

**RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2021**

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met on September 21, 2021 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Sid Berg, Nathan Berseth, Tim Campbell, Rollie Ehlert and Perry Miller. Others present were Administration Personnel Fossum and DelVal; State's Attorney Kummer, and Daily News Reporter Frank Stanko.

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

**MISC/CORRESPONDENCE**

- Fossum reported Eide Bailly Consulting will be starting their efficiency survey soon.
- Fossum reported at the 5-County Meeting discussions were held on the Redistricting Process and American Rescue Plan Funding. The next meeting is scheduled for December 2 in Ransom County.
- Correspondence from WBI Energy Transmission re- Proposed Wahpeton Expansion Project
- Notice from Public Service Commission re- Great River Energy/Nexus Line LLC

**KAYLA CARLSON - COVID UPDATE and REQUEST TO FILL POSITION**

Anne LaPlante, Accounting Professional/Financial Manager was also in attendance.

Covid Update - There are currently 16 active cases and the CDC rating for Richland County is still at High Transmission. Vaccination Clinics are ongoing at various locations.

Request to Fill Position - Carlson reported that Accounting Professional/Financial Manager Anne LaPlante will be retiring December 15 and requested authorization to advertise and fill the upcoming vacancy. LaPlante explained the responsibilities of the position.

A motion was made by Berg and seconded by Ehlert to advertise and fill the Accounting Professional/Financial Manager position.

Berseth suggested holding off on advertising for several weeks until the Eide Bailly Efficiency Study is complete; voicing concerns that this is a key position in the Health Department and that the Director of Nursing position is currently being advertised as well.

Voting NO on the motion was Berseth, the remainder voted Yes and the motion carried.

### **HELENDALE PRIVATE DRAIN**

Peter Leedahl, Managing Director of the Private Drain and Attorney Tami Norgard were present. Also present was County Highway Engineer Sedler.

Norgard said the Helendale Private Drain Operations and Maintenance Manual, containing the Conditions the County wanted included, was sent to the County for review; they would like the County to issue a Permit to work in the ROW so they can get started on the project this Fall. Discussion followed and included:

- the maintenance manual refers to "adequate insurance" - the Board would like a specific amount addressed in the plan before agreeing to it and an escalator amount
- should there be a "County held Harmless Clause"

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to issue a Conditional Permit contingent on a \$5 million insurance policy to be reviewed every five years and hold harmless verbage.

Engineer Sedler suggested the County look into subrogation terms also.

Further discussion was held and the motion was rescinded. State's Attorney Kummer and the Highway Portfolio will meet to discuss the concerns addressed today and will be in contact with Attorney Norgard. The Commission will call a Special Meeting if necessary.

### **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

Highway Personnel Ron Hohenstern and Engineer Sedler were present.

Pre-Construction Meeting - A pre-construction meeting for the new shop was held last week. The footings are expected to go in next Spring. Sedler requested the Board approve a petition for utilities - A motion was made by

Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to approve a Form of Petition requesting the construction and installation of the sanitary sewer, water & street improvement projects from the City of Hankinson. Vote was unanimous.

Storage of Equipment - Working with JBX on an Agreement for storage; also spoke with the Sheriff about extra space at the Wahpeton location.

Bridge 124-15.1 -Repairs have been done and the bridge should be open today.

Equipment - should get a new loader next week, the blades are in production, a plow truck is ready and in Fargo.

Bridge Ratings - Working with the State on Bridge Ratings/Load Limits.

Bridge Crossing - Working with Mooreton Twsp on a bridge crossing

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Berg to appoint Nichole Benedict to replace the unexpired term of Delmer Steffens and appoint Nola Miksche to replace the unexpired term of Delwayne Hoefs on the Richland County Park Board. Vote was unanimous.

- Miller reported he was contacted about the Canada Thistle in County ditches and throughout the County.
- Berseth reported on Overtime concerns due to Covid. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to lift the Covid Emergency Declaration. Voting NO was Campbell, the remainder Voted Yes and the motion carried.
- Berseth reported he has been receiving calls in regard to the Solar Farm Project in the Colfax Area.

Being there was no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:45 A.M.

ATTEST: Sandy Fossum  
Sandy Fossum  
Auditor/Administrator

Tim Campbell CHAIRPERSON  
Tim Campbell  
Board of Richland County Commissioners