

**RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
VIDEO CONFERENCE
APRIL 21, 2020**

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met on April 21, 2020 by Video Conference with Commissioners Sid Berg, Nathan Berseth, Tim Campbell, Rollie Ehlert and Dan Thompson all joining the meeting by Video conference. Others in attendance were Administration Personnel Hage and DelVal; State's Attorney Kummer (via video conference) and Daily News Reporter Frank Stanko (via videoconference).

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. Vote was unanimous.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

Hage reported on the following:

LEC/CH Addition - Architect interviews are scheduled this week, then a recommendation will be made to the Commission by the interview committee. Nine firms applied, the following firms will be interviewed:

TL Stroh, Fargo
Foss Architecture, Fargo
YHR Partners, Moorhead

- John Anderson is checking into a boiler grant through the state
- Brett Lambrecht is checking into grants for lights, cameras and a body scanner

A special meeting will be scheduled to review the recommendation of the interview committee on Friday, April 24.

Elections -

- Applications are being sent to Voters from the Secretary of State this week
- PSA's have been sent to the Daily News and are on the County Web Site
- Working with schools on school elections
- Drop Boxes will be located at the Courthouse and also in Hankinson, Wyndmere and Christine

Ehlert requested Hage follow-up with Lidgerwood about a drop box location.

COVID-19 Update -

- Many employees are working from home or flexible hours
- The Health Dept has distributed masks to Departments
- Lambrecht is distributing Face Shields to Fire Departments
- Some Equalization and Township Meetings were held using Conference Calls

Hage asked the Board if they wanted to consider restrictions on the number of people in the Courthouse as a Group. Hage was recently informed there is the possibility of a large hearing in the Courthouse with 23 defendants plus attorneys. CDC Guidelines are 10. Following discussion, the Board determined no Resolution was necessary since the Courthouse, County Shops, LEC etc. may all have more than 10 people at a time, however the County is following CDC Guidelines and wearing masks, disinfecting, social distancing, etc. Hage was directed to inform the Clerk of Court that the Courthouse is keeping with the CDC Guidelines of no more than 10.

Prairie Dog Funding - Hage received an e-mail stating it is doubtful there will be any Prairie Dog funds for local government; also State Aid may be reduced by 25% and Highway Tax Distribution by 15% - she will update the Revenue Forecast.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Engineer Sedler joined the meeting via Video Conference.

Hankinson Gate - The entrance gate is not functioning properly. It is a key only opener on the entrance side, and the only way out when inside of the gate is opening up the electrical box. Updating the box would provide keypads on both sides of the fence. Estimated cost is \$7,016.66 plus electrical of not more than \$1,000. A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Berseth to update the Hankinson Gate as requested. Vote was unanimous.

Loader Scale - The purpose of the scale is to record how many tons of material we are using on roadways and bridges; to keep track of private trucks tonnage as they are paid by the ton/mile; and records for FEMA related projects. The scale company has repaired our scale the last two years. Whitmore Sales gave us a quote of \$11,463; this includes the scale, set-up, software and licensing. They would also give us a \$2,000 trade in value for a final price of \$9,463. The new scale would allow everything to be wirelessly transmitted to any office of scale readings, and allow scale tickets to be emailed directly to truck dispatch or private owners. A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Thompson to approve the purchase as requested. Vote was unanimous.

Box Culvert on County 8 - The road was dug up yesterday and we discovered that the box culvert was pieced together to have it widened when the road was regraded through this section; they had mortared the ends where the pieces were connected and the mortar is peeling apart causing a hole in the roadway and void under the road. There are also two other pipes at the crossing that are rusted out. Estimated cost to repair with a new box culvert is \$200,000. Will check with the Water Board about a possible cost share and also check into Emergency Relief Funds.

Misc Highway -

Additional Chip Seals - Cty 81 from Hwy 13 to Cty 10 (3.5 miles)
Road Cutting - Class B Misdemeanor and costs of any damage

Berseth commented with the reduced prices on items and interest rates being what they are, Bonding may be something to look at for projects. He suggested Sedler look at the top 5-8 projects and the estimated costs and that Hage look into Bonding Procedures. Berseth also suggested an Infrastructure Program through the Bank of North Dakota be looked into.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

April

24 Special Commission Meeting

May


5 Commission Meeting

19 Commission Meeting

June

9 Primary Election

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

ATTEST: 
Leslie Hage
Auditor/Administrator

 CHAIRPERSON
Sid Berg
Board of Richland County Commissioners