

RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

FEBRUARY 25, 2025

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met at 8:00 A.M. on February 25, 2025 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Tim Campbell, Terry Goerger, Nathan Berseth, Perry Miller and Rollie Ehlert (joined by phone). Others included Administrative Personnel Fossum and South, State's Attorney Kummer, Jesse Sedler, Donnie Witt, Sheriff Ruhl, and Daily News Reporter Cameron Sutphin.

Commissioner Campbell called the meeting to order. Fossum announced there was a late addition to the agenda, Elevatus. A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Goerger to approve the agenda as amended. Vote was unanimous.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

- A letter received from Ken Lyons regarding property taxes was distributed for the Commissioners to read.

- Correspondence from the Public Service Commission. A public hearing for the Flickertail Solar Project is scheduled Tuesday, March 24 at 10:00 A.M. in the Community Room at the Law Enforcement Center.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway personnel in attendance were Jesse Sedler and Donnie Witt. Sedler gave a brief update on the following Highway activities:

- Culvert bid opening and equipment rental bid opening are scheduled Tuesday, March 4th.
- Chip seal and overlay bids are due Monday March 17th. They will be opened and tabulated for the Commission Meeting March 18th.
- Drain tile bid opening will be Tuesday, March 18th at 8:15 A.M.
- The department will be blading roads today and most of the week.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The OT portion of the policy for Holidays was revisited. Fossum reported that she gathered information from the Sheriff's Department, Corrections, Dispatch, and the Highway Department. Fossum stated that none of the departments she met with were counting holiday hours towards overtime. A brief discussion ensued. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to amend the policy to state Holidays do not count as hours worked

for overtime calculation. Vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Fossum reported there was a joint meeting between the Richland County Commissioners, Wilkin County Commissioners, and the Richland-Wilkin JPA on Tuesday, February 18th. At that meeting, a motion was made for the Wilkin Commission Chair to sign the Amended and Restated Richland-Wilkin JPA Agreement. If Richland County wants to enter into the agreement, a motion would be required. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to authorize Commission Chair to sign the Amended and Restated Richland-Wilkin JPA Agreement. Vote was unanimous.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE continued

Fossum informed the Board that three gaming permit applications had been received for the county: Galchutt Oie-Wold-Leland American Legion Post 282, Dakota Antique Tractor Club, and ND Youth Archery Advisory Committee. A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Goerger to approve 3 gaming permits. Vote was unanimous.

ELEVATUS/SHERIFF RUHL

Sheriff Ruhl announced that he scheduled a meeting with Elevatus for Tuesday, March 4 at 10:30 A.M. Ruhl distributed Current Annual Operational Costs for the jail and Projected Operational Costs for the proposed correctional facility. Sheriff Ruhl reported that it cost the county \$747,727 to operate the current 32-bed jail in 2024. Projected Operational Costs for the proposed correctional facility would net the county approximately 2.2 million annually. Commissioner Berseth asked how many jail beds were used for the projections. Sheriff Ruhl stated 100 beds were used when calculating projected operational costs. Discussion ensued regarding HB 1213 and whether a low interest loan may be available through the Bank of ND to help fund the project. Sheriff Ruhl reported that the state has found 12 more deficiencies since last year's Jail Inspection.

In other business, Sheriff Ruhl distributed a 2025 Org Chart for the Sheriff's Office to the Board of Commissioners. The department currently has one vacancy.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE continued

Fossum informed the Board that there is a 5 County Meeting Thursday, March 6.

Commissioner Goerger reported that the Weed Board will be selling their spray truck.

South gave a brief update on NDPIO and the new Richland County Facebook page.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

March

4 Commission Meeting
6 Five County Meeting
18 Commission Meeting

April

1 Commission Meeting
15 Commission Meeting

Being there was no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:33 A.M.

Reports Filed: Tax & Property Department - Revenue Voucher for January 2025; Sheriff's Department - Revenue & Expenses for January 2025.

ATTEST: _____
Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

_____CHAIRPERSON
Tim Campbell
Board of Richland County Commissioners