

RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER 15, 2020

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met on December 15, 2020 at the Richland County LEC with Commissioners Sid Berg, Nathan Berseth, Tim Campbell, Perry Miller and Rollie Ehlert. Others in attendance were Administration Personnel Hage, Oland; State's Attorney, Kummer and a Daily News Reporter.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Campbell. A motion by Berg, seconded by Miller to approve the agenda. Vote was unanimous.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

2021 Portfolio information was presented to Commissioners and sent out to departments on December 15, 2020.

Motion by Ehlert, seconded by Berseth to approve sale of two properties to the City of Lidgerwood for \$1 each and to submit check to City of Lidgerwood for \$2,000 each property for shared cost after city provided proof of demolition. Parcel No. 47-0001-03222.000 LIDGE OT: LOTS 6-8 BLK 29 and Parcel No. 47-1305-03481.0000 LIDGE M&L ADD: LOTS 6-7 BLK 10. Vote was unanimous.

Motion by Ehlert and seconded by Berseth to approve payment of \$2,000 to the City of Lidgerwood as city submitted a bill for Parcel No. 47-0001-02890.100 showing the demolition of this property. Vote was unanimous.

SANDY FOSSUM - ABATEMENTS

John Dyste, Hankinson grocery store owner, was present and filed an abatement on the 2020 value. He requested an abatement from the City of Hankinson and was denied. Fossum valued property 3 different ways. Recommending \$54.50/sq. ft. Motion by Berseth and seconded by Berg to approve with amended value of \$534,000 (\$520,600 Building, \$13,500 Land). Vote was unanimous.

Bob Wurl, Lincoln State Bank, filed an abatement on parcel 48 0001 03764.000 asking that the value of the house, that was demolished in July, be removed for 2020. Fossum asked the abatement be denied based on NDCC 57-02-11.01 that states all real property subject to taxation must be listed and assessed every year with reference to its value on February 1st of that year. Also brought before the board was NDCC 57-02-11.03 which states that whenever after the first day of February and before the first day of April in any year, it is made known to the assessor that the building structure or other improvement that has been listed for taxation for the current year has been destroyed or damaged by fire, flood, tornado, or other natural disaster, the assessor shall deduct from the valuation of the property of the owner an amount which in the assessor's judgement fairly represents such deduction as should be made. Motion made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to accept as presented by the Assessor and deny the abatement. Vote was unanimous.

Bob Wurl, Lincoln State Bank, filed an abatement on parcel 48 0001 03760.000 asking the value of the structure be reduced by \$177,500. Wurl felt was a sharp increase for one year based on market. Motion by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to reduce the value by 88,750.00. Vote was unanimous.

Prairie Pines abatement. There were 33 abatements filed by the Hankinson Community Development Corporation for the lots owned by them in the Prairie Pines subdivision; one lot has since been sold. Motion by Berseth and seconded by Berg to approve the abatement of .40/sq. ft for all 32 lots. Vote was unanimous.

Fossum thanked these taxpayers for the way they worked with her office on these issues.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Motor Grader Colfax Shop-County Engineer presented the following bids as received:

Butler/Cat -Fargo - annual payment \$50,199.67/5 year lease

RDO - Moorhead - annual payment \$56,298.97/5 year lease

Motion by Ehlert and seconded by Berg to accept bid of \$50,199.67 from Butler Cat Equipment. Motion passed with 3-2 vote. Voting nay were Miller and Berseth.

-No 30 day permits are out at this time. Signed agreement for county with Load Pass.

-Have received 25,000 ton of clay.

-Engineer Sedler is talking with Interstate Engineering on preliminary project of Co RD 2 as future Federal Aid project.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Unused Annual Leave over 240 hours - Discussion of unused annual leave for 9 employees who have been unable to take due to job duties relating to COVID. Motion by Berg and seconded by Ehlert to extend to June 1, 2021. After discussion, motion was made by Berg and seconded by Ehlert to vote on amending motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion by Berg and seconded by Ehlert to amend motion to say all employees use carryover hours by July 1, 2021 and have no more than 240 hours of AL at end of 2021. Motion passed 4-1. Voting nay was Berseth.

X 2021 Liquor Licenses - Five establishments have applied for liquor/beer licenses. Dakota Magic Casino; Crooked Lane Fam Folk School, LLC; Texas Crossing, LLC; Dakota Vines Vineyard & Winery, LLC; Nancy Heitkamp, Terrace Lanes Bar & Lounge;. Motion by Berseth and seconded by Berg to accept liquor licenses with completed documentation provided. Motion by Miller and seconded by Berg to reduce the 2021 licensing fees to \$200/liquor and \$50/beer due to COVID 19. Vote was unanimous. County will reimburse all who have submitted checks for difference.

DIRECTOR OF EQUALIZATION VACANCY - Motion by Berseth and seconded by Berg to advertise internally and externally for position. Vote was unanimous.

-Hage advised commission that the President of the United States declared December 24th as a holiday. Per our policy manual, if the President of the United States or the Governor of the State of North Dakota declare any additional days as a holiday, that the county is granted that day. Motion by Berseth and seconded by Berg to rescind that sentence from our policy manual. Motion failed on a 2-3 vote. Voting Yes were Berseth and Miller.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE (cont)

Get expense reports into the Treasurer for 2020 so they can be paid in December.

STATE AUDIT

We received the 2019 audit back via e-mail from the state auditors.

There were 2 findings:

1. Segregation of duties in smaller offices.
2. County does not provide own completed financial statements, which leaves the State Auditors to complete it.

Also was mentioned that the county needs to do a countywide risk assessment. Hage has obtained information for other counties as to what they do and will look at getting done in 2021.

RSR ZONE APPOINTMENT

Will advertise for one 3 year term which expires January 31, 2021.

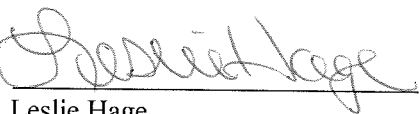
Calendar

Commission Meetings January 5th and 19th

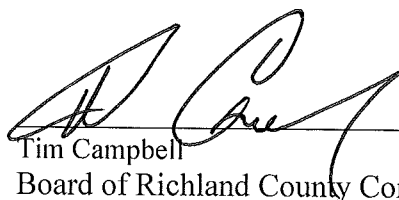
5 CO Meeting with Legislatures. Will work with Terry Trainer to set up virtual meeting.

At 10:15 motion by Berg to adjourn.

ATTEST:



Leslie Hage
Auditor/Administrator



Chairperson

Tim Campbell
Board of Richland County Commissioners