

RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 7, 2025

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met on January 7, 2025 with Commissioners Nathan Berseth, Rollie Ehlert, Terry Goerger (joined by phone) and Perry Miller (joined by phone). Others included Administration Personnel Fossum and South, State's Attorney Kummer, Jesse Sedler, Donny Witt, Sheriff Ruhl, Steve Gjerdevig, Jill Breuer, Sarah Erickson, Damon DeVillers, Mike Metzger, John Mattson, and Steve Dale.

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

A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Miller to approve the minutes of meetings December 3 and December 17. Vote was unanimous.

TREASURERS REPORT

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

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

A motion was made by Goerger and seconded by Miller to move forward with Widmer Roel for Audit. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Goerger to approve Year-end Budget Adjustments and Transfers. Vote was unanimous.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT/MIKE METZGER – MINN-DAK

Highway personnel in attendance were Jesse Sedler and Donny Witt. Sedler introduced Mike Metzger & John Mattson from Minn-Dak and gave them the floor.

Metzger informed the Board that Minn-Dak is planning to add a new piling ground this year. Mattson distributed plans for the project while Metzger detailed the importance of the new piling ground. Metzger stated that Minn-Dak is seeking approval from the Commission to add an approach on Co Rd 10.

Ehlert asked Sedler if he had any concerns regarding the project. Sedler stated that he proposed a traffic study for the area to see if a right turn or bypass lane would be needed.

Metzger stated that Minn-Dak will be doing the traffic study. When the study is complete, the Board of Commissioners will revisit. Metzger thanked the Commissioners for their time.

Sedler reported that Richland County's cost share is due for the 2021-2022 project on 11th Street near Smith Motors.

A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Miller to approve an invoice from City of Wahpeton for \$40,156.62 for 11th Street. Vote was unanimous.

Sedler announced that new hire, Gavin Gereszek, started with the Highway Department yesterday.

SHERIFF RUHL – DEPARTMENT REPORT

Sheriff Ruhl distributed a 2024 Year-end Report to the Board of Commissioners. Ruhl reported that Calls for Service have more than doubled since last year. Ruhl stated that another FTE may be needed in Communications in the future due to the number of calls.

In other business, Ruhl reported that the Jail inspection is scheduled April 16, it should take 1.5 days.

Commissioner Ehlert asked if there was an update on reimbursement from the State. Steve Gjerdevig stated that he received the first payment last month.

Miller asked if there was an update on the Wilkin County Housing Agreement. Gjerdevig stated that Wilkin County is waiting on a PREA Audit Report; once that is returned, they should be able to house inmates.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A) HSZ Board – No report.

B) Buildings & Grounds – Fossum reported that John Anderson submitted the necessary applications for the Court Facilities Improvement Grant.

C) Public Health – Ehlert reported the following: The department has no vacancies. Flu clinics have wrapped up. Heading back to NDSCS to provide nurse office visits twice a week. Home Health was surveyed by the State, no deficiencies were reported. Just wrapped up Medicare open enrollment, saving clients approximately \$163,000.

D) JDA/JPA – Berseth reported that JDA should have an application coming in soon and will have a meeting after it is received. SVEDA meets tomorrow.

E) Weed Board – No report.

F) Soils Committee – No report.

G) Park Board – Ehlert reported that Donnie Lingen and Fossum have been in communications regarding Board appointments. Rock needs to be added in the NW corner at Mooreton Pond.

H) Administration – No report.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

States Attorney Kummer gave an update on the Richland County Historical Society. Kummer stated that the organization is a non-profit; the County has no ownership or interest in the building. The County is not allowed to provide funding under the anti-gift provisions of the Constitution. The Board discussed having two of the Commissioners attend their next meeting to help find a solution.

Commissioner Miller stated that he would follow up with Brett Lambrecht regarding a possible site for a new correctional facility.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Miller to approve 3 gaming permits for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Vote was unanimous.

Fossum informed the Board that no other letters of interest were received for the Water Resource Board.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Goerger to appoint Tom Kubela and Gary Friskop to another term on the Water Resource Board. Vote was unanimous.

Correspondence from NDIRF – two seats are up for election in 2025, Candidate Applications are due January 31, 2025.

Correspondence from The Garrison Diversion – Recreation Grant applications are due March 1, 2025.

Correspondence from the Wilkin County Ag Society requesting sponsorship, Fossum will respond.

Fossum informed the Board that there is a Legislative Meet and Greet hosted by the NDACo February 18 and 19 in Bismarck.

A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Goerger to approve the payment of the

bills. Vote was unanimous.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

January

16 County Christmas Party

February

4 Commission Meeting

18 Commission Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 A.M.

Reports Filed: Tax & Property Department – Revenue Voucher for November 2024.

ATTEST: _____
Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

_____CHAIRPERSON
Tim Campbell
Board of Richland County Commissioners

The following claims were approved for December, 2024

PAYROLL (inclusive)

General	\$	304,705.93
County Highway	\$	90,269.99
911 Communications	\$	56,284.49
County Agent	\$	7,442.14
Veterans Service	\$	10,278.67
Weed Officer	\$	770.00
Public Health Fund	\$	76,625.42
Income Maintenance	\$	71,670.22
Foster Care	\$	19,769.61
Child Protective Svc	\$	38,301.14
Parent Aid	\$	4,657.30
Family Soc Worker	\$	5,347.41
Social Services	\$	68,211.10
In-Home Care	\$	20,709.65
Admin Support	\$	17,433.09
JDA	\$	225.00
PAYROLL TOTAL	\$	792,701.16

EXPENSES: ** Refer to resolution records

County General Accounts	\$	304,484.93
County Highway	\$	169,544.78
Bridge Replacement	\$	26,111.58
Road & Bridge Equipment Fund	\$	-
Prairie Dog Disbursements	\$	-
15 Mill Road	\$	-
Social Services Fund	\$	-
Emergency Assistance Donation	\$	250.29
Emergency Fund	\$	-
911 Communications	\$	46,832.46
NDRIN	\$	317.80
Capitol Improvement	\$	238,749.82
Water Rescue	\$	-
Special Response Team	\$	775.00
Civil Asset Forfeiture Fund	\$	-
K9 Dog Donations	\$	-
American Rescue Plan Funds	\$	216,654.14
County Agent	\$	6,032.47
Veterans Service	\$	5,811.74
Veteran Assistance Donation	\$	-
Weed Control Levy	\$	66,779.73
Public Health	\$	38,921.53
Haz Chem Fund	\$	-
Income Maintenance	\$	24,585.19
Foster Care	\$	7,490.21

Child Protective Svc	\$	14,696.60
Parent Aid	\$	1,494.67
Family Soc Worker	\$	2,751.77
Social Services	\$	23,885.25
In-Home Care	\$	13,122.11
Admin Support	\$	20,182.78
HSZ Board	\$	-
Safety Permanency Fd	\$	-
Foster Care	\$	-
Unallow Fed Costs	\$	-
General Assistance	\$	-
American Rescue Plan Funds	\$	-
State Medical Levy	\$	250.90
Three Rivers Crisis Center	\$	1,551.69
FEMA Disaster Reimbursement	\$	172,461.45
Garrison Div	\$	250.90
Domestic Violence	\$	70.00
Twsp Share Gas & Oil	\$	-
TeleComm Tax Fund	\$	-
State Aid Distribution	\$	20,176.12
Jail Concession	\$	-
Sobreity Test Fund	\$	1,480.00
SEMCA	\$	798.37
County General Accounts	\$	138,320.82
Diversion Settlement	\$	3,970,858.93
ND Income Tax W/H	\$	-
Sr Citizen Fund	\$	913.63
Historical Society	\$	225.51
Co Agent Special	\$	-
Soil Cons District	\$	219.38
Water Mngt Levy	\$	3,015.28
Joint Water Resource	\$	376.25
Estimated Real Estate Tax	\$	51,276.05
Current Tax Holding Fund	\$	-
EXPENSE TOTAL	\$	5,591,720.13
 TOTAL PAYROLL & EXPENSES	 \$	 6,384,421.29

ATTEST: _____
 Sandy Fossum
 Auditor/Administrator

_____ CHAIRPERSON
 Tim Campbell
 Board of Richland County Commissioners