

**RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 5, 2021**

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met on January 5, 2021 at the Richland County LEC with Commissioners Sid Berg, Nathan Berseth, Tim Campbell, Rollie Ehlert and Perry Miller. Others in attendance were Administration Personnel Fossum and DeVal; State's Attorney Kummer and a Daily News Reporter.

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

A motion was made by Berg and seconded by Ehlert to approve the minutes of meetings December 8 and 15 and the Executive Session on December 8. Vote was unanimous.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Berg and seconded by Miller to approve the Year-end Budget Adjustments as presented. Vote was unanimous,

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Berg to approve the Year-end Transfers as presented. Vote was unanimous.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Grant Award - Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding in the amount of \$27,529.01 was received. Expenses from March through December were submitted for Covid PPE, Telework Equipment, etc. in the amount of \$30,765.45.

FEMA - Funds are starting to come in from 2020 flooding; several sites are being appealed.

Salvation Army Kettle Campaign - This year donations surpassed 2017, 2018 and 2019 collections.

Covid-19 Vaccine Priorities - A meeting is scheduled for today at 10:00 A.M.

PAT GIESE - COVID-19 UPDATE

Kayla Carlson, Director of Public Health was also in attendance.

Giese distributed a handout and explained the phases for Covid-19 Vaccine as defined by the ND Department of Health. Giese stated the plan was last updated on December 31 and we are currently in Phase 1A. Phase 1A includes - First Responders, Covid-19 vaccinators, Covid-19 specimen collectors, staff of urgent care centers with direct patient contact and acute care clinic staff with direct patient care. Also in this phase is health care workers and long-term care residents, assisted living, and basic care/group homes.

Giese reported a vaccine clinic was held in Mooreton on December 29 for first responders and health care workers; 141 first responders have been vaccinated. Also 100 vaccinations have been given at St Gerard's. The state is hoping we will be in Phase 1B in the next few weeks.

Giese reported there are currently seven providers in Richland County. The next allocation the County receives will be for the Long Term Care Group.

The Commission asked about flexibility and prioritizing who receives the vaccine. Giese replied at this point NO, they need to adhere to the phases as defined by the Dept of Health; however she may be able to reach out to the State to see if any vaccine can be allocated or transferred if there is no uptake. Giese also has a call list if there is any extra vaccine in a bottle.

Giese reported several challenges: how to notify elderly people who may not have access to Channel 12 , Social Media etc. as well as a location to give those vaccinations; and how they will move from Phase 1A to the next phase while still administering the second dose from Phase 1A and also any left from the previous Phase. They are looking at reducing contract tracing and transitioning to vaccines and will work through those challenges.

Berseth commented that if additional staff is necessary to help with these challenges he would strongly support that and encouraged Giese to come back to the Board with a Plan for the Board to consider.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Personnel in attendance were Engineer Sedler and Ron Hohenstern.

Gravel and Rock Crushing Bids - Sedler requested authorization to advertise for 125,000 tons of gravel crushing and 15,000 - 20,000 tons of rock crushing.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Berg to advertise for gravel and rock crushing bids. Vote was unanimous. Bids will be opened at the February 2nd Commission meeting.

Drain Tiling - Working on details to bid the following drain tile projects (appx 25 miles) in February or March:

- Co Rd 15 from Hankinson through Great Bend to Hwy 13
- Co Rd 25 South of Hwy 13 to Mantador

Chip Seal - two miles 1E, Co Rd 1 to Hwy 11

Co Rd 2 Overlay - working with the state on bidding and overlay from Hwy 81 to Co Rd 26 and an alternate from Co Rd 26 to Co Rd 3.

Ehlert reported a 5-County meeting was held last week with Legislators and it was mentioned that Prairie Dog Funds may be available, Ehlert suggested the Highway Dept have plans ready. Another call with legislators is scheduled for January 29th at 3:00 PM.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A) Social Services - Working on different projects for indirect costs and budgeting in a timely manner.
- B) Buildings & Grounds - Bid notice goes out today for the Courthouse Addition with a January 28th bid opening.
- C) Public Health - Heard a report earlier in the meeting from Pat Giese on Covid.
- D) JDA - There have been no meetings held; may meet in January.
- E) Weed Board - No Report.
- F) Soils Committee - Will meet in January or February after the vacant Tax Director position is filled.
- G) Park Board - A letter will be sent to Communities about Garrison Grant Funds.

H) Administration - Interviews will be conducted today for the Tax Director Position.

Sedler questioned the procedure/policy for closing the Courthouse for blizzards. Chairman Campbell will follow-up on the procedure.

Berseth suggested the Board review the County Policy Manual for Holidays. The Governor ordered closure all Day Christmas Eve, and there was a fiscal impact to the County because of that. Our Policy Manual currently states that if the President of the United States or the Governor of the State declares an additional holiday, that the County is granted that day. Chairman Campbell will follow-up with Administration.

Campbell stated he would like to thank Administrator Hage for her years of Service to Richland County and the Board will be recognizing her at a later date.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Berg to appoint Wayne Ulven to a three year term on the RSR Human Service Zone. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Berg to Deny the 2021 Beer License Application from J Starr Oil. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to amend the motion to include J-Starr will receive a letter from the County State's Attorney stating J-Starr is not in compliance with the Liquor Laws and is not allowed to sell beer in January and that they may reapply after February 1st. Voting NO was Campbell, the remainder Voted Yes and the motion carried.

A motion was made by Berg and seconded by Berseth to approve a Temporary Liquor License for The Black Pelican for an event at the Bagg Farm. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Berg to approve the payment of bills. Vote was unanimous.

Department Heads will be invited to upcoming Commission Meetings to provide Department Reports. Campbell will invite Dispatch and the RSR Zone to the next meeting.

Miller reported he was in contact with the City Council in Wyndmere regarding the poor condition of several County owned properties in Wyndmere; these two commercial properties were taken by the County in November for non-payment of taxes.

Being there was no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:11 A.M.

Reports Filed: Tax & Property Department - Revenue Voucher for December 2020;
Sheriff Department Revenue and Expenses for November 2020.

ATTEST: Sandy Fossum
Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

Tim Campbell CHAIRPERSON
Tim Campbell
Board of Richland County Commissioners

The following claims were approved for December 2020.

PAYROLL (inclusive)	
General	266,085.87
County Highway	86,335.60
911 Communications	51,154.62
County Agent	5,513.12
Veterans Service	7,858.94
Weed Officer	1,840.00
Public Health Fund	93,249.43
Income Maintenance	43,432.02
Foster Care	15,963.60
Child Protective Svc	31,760.30
Parent Aid	3,025.07
Family Soc Worker	10,733.84
Social Services	10,367.74
In-Home Care	17,733.59
Admin Support	10,904.34
HSZ Board	450.00
PAYROLL TOTAL	656,408.08

EXPENSES: ** Refer to
resolution records

County General	232,222.35
County Highway	100,506.60
Bridge Repl Fund	112,221.92
15 Mill	3,703.22
911 Communications	36,897.19
NDRIN	637.77
Special Response Team	1,495.41
County Agent	4,400.17
Veterans Service	4,254.44
Weed Control Levy	40,973.20
Public Health	96,598.67
Haz Chem Fund	151.29
Income Maintenance	18,936.26
Foster Care	1,469.29
Child Protective Svc	10,111.25
Parent Aid	1,599.98
Family Soc Worker	3,957.51
Social Services	4,596.51
In-Home Care	11,088.75
Admin Support	34,563.05
HSZ Board	260.81
Safety Permanency Fd	1,225.52
Unallow Fed Costs	2,058.98
State Medical Levy	456.23
FEMA Disaster Reimb	79,819.68
Garrison Div	456.23
Domestic Violence	175.00

Jail Concession	1,086.07
Sobriety Test Fund	610.00
SEMCA	2,152.92
Sr Citizens Fund	456.23
Historical Society Fund	114.08
County Agent Special	327.52
Soil Cons District	456.23
Water Mngt Levy	1,526.59
Joint Water Resource	687.32
Est Real Estate Tax	22,574.58
EXPENSE TOTAL	834,828.82

**TOTAL PAYROLL &
EXPENSES** **1,491,236.90**

ATTEST: *Sandy Fossum*
Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

Tim Campbell CHAIRPERSON
Tim Campbell
Board of Richland County Commissioners