

RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 1, 2025

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met at 8:00 A.M. on April 1, 2025 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Tim Campbell, Terry Goerger, Nathan Berseth, Rollie Ehlert, and Perry Miller. Others included Administrative Personnel Fossum and South, State's Attorney Kummer, Sheriff Ruhl, Steve Gjerdevig, Brett Lambrecht, Jesse Sedler, Donnie Witt, Sarah Erickson, John Anderson, Kory Kaste, Steve Dale and Scott Wheeler (via Teams).

Commissioner Campbell called the meeting to order. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to approve the agenda. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Goerger to approve the minutes of meetings March 4 and March 18. Vote was unanimous.

TREASURERS REPORT

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to approve the Treasurer's Report. Vote was unanimous.

SHERIFF RUHL – JAIL EXPENDITURES

Sheriff Ruhl informed the Commission that he received a bill for the jail from Minn-Kota for work that was done in 2022. Ruhl explained that the expenditure was budgeted for in 2022 but was not in the current budget. Ruhl stated that Minn-Kota was paid for other work that has not yet been completed, he will see if the credit can be applied to the outstanding invoice.

Ruhl informed the Commission that the dishwasher/sanitizer in the jail needs to be replaced. The cost of a new sanitizer is \$2300 but doesn't include installation or service. Sheriff Ruhl is still waiting on an estimate for lease agreement with service plan.

Sheriff Ruhl reported that the windows in the jail need repair. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to approve \$3100 bid from Wahpeton Glass & Paint for window repair in the jail. Vote was unanimous.

Ruhl distributed information to the Commission regarding bed counts for the jail in 2024.

KORY KASTE – UPDATE ON SVEDA

Kory Kaste addressed the Commission to share information about the following services that the Southern Valley Economic Development Authority (SVEDA) provides:

Business attraction and investments – SVEDA works to bring new businesses to the region by marketing the region, talking about workforce and affordable land.

Business Start-Ups – SVEDA can assist from the bottom up or look over a completed business plan.

Answering requests for information from the state - when the state has a business wanting to move to the region, they email SVEDA with a list of what the business will need (land, electricity, water, etc.). SVEDA responds back with possible sites that match the need.

SVEDA supports local businesses with business planning, accessing funding, expansion and succession planning. SVEDA offers a program called Live Plan, which assists with building a business plan and ensuring it is viable. Succession planning helps existing businesses plan for the future and get an idea of what their business is worth.

SVEDA helps bring new businesses to the region through the Community Venture Network. SVEDA attends the event three times per year, it connects rural communities with businesses looking to expand in rural areas.

Kaste reported that he has started a newsletter for SVEDA with testimonials, it will be send out quarterly.

SCOTT WHEELER – LETTER OF SUPPORT PROCLAMATION HONORING WELK

Scott Wheeler joined the meeting via Teams. Wheeler addressed the Commission to request a letter of support in his efforts to get the Governor of ND to sign a proclamation honoring the 70th anniversary of the Lawrence Welk Show.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to approve a letter of support for proclamation honoring 70th anniversary of Lawrence Welk Show. Vote was unanimous.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A) HSZ Board – Nothing to report.

B) Buildings & Grounds – Commissioner Miller reported that John is working on getting the Courthouse Facilities Improvement Grants in order.

C) Public Health – The procedure for department policy changes was discussed. Policy

changes need to go before the Board of Health for approval; a special meeting to be called if necessary. Portfolio holders will meet with department head to discuss.

The meeting recessed for a 5-minute break at 9:11 A.M. and reconvened 9:16 A.M.

D) JDA/JPA – JDA approved a loan at the last meeting. JPA is moving forward with apartments in Hankinson, should break ground this summer. Twin Homes in Wyndmere will be ready in May. Legacy Lakes will go before City Council April 7th. The red Queen Anne style house has gone back to the JPA and will be rehabilitated.

E) Weed Board – Fossum reported a letter of interest had been received for the Weed Board, the Commission will wait until after the Township Officer meeting to address. Goerger reported that the spray truck, ranger, and pickup will be going up for auction April 19th at the Helbling Auction.

F) Soils Committee – Nothing to report.

G) Park Board – Had a meeting in March. Two-inch river rock needs to be ordered for Mooreton pond. Signage is being worked on.

H) Administration – Fossum informed the Commission that she met with Darcie Huwe regarding the Richland County Historical Society's proposal, the City of Wahpeton approved \$17,000 for the museum. Berseth will bring up at next JDA meeting to check on funds. Fossum informed the Commission that the Auditors will be on site the first week in May.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

-Correspondence regarding a possible Kindred Ambulance District.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway personnel in attendance were Jesse Sedler and Donnie Witt.

CR 1 & CR 3 Drain Tile – Bids were opened at the March 18 Commission Meeting. Apex Drainage of Glyndon MN was the low bid at \$456,405.75.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to award Drain Tile bid to Apex Drainage for \$456,405.75. Vote was unanimous.

Sedler gave the following Highway updates:

-Helendale Bridge – had a meeting last week, funds are available to start construction, local cost is 15%.

-Total of all bids for Highway came in \$900,000 less than what was budgeted, may look at doing additional work.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE continued

Anderson gave the following updates regarding the Court House project:

Drain tile - Just got info for coating that needs to go on the walls underground, hoping to have an estimate this week from Comstock Construction. Landscaping can be salvaged and put back in place.

Chiller – Scotts Electric has tied in the chiller. BDT will get the chiller running the second or third week of April.

The failure of HB1213 was discussed. Goerger reported that Senators were provided a one-day snapshot of jail bed occupancy for the state before the vote. Goerger distributed the information that was shared with him to the Commission. Because the data showed several open jail beds in the state, it was not favorable. A 2% loan is available through the Revolving Infrastructure Loan Fund, but max available is \$20,000,000.

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

April

- 1 Housing Authority
- 15 Commission Meeting
- 15 Township Officer Meeting

May

- 6 Commission Meeting
- 14 Legislative Wrap-Up
- 20 Commission Meeting

June

- 3 Commission Meeting
- 3 Equalization Meetings
- 17 Commission Meeting

July

- 1 Commission Meeting
- 15 Commission Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 10:21 A.M.

Reports Filed: Tax & Property Department - Revenue Voucher for February 2025.

ATTEST: _____
Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

_____CHAIRPERSON
Tim Campbell
Board of Richland County Commissioners

The following claims were approved for March, 2025

PAYROLL (inclusive)

General	\$	313,218.30
County Highway	\$	95,249.53
911 Communications	\$	60,868.23
County Agent	\$	7,728.42
Veterans Service	\$	11,043.08
Weed Officer	\$	545.00
Public Health Fund	\$	63,992.71
Income Maintenance	\$	78,143.11
Foster Care	\$	15,789.19
Child Protective Svc	\$	38,333.14
Parent Aid	\$	4,679.30
Family Soc Worker	\$	5,333.41
Social Services	\$	81,623.61
In-Home Care	\$	22,394.31
Admin Support	\$	17,383.09
PAYROLL TOTAL	\$	816,324.43

EXPENSES: ** Refer to resolution records

County General Accounts	\$	392,153.44
County Highway	\$	61,036.06
Bridge Replacement	\$	-
Road & Bridge Equipment Fund	\$	-
Prairie Dog Disbursements	\$	-
15 Mill Road	\$	-
Social Services Fund	\$	-
Emergency Assistance Donation	\$	-
Emergency Fund	\$	-
911 Communications	\$	25,979.99
NDRIN	\$	-
Capitol Improvement	\$	-
Water Rescue	\$	-
Special Response Team	\$	-
Civil Asset Forfeiture Fund	\$	-
K9 Dog Donations	\$	-
American Rescue Plan Funds	\$	-
County Agent	\$	11,784.37
Veterans Service	\$	4,606.16
Veteran Assistance Donation	\$	-
Weed Control Levy	\$	556.11
Public Health	\$	21,663.91
Haz Chem Fund	\$	43.06
Income Maintenance	\$	25,070.25
Foster Care	\$	4,736.77
Child Protective Svc	\$	26,255.49

Parent Aid	\$	1,235.60
Family Soc Worker	\$	2,337.94
Social Services	\$	12,834.98
In-Home Care	\$	10,366.66
Admin Support	\$	15,420.48
HSZ Board	\$	-
Safety Permanency Fd	\$	-
Foster Care	\$	-
Unallow Fed Costs	\$	-
General Assistance	\$	-
American Rescue Plan Funds	\$	-
State Medical Levy	\$	48,056.79
Three Rivers Crisis Center	\$	-
FEMA Disaster Reimbursement	\$	-
Garrison Div	\$	48,056.79
Domestic Violence	\$	70.00
Twsp Share Gas & Oil	\$	-
TeleComm Tax Fund	\$	-
State Aid Distribution	\$	19,691.56
Jail Concession	\$	1,145.12
Sobriety Test Fund	\$	1,445.00
SEMCA	\$	1,042.94
County General Accounts	\$	-
Diversion Settlement	\$	1,143,851.71
ND Income Tax W/H	\$	-
Sr Citizen Fund	\$	150,330.12
Historical Society	\$	12,173.03
Co Agent Special	\$	-
Soil Cons District	\$	31,271.55
Water Mngt Levy	\$	134,425.85
Joint Water Resource	\$	72,085.24
Estimated Real Estate Tax	\$	-
Current Tax Holding Fund	\$	-
EXPENSE TOTAL	\$	2,279,726.97
 TOTAL PAYROLL & EXPENSES	\$	 3,096,051.40

ATTEST: _____

Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

CHAIRPERSON

Tim Campbell
Board of Richland County Commissioners