHAIRPERSON
 Rolle Ehlert
 Board of Richland County Commissioners

The following claims were approved for November, 2017

PAYROLL (inclusive)	
General	223,540.03
County Highway	83,144.44
Social Services	99,019.28
911 Communications	44,153.08
Drug Court	3,193.01
County Agent	5,144.54
Veterans Service	3,981.84
Weed Officer	1,936.00
Public Health Fund	79,452.12
SEMCA	9,722.70
PAYROLL TOTAL	553,287.04

EXPENSES: ** Refer to resolution records

County General	225,238.28
County Highway	151,420.48
Bridge Repl Fund	88,917.14
Social Service	68,698.47
911 Communications	25,375.86
NDRIN	3,230.83
Drug Court	1,266.10
County Agent	5,180.10
Veterans Service	1,282.31
Weed Control Levy	1,650.03
Public Health	33,893.93
Haz Chem Fund	2,596.45
State Medical Levy	1,200.68
FEMA Dis Reimb	93,718.85
Garrison Div	2,490.82
Twsp Share Gas Oil	55,727.62
State Aud Dist	37,028.04
Jail Concession	1,091.34
Sobriety Test Fund	1,954.00
SEMCA	4,952.02
JDA	50,461.37
Sr Citizens Fund	2,426.45
Historical Society	601.17
County Agent Special	62.91
Soil Conservation	1,682.23
Water Mngt Levy	9,103.44
Joint Water Resource	3,476.55
Est Real Estate Tax	29,669.88
EXPENSE TOTAL	904,397.35
TOTAL PAYROLL & EXPENSES	1,457,684.39

ATTEST:


Harris Bailey
Auditor/Administrator


Nathan A. Berseth
CHAIRPERSON
Board of Richland County Commissioners