

RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
May 7, 2024

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met on May 7, 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, Sheriff Ruhl, Emergency Manager Brett Lambrecht, Highway Personnel Jesse Sedler and Donnie Witt, Maintenance Personnel John Anderson, Treasurer Sarah Erickson, RSR HSZ Director Lynn Flieth, Health Department Personnel Kayla Carlson, a Daily News Reporter and visitors Jim Stewart and Jim Kaiser.

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Ehlert to approve the Agenda. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Goerger to approve the Minutes of meetings April 2 and April 16. Vote was unanimous.

TREASURERS REPORT

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

JOHN ANDERSON - HVAC PROJECT UPDATE

Anderson reported that the project is two and half to three weeks ahead of schedule. By the end of next week most of the ceiling should be complete. The commission room will also be complete and will be used for stage 3 of the project. The floor in the Emergency Managers office can be leveled and the skylight will be pushed to a later date. The roof should be complete this week.

In other business, Anderson reported that difficulty in wallpaper removal caused damage to the walls on the first floor. Additional funds will be needed for paint and wall repair. Anderson obtained a \$15,761 bid from the current contractor, Comstock Construction, for repairs.

A motion was made by Goerger and seconded by Campbell to approve a \$15,761 change order for the first floor. Vote was unanimous.

The Board acknowledged that the HVAC project would not be ahead of schedule without John and thanked him for his ongoing efforts during the project.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Kayla Carlson introduced Tashauna Sedler, Correctional RN that started in March.

-Tashauna gave a brief report on correctional healthcare

Updates: - Carlson indicated the Account Specialist position has been difficult to fill; the position is covered through June 30.

-Health Department partnered with NDSCS for HIV/STD/Hep C testing, all 52 spots were filled.

-Steered Straight - 818 students from Wahpeton, St. Johns, & Circle of Nations schools attended – event was funded by the Drug Free Community Grant.

-Carlson proposed having Narcan available in the LEC restrooms, out of reach of children. Narcan is a nasal dosage, Kayla Cook provides training. HD would monitor.

JIM STEWART – EASEMENT ON PARCEL IN BARRIE TOWNSHIP

Visitor Jim Stewart, a volunteer with the Dakota Prairie Chapter of North County Trails, presented a letter of appreciation to the Board of Commissioners for their willingness to continue to allow access to the trailhead, which is on county land.

The Dakota Prairie Chapter asked for an easement to access the trailhead stating that they would maintain the easement for the county.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Campbell to approve trail easement for tract 1 in Barrie Township and waive the \$1071 fee. Vote was unanimous.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Sedler gave an update on Highway activities:

-CR 16 bid opening is Monday, May 13th. Sedler asked the board if a special meeting should be held to accept and award a bid for the project. The special meeting is scheduled Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 8:00 A.M. via phone conference.

-Sedler received quotes from Shrackey Paving for the following projects:

- CR 1 south of Mooreton – \$10,562.49
- CR 2N near Christine – \$16,143.47
- CR 10 - \$84,529.95

The city will get another quote for CR 10 as they are 40% of cost.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to approve quotes for CR 1 & CR 2N projects and proceed with repairs. Vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Miller asked Sedler if he had a timeline for the project on CR 2N. Sedler said he would check with Shrackey Paving today to find out.

Berseth inquired about “your speed is” sign costs to help reduce patrol times. Sherrif Ruhl goes

to Christine 3 times a week to patrol Eagle Street. Sedler stated that they are quite costly and proposed traffic counters be used instead.

Sedler reported that traffic counters are beneficial as they can determine speed and type of vehicle and can be moved easily to different areas in the county. He believes the county should purchase at least 3; the Sheriff's Office could also benefit. Sedler reports the cost for 1 traffic counter is \$4595, any additional are \$4295 with additional discounts after 5.

A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Berseth approve the purchase of 5 traffic counters for the county. Vote was unanimous.

Sedler will gather information and present data to the board.

B Roads –

B Roads will be reevaluated with traffic counters. Information will be presented to the Commission for a decision in June. Townships will need to communicate for snow removal in the future.

SHERIFF RUHL – QUARTLERLY REPORT

Sheriff Ruhl introduced new Corrections Officer, Ciela Morillo who gave a brief report. The jail will be able to take female prisoners July 1, 2024.

Ruhl reported that section 7 of the jail needs a toilet installed, the cost is \$20,000. There is a state inspection coming up, if the toilet is not installed, the jail will not have a place to hold unruly inmates. Ruhl states there are 107 standards that are being revised by the state and we will likely be told that we need to make additional changes in the future.

Sheriff Ruhl gave a quarterly budget report.

Berseth asked Ruhl to get construction costs from other agencies that have built regional centers.

Ruhl announced that the LEC is having a cookout Wednesday, May 8th for Corrections Week.

Ruhl reported that the jail had a resignation last week.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to approve the \$20,000 plumbing project for the Jail. Voting NO was Goerger, the remainder voted yes and the motion carried.

Sheriff Ruhl distributed a YTD Call for Service Report to the board. He reported that domestic abuse has increased and he does not want deputies going on domestic calls alone; response

times may be delayed.

Ruhl announced that 2 new recruits will be starting, should be done August 12, 2024.

BRETT LAMBRECHT – STORM READY AWARD AND DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Jim Kaiser from the National Weather Service in Grand Forks presented a Storm Ready Award to Brett Lambrecht for his efforts as the Emergency Manager of Richland County. Kaiser announced that Richland County had 7 sirens when Brett started as Emergency Manager, today all 14 communities in the county have sirens.

Brett announced that there will be Sky Warn Training next Wednesday, May 15th at the south side Fire Station, it will be open to the public. Lambrecht reported that 3 townships have turned in paperwork for FEMA 2023 Township Funding.

Lambrecht announced that there will be NIMS 700 and ICS 100 Training next Tuesday, June 18th for county employees; he will be sending out an email with further details.

Brett reported that funds from the 2024 Homeland Security Grant have come in. He is looking into new fencing around the jail, CO Highway cameras, and communication improvements.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A) HSZ Board - Lynn Flieth handed out a new org chart and announced a new hire starting June 1st. Zone met last week with Jason Cafey to discuss financials and a shift in indirect costs. Fleith stated that raises go into effect July 1 and they will be working on performance bonuses.
- B) Buildings & Grounds - John Anderson reported earlier in the meeting.
- C) Public Health – Kayla Carlson reported earlier in the meeting.
- D) JDA/JPA – Berseth reports no requests for JDA lately. JPA sold a house in Wyndmere and Mooreton – possible development. Homestead is close to signing a deal with developer.
- E) Weed Board – Goerger reported a new chemical Prize will be used. It will be easier to use with less frequency, but it is more expensive. The Board will continue at a 75% share on Tordon and will do a 50% share on Prize.
-Goerger & Fossum to revisit advertising sale of spray truck
- F) Soils Committee – Goerger stated he would like to have a meeting. Melissa Brown will be

directed to reach out to board members and check on board terms.

G) Park Board – Meets in July

- Fossum started garbage service at Mooreton Pond, first pick up is today.

H) Administration – Fossum announced that the state auditors will be here next week for our 2023 audit.

- Fossum reported that she still has a few spots to fill for election workers and election mailers will go out next week.

- Fossum asked the board if they would consider moving their second Commissioners Meeting in July from the 16th to the 23rd. With primary election preparation, she is not sure she will have everything ready by the 16th.

-The Board of Commissioners discussed and said they would be fine with moving the July 16th meeting to the 23rd.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

The board discussed giving July 5th as an extra day off when it falls on a Monday or Friday.

Fossum stated that employees were appreciative of the extra day the county provided last year.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Campbell to provide a paid day off for July 5th or an additional paid day for those who are required to work. Vote was unanimous.

The Make a Wish Foundation submitted two applications for gaming permits.

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

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

May

16 Special Meeting

21 Commission Meeting

June

4 Commission Meeting

4 Equalization Meetings

11 Election Day

18 Commission Meeting

24 Canvas Board

July

2 Commission Meeting

23 Commission Meeting

23 Budget Meetings

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 A.M.

Reports Filed: Sherriff Department – Quarterly Budget Report and YTD Call For Service Report

ATTEST: _____

Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

_____CHAIRPERSON

Perry Miller
Board of Richland County Commissioners

The following claims were approved for April, 2024

PAYROLL (inclusive)

General	\$	271,763.91
County Highway	\$	100,540.28
911 Communications	\$	54,607.78
County Agent	\$	7,511.30
Veterans Service	\$	10,278.67
Weed Officer	\$	770.00
Public Health Fund	\$	105,075.61
Income Maintenance	\$	54,549.41
Foster Care	\$	20,017.57
Child Protective Svc	\$	36,171.74
Parent Aid	\$	4,494.90
Family Soc Worker	\$	5,128.28
Social Services	\$	67,593.22
In-Home Care	\$	18,636.73
Admin Support	\$	21,723.77
PAYROLL TOTAL	\$	778,863.17

EXPENSES: ** Refer to resolution records

County General Accounts	\$	495,676.24
County Highway	\$	69,121.29
Bridge Replacement	\$	-
Road & Bridge Equipment Fund	\$	(293.00)
Prairie Dog Disbursements	\$	-
15 Mill Road	\$	-
Emergency Assistance Donation	\$	-
Emergency Fund	\$	-
911 Communications	\$	35,344.65
NDRIN	\$	158.90
Capitol Improvement	\$	-
Water Rescue	\$	-
Special Response Team	\$	-
Civil Asset Forfeiture Fund	\$	745.00
K9 Dog Donations	\$	-
American Rescue Plan Funds	\$	-
County Agent	\$	12,976.48
Veterans Service	\$	4,480.43
Veteran Assistance Donation	\$	-
Weed Control Levy	\$	551.43
Public Health	\$	54,396.03
Haz Chem Fund	\$	667.05
Income Maintenance	\$	20,956.81
Foster Care	\$	5,798.62
Child Protective Svc	\$	15,202.10
Parent Aid	\$	1,134.16

Family Soc Worker	\$	2,547.55
Social Services	\$	22,582.80
In-Home Care	\$	13,599.39
Admin Support	\$	15,456.93
HSZ Board	\$	-
Safety Permanency Fd	\$	-
Foster Care	\$	-
Unallow Fed Costs	\$	-
General Assistance	\$	-
American Rescue Plan Funds	\$	-
State Medical Levy	\$	2,741.53
Three Rivers Crisis Center	\$	(8,000.00)
FEMA Disaster Reimbursement	\$	-
Garrison Div	\$	2,741.53
Domestic Violence	\$	35.00
Twsp Share Gas & Oil	\$	-
TeleComm Tax Fund	\$	185,292.44
State Aid Distribution	\$	15,104.48
Jail Concession	\$	4,148.24
Sobreity Test Fund	\$	495.95
SEMCA	\$	20,098.02
County General Accounts	\$	-
Diversion Settlement	\$	573,492.52
ND Income Tax W/H	\$	8,608.24
Sr Citizen Fund	\$	2,651.25
Historical Society	\$	660.64
Co Agent Special	\$	-
Soil Cons District	\$	2,651.25
Water Mngt Levy	\$	10,013.02
Joint Water Resource	\$	3,818.98
Estimated Real Estate Tax	\$	-
Current Tax Holding Fund	\$	-
EXPENSE TOTAL	\$	1,595,655.95
TOTAL PAYROLL & EXPENSES	\$	2,374,519.12