

**RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 1, 2022**

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met on February 1, 2022 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Sid Berg, Nathan Berseth, Rollie Ehlert and Perry Miller. Commissioner Tim Campbell joined the meeting by phone. Others in attendance were Administration Personnel Fossum and DeVal; State's Attorney Kummer; and a Daily News Reporter.

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

A motion was made by Berg and seconded by Campbell to approve the Minutes of the Meeting January 4. Vote was unanimous.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

2022 County Emergency Declaration - A motion was made by Berg and seconded by Ehlert to approve the Declaration as presented. Vote was unanimous.

Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan - The plan has been submitted and is pending final approval by the Dept of Emergency Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. A motion was made by Berg and seconded by Miller to approve the Mitigation Plan as presented. Vote was unanimous.

2021 State Homeland Security Grant - A grant application has been submitted for the following:

- LEC securing doors/entrances with FOBS
- Additional LED Floodlights
- 100 ft communication tower and fencing
- emergency panic alarm

House Fires in Richland County - There have been 3-4 recent fires, assistance to the families has been provided through Red Cross.

2020 SIREN Project - Holding meetings with Fire Depts and Ambulance Districts.

JASON WEBER - ASSET FORFEITURE FUND

Weber requested authorization to spend funds from the Asset Forfeiture Account. He would like to purchase a machine that can count and scan denominations and kick out counterfeit currency. Currently they have to hand count and photocopy both sides of all currency which can be very time consuming. The machine is estimated to cost \$6700 plus shipping, but he is negotiating a price less the keyboard and software. The SEMCA Board has approved an expenditure up to \$6500 to purchase the machine. A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Berg to approve an expenditure up to \$6500 from the Asset Forfeiture Fund to purchase the requested machine. Vote was unanimous.

COVID UPDATE

Kayla Carlson was unable to attend the meeting but provided Fossum with an email report that included the following:

- increase in cases due to the omicron variant
- offering free walk-in rapid testing Tuesday and Thursday mornings through the month of February at Wahpeton City Hall
- offering free PCR testing on Wednesdays at Wahpeton City Hall
- still offering Covid-19 vaccinations on Fridays at Public Health

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Personnel in attendance were Engineer Sedler and Ron Hohenstern. Representatives from Butler and RDO Equipment were present for the Bid Opening.

Culverts - A motion was made by Berg and seconded by Miller to advertise for culverts. Vote was unanimous.

Motor Grader Bid Opening - The following bids were received:

Butler Machinery, Fargo
Total Sum Bid \$423,743.60, Annual Lease Payment \$61,824.09

RDO Equipment Moorhead
Total Sum Bid \$385,000.00, Annual Lease Payment \$58,911.86

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

Application for Bridges to DOT - An application was submitted to DOT for bridges. They approved three box culverts on Drain 31.

- 1 mile West of 127
- 4 miles South of 127
- 2.5 miles South of 11

A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Miller to accept the funds from DOT and to move forward with the projects. Vote was unanimous.

Tiling Projects - Specs have been done for 31.7 miles of tiling West of Hwy 18. A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Berg to advertise for drain tile bids with a March 1 Bid Opening. Vote was unanimous.

MELISSA NEITZKE AND SHERIFF LSHOVSKY - JAIL

Neitzke and Leshovsky were present along with Chief Deputy Ruhl to follow-up on discussions from the January 4 meeting.

Neitzke reported that staff has had training and they implemented Binex last week and everything is up and running.

Leshovsky reported that he received rates for Housing Inmates from several other Counties and most of them are higher than the Richland County rate. Leshovsky suggested that the Board may want to consider changing the current rate.

RED RIVER COMMUNICATIONS - RECONNECT GRANT/RURAL BROADBAND

Tom Steinolfson and Kari Kleingartner were present.

Steinolfson explained the company's plans to bring fiber broadband service to an underserved area in Richland County and requested a letter of support from the County for a Federal Grant (Reconnect Grant).

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Berg to approve a letter of support for Red River Communications. Vote was unanimous.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

- Correspondence from ND Water Resources re- Water Development Plan
- Correspondence from Interstate Engineering re-8th Ave N Reconstruction

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A) Social Services - No Report.
- B) Buildings & Grounds - A Courthouse Facilities grant has been awarded for the Courthouse HVAC Project.
- C) Public Health - No Report.
- D) JDA - No Report.

SVEDA - Some cities are interested in housing projects. SVEDA has interviewed people and some opportunities are coming up.

- E) Weed Board - No Report.

- F) Soils Committee - No report.

JOAN OLAND - PHONE SYSTEM

Oland explained the current phone system was purchased in 2012 and there have been some issues. She has received several proposals from Red River Communications. A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Berg to moved forward with Option 1 as presented. Vote was unanimous.

Ehlert asked Oland to inquire with Red River if this option would eliminate some cell phones.

COMMITTEE REPORTS continued

- G) Park Board - May have a potential candidate for Mooreton Pond Maintenance.

- H) Administration - Fossum reported the following:

- had a Teams Meeting with Eide Bailly last week, they are finalizing the study and will set up meetings with Departments and will meet with the Commission on February 15.

- would like to request a Market Survey for Salaries from Gallagher so we have information for budgeting. Berseth suggested waiting until after the Eide Bailly report is back; the Board also briefly discussed shift differentials.

Commissioner Campbell left the meeting at this time.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE continued

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

Berseth reported a meeting was held in Hankinson a week ago on the Carbon Pipeline. Some of the landowners have concerns with the proposed project.

Miller reported he was contacted by Roger Jensen regarding the empty space in the Stern's Building; they would like to use this space for Artists and inquired if Diversion Settlement Funds would be available to assist with this type of project. Miller will invite him to a JDA Meeting.

Berg reported that Campbell was contacted by an individual to finish off the Road by the Colfax Church. Sedler replied the County has done what we agreed to, the two Townships involved agreed to build the Road.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

February

15 Commission Meeting

March

- 1 Commission Meeting
- 2-4 Election Training in Bismarck
- 10 5-County Meeting in Wyndmere
- 15 Commission Meeting

Being there was no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:10 A.M.

Reports Filed: Sheriff Department - Revenue and Expenses for December 2021;
Tax & Property Department - Revenue Voucher for December 2021.

ATTEST: Sandy Fossum Nathan Berseth CHAIRPERSON
Sandy Fossum Nathan Berseth
Auditor/Administrator Board of Richland County Commissioners

The following claims were approved for January, 2022.

PAYROLL (inclusive)	
General	253,289.92
County Highway	110,197.61
911 Communications	40,606.81
County Agent	8,383.27
Veterans Service	8,188.28
Weed Officer	500.00
Public Health Fund	86,479.36
Income Maintenance	46,174.28
Foster Care	16,984.18
Child Protective Svc	35,364.22
Parent Aid	3,200.70
Family Soc Worker	10,162.26
Social Services	10,867.64
In-Home Care	15,633.92
Admin Support	11,435.63
HSZ Board	300.00
PAYROLL TOTAL	657,768.08

EXPENSES: ** Refer to
resolution records

County General	350,404.79
County Highway	108,478.65
Bridge Replacement	9,214.63
911 Communications	68,549.27
County Agent	14,868.62
Veterans Service	4,202.50
Weed Control Levy	1,286.82
Public Health	47,711.61
Haz Chem Fund	21.60
Income Maintenance	16,997.24
Foster Care	3,999.23
Child Protective Svc	11,613.55
Parent Aid	2,008.68
Family Soc Worker	3,258.33
Social Services	3,342.86
In-Home Care	8,994.74
Admin Support	5,280.50
HSZ Board	31.95
Safety Permanency Fd	110.00
Unallow Fed Costs	8.00
General Assistance	2,381.24
State Medical Levy	22,192.89
Garrison Div	22,192.89
Domestic Violence	105.00

State Aid Distribution	15,769.66
Jail Concession	560.35
SEMCA	1,746.31
JDA	166.88
Diversion Settlement	4,441.25
ND Income Tax W/H	15,962.92
Sr Citizen Fund	22,710.88
Historical Society	5,675.43
Co Agent Special	549.01
Soil Cons District	20,865.30
Water Mngt Levy	62,965.50
Joint Water Resource	33,289.28
Tax holding Fund	6,362,113.45
EXPENSE TOTAL	7,254,071.81

TOTAL PAYROLL & EXPENSES **7,911,839.89**

ATTEST: Sandy Fossum
Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

Nathan Berseth CHAIRPERSON
Nathan Berseth
Board of Richland County Commissioners