

**RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
NOVEMBER 24, 2020**

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met on November 24, 2020 with Commissioners Sid Berg, Rollie Ehlert and Dan Thompson; Commissioners Nathan Berseth and Tim Campbell joined by Video Conference. Others in attendance were Administration Personnel Hage and DelVal; and State's Attorney Kummer. Daily News Reporter Tris Anderson was also in attendance.

Other County Personnel attending included: Mechelle Olsen, Jesse Sedler, Ron Hohenstern and Sheriff Leshovsky.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 A.M.

A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Thompson to approve the Agenda as amended. Vote was unanimous.

**MECHELLE OLSEN - INTERIM HEALTH DIRECTOR SALARY**

Mechelle Olsen reported that Pat Giese was appointed November 11<sup>th</sup> as the Interim Administrator of the Health Department until a replacement is hired but her salary has not been adjusted.

A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Thompson to increase the salary for the Interim Administrator of the Health Department \$903.49 per month until a replacement is in place; retroactive to November 11. Vote was unanimous.

**SHERIFF LESHOVSKY - SERGEANT POSITION FOR JAIL & JAIL INSPECTION COSTS**

Leshovsky reported he will have several staff retiring in the next one to two years. Due to those upcoming retirements, Leshovsky requested Patrick Thorsteinson be moved from a Corrections Officer to a Sergeant Position in the Jail. Thorsteinson has already been assigned additional duties and some supervision in the Jail so they will be prepared when the retirements happen.

Discussion followed, Ehlert voiced concerns with making this change without a Vacancy in the Department yet.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Campbell to move Thorsteinson from a Corrections Officer to a Sergeant Position in the Jail retroactive to September 1 and to revisit the position in six months to determine if the situation has changed and needs to be reviewed again.

Voting NO was Ehlert. The remainder Voted Yes and the motion carried.

Sheriff Leshovsky also briefly updated the Board about outstanding Jail Inspection Invoices for a total amount of \$2462.60. Leshovsky has done some checking into these costs and they are the responsibility of the County to pay. Leshovsky stated he feels if the ND Dept of Corrections wants to do inspections and control corrections facilities then they should budget accordingly with state funding. All recent inspections have been successful and we have made huge steps towards resolving any ND Dept of Corrections concerns. Leshovsky suggested the State's Attorney Association, Sheriff Dept Association, the Assn of Counties, Legislators, etc. discuss the State covering these costs rather than the Counties.

### **LESLEY LUBENOW, NDSU - FNP AGENT POSITION**

Lesley Lubenow, NDSU Extension East District Director and Susan Finneseth, Family Nutrition Program Manager joined the meeting by Speaker Phone.

Lubenow requested permission to refill the vacant Family Nutrition Program Extension Agent position located in Wahpeton; the position is 100% grant funded. There is no cost to the County, however the County provides the office space. The intent is to post the position in December, screen applicants in January and have someone in place by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

A motion was made by Thompson and seconded by Campbell to approve the request and refill the position. Vote was unanimous.

### **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

Federal Aid Allotment - The estimated federal aid amount for 2021 is \$408,416.00. Our meeting with the DOT is scheduled for December 1<sup>st</sup>. A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Berseth to approve the Federal Aid Project Sheet as presented. Vote was unanimous. (Copy attached to minutes).

New Truck - Our new truck was purchased last week for \$75,145. It is a used 2007 Sterling.

Motor Grader Bid Opening - Bids will be opened at the December 8 meeting for a new Motor Grader.

Notification from Interstate Engineering - The City of Wahpeton is proposing roadway improvements and is expected to be constructed during the 2022 construction season. The County will be responsible for the 28 ft portion of the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Project.

## **MISC/CORRESPONDENCE**

A motion was made by Thompson and seconded by Ehlert to approve a Raffle Permit Application for the Dakota Antique Tractor Club. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Ehlert to appoint Rick Jacobson to another term on the Richland County Health Board. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Thompson to approve the Energy Conservation Program Grant Agreement. Vote was unanimous.

- Notification that the Township Officers Meeting is postponed until Spring.
- Leshovsky informed Hage of a Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Grant through the Assn of Counties; Lambrecht is working on the application.
- Hage reminded the Board to turn in the Portfolio Preference Sheets to her so they can be tallied for the Chairman to assign at the next Board meeting.

Hage reported at the last Commission meeting the Board briefly discussed Annual Leave carryover options for employees that will be over the limit at the end of the year due to Covid. Hage asked if the Board was prepared to make a decision on options - either to pay out (estimated at \$15,000) or allow employees to carry-over days. No action was taken by the Board, they will revisit at a later date.

The Board Members all thanked Commissioner Thompson for his 16 years of Service to the County and wished him well.

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

### December

- 1 Meeting with DOT 8:30
- 8 Commission Meeting
- 15 Commission Meeting
- 15 Department Head Meeting 10 A.M.

### January

- 5 Commission Meeting
- 19 Commission Meeting

Being there was no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:15 A.M.

ATTEST:   
Leslie Hage  
Auditor/Administrator

  
Sid Berg  
Board of Richland County Commissioners

CHAIRPERSON