

**RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
NOVEMBER 5, 2019**

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met on November 5, 2019 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Sid Berg, Nathan Berseth, Tim Campbell, Rollie Ehlert and Dan Thompson. Others in attendance were Administration Personnel Hage and DeVal; State's Attorney Kummer and a Daily News Reporter.

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

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to approve the minutes of meetings October 2 and October 15. Vote was unanimous.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Personnel in attendance were Engineer Sedler and Ron Hohenstern.

Mud on Roadways - At the October 15 meeting -

The current policy for mud on roadways was discussed and State's Attorney Kummer was asked to review and draft a new Ordinance.

Kummer reported she has reviewed the existing Policy and asked the Board if they would like a Policy or if she should work on updating and preparing an Ordinance which was started several years ago. The consensus of the Board was a "Policy" rather than an Ordinance. Kummer will prepare a Policy for the next meeting.

Motor Grader Bids - A Bid Opening is scheduled for November 19 at 8:30 A.M.

Bridge 39-116-34.1 - The bridge opened November 2 and is substantially complete. Ditch work and permanent seeding will be completed next spring when the water goes down.

Misc -

Berg reported he was contacted and asked if the County would consider purchasing dirt for Eagle and Colfax Townships so they could complete a project and then bill the Townships for the dirt. The project cost is \$15,000 or \$7,500 for each Twsp. Eagle Twsp has the funds however Colfax Twsp can only contribute \$5,000 to the project at this time. If the project is not completed now the dirt will no longer be available and the project will not get done. The consensus of the Board was the County would not loan funds to the Township; it was suggested that the Townships try to work out a payment arrangement with the Contractor OR that Eagle Twsp pay for the entire project and bill Colfax Twsp.

ASSESSOR - ADMINISTRATION OF FARM EXEMPTIONS

At the October 2nd meeting -

Fossum had requested the Board make a decision on the Administration of Farm Exemptions and whether to accept worksheets or require Tax Returns - a motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Campbell that the applicant would need Verification with a Tax Return. Ehlert voiced concerns that the law was rewritten and the form and details are not available from the State. Ehlert recommended waiting until the form is published before the Board takes action. A motion was made by Berg and seconded by Ehlert to Table the earlier motion until the Tax Commissioner provides information. Vote was unanimous.

Fossum reported the Application for Farm Residence Property Tax Exemption and the instruction information have now been published and were e-mailed to the Commissioners along with their Meeting Agendas.

A motion was made by Berg and seconded by Berseth to move the motion "that applicants would need verification with a Tax Return" be taken from the table.

Discussion followed and included:

- the exemption is a benefit to the applicants
- fairness to the other citizens and to those that need to show proof
- Fossum stated that if applicants bring their Tax Returns into the Courthouse, she would take the information directly from the return and not keep copies of any Tax Returns in her office

Following discussion - Vote on the motion that applicants would need verification with a Tax Return was unanimous.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

Mud on Roadways - Highway Engineer Sedler reported that some farmers are leaving mud on the roadways and asked who would be liable if there were an incident/accident; he also asked, if the Highway Dept is aware of a hazard, what should they do?

State's Attorney Kummer replied, how would you prove what farmer left the dirt, if there were a suit it would likely be against everyone - the farmer and the County. Ehlert suggested the Sheriff Department put out some PSA's. Thompson recommended that if the County is made aware of something, they should contact the farmer. Ehlert commented that if any insurance claims were filed - the insurance company would investigate it.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

An update on foreclosure properties was given. There are a total of nine properties - (4) residential, (4) commercial and (1) vacant lot; there are also (2) residential properties in Hankinson from last year.

Hage reported a letter was received from the City of Lidgerwood, requesting to purchase tax foreclosed property in Lidgerwood. No action will be taken on the request until after the County Sale, Ehlert will follow-up with the City.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Emergency Declaration - An Emergency Declaration for Flooding/Snow Event was signed last week. There are two Townships with damages - Brandenburg Twsp has two sites and Wyndmere Twsp has three sites.

Salvation Army - Will be meeting with Dakota Magic Casino on the Kettle Campaign.

2017 Homeland Security Grant- Working on closeout paperwork.

THIRA Steps 3 & 4 - The final is due June 2020.

Grant for Hazard Mitigation Plan - Received three quotes to update.

Meeting with Corps of Engineers - Meeting with the Corp, Cities of Wahpeton and Fairmount, and several Twsp on accurate releases, timing based on inflows and outflows with working gauges.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE continued

Hage and Matt Syvertsen reported on a recent Webinar with NDACo and the ND Game & Fish Dept. ND Game & Fish is requesting Counties participate in a trial by providing a one-time copy of their GIS parcel data for the purpose of building a trial electronic posting and hunter access information system. Syvertsen explained it would not involve a lot of extra work and the information is public record, the question is - do we want to be part of the Pilot Program? A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Berseth to join the ND Game & Fish Pilot Program; Voting NO were Berg and Campbell, the remainder Voted Yes and the motion carried.

A motion was made by Berg and seconded by Ehlert to approve a Temporary Liquor License for the Black Pelican for an Event November 23-24 at the Bagg Farm. Vote was unanimous.

- Thank you from Matt Syvertsen Family
- Letter of Resignation from Water Resource Board Member Robert Rostad

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A) Social Services - Another Zone Meeting is coming up; dealing with the state on indirect costs, still many unanswered questions.
- B) Buildings & Grounds - Several Commissioners commented that the antenna's on the roof of the Courthouse look bad. A meeting is coming up with Interstate Engineering regarding the Courthouse Facility Grant.
- C) Public Health - No Report.
- D) JDA - SVEDA will be meeting this week.
- E) Weed Board - No Report.
- F) Soils Committee - No Report.
- G) Park Board - Berg reported the new pipe is working well and the water has dropped at Mooreton Pond - there will be no anchors put on the pipe until next year.
- H) Administration - Thompson reported that Rhonda Gripenrog has been hired as the Family Community Wellness Extension Agent. A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Berg to approve an expenditure to meet the salary requirements. Vote was unanimous.

Hage reported the salary survey information with steps has been received from Gallagher. This information was not available at budget time so next year's budget may be a little off. Hage will present information to Department Heads and ask them to adjust their budgets in other areas next year to try and stay within the overall budget.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE continued

Berg inquired about a "No Firearm Permitted" sign for Mooreton Pond. Thompson replied he should talk with the Highway Dept about getting a sign ordered.

Campbell commented on the signs and yellow-tape on County foreclosed Properties. He asked what else could be done to make these properties not look so junky. State's Attorney Kummer stated it would be a liability not to have Notice on them.

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

November

- 19 Commission Meeting
- 19 Tax Sale
- 26 Township Officers Meeting

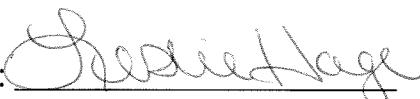
December

- 3 Commission Meeting
- 17 Commission Meeting

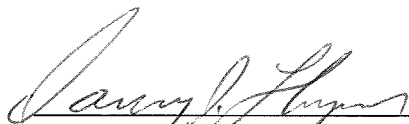
Being there was no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:35 A.M.

Reports Filed: Tax & Property Department - Revenue Voucher for September 2019;
Sheriff's Department - Revenue and Expenses for September 2019.

ATTEST:



Leslie Hage
Auditor/Administrator



Danny D. Thompson
Board of Richland County Commissioners

CHAIRPERSON

The following claims were approved for October, 2019.

PAYROLL (inclusive)	
General	245,983.81
County Highway	84,675.18
Social Services	104,383.68
911 Communications	42,897.35
County Agent	5,294.66
Veterans Service	6,916.01
Weed Officer	2,560.00
Public Health Fund	77,167.14
JDA	900.00
PAYROLL TOTAL	570,777.83

EXPENSES: ** Refer to resolution records

County General	204,939.04
County Highway	155,883.36
Bridge Repl Fund	72,251.00
Road & Bridge Eqpt	38,000.00
Social Service	51,581.85
911 Communications	29,539.25
Special Assessment Fd	78,888.14
County Agent	5,262.88
Veterans Service	3,662.93
Weed Control Levy	42,268.75
Public Health	77,894.32
State Medical Levy	578.79
Garrison Div	578.79
Domestic Violence	175.00
Jail Concession	510.48
Sobriety Test Fund	1,795.00
SEMCA	3,587.92
JDA	36,782.04
ND Income Tax WH	12,632.49
Sr Citizens Fund	578.79
Historical Society Fund	144.65
County Agent Special	93.06
Soil Cons District	578.79
Water Mngt Levy	2,312.25
Joint Water Resource	956.97
EXPENSE TOTAL	821,476.54

TOTAL PAYROLL & EXPENSES **1,392,254.37**

ATTEST:   CHAIRPERSON
Leslie Hage
Auditor/Administrator
Danny D. Thompson
Board of Richland County Commissioners