

**RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER 17, 2012**

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met on December 17, 2012 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Sid Berg, Tim Campbell, Jason Heitkamp, Perry Miller and Dan Thompson. Also present were Administration Personnel Bailey and DeVal; and a Daily News Reporter.

JILL BREUER/CAMERAS

Jill Breuer and Sheriff Leshovsky met with the Board to discuss replacing a camera for the Law Enforcement Center.

Breuer explained in 2005 a Camera System which records the entire LEC System was purchased with Homeland Security Grant Funds. The system has two cameras and one of those cameras failed on Thanksgiving. Breuer obtained a loaner from Minn-Kota which they will sell to the County for \$2880 (including labor).

Discussion was held on who was responsible for the system; what budget this expenditure should come from if approved; and the possibility that the other camera purchased in 2005 could also fail soon.

Bailey suggested the expenditure come from the Buildings & Grounds budget because it is a General Building Expense.

A motion was made by Campbell to approve an expenditure of \$2880 from the Buildings & Grounds Budget for the camera; motion seconded by Heitkamp. Vote was unanimous.

ASSESSORS OFFICE/BUSINESS EXEMPTION and RESOLUTIONS

Fossum reported Prime Concrete will not be meeting with the Board today for a business exemption, they will reschedule after publishing notice in the paper.

Fossum presented the following Resolutions to the Board for consideration:

- Property Tax Exemption of Improvements to Commercial and Residential Buildings
- Property Tax Incentives for New or Expanding Businesses
- Property Tax Exemption for Certain New Single Family Residential Properties

A motion was made by Berg to approve the Resolutions as presented; motion seconded by Heitkamp. Vote was unanimous.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

- Notice for 5-County Meeting scheduled for January 3 in LaMoure at 5:00 PM
Thompson suggested overload fines be discussed at the meeting.

A motion was made by Miller to appoint Delmer Steffens and Linda Bladow to new terms on the Richland County Park Board; motion seconded by Berg. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Berg to appoint Robert Rostad and Gary Friskop to new terms on the Richland County Water Resource Board; motion seconded by Miller. Discussion followed - Campbell addressed his concerns with a letter to the editor submitted by Heitkamp regarding the Water Board and how that letter reflected on the entire Board because it was signed by Heitkamp as a Richland County Commissioner. Berg, Miller and Thompson all agreed that it reflected on the entire Board. Heitkamp responded Miller's letters in the paper were signed the same way on the Diversion Articles and he did not see this as any different. Vote was taken on the motion with Heitkamp voting No and the remainder Voting Yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Heitkamp to approve a Beer License Application for J-Starr LLC; motion seconded by Miller. Vote was unanimous.

Berg updated on a traffic stop situation discussed at the last Commission Meeting involving a truck not commercially licensed hauling grain to Colfax Farmers Elevator. The Highway Patrol has met with the elevator and offered them a 30 day plate and there were no fines given; everyone was happy with how it was handled and the issue has been resolved.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Personnel in attendance were Tim Schulte and Lowell Bladow.

MinnDak Concerns with Snow and Ice Removal- Several individuals from MinnDak were in attendance and voiced complaints with the road conditions after a recent snowfall. Specifically Co Rd 10 East and the 210 Red River Road. Last Sunday, we received 5-6 inches of snow and there was no snow removal done until Monday, they asked if the County had a No Overtime Policy.

Schulte replied, the operator was out twice on Sunday, but with the windy conditions you really can't keep ahead; the operator was also out on Monday; on Tuesday the road was sanded; and on Wednesday the roads were sanded and scraped.

The individuals from MinnDak were not aware that anything had been done on Sunday. They asked who they should contact if there are any issues in the future. Schulte replied they could either contact himself or Dispatch.

NDACE Legislative Initiative for the 2013 Session - Schulte distributed handouts of the NDACO Board Meeting Highlights that included the Governor's Budget Highlights and Recommended Legislative Changes.

Bid Opening for Propane - Bids were received from the following:

- Farmers Union Oil, Fairmount
- Ferrell Gas, Fargo
- Dakota Ag, Kindred
- Dakota Plains Cooperative, Valley City
- Abercrombie Storage, Abercrombie

A motion was made by Heitkamp to accept all bids received for tabulation by the Highway Department; motion seconded by Miller.

Berg asked if Foss-Johnson Oil from Walcott or Christine was on the bidders list we send to. Schulte said they were not, but he would add them to the list.

Voting NO on the motion was Berg, the remainder voted Yes and the motion carried.

Motor Grader Bids - Bids were received from the following:

- Butler Machinery
- RDO Equipment
- Swanston Equipment

Representatives from each Company were introduced by Schulte and they all gave brief presentations to the Board.

A motion was made by Miller to accept all bids received for tabulation by the Highway Department; motion seconded by Berg. Vote was unanimous.

Road Foreman Position Update - The individual offered the position cannot fully commit to the Road Foreman duties at this time. Lowell Bladow would be willing to take on the dual responsibility on an interim basis. The Highway Dept is

looking at a Department restructuring and would like to run it past the Portfolio Commissioners before bringing it back to the full County Board.

Discussion followed and included:

- Bladow taking on the additional responsibilities and compensation
- Other internal applicants/Advertising the position
- Department restructuring

Bailey commented that historically we have not compensated someone for additional responsibilities on a temporary basis; there are other individuals that have taken on additional responsibilities to cover during absences.

The Board tabled discussion until later in the meeting.

WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Don Moffet reported the following:

- Combined Drain 63 (Colfax Area) into a legal drain, it changed the assessment area but everyone seems happy with it
- Helendale Twsp issue - The Technical Report has been forwarded to legal counsel for review.

Berg asked about the Ditch North on 23 & 2, and if there was enough pressure to take out the County Road. Cam Leedahl (Water Resource Board guest) replied to Berg that it was designed to back up into a field so it should not affect the road.

Heitkamp asked about the status of Lauman s Cement Culvert. Moffet replied the Water Board is waiting for an Engineering Report and can take action after they receive the report. Heitkamp asked if the State Water Board has been contacted. Moffet replied No, they have no authority on it.

Thompson reported that earlier in the Commission Meeting appointments were made to the Water Board and both Robert Rostad and Gary Friskop were reappointed. Campbell commented on the Letter to the Editor - He wanted the Water Board Members to know that the letter was one Commissioners Comments and not the full Board of commissioners.

Moffet replied, if there is a problem with the WRB it should be addressed with them.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT continued

Road Foreman position - Discussion continued.

Berg asked about the second choice candidate - Schulte replied with a Department restructuring there would be a place for the number two candidate.

Campbell suggested the Board do something temporarily until resolved.

Heitkamp commented that Harlan Bladow said he would do some consulting in his resignation letter. Schulte replied there are restrictions with PERS on when he can come back from retirement, however he didn't think Harlan would be interested in Wintertime work.

Berg commented this is a different situation than someone covering for an individual temporarily for vacation or sick leave.

Miller asked if it would be possibly for Schulte to take on some of the duties and to get help for Schulte on FEMA work from Lambrecht. Schulte replied after three years it would be unfair to Lambrecht, also it is not our County FEMA work it is Township FEMA.

Campbell said he was unsure of salary/compensation but feels we do need to have someone in charge.

Schulte said they went through a restructuring plan on Friday. Campbell replied long term we need to discuss, but short term we need to do something.

Schulte replied, short-term on an interim basis Lowell could do Harlan's job but he should be compensated.

Following discussion, it was the consensus that the Portfolio Board will meet with Highway and bring a recommendation to the full Board.

In other business with the Board -

- Berg would like to see a new ditching permit by the first of March and also consider changing the 30 Day Permits by decreasing the fee and dropping to a 5% overload.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE continued

A motion was made by Berg to appoint Arvid Christenson to another two year term on the Southeast Human Service Center Regional Council; motion seconded by Heitkamp. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Heitkamp to approve the sale of two County properties in the City of Hankinson to the city of Hankinson; motion seconded by Miller. Vote was unanimous. (Lot 8, Blk 2 RHH Addn; and E184' of S70' Lt 4 Auditors Plat).

Bailey distributed 2013 Department Head Salary Sheets for the Portfolio Commissioners to take to Departments.

Being there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

ATTEST: _____ CHAIRPERSON
Harris Bailey Dan Thompson
Auditor/Administrator Board of Richland County Commissioners