

RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARCH 18, 2025

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met at 8:00 A.M. on March 18, 2025 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Tim Campbell (joined by phone), Terry Goerger, Nathan Berseth, Rollie Ehlert and Pery Miller. Others included Administrative Personnel Fossum and South, State's Attorney Kummer, Jesse Sedler, Donnie Witt, Sheriff Ruhl, Brett Lambrecht, Alan Dahlman, Donovan Buck, Erik Olson, and 3 visitors from Apex Drainage.

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

RICHLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY – UPDATE

Alan Dahlman and Donovan Buck were in attendance from the Historical Society. Dahlman reported that the estimate for work needed after sump pump failure came in at \$38,500. Estimates for LED lighting were also obtained; Buck distributed the estimates to the Board of Commissioners. Dahlman stated that the Historical Society's primary concern is to get funding assistance for the basement. Dahlman stated that the Historical Society planned on approaching the City of Wahpeton to propose a three-way split with the Historical Society, County, and City.

State's Attorney Kummer explained that the Home Rule Charter would need to be used if the county wants to provide funds to the non-profit and the same would be true for the City of Wahpeton. Fossum will meet with Darcie Huwe regarding the Historical Society's proposal.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to approve the purchase of 45-0001-01823.000 to the City of Wyndmere for \$1.00. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to approve a raffle permit for Do It Well Inc. Vote was unanimous.

Fossum informed the Board that Commissioner Campbell and RSR Human Service Zone had been served papers regarding records pertaining to an upcoming hearing. Lynn Flieth worked with State's Attorney Kummer and has responded to the request.

Commissioner Campbell exited the meeting at 8:16 A.M.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway personnel in attendance were Jesse Sedler and Donnie Witt.

Bid Opening – CR 1 & CR 3 Drain Tile – The following bids were received with contractor's license and bid bond appearing to be in order:

Apex Drainage, Glyndon MN	\$456,405.75	\$3.55/ft
Red Rock Tiling & Excavating, Kensington MN	\$610,683.75	\$4.75/ft
Traxler Construction, Le Center MN	\$600,398.55	\$4.67/ft

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to accept all drain tile bids received. Vote was unanimous.

Gravel Crushing – Bids were opened at the March 4 Commission Meeting. Rogge Excavating of Ghent, MN was the low bidder. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Miller to award gravel crushing to Rogge Excavating. Vote was unanimous.

CR 1, 8, 8E, 10N & 23 Seal Coat – Bids were opened during a video conference March 17. Morris Seal Coat and Trucking and Asphalt Surface Technologies Corp. submitted bids for the project. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to accept all bids for seal coat. Vote was unanimous. Morris Seal Coat and Trucking was the low bid at \$881,070.33. A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Miller to award seal coat bid to Morris Seal Coat and Trucking. Vote was unanimous.

CR 3, 22, & 81 Overlay – Bids were opened during a video conference March 17. Bids were received from Central Specialties Inc, Knife River Materials, and Mark Sand and Gravel. A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Miller to accept all overlay bids. Vote was unanimous. Mark Sand and Gravel was the low bid at \$2,005,315.61. A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Miller to award overlay bid to Mark Sand and Gravel. Vote was unanimous.

Sedler reported that the Prairie Dog allotment was received last Friday, it will be approximately \$4.8 million.

Sedler informed the Board that Interstate Engineering was the only firm that submitted a proposal for the box culverts in Fairmount and Lamars Township; Damon DeVillers was interviewed. A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Miller to award Interstate Engineering as engineer for box culvert projects. Vote was unanimous.

Sedler gave a brief update on the following Highway activities:

- New crack sealing machine is working well.
- Intersection lighting in Christine will need to be replaced, approx. \$1300.
- Will need to start negotiating compensation for Right-of-Ways.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Emergency Manager Lambrecht reported the following:

FEMA Flood Plain New Requirement - as of January 1, 2025 new construction with FHA mortgages in Special Flood Hazard Zones must be 2 feet above BFE (base flood elevation). The requirement used to be 1 foot above BFE. Lambrecht will provide new requirement information to Township Officers.

Mutual Aid Agreements for Richland County - 14 Fire Departments & 4 Ambulances/EMS, Lambrecht will update send out.

Township FEMA Memorandum - MOU between Richland County and each township, required for FEMA. Lambrecht will update for each Township and send out.

Township Road Annual Maintenance & Graveling - Last updated in 2011, Lambrecht will update and send out to ensure FEMA standards are met.

Richland County-Colfax Township ND DOT Flex Fund Transportation Grant - Total project was approximately \$107,000. ND DOT to reimburse \$95,000, township will pay the remaining portion.

FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant - Lambrecht applied for a regional grant for the 14 Fire Departments in Richland County. If grant is awarded, funds will be used for new pagers as they will be required in the near future.

Helendale Bridge - Project has been delayed, should be starting soon.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Per Diem Policy - Revisions to Richland County's Per Diem Policy had been tabled at the March 4 Commission Meeting. Fossum informed the Board that ND Century Code states if a meal is included in a registration fee, the applicable quarter allowance cannot be claimed for that meal. The Board did not make any revisions to the current policy.

NEW BUSINESS

Weed Board - Commissioner Goerger reported that he has 3 individuals who are interested in positions on the Weed Board, for Districts 2, 3, & 4. These positions are normally elected by Township Officers, but no elections have been made in the last 10-15 years. Goerger has a proposal for the process moving forward, he will take the information to the Township Officer Meeting April 15th.

ERIK OLSON – CONCERNS REGARDING RIVERVIEW DAIRY

Erik Olson addressed the Board of Commissioners to speak about the growing concerns that the citizens of the Abercrombie Township and surrounding areas have about Riverview Dairy moving into their community. A petition was submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality, signed by 276 local citizens, along with documentation and research supporting their concerns. Olson stated that despite these efforts, the community was not afforded a public hearing by the DEQ. Olson expressed frustrations with the DEQ's decision and asked the Board of Commissioners for their support with legislation in securing protections for the citizens of North Dakota.

Miller asked if the DEQ explained why the community was denied a public hearing. Olson stated that the community had asked for an extension on the public comment period; because the DEQ granted a two-week extension, they didn't feel the hearing was necessary.

Berseth asked what Riverview's next steps were. Olson stated that the DEQ permit was finalized, but Riverview is still working on other water sources.

Berseth suggested Olson reach out to the State Water Commissioner to get more information.

Commissioner Miller stated he would reach out to District 25 Reps to check the status of the project.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE continued

HB1213 was briefly discussed. Sheriff Ruhl and Commissioner Goerger testified at the Legislature regarding the importance of the bill.

Sedler informed the Board that there is a Windfarm being proposed in central Richland County. A meeting has already taken place and there will be more to come to see if there is interest from local farmers.

State's Attorney Kummer informed the Board that Amy Clark reached out to her with a loan agreement that the JPA has proposed to enter into an agreement with Richland County. Kummer stated she has reviewed the agreement and has no issues with it, Smith & Strege also ran the agreement by a bond attorney. Commissioner Berseth explained that the agreement would create a line of credit for the JPA through Richland County at 3.5%. Berseth stated he does not feel the line of credit will need to be tapped into but thinks it would be good to have in place if funds get tied up.

A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Berseth to approve line of credit up to \$5,000,000 for JPA from County funds. Vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Ruhl reported that the PREA Audit for Wilkin County Jail is scheduled for the end of April.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

March

24 PSC Hearing – Flickertail Solar

April

1 Commission Meeting

15 Commission Meeting

15 Township Officer Meeting

May

6 Commission Meeting

14 Legislative Wrap-Up

20 Commission Meeting

Motion to adjourn by Goerger.

Meeting adjourned at 9:58 A.M.

ATTEST: _____

Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

_____CHAIRPERSON

Tim Campbell
Board of Richland County Commissioners