

**RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
VIDEO CONFERENCE
JUNE 16, 2020**

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met on June 16, 2020 by Video Conference with Commissioners Sid Berg, Nathan Berseth, Tim Campbell, Rollie Ehlert and Dan Thompson all joining the meeting by Videoconference or Teleconference. Others in attendance were Administration Personnel Hage and DelVal; State's Attorney Kummer (via video conference) and Daily News Reporter Frank Stanko (via videoconference).

Other County Personnel joining the meeting via video conference included: Jesse Sedler, Joan Oland, Michelle Eberhardt, Sandy Fossum, Mechelle Olsen and Sheriff Leshovsky.

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 A.M.

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

ND GAME & FISH - NOTIFICATION OF PROPERTY ACQUISITION

Casey Anderson of ND Game & Fish Wildlife Division joined the meeting by Speaker Phone. Anderson explained the Richland County Wildlife Club and other local residents have expressed interest in having a shooting range near Hankinson. The Game & Fish Dept has applied to purchase state land (114 acres near Hankinson) for public purposes. The Game & Fish Dept has shooting ranges on some Wildlife Management Areas already and has the ability to spend federal match to construct and maintain shooting ranges open to the public. The Richland County Wildlife Club will be the cooperating entity that would help with the day to day maintenance on the range as the project becomes completed. The ND Game & Fish Dept feels this acquisition will be a benefit to the local community and extended area.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Campbell to approve the Property Acquisition by the North Dakota Game & Fish Department. Vote was unanimous.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

- Notification from USDA re- East Sheyenne Vegetation Management Project

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Thompson to approve the Raffle Permit Application for the Hankinson Sandhills Saddle Club. Vote was unanimous.

Hage received an inquiry from Dickey County regarding the 5 County meeting. The last meeting was postponed and the next scheduled meeting would be held July 2; Dickey County has inquired about holding the meeting as scheduled or whether to postpone. Following discussion, Hage was directed to contact Dickey County and advise them it would be better to meet later in the Fall.

Berseth gave a brief update on the Diversion Project- there have been two weeks of trial regarding Buffalo Red denying the Permit.

Glass Bottle Ordinance - State's Attorney Kummer has prepared a Glass Bottle Ordinance as requested for Mooreton Pond. The Board has received the draft for review. Kummer asked if there were any modifications needed. Berg requested Kummer and Highway Engineer Sedler work on getting signage. Following discussion a motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Berseth to approve the 1st Reading of the Glass Bottle Ordinance. Vote was unanimous.

Hage gave an update on the Court Facilities Grant Addition - A meeting was held last week, they went through the timeline of the project and the architect provided some visuals. The project will be bid in the next few weeks and the opening date should be April or May if everything stays on schedule.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Township Road Mileage Certifications - A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Thompson to approve the Township Road Mileage Certifications as presented. Vote was unanimous.

Co Rd 1 - Sedler expressed concerns about the road getting beat up from overloads as well as individuals rolling stop signs; he recommended a law enforcement presence is needed in that area.

Sheriff Leshovsky replied this is the first he is hearing of issues in that area - he will take a look at what they can get in the area to help out.

Bridge Inspections - We have approximately 150 bridges to inspect over the next two years, the estimated cost is \$2,000-\$4,000 per bridge. This will be an expensive and on-going project. We also have seventeen Code 3 Bridges.

Commissioner Campbell exited the meeting at this time. 8:45 A.M.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE continued

Covid-19 - Discussion included the following:

- several County employees have tested positive for Covid-19
- discussion on remaining on lock down
- discussion on a reopening plan
- possibly having all employees tested
- Sneeze Guards have been ordered for some offices but haven't arrived yet, would like them installed before re-opening

Michelle Eberhardt reported the Health Dept has the capability for testing all employees, the issue with that is they are only positive or negative for that day. Employees should be reminded not to just be careful at work, but everywhere. Currently there are 37 cases in Richland County and 15 cases being followed.

Berseth suggested Michelle Eberhardt and Leslie Hage discuss a reopening plan for County Offices rather than the Commissioners deciding on a reopening. He has a concern with daycares and funerals/weddings and stores opening, etc. outside of work, at some point it has to go back to business as usual however it may not be a good time now.

Hage reported we are making it work and still providing services with a few extra steps, she has not received any complaints.

Ehlert stated we need a reopening plan with the date to be determined; we first need personal protective equipment and need to differentiate who needs to be there at this point.

Hage replied she will work with Michelle Eberhardt and Mechelle Olsen in HR on a Reopening Plan.

Election Update - Hage reported the election went very well. There were 3,926 ballots sent out and 3,214 returned or nearly 82%. There are also 2,942 ballots already requested for the General Election. The costs were considerably less than normal. \$35,000 was budgeted for the Primary Election and approximately \$18,000 to \$20,000 has been spent to date. We anticipate receiving back \$13,400 from FEMA and the Cares Act so the total estimated cost will be between \$10,000 - \$15,000 once all the outstanding expenses are paid. There were nearly 2,600 applications forwarded to schools which is a considerable increase for school elections as well.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

July

- 7 Commission Meeting
- 7 Department Head Meeting
- 21 Commission Meeting
- 21 Budget Meetings
- 22 Budget Meetings

Being there was no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:10 A.M.

ATTEST: Leslie Hage Sid Berg CHAIRPERSON
Leslie Hage Sid Berg
Auditor/Administrator Board of Richland County Commissioners