

**RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER 17, 2024**

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met on December 17, 2024 with Commissioners Tim Campbell, Terry Goerger, Nathan Berseth and Perry Miller. Others included Administration Personnel Fossum and South, State's Attorney Kummer, Sheriff Ruhl, Jesse Sedler, Donny Witt, Brett Lambrecht, John Anderson, Jill Breuer, Steve Dale, Dennis Miranowski, Alan Dahlman, Vaughan Griffen, and Steve Burian.

Commissioner Campbell announced two additions to the agenda: Brett Lambrecht and John Anderson.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Goerger to approve the agenda as amended. Vote was unanimous.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to approve a gaming permit for the Richland County Wildlife Club. Vote was unanimous.

Fossum informed the Board that the City of Hankinson sent a letter requesting the purchase of a foreclosed property in Hankinson. The lot was sold at the end of November to a Hankinson resident.

Fossum informed the Board that the City of Lidgerwood sent a letter requesting the purchase of a foreclosed property in Lidgerwood.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to approve the purchase by City of Lidgerwood for parcel 47-0001-03144.000. Vote was unanimous.

Fossum informed the Board that the Water Resource Board has two members whose terms are up at the end of December. Both members sent letters to the Commission and would like to be reappointed. The open positions need to be advertised first, then the Board of Commissioners will revisit the requests.

Correspondence from Mitch Calkins with Lake Agassiz Development Group. Site analysis is almost complete. The Board instructed Fossum to schedule the presentation for the next Commission Meeting.

STEVE BURIAN – WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

Steve Burian distributed a User Timeline and Revised Near-Term Cost of Participation Summary to the Board. Burian reported that the Lake Agassiz Water Authority has created a new process with a new Memorandum of Commitment. With the new MOC, there is no near-term financial obligation.

Burian reported that LAWA has also developed an Assurance Policy; if you sign the Project Participation Agreement and get cold feet in the future, they will allow you to back out of the project (partially or completely). Any principal payments made would be reimbursed and future costs would go away. Interest payments and operations costs would be forfeited. Burian pointed out that with the new timeline, there is no financial obligation until 2028.

Burian stated it is time to renew the Dakota Water Resources Act of 2000. If that bill passes, it would bring \$454,000,000 of Federal money to the project.

Steve Hanson from SE Water joined the meeting via speaker phone.

Burian reported that he met with Dennis Miranowski and the Public Works Committee of Wahpeton last week. Burian invited Miranowski to share where Wahpeton is sitting on the project.

Miranowski reported that Wahpeton is looking at nominating 3 CFS for industrial and 1.5 CFS for domestic. Miranowski is confident that it will be passed at their next meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding how to charge for cost and a cooperative agreement between users. It was the consensus of the board that a cooperative agreement needs to be finalized before the PPA deadline in July of 2025.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Berseth to sign a Memorandum of Commitment for 4 CFS of water for the RRWSP Project providing MOC is approved by States Attorney Kummer. Vote was unanimous.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway personnel in attendance were Engineer Sedler and Donny Witt.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Goerger to approve and sign contract with Gladen Construction. Vote was unanimous.

Sedler reported the following projects are planned for 2025:

Seal Coat (21 miles) – Co Rd 1 from Colfax south to Co Rd 10, Co Rd 23 in the NW,

8E and 8

Tile (31 miles) – Co Rd 29, Co Rd 3, Co Rd 8, small jag on Co Rd 6

Overlay Project – 10.5 miles of Co Rd 81(southern part), from State Highway 11 to the Lemars elevator, and the last two miles of Co Rd 3

Crushing – 125,000 tons of gravel

Sedler also gave an update on future projects planned:

2026 – reconstruction of Co Rd 1 from corner of 1 and 16 to HWY 13 Mooreton

2028 – paving Co Rd 4 from Colfax to Co Rd 2

2030 – Co Rd 21 from Lake Elsie pit road south to Co Rd 22.

The County boring policy was discussed.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE continued

Alan Dahlman addressed the Board on behalf of the Richland County Historical Museum. Dahlman reported that a recent sump pump failure at the Museum caused the tiles to lift up in the basement. Extensive work needs to be done; rough estimate was \$40,000. Dahlman stated that the insurance company is only going to cover \$8500 in damages, so the Museum is requesting financial assistance from the County.

The Board asked States Attorney Kummer to check ND Century Code to ensure compliance before a decision is made.

BRETT LAMBRECHT - EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

St. Phillips Catholic Church Fire in Hankinson 12/16/24 – Responding to the call were Fire Depts: Hankinson, Lidgerwood, Wahpeton, Mantador, Great Bend, and Fairmount, Hankinson Ambulance, and Richland County Sheriff's Department. Extensive cleanup will be needed due to smoke and water damage. Lambrecht commended all involved for their efforts in saving the church.

Wahpeton House Fire 12/16/24 – 705 9th St N. Responding to the call were Wahpeton PD, Wahpeton Fire, and Richland County Sheriff's Department.

Kidder Dam 12/16/24 – Woman exposed to the elements for quite some time. Wahpeton PD, Wahpeton Fire, and Richland County Sheriff's Department assisted.

Walcott Camper Explosion 12/13/24 – Helped victim with American Red Cross Assistance.

FEMA – Flood 2023 – Relocation of House and Shop on the Wild Rice River. Price to move is pretty steep, waiting to see what family decides.

Homeland Security Grants –

2023 – Encrypted Cameras for LEC & Courthouse and outside Security Door Visiting System have been installed.

2024 – Received for Colfax Highway Shop (5 cameras and recorder), 911 Communications (back hallway door), Lidgerwood Tower Building (Door Fob System), Hankinson Tower (Door Fob System), and Wahpeton Highway Shop (Door Fob System).

Lambrecht reported there have been three confirmed cases of the Avian Bird Flu in ND; he will continue to monitor.

Lambrecht presented a canvass of the Courthouse to the Board of Commissioners.

JOHN ANDERSON – CH PROJECT UPDATE

Anderson reported that the following items still need to be completed on the project: Judges' Chamber and Clerk of Court areas are being cleaned today, they will move back tomorrow. Lights need to be installed in the Courtroom. Trane is working on balancing hot/cold spots. Carpet patching still needs to be completed. The mixed air unit on the top of the Courthouse will need to be tied in to bring in fresh air. Will need to do window ledge repair, sanding & varnishing. There is some floor work that needs to be completed. Rubber seal needed for drain tile work. BDT will be back in the Spring to get the chiller running in both buildings.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE continued

Sheriff Ruhl reported that the Water Rescue radios will need to be updated in February of 2025. The radios currently being used will become obsolete at that time. Three mobiles and three portables are required; the Sheriff's Department will also utilize some of the equipment. The radios must be purchased this year to qualify for reimbursement.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Goerger to approve purchase of radios by the Sheriff's Department at \$6498. Vote was unanimous.

In other business, Ruhl reported that the Wahpeton Fire Department donated a truck to the Water Rescue Team.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to approve the 2025 Portfolio assignments. Vote was unanimous. (Copy attached).

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Goerger to change Deputy Auditor salary to B25 Step 3 January 1 for added responsibilities and re-evaluate in 3 months. Vote was unanimous.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

January

- 7 Commission Meeting
- 7 Housing Authority 11:30 A.M.
- 9 County Christmas Party

February

- 4 Commission Meeting
- 18 Commission Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 9:36 A.M.

ATTEST: _____
Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

_____ CHAIRPERSON
Tim Campbell
Board of Richland County Commissioners

2025 Portfolios

Updated 12/12/2024

Tim Campbell - Chairman

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Terry Goerger - Vice Chair

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Soils Board - 642-7822

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Health Dept. - 642-7735

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Weed Board

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JDA Board

LARDC Board

Soils Board-642-7822

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Park Board

Health Department - 642-7735

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Housing Authority Board

Sheriff/Jail - 642-7711

Weed Board

Task Force