

**RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met on February 20, 2024 with Commissioners Nathan Berseth, Rollie Ehlert, Terry Goerger and Perry Miller. Commissioner Tim Campbell joined via telephone. Others included Administration Personnel Fossum and DeVal; Assistant State's Attorney Rydell and a Daily News Reporter. Visitor Janet Gagelin attended a portion of the meeting.

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

SHERIFF RUHL - DEPARTMENT REPORT

Staffing Updates - Steve Gjerdevig has moved into the position of Chief Corrections Officer replacing Officer Neitzke who resigned the end of January and Aaron Grenz has moved into the Sergeant position. Ruhl is working with Breuer in Dispatch and has hired a Dispatcher/Jailer. The Sheriff Department is short one officer in patrolling.

Back the Blue - Ruhl requested Board authorization to disburse funds for retention to the Sheriff Department and the Jail staff. He would like to disburse in two stages \$500 in March and again in November or December. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Goerger to approve the disbursement of Back the Blue Funds in March as requested. Vote was unanimous.

Jail Inspection - A pre-inspection was done last week - several windows need to be replaced and several policy issues need to be addressed. The main inspection will be done in April.

Avel eCare Crisis Program - Ruhl explained this is a State Funded program available at No Cost to Counties. Ruhl has visited with Fossum and the Health & Social Service Departments about the Crisis Care Program which provides law enforcement with tablets and 24/7 access to behavioral health professionals who can assist in responding to people experiencing a mental health crisis. Ruhl would like to implement the Avel eCare Crisis Care Program and have their tablets available to all Department Heads.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT

Highway Personnel in attendance were Engineer Sedler and Donnie Witt.

Tractor Rental - Sedler requested authorization to proceed with a tractor rental for the groomer. Sedler reported NDACo officials partner with John Deere to lease equipment, they offer two stages: 250 hrs for 8 months or 400 hrs for 12 months. Sedler is also getting a quote from Titan.

A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Berseth to move forward with a 12 month lease, with the stipulation that if Titan is within 20%, and if the product is available, to proceed with the dealer in the County. Vote was unanimous. The Board recommended Sedler also get a quote from Butler.

Road Restrictions - The soonest date would be next Monday, February 26, a decision will be made by the end of the week.

Commissioner Campbell exited the meeting at 8:30 A.M.

Engineer Sedler gave a brief update on Highway Activities:

- Townships will have the opportunity to set up a meeting time with Engineer Sedler and the Highway Portfolio Commissioners to discuss "B" Roads in their Township
- Crews have been blading over the past three weeks
- Plans are being finalized for CR 16; will negotiate ROW's in March. The Board consensus was Sedler use his discretion with ROW negotiations
- Will start crack sealing today on CR 22

CR 22 Drain Tile Bids - A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Goerger to advertise for Bids with a bid opening March 19. Vote was unanimous.

Culvert Bids - A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Goerger to advertise for culvert bids with a bid opening on March 19. Vote was unanimous.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to appoint Wayne Ulven to a new term on the RSR Social Service Zone Board. Vote was unanimous.

Fossum informed the Board the abstract for the County owned land in Barrie Township has been received and it will be taken to Fred Strege for a Quiet Title. The Board discussed a perpetual easement for trail property preservation. Miller will followup with Fred Strege.

JAY CARMACK, WAHPETON FFA - SIGN FOR CEMETERY

Janet Gagelin was also present. Carmack requested authorization for the Wahpeton FFA to place a sign at the Riverside Cemetery to help preserve its history. He presented the sign and provided several options for the sign location. It could be bolted to the existing pillars or a "beautification project" staking it and planting some perennials and some rock landscaping.

The Board questioned who would maintain the sign area if perennials were planted. Carmack replied the FFA chapter would maintain the sign area.

Gagelin offered her support for the sign project.

A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Goerger to allow the Wahpeton FFA to place a sign at the Riverside Cemetery, using their discretion for the sign placement. Vote was unanimous.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE continued

Rydell shared information from State's Attorney Kummer regarding off-site Liquor Permits - the Commission can give the County Auditor authority to issue off-site permits unless there are concerns that need to come before the Board. Berseth requested this item be placed on the Agenda for the next Commission meeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

March

- 5 Commission Meeting
- 11 Park Board Meeting
- 19 Commission Meeting

April

- 2 Commission Meeting
- 16 Commission Meeting

May

- 7 Commission Meeting
- 21 Commission Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 A.M.

ATTEST: _____
Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

_____ CHAIRPERSON
Perry Miller
Board of Richland County Commissioners