

**RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 4, 2024**

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met on June 4, 2024 with Commissioners Nathan Berseth, Tim Campbell, Rollie Ehlert, Terry Goerger and Perry Miller. Others included Administration Personnel Fossum and South, State's Attorney Kummer, Jesse Sedler, Donnie Witt, Jill Breuer, Sarah Erickson, Kayla Carlson, Frank Stanko, Kelly Klosterman, and a small group of visitors.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to approve the agenda. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Goerger and seconded by Campbell to approve the minutes of May 7, May 16, and May 21. Vote was unanimous.

TREASURERS REPORT

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

HIGHWAY REPORT

Engineer Sedler reported that he solicited five bids for the CO RD 1 Project; two came back. The project was bid two ways, with the Highway Department's help and without.

Comstock's bid came in at \$105,981.50 without help, \$53,837.35 with help, and \$76,340 for patch.

Beeley's bid came in at \$141,150 without help, \$90,801 with help, and \$80,850 for patch.

Sedler reported that due to lack of resources, it will be difficult for the Highway Department to assist on the project.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Goerger to proceed with FEMA repair on CO RD 1 North of Mooreton. Vote was unanimous.

Sedler gave the following Highway Department updates:

CO RD 16 – No estimated start date yet, there is preconstruction meeting in a few weeks.

Gravel – Currently graveling CO RD 6, 90 miles to gravel this summer.

B Roads - Had portfolio meeting last week, there was a unanimous recommendation to eliminate B Roads, except 2 miles in LaMars Township.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to approve the recommendation of the elimination of B Roads except 2 miles in LaMars Township. Voting NO was Campbell, the remainder voted yes and the motion carried.

Miller asked for a timeline on CO RD 2, Sedler reported approximately 1 month.

Sedler reported that there are extra funds for the CO RD 16 project, he plans to do a bid package overlay for CO RD 3 from 2 to the bridge, for CO RD 26 from CO RD 2 to HWY 46, Spur on 2N at Christine, and CO RD 8 from I29 to CO RD 1.

Sedler reported that he has a bid opening on June 28th that he may need a special meeting for.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A) HSZ Board – No Report.

B) Buildings & Grounds – Commissioner Miller reported that work in one of the tunnels will require the Extension Office to stay in the LEC longer than originally anticipated.
- Commissioner Ehlert reported that the Courthouse roof is leaking, likely due to tuck pointers poking a hole in the membrane; still need to get up there to find out.

C) Public Health – Kayla Carlson presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Frank Stanko and thanked him on behalf of the Health Department for his work over the past several years. She said he did a wonderful job conveying accurate information to the community during COVID and he will be greatly missed.
-Carlson reported that an offer was made for the Billing Specialist position, they are waiting to hear if it has been accepted. There will be a Tobacco Prevention position opening up as Lindsey Bommersbach has put in her resignation.

D) JDA/JPA – Berseth reported that he goes to Bismarck today for housing. Kelly Klosterman will be in to present information about the Water Supply Project.

E) Weed Board – Goerger reported that Leo was here last week and started on state roads first; he will work on the northern part of the county when he completes those. A second truck came in yesterday and started in the south part of the county. Everything is being recorded and will be available if anyone has questions as to what was sprayed. Concerns can be addressed by Steve Ginsbach, Dan Thompson, Terry Goerger, or Perry Miller.

F) Soils Committee – Fossum reported that she informed Melissa Brown that the Commissioners wanted her to check into Soils Committee board members and terms to get another meeting going. Berseth asked if NDSU would have statistics of PI and

productivity so we can get concrete data.

G) Park Board – Next meeting is July 15. Goerger reported that he talks to Steve every week, he has been mowing full time and hasn't had any issues or concerns.

H) Administration – Fossum reported that there is election training on June 5th for the poll workers. She and Matt will deliver election equipment to the vote centers on Monday June 10th and set it up; they will go back Wednesday the 13th to pick everything back up.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

Fossum reported that the county received two gaming permit applications that need the board's approval. The Wahpeton FFA Alumni Association has applied to have a calendar raffle from January – December in 2025.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Goerger to approve the gaming permit for the Wahpeton FFA Alumni Association. Vote was unanimous.

Fossum reported that the Hankinson Sandhills Saddle Club has applied for a one-time raffle on September 21, 2024.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Campbell to approve the gaming permit for the Hankinson Sandhills Saddle Club. Vote was unanimous.

Fossum reported that the county received a notification that the 2024 Water Resource District Association and the ND Water User Association will be having a joint meeting July 9-11 in Minot.

Commissioner Campbell reported that Sheriff Ruhl thanked the board for their support in purchasing a drone for the Sheriff's Department. It was used twice last week in Richland County.

Jill Breuer reported that she is looking into why the Everbridge Notification did not go off when the sirens went off on Sunday. She stated she had a few calls about the Shelter in Place as well; anyone who wants to receive notifications needs to sign up on the website.

WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

Commissioner Miller reported that he attended a meeting for the Water Supply Project last week in Mantador at the Rural Water Office. Commissioner Berseth also attended the meeting via phone. Miller explained that the project will bring water from the Missouri River to Central

and Eastern ND via pipeline. Miller turned the floor over to Kelly Klosterman, who came to present information to the board regarding the project.

Klosterman reported that the Rural Water Office is trying to get a cooperative agreement in place for our surrounding communities to ensure that we have ample water supply in the future. He stated that there will be a meeting in a few weeks for JDA, Breckenridge, Wahpeton, and SE Water to discuss the cooperative agreement further. He reported that financing for the project will be through the Bank of ND with a 2% forty-year loan.

Miller stated that it is a cooperative agreement where everyone wins; the agreement will attract industry in our community instead of creating competition between communities.

Klosterman stated that Fargo/Moorhead and Grand Forks/East Grand Forks have signed similar agreements.

Sedler asked if a new treatment plant would be required. Berseth stated that Lisbon will need a new treatment plant.

Ehlert stated that the JDA's initial involvement was a cost study to protect rural communities that were not going to have access to water.

Miller stated that one of the main aquifers in our area has had a 20ft drop since 1976. With the Water Supply Project, the aquifer can be refilled and stored for later use.

Berseth stated that he thinks this should be a general fund request through Richland County instead of a JDA request as it would take away 25% of the JDA's capability to levy for future projects.

Ehlert agreed with Berseth that it should not be a JDA request, he would rather see an agreement between SE Water, Wilkin, Richland, Breckenridge and Wahpeton. JDA should not be responsible, other entities can absorb some of the costs as they will be benefactors of the project.

Klosterman stated that he was at the meeting to get the Board of Commissioners up to speed, if they have further questions regarding the project, they can be addressed at the next meeting.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE continued

Ehlert stated that he is concerned with the amount of overtime in the Communications Department. Goerger reported that the department is short staffed and they are having trouble finding qualified candidates.

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

June

- 11 Election Day
- 18 Commission Meeting
- 24 Canvass Board
- 27 Five County Meeting

July

- 23 Commission Meeting
- 23 Budget Meetings

August

- 6 Commission Meeting
- 20 Commission Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 A.M.

ATTEST: _____
Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

_____ CHAIRPERSON
Perry Miller
Board of Richland County Commissioners

The following claims were approved for May, 2024

PAYROLL (inclusive)

General	\$	278,737.85
County Highway	\$	92,195.29
911 Communications	\$	53,902.71
County Agent	\$	7,540.94
Veterans Service	\$	10,278.67
Weed Officer	\$	1,400.00
Public Health Fund	\$	96,934.44
Income Maintenance	\$	54,109.66
Foster Care	\$	20,017.57
Child Protective Svc	\$	53,632.62
Parent Aid	\$	4,611.90
Family Soc Worker	\$	5,128.28
Social Services	\$	67,607.22
In-Home Care	\$	19,155.63
Admin Support	\$	21,897.77
PAYROLL TOTAL	\$	787,150.55

EXPENSES: ** Refer to resolution records

County General Accounts	\$	416,648.33
County Highway	\$	71,350.59
Bridge Replacement	\$	-
Road & Bridge Equipment Fund	\$	11,304.00
Prairie Dog Disbursements	\$	-
15 Mill Road	\$	-
Emergency Assistance Donation	\$	-
Emergency Fund	\$	-
911 Communications	\$	22,759.77
NDRIN	\$	13,641.42
Capitol Improvement	\$	-
Water Rescue	\$	35.00
Special Response Team	\$	-
Civil Asset Forfeiture Fund	\$	-
K9 Dog Donations	\$	-
American Rescue Plan Funds	\$	313,260.30
County Agent	\$	4,643.77
Veterans Service	\$	8,055.39
Veteran Assistance Donation	\$	-
Weed Control Levy	\$	535.23
Public Health	\$	37,761.70
Haz Chem Fund	\$	18.90
Income Maintenance	\$	18,736.85
Foster Care	\$	5,639.94
Child Protective Svc	\$	14,626.29
Parent Aid	\$	1,214.22

Family Soc Worker	\$	2,295.69
Social Services	\$	23,717.35
In-Home Care	\$	12,423.75
Admin Support	\$	38,427.38
HSZ Board	\$	-
Safety Permanency Fd	\$	-
Foster Care	\$	-
Unallow Fed Costs	\$	-
General Assistance	\$	-
American Rescue Plan Funds	\$	-
State Medical Levy	\$	2,801.39
Three Rivers Crisis Center	\$	-
FEMA Disaster Reimbursement	\$	-
Garrison Div	\$	2,801.39
Domestic Violence	\$	210.00
Twsp Share Gas & Oil	\$	56,967.65
TeleComm Tax Fund	\$	-
State Aid Distribution	\$	10,560.92
Jail Concession	\$	-
Sobriety Test Fund	\$	-
SEMCA	\$	1,615.93
County General Accounts	\$	-
Diversion Settlement	\$	1,525,267.68
ND Income Tax W/H	\$	-
Sr Citizen Fund	\$	3,148.28
Historical Society	\$	785.48
Co Agent Special	\$	-
Soil Cons District	\$	1,879.47
Water Mngt Levy	\$	8,920.58
Joint Water Resource	\$	4,201.88
Estimated Real Estate Tax	\$	-
Current Tax Holding Fund	\$	-
EXPENSE TOTAL	\$	2,636,256.52
 TOTAL PAYROLL & EXPENSES	\$	 3,423,407.07

ATTEST: _____
Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

_____CHAIRPERSON
Perry Miller
Board of Richland County Commissioners