

## **RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

### **NOVEMBER 12, 2024**

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met on November 12, 2024 with Commissioners Nathan Berseth, Tim Campbell, Rollie Ehlert, Terry Goerger and Perry Miller. Others included Administration Personnel Fossum and South, Assistant State's Attorney Rydell, Sheriff Ruhl, Jesse Sedler, Donny Witt, Sarah Erickson, and Jill Breuer.

A motion was made by Goerger and seconded by Campbell to approve the agenda. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Ehlert to approve the minutes of meetings October 1 and October 15. Vote was unanimous.

### **TREASURERS REPORT**

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

### **SHERIFF RUHL – QUARTERLY REPORT**

Sheriff Ruhl distributed a quarterly report for the End of the Woods Task Force. He reported that seizures are continually going up with Meth and Fentanyl being the worse.

### **ELEVATUS/COMSTOCK CONSTRUCTION – JAIL PROJECT**

Dave Sholl joined the meeting via speaker phone. Jason Flack, Tyller Kellen, and Olivia Yost from Comstock Construction were present. Yost distributed a Conceptual Estimate Summary for Remodel and Addition of the current LEC.

Flack stated that the estimate to remodel and add on to the existing structure is not far from the estimate to build new. Sholl stated that the remodel would only allow about 110 beds and would require the Jail to be vacated for a year and a half. Discussion ensued regarding the details of the estimate and displacement of staff/detainees during the remodel.

Funding for the project was discussed in detail. Berseth suggested talking to a bonding agent to see if proof of funds on revenue would be enough to secure funding. Campbell

wondered if a finance committee could be formed to assist with finalizing the business plan.

### **PROPOSED BUILDING INSPECTOR**

The Board discussed adding a County Building Inspector to assist Cities with unkept properties. Commissioner Miller asked if there was an employee or department that the role could be integrated with. The Highway Department and Assessors were discussed as possibilities with the understanding that additional training would be needed. Berseth voiced concerns that enforcement would be difficult without ordinances in place.

### **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

Sedler gave an update on the following Highway activities:

Box culverts in Lamars Township and Fairmount Township – everything is back on pace, will be bid out on Friday. Waiting for one right-of-way, should be back by tomorrow.

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Ehlert to have the Commission Chair sign deed for Kingdon land. Vote was unanimous. Absent: Commissioner Berseth (stepped out momentarily).

CO RD 16 – is complete, contractor will be back to clean up the area.

### **SENATOR LARRY LUICK**

Senator Larry Luick asked the Board for a few minutes of their time. Luick stated that there are already 19 bills heading to the State on property tax, with more to come. Luick shared his thoughts and concerns with the Commission and asked them for suggestions going into the next session.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A) HSZ Board – No Report.

B) Buildings & Grounds – Issue with foundation in the Courthouse, may need to do tile work.

C) Public Health – Flu shot Fridays through November 22. Two open positions in the department.

D) JDA/JPA – JDA approved a loan for a house Lidgerwood and a loan for a store in Abercrombie.

E) Weed Board – Contract is up this year, needs to be renegotiated.

F) Soils Committee – No report.

G) Park Board – Sign for Mooreton will be ordered after verbiage is determined.

H) Administration – The Board of Commissioners commended Fossum and South for their efforts during the election.

### **MISC/CORRESPONDENCE**

Fossum informed the Board that there is a Joint North Dakota Water Convention and Irrigation Workshop December 10-13 in Bismarck.

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

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

#### November

18 Canvass Board  
19 County Tax Sale

#### December

3 Commission Meeting  
17 Commission Meeting

#### January

14 Commission Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 10:11 A.M.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sandy Fossum  
Auditor/Administrator

\_\_\_\_\_CHAIRPERSON  
Perry Miller  
Board of Richland County Commissioners

The following claims were approved for October, 2024

PAYROLL (inclusive)

General	\$	286,154.21
County Highway	\$	110,494.44
911 Communications	\$	53,806.39
County Agent	\$	7,511.30
Veterans Service	\$	10,292.67
Weed Officer	\$	840.00
Public Health Fund	\$	78,224.42
Income Maintenance	\$	71,502.22
Foster Care	\$	19,602.61
Child Protective Svc	\$	38,038.14
Parent Aid	\$	4,688.30
Family Soc Worker	\$	5,333.41
Social Services	\$	68,628.31
In-Home Care	\$	20,874.67
Admin Support	\$	17,433.09
PAYROLL TOTAL	\$	793,424.18

EXPENSES: \*\* Refer to resolution records

County General Accounts	\$	247,791.19
County Highway	\$	2,953,406.18
Bridge Replacement	\$	32,226.19
Road & Bridge Equipment Fund	\$	-
Prairie Dog Disbursements	\$	2,475,604.92
15 Mill Road	\$	-
Social Services Fund	\$	-
Emergency Assistance Donation	\$	-
Emergency Fund	\$	-
911 Communications	\$	33,081.19
NDRIN	\$	317.80
Capitol Improvement	\$	-
Water Rescue	\$	192.33
Special Response Team	\$	-
Civil Asset Forfeiture Fund	\$	-
K9 Dog Donations	\$	-
American Rescue Plan Funds	\$	351,984.49
County Agent	\$	15,485.14
Veterans Service	\$	4,511.07
Veteran Assistance Donation	\$	-
Weed Control Levy	\$	45,090.32
Public Health	\$	55,040.73
Haz Chem Fund	\$	-
Income Maintenance	\$	25,471.01
Foster Care	\$	6,700.54
Child Protective Svc	\$	13,377.08

Parent Aid	\$	1,361.66
Family Soc Worker	\$	2,374.19
Social Services	\$	23,071.69
In-Home Care	\$	8,054.40
Admin Support	\$	24,692.93
HSZ Board	\$	-
Safety Permanency Fd	\$	-
Foster Care	\$	-
Unallow Fed Costs	\$	-
General Assistance	\$	-
American Rescue Plan Funds	\$	-
State Medical Levy	\$	680.28
Three Rivers Crisis Center	\$	-
FEMA Disaster Reimbursement	\$	-
Garrison Div	\$	680.28
Domestic Violence	\$	280.00
Twsp Share Gas & Oil	\$	-
TeleComm Tax Fund	\$	-
State Aid Distribution	\$	17,715.16
Jail Concession	\$	2,122.08
Sobreity Test Fund	\$	1,500.00
SEMCA	\$	2,235.47
County General Accounts	\$	70,199.66
Diversion Settlement	\$	2,534,938.55
ND Income Tax W/H	\$	9,301.15
Sr Citizen Fund	\$	1,262.17
Historical Society	\$	312.98
Co Agent Special	\$	770.59
Soil Cons District	\$	587.93
Water Mngt Levy	\$	3,912.62
Joint Water Resource	\$	1,020.54
Estimated Real Estate Tax	\$	-
Current Tax Holding Fund	\$	-
EXPENSE TOTAL	\$	8,967,354.51
 TOTAL PAYROLL & EXPENSES	\$	 9,760,778.69

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sandy Fossum  
 Auditor/Administrator

\_\_\_\_\_CHAIRPERSON  
 Perry Miller  
 Board of Richland County Commissioners