

**RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MARCH 2, 2021**

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met on March 2, 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; County personnel Jesse Sedler, Ron Hohenstern, Brett Lambrecht, and John Anderson; and a Daily News Reporter. Visitors included Rich Slagle of Moore Engineering, and Dale Bartrick.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Ehlert to approve the Agenda. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Berg to approve the minutes of meetings February 2, February 16 and the Special Meeting February 10. Vote was unanimous.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

**MISC/CORRESPONDENCE**

- Correspondence from the ND Dept of Ag requesting the Commission approve an anhydrous ammonia license application submitted by Wil Schular. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Berg to approve the application as presented. Vote was unanimous.

Fossum reported funds had been budgeted in the GIS Budget for attending a conference but were not used; GIS is requesting authorization for those funds to be used for the purchase of a printer for the GIS Department instead. The Board had no objections.

**KAYLA CARLSON - COVID UPDATE**

Pat Giese was also in attendance. Carlson reported the following:

- currently vaccinating individuals 65 and older and individuals with two or more high risk medical conditions who are over 18
- have administered 1412 first doses and 910 second doses
- a vaccination clinic is scheduled for March 4 in Mooreton and plans are to finish up at St Catherine's and Group Homes on March 5
- expecting 300 doses next week with plans to have a vaccination clinic at the Wahpeton Event Center and possibly begin administering to Child Care Workers and School Staff K-12 and also a second dose clinic at Colfax and Wahpeton

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

A) Social Services - A meeting was held on February 23 with Sargent and Ransom Counties to discuss indirect costs.

B) Buildings & Grounds - Ehlert reported the boiler project needs to keep moving forward even though the entrance project is on hold. John should get the boilers ordered and the bids will go out for the labor. John stated the area in the Jail/Sheriff storage area will need to be cleaned out for the boilers - those departments could possibly use the caged area in the garage for storage.

Miller reported he was asked by the City of Wahpeton why the Company Monument was going to be at the Courthouse grounds. Ehlert replied the State is fine with this plan and so is the Guard. Dale Bartnick was present and stated the Guard and State Headquarters had previously thought it should be at the Armory but no one can see it behind the fence so they agree with it being on the Courthouse property.

## HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Visitor Damon DeVillers and Tyler from Red Rock Tiling were present.

Bid Opening - Drain Tile Co Rd 15 and CR 25 - The following bids were received:  
- Red Rock Tiling & Excavating Inc - Kensington MN      Total Base Bid \$469,800  
- Traxler Construction - LeCenter MN                      Total Base Bid \$432,216

A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Berseth to accept all bids received for tabulation. Vote was unanimous.

Crushing Bids - Bids were accepted at the February 2 Commission Meeting and have been tabulated. A motion was made by Berg and seconded by Miller to approve the following:

- Gravel Crushing - Krause Brothers, Wahpeton      \$1.595
- Rock Crushing - Fisher Sand & Gravel, Dickinson      \$6.56

Vote was unanimous.

Blade - Last December the Board approved the lease of a Motor Grader from Butler/Cat of Fargo. Requesting authorization to buy out this lease and roll it into a Lease to Buy. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to approve the request. Vote was unanimous.

Chip Seal - Requesting authorization to advertise for bids for chip seal on CR 1 & 1E (approximately 10 miles) with a bid opening on April 6. A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Miller to advertise for bids. Vote was unanimous.

Pay loader - Looking at options for a pay loader - both new and used. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to move forward with bids for a pay loader so we can explore options. Vote was unanimous.

Berg cautioned the rest of the Board that replacing the building alone is a lot of money and with all the equipment that is being purchased the Board is spending a lot of money and may need to slow down. Berseth suggested a spreadsheet of the replacement purchases and the insurance payouts so that the Board has a better understanding.

NDIRF Insurance - Sedler reported NDIRF will be issuing a check for 1.1 million for the building; he will look for bids to tear down the old building.

Miller asked if it would be possible to do something for employees who lost personal items (coats, boots, etc.) in the fire. The Board discussed receipts for replacement items or a specific dollar amount. The Department Portfolio will discuss further and bring back a recommendation.

Road Restrictions - Will go into effect on Monday, March 8 at 6:00 A.M.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS continued**

C) Public Health - The Commission discussed concerns about not having a central location for vaccination clinics and thought a central location would be set up when they approved additional funds back in January. Campbell will followup.

D) JDA - No meetings or applications in February. A Housing Summit is tentatively scheduled for March 18 in Hankinson.

Berseth reported the Commission may need to hold a Special Meeting or allow extra time at a regular Meeting to discuss JPA funds, SVEDA could allocate and administer those funds with emphasis on housing.

E) Weed Board - Berseth and Miller will followup on any Weed Board vacancies so they can be advertised.

F) Soils Committee - Fossum will followup on any Soils Committee Board vacancies so they can be advertised.

G) Park Board - A meeting is scheduled for March 15. Ehlert sent a letter of support for a grant for a Splash Pool in Abercrombie, he will forward Fossum a copy of the letter.

H) Administration - Interviews were held last week for the Assessor position; the Health Dept Admin Assistant position closed yesterday.

The 2020 Audit is scheduled for next week and will be virtual.

Fossum will attend the virtual County Officials Academy on March 9.

**MISC/CORRESPONDENCE continued**

Campbell suggested having Joint Meetings with the Water Board on a more regular basis.

Legislation - Berseth reported he was invited to testify on Load Trains but is not able to attend; he reported the Cass County Engineer gave great testimony and this week County Commissioners and Sheriffs will testify.

Campbell commented there is a bill for Health Departments going to Zones like Human Services.

Fossum reported a Department Head meeting is scheduled for today - on the agenda is dress code and whether there would be a dress code put back in place after the opening of the buildings. The consensus of the Board was there is no formal policy; and if inappropriate attire is noticed it should be dealt with by the Department Head or Auditor.

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

Being there was no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:30 A.M.

Reports Filed: Sheriff Department - Revenue and Expenses for January 2021;  
County Recorder - Revenue Voucher for January 2021.

ATTEST: Sandy Fossum  
Sandy Fossum  
Auditor/Administrator

Tim Campbell  
Tim Campbell  
CHAIRPERSON  
Board of Richland County Commissioners

The following claims were approved for February 2021.

PAYROLL (inclusive)

General	263,225.42
County Highway	85,712.02
911 Communications	47,884.57
County Agent	5,447.92
Veterans Service	7,858.94
Weed Officer	400.00
Public Health Fund	93,201.86
Income Maintenance	40,885.89
Foster Care	16,679.70
Child Protective Svc	31,177.00
Parent Aid	3,100.70
Family Soc Worker	9,280.72
Social Services	10,668.00
In-Home Care	18,028.69
Admin Support	11,176.94
HSZ Board	400.00
JDA	270.00
<b>PAYROLL TOTAL</b>	<b>645,398.37</b>

EXPENSES: \*\* Refer to resolution records

County General	193,987.68
County Highway	40,087.18
911 Communications	41,828.54
NDRIN Fees	208.37
Cap Improvement Fd	14,700.00
Water Rescue	121.53
County Agent	2,835.96
Veterans Service	3,501.67
Weed Control Levy	602.41
Public Health	45,601.26
Haz Chem Fund	1,150.00
Income Maintenance	17,100.19
Foster Care	3,491.32
Child Protective Svc	9,958.25
Parent Aid	1,868.25
Family Soc Worker	3,870.34
Social Services	3,002.82
In-Home Care	11,086.40
Admin Support	4,459.17
HSZ Board	166.63
Safety Permanency Fd	1,671.31
Unallow Fed Costs	393.75
General Assistance	2,125.36

State Medical Levy	31,085.55
Three Rivers Crisis Center	975.00
Garrison Div	31,085.55
Domestic Violence	140.00
Twsp Share Gas & Oil	65,701.74
State Aid	36,385.68
Jail Concession	749.25
Sobriety Test Fund	670.00
SEMCA	1,073.83
JDA	123,303.68
Soil Cons District	29,248.83
Water Mngt Levy	97,633.09
Joint Water Resource	46,628.32
<b>EXPENSE TOTAL</b>	<b>868,498.91</b>

**TOTAL PAYROLL & EXPENSES** **1,513,897.28**

ATTEST: Sandy Fossum

Sandy Fossum  
Auditor/Administrator

Tim Campbell

CHAIRPERSON  
Tim Campbell  
Board of Richland County Commissioners