

**RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 15, 2022**

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met on February 15, 2022 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Sid Berg, Nathan Berseth, Tim Campbell, Rollie Ehlert and Perry Miller. Others in attendance were Administration Personnel Fossum and DeVal; State's Attorney Kummer; and Daily News Reporter Frank Stanko.

Others attending portions of the meeting included County Employees Mechelle Olsen, Joan Oland, and Jill Breuer; News Monitor Reporter Levi Jones and Rich Slagle of Moore Engineering.

A motion was made by Berg and seconded by Miller to approve the Agenda as amended. Vote was unanimous.

EIDE BAILLY CONSULTING - EFFICIENCY STUDY

Shelley Earsley presented the Business Process Assessment & Staffing Level Analysis prepared by Eide Bailly Consulting for various County Departments along with recommendations and an action plan.

Following the presentation it was the consensus of the Board to hold follow-up meetings with the full Board of Commission, the individual departments and Eide Bailly on how to move forward with the action plan.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Personnel in attendance were Engineer Sedler and Ron Hohenstern.

Motor Grader Bid - Bids were opened at the February 1 Commission Meeting. A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Campbell to purchase the motor grader from Butler Machinery, Fargo. Vote was unanimous.

Their bid was: Total Sum Bid \$423,743.60, Annual Lease Payment \$61,824.09

Chip Seal Bids - A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Miller to advertise for Chip Seal with a bid opening on April 5th. Vote was unanimous. Chip seal will be bid out for projects on County Roads 2, 3, 10, 16 & 81, approximately 58 miles.

Road Closures - Sedler reported highways were closed on February 11 due to the blizzard and multiple vehicles stranded on the roadways and in the ditch. The Dwight Fire Chief contacted Sedler to thank a Highway employee who led a couple ambulances back and forth from the Interstate.

Equipment Operator - The job description for the vacant position will be reviewed.

Commissioner Berg reported that he has been contacted by a number of individuals about paving appx 5 miles of County Rd 1 so that traffic could be avoided on Grant Street in Colfax, as this is a safety issue. The Commission briefly discussed the proposed Solar Farm Project in Colfax Twsp and the potential for additional funds in the Colfax Area. Fossum was directed to invite the Twsp Representatives to the March 1 Commission Meeting to discuss further.

KAYLA CARLSON - COVID UPDATE & REQUEST TO FILL POSITION

Covid Update - Carlson reported the following:

- there are currently 20 active cases in Richland County, and likely more due to at-home tests
- offering free walk-in rapid testing twice a week at Wahpeton City Hall
- offering free PCR testing on Wednesdays at Wahpeton City Hall
- offering Covid-19 vaccinations at Public Health
- free at-home test kits are available in the Health Dept

Health Services Professional RN Position - The Health Services Professional RN will be retiring June 15th, Carlson requested authorization to advertise and fill the position with a start date of May 2. A motion was made by Berg and seconded by Miller to authorize advertising the Health Services Professional RN Position with a start date of May 2nd. Vote was unanimous.

Recap of the 2021 Budget - Commissioner Campbell distributed a Report containing a recap of the 2021 Health Department Budget and commented on all of the services provided by the Health Department.

Carlson gave a summary of the programs and the budget as outlined in the Report. Carlson reported there was some discussion with the Health Board on Home Health Services becoming decertified. Carlson stated there are currently 5 providers in the County for Home Health Services, the County would continue to offer services but at a de-certified level.

Ehlert voiced concerns with how becoming de-certified would affect Veterans and reported he would follow-up with the County Veterans Service Officer.

JOHN ANDERSON - HVAC PROJECT & MAINTENANCE REPORT

Pipes - Sections of pipe need to be replaced in the Jail and next to Dispatch.

HVAC Project in Courthouse - Anderson reported the following:

- \$650,000 has been secured through the Courthouse Facilities Grant
- the Department of Commerce will be contacted about an Efficiency Grant
- the Engineer's estimated was \$2.6 million

Fossum reported the County cost is expected to be appx \$1.9 million, there is appx \$1.5 million on hand in ARPA funds and another \$1.5 million is expected in May. If the County funded the cost of the project with ARPA funds there would still be \$1.2 million left in ARPA Funds after paying for the HVAC project.

States Attorney Kummer was asked to look into the RFP for architect and engineering and whether this qualifies as a continuation of the addition project or if the HVAC is a separate project.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

- correspondence from USDA re- Dakota Valley Electric utility line project
- Berg reported he was contacted by an individual about concerns with the Summit Carbon Solution Pipeline and eminent domain concerns
- Berg reported there were two meetings in Bismarck regarding load trains
- Berseth reported he attended the graduation ceremony for the Drug Court Program several weeks ago and encouraged the other Commissioners to attend a Graduation Ceremony for the very worthwhile program
- Fossum reported a refund will be issued to Wahpeton City for overpayment of Remote Terminal Access Fees.

A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Berg to approve Gaming Permits for Dakota Antique Power Train Club and Galchutt American Legion OWL Post 282 contingent upon completed applications. Vote was unanimous.

Campbell recommended the Commission move to Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue/clarification of duties. State's Attorney Kummer stated this item did not meet the guidelines for moving to an Executive Session. Brief discussion followed and Ehlert recommended the issue be placed on an upcoming Agenda before further discussion by the Board as this item was not on today's agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Berg to increase rates for housing inmates to \$85.00 per day effective April 1, 2022 or when the current contracts expire. Voting NO was Campbell, the remainder Voted Yes and the motion carried.

Kayla Carlson came back to the meeting to provide additional information on Home Health in regard to VA clients and her presentation earlier in the meeting - she distributed client numbers and budget information for Home Health and reported many of the clients are needing more care than the County can provide, such as physical therapy, etc.; the VA has also changed their billing model.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

February

15 Weed Board

March

- 1 Commission Meeting
- 10 5-County Meeting in Wyndmere
- 14 Park Board Meeting
- 15 Commission Meeting

Being there was no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:10 A.M.

ATTEST: Sandy Fossum
 Sandy Fossum
 Auditor/Administrator

Nathan Berseth CHAIRPERSON
 Nathan Berseth
 Board of Richland County Commissioners