

RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 6, 2023

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met on June 6, 2023 with Commissioners Nathan Berseth, Tim Campbell, Rollie Ehlert, Terry Goerger and Perry Miller. Others included Administration Personnel Fossum and DeVal; Assistant State's Attorney Rydell; and Daily News Reporter Frank Stanko. Visitor Rose Dotzenrod attended a portion of the meeting.

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

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Campbell to approve the Minutes of meetings May 2 and May 16. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Goerger and seconded by Miller to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting May 25, 2023. Vote was unanimous.

TREASURERS REPORT

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

Treasurer Erickson updated the Commission on the Tax Foreclosure properties. There are 97 parcels in foreclosure for 2020 taxes as of May 15.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Snow Removal Grant - Still working on ND DES end of things and should be sending out funding for Townships and Richland County Highway Dept.

FEMA Flood 2023 - Submitted damages for Richland County Highway and Townships. Governor Burgum requested Presidential Major Disaster Declaration for Spring flooding.

Lidgerwood Fire Department - Received a call on June 5 about a calcium carbonate spill in a Science Room. Contacts were made with the ND Dept of Environmental Quality. Lidgerwood Fire Dept cleaned up the spill.

City of Wahpeton Watermain Break - A 6" watermain broke on June 6. Water was shut off for a few hours near the break.

Shooting incident in Wahpeton - A shooting incident took place in Wahpeton on June 3, responding entities included: Wahpeton and Breckenridge Police Departments, Richland and Wilkin County Sheriff Departments, and the Task Force.

Train Derailment near Wyndmere March 26 - Meritorious Service Awards were presented to firefighters Jeff Brosowske, Tom Brosowske and Wyndmere Fire Chief Andy Thompson for their assistance after the derailment. CP Rail donated \$10,000 to Richland County which will be used to upgrade dispatch equipment.

AGENT MENDEZ - EQUIPMENT PURCHASE/ASSET FORFEITURE FUNDS

Agent Mendez requested authorization to purchase equipment for the Agents - velocity vests, pouches, carrier and plates, using Asset Forfeiture Funds.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Goerger to authorize the expenditure of \$10,495 from Asset Forfeiture Funds. Vote was unanimous.

JILL BREUER - TOWER UPDATES

Hankinson Tower - Went with Motorola to look at, will sign off on the contract when all the bills come through.

Colfax Tower - Did not pass the structural test so are looking in the area for a structural site that will hold their equipment.

In other business Breuer reported:

- she attended a hiring conference in Washington DC and will try to implement some ideas in the Department
- still waiting on consolidation costs preliminary study info
- there has been an increase in 911 hang-ups and misdials

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Shop Update - The shop is 85-90% functional and we are able to use the full shop right now. The Commission discussed an Open House, the consensus was to hold the August 1 Commission meeting at 1:00 P.M. at the new shop and to hold the Open House from 2-5 PM that same day.

Project Updates -

- spot graveling on-going
- crushing on-going
- FEMA projects
- CR 1 south of Mooreton
- Bridge 124-11 south of Wahpeton

Wage Comparison - Sedler reported on a Wage Comparison he prepared for his Department.

Six employees are under \$25/hr and Seven are between \$25-30/hr, he would like to start new hires at \$25/hr and increase as follows:

- currently under \$25/hr - increase 22.5%
- currently between \$25-30/hr - increase 17.5%
- currently over \$30/hr - increase 2%

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Goerger to approve the wage increase as presented, effective August 1, 2023. Voting NO was Campbell, the remainder Voted Yes and the motion carried.

Campbell voiced concerns and suggested that this item should be held off until budget time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A) HSZ Board - Jodi Sanders introduced herself to the Commission, she has worked at the County for over 16 years. She is at the Social Services front desk and helps out with Veterans Service.
- B) Buildings & Grounds - The bid opening for the HVAC Project is scheduled for June 27. The Pigeon problem at the Courthouse continues.
- C) Public Health - Jenny Westphal introduced herself to the Commission, she is the Family Planning and Woman's Way Director. She has been with the County a year.

- D) JDA/JPA - Housing work continues; a JPA meeting is scheduled for later today. Berseth reported on the Richland 44 Foundation and recommended Richland County act as the Fiduciary Agent. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller that Richland County act as the Fiduciary Agent for the Richland 44 Foundation. Vote was unanimous.
- E) Weed Board - Contracting 100% to L & M Roadside Service, estimated cost \$80,000.
- F) Soils Committee - No report.
- G) Park Board - An Eagle Scout would like to put a bench at Brushvale Landing, the Sportsman Club will need to approve. The next meeting is scheduled for July 10.
- H) Administration - The VSO has requested a designated Parking Spot for the transportation van. Benefit Budget Worksheets have been distributed to employees and are due back to HR by June 12. Fossum will be meeting with the Drug Court group and talking with the Health Dept in regard to Opioid Litigation Funds the County has received.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

- Red River Basin Commission Natural Resources Framework Plan
- ND Water Education Water Tours Brochure
- Goerger gave a brief update on the 5-County meeting held May 18 - legislative Issues that effect the County were talked about.
- Visitor Rose Dotzenrod addressed the Commission requesting the Commission vote for an investigation into the ownership of Summit Carbon Solutions. Berseth requested the Board take some time to review before taking any action.

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

Motion to adjourn by Goerger.
Meeting adjourned at 9:55 A.M.

Reports Filed: Sheriff Department - Revenue and Expenses for April 2023;
Richland County Recorder - Revenue Vouchers for April and May, 2023.

ATTEST:   CHAIRPERSON
Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator
Rollie Ehler
Board of Richland County Commissioners

The following claims were approved for May 2023

PAYROLL (inclusive)

General	\$	253,865.29
County Highway	\$	89,841.45
911 Communications	\$	47,044.62
County Agent	\$	9,025.12
Veterans Service	\$	8,940.54
Weed Officer	\$	1,610.00
Public Health Fund	\$	92,880.25
Income Maintenance	\$	52,855.78
Foster Care	\$	17,642.20
Child Protective Svc	\$	31,513.99
Family Soc Worker	\$	4,743.00
Social Services	\$	60,824.94
In-Home Care	\$	16,009.33
Admin Support	\$	12,693.71
HSZ Board	\$	400.00
PAYROLL TOTAL	\$	699,890.22

EXPENSES: ** Refer to resolution records

County General	\$	264,673.27
County Highway	\$	492,504.00
Bridge Replacement	\$	-
Road & Bridge Equipment Fund	\$	-
Prairie Dog Disbursements	\$	-
15 Mill Road	\$	-
Emergency Assistance Donation	\$	230.94
Emergency Fund	\$	-
911 Communications	\$	30,905.03
NDRIN	\$	-
Capitol Improvement	\$	-
Water Rescue	\$	-
Special Response Team	\$	-
Civil Asset Forfeiture Fund	\$	-
K9 Dog Donations	\$	-
American Rescue Plan Funds	\$	1,561.00
County Agent	\$	4,050.16
Veterans Service	\$	5,696.71
Veteran Assistance Donation	\$	-
Weed Control Levy	\$	321.51
Public Health	\$	51,593.74
Haz Chem Fund	\$	161.08
Income Maintenance	\$	17,984.48
Adult Services	\$	-
Foster Care	\$	5,243.88
Child Protective Svc	\$	9,618.48

Parent Aid	\$	93.82
Family Soc Worker	\$	2,293.17
Social Services	\$	19,538.95
In-Home Care	\$	13,966.13
Admin Support	\$	5,218.83
HSZ Board	\$	256.06
Safety Permanency Fd	\$	2,273.45
Foster Care	\$	62.46
Unallow Fed Costs	\$	5,375.00
General Assistance	\$	-
American Rescue Plan Funds	\$	-
State Medical Levy	\$	2,855.44
Three Rivers Crisis Center	\$	-
FEMA Disaster Reimbursement	\$	-
Garrison Div	\$	2,855.44
Domestic Violence	\$	210.00
Twsp Share Gas & Oil	\$	58,338.45
TeleComm Tax Fund	\$	-
State Aid Distribution	\$	14,447.58
Jail Concession	\$	152.94
Sobriety Test Fund	\$	2,515.00
SEMCA	\$	1,235.58
County General Accounts	\$	66,937.41
Diversion Settlement	\$	890,882.01
ND Income Tax W/H	\$	-
Sr Citizen Fund	\$	3,330.00
Historical Society	\$	830.39
Co Agent Special	\$	445.88
Soil Cons District	\$	2,685.37
Water Mngt Levy	\$	9,575.56
Joint Water Resource	\$	4,285.86
Estimated Real Estate Tax	\$	27.00
Current Tax Holding Fund	\$	-
EXPENSE TOTAL	\$	1,995,232.06
TOTAL PAYROLL & EXPENSES	\$	2,695,122.28

ATTEST: Sandy Fossum
Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

Rollie Enlert CHAIRPERSON
Rollie Enlert
Board of Richland County Commissioners