

**RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TELECONFERENCE SPECIAL SESSION
MARCH 26, 2020**

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met by Teleconference in Special Session on March 26, 2020. Commissioner Dan Thompson was present, joining by Teleconference were Commissioners Sid Berg, Nathan Berseth, Tim Campbell and Rollie Ehlert. Others in attendance were Administration Personnel Hage and DeVal.

Visitors included County Personnel Joan Oland, Sandy Fossum, Mechelle Olsen, Mary Vetter, Michelle Eberhardt and David Iverson. Visitors joining by Teleconference included County Personnel Kummer, Jesse Sedler, Darlene Lee, Brett Lambrecht, Sheriff Leshovsky, Jill Breuer, Chandra Langseth, Kristen Hasbargen and Daily News Reporter Frank Stanko.

The meeting was called to Order at 10:00 A.M. by Chairman Berg.

ELECTIONS

Hage reported on conference calls held earlier this week between the State and County Auditors regarding the Primary Election. The Secretary of State's Office is requesting all counties be proactive in the interest of the health and safety of election workers and the voting public. They are asking all counties go to a "Vote By Mail" with only one open polling location on election day. The State would send out the absentee applications to all voters in the Central Voter File (both active and inactive voters).

Hage stated a "Vote by Mail" determination must be made by the County Commission no later than Monday, April 6, in order to comply with State Law; it is also possible that Governor Burgum may mandate that all counties move to a "Vote by Mail" Primary election and have no polling places open on election day.

Following discussion a motion was made by Thompson to move to a "Vote by Mail" for the Primary Election and have one polling location at the Richland County LEC; motion seconded by Campbell. Voting NO was Berseth, the remainder Voted Yes and the motion carried.

A Resolution prepared by NDACO Legal Counsel outlaying a Process for the June 9th Primary Election was discussed. Following discussion, a motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Berseth to rescind the previous motion. Vote was unanimous. A motion was made by Thompson and seconded by Ehlert to adopt a Resolution regarding the June 9th, 2020 Primary Election Process as prepared by NDACo Legal Counsel. Voting NO was Berseth, the remainder Voted Yes and the motion carried. (Copy of Resolution attached to minutes).

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Hage reported that Governor Tim Walz issued an Executive Order yesterday directing Minnesotans to shelter in place; Richland County does have employees currently living in Minnesota who are unsure of how it affects them.

Michelle Eberhardt reported she has also been receiving calls regarding that from individuals wondering what happens now. Eberhardt stated Minnesotans are allowed to leave their homes to perform certain activities.

Hage reported some County employees are working from home now, and some Departments are working flexible hours; it helped when we locked down our buildings.

Oland reported there are currently 7 employees working from home, and by Friday everyone who has requested access to work from home will have that access available to them.

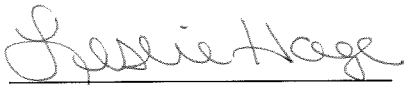
Fossum reported she has been in communication with the State in regard to Local Equalization Meetings, at this point they are planned to go on as scheduled. She has sent a letter to the local equalization boards suggesting they consider holding the meetings with some members joining by phone rather than in person.

Sheriff Leshovsky asked if the Sheriff Department would be expected to Serve Foreclosure Notices for the Treasurer's Office soon. Hage replied that question was presented to the State Tax Department but they have not gotten back to County Auditor's with an answer.

Hage asked for direction from the Commission on how the Shelter in Place Order from MN Governor Walz would affect Richland County Employees residing in Minnesota.

Ehlert replied he had some information regarding how the order applies to Government Employees - he will forward the information to Hage.

Being there was no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:05 A.M.

ATTEST: 
Leslie Hage
Auditor/Administrator

 CHAIRPERSON
Sid Berg
Board of Richland County Commissioners

**Richland County Resolution Regarding June 9th 2020 Primary Election
Process**

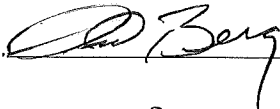
The Richland County Commission operating under their authority provided by NDCC § 16.1-04-02 & 16.1-11.1-01 and in consideration of the Governor's declared emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic hereby declares by resolution that all previous County polling locations shall be consolidated into a minimum of one location for the June 9th 2020 primary election located at the Richland County Law Enforcement Center.

The County Commission hereby grants authority to the County Auditor at their discretion to additionally suspend the polling location(s) if State or Federal law otherwise suspends the polling location requirement.

The County Commission further declares under their authority provided by NDCC § 16.1-11.1-01 to the greatest extent possible for the county to conduct the June 9th 2020 primary election by way of mail in ballot. The Commission encourages all qualified citizens to take every opportunity to vote by mail ballot prior to the June 9th 2020 Election.

So ordered.

Richland County Commission Chair



Dated: 3-26-20