

RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 19, 2022

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met on April 19, 2022 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Sid Berg, Nathan Berseth, Tim Campbell, Rollie Ehlert and Perry Miller (by phone). Others in attendance were Administration Personnel Fossum and DeVal; State's Attorney Kummer; and a Daily News Reporter. Visitors included County Personnel Sara Erickson and Brett Lambrecht; Wahpeton Mayor Steve Dale and Damon DeVillers of Interstate Engineering.

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

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

A motion was made by Berg and seconded by Miller to appoint Julie Berg to the Richland County Housing Authority. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Berg to appoint Shawn Paczkowski to the Richland County Jobs Development Authority, representing cities under 500. Vote was unanimous.

- Conferment benefits in the amount of \$41,068 from NDIRF were received
- Invitation to 2022 Joint Summer Water Meeting & Executive Briefing

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

Campbell presented a request from the Health Department to hire a Health Program Coordinator. They would like to restructure the department and shift duties to better utilize staff time and grant funding. Kayla Carlson joined the meeting by phone. Discussion followed and included:

- concerns with the pay grade which is starting at the same as a RN position
- if the position would be grant funded
- if a Nursing Degree should be, or not be, a requirement for the position

A motion was made by Berg and seconded by Campbell to advertise for a Health Program Coordinator with a nursing degree preferred. Voting NO were Miller, Ehlert and Berseth. The motion failed.

Berseth requested an update of Health Dept Grants every six months.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Personnel in attendance were Engineer Sedler and Ron Hohenstern. A large group of visitors was in attendance for the Highway Department Bid Openings.

Bid Opening - Bituminous Seal Coating - Engineers estimate is \$2,596,436. The following bids were received:

Morris Sealcoat & Trucking, Morris MN	\$2,555,236.77
Aztech Corporation, St Cloud MN	\$2,893,539.34

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

Minnesota Hwy 55 Project - MN DOT will be working on Hwy 55 from Fairmount to Wendell and will be using North Dakota County Rd 16 as a detour road from June 6 - July 1.

Blading - Is being done where possible.

8 hour days - with the weather crews won't begin 10 hour days for another week.

Crushing - 60,000 tons - when weather cooperates will also purchase clay for stockpiling.

Carbon Pipeline Project - Began some talks with the pipeline people on what our requirements are on roadways and boring.

Bid Opening - Bituminous Overlay CR 3 - Engineers estimate is \$1,722,120. The following bids were received:

Central Specialties, Alexandria MN	\$1,574,965.70
Knife River Materials, Bemidji MN	\$1,576,519.10
Mark Sand & Gravel, Fergus Falls MN	\$1,543,273.10
RJ Zavoral & Sons, East Grand Forks MN	\$1,568,740.45

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

WAHPETON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Brad Pauly and Dale Rubish representing the Wahpeton Community Development Corporation (CDC) met with the Commission.

Pauly presented a preliminary map for the Homestead Addition in Wahpeton. He explained that the CDC has entered into an Agreement for the South half of the proposed development with a potential developer and has also received a proposal for the North half. The CDC is working with the City on infrastructure which is estimated to cost \$8 million. The TIF district can contribute \$3 million. Pauly explained that with a full build there would be substantial tax dollars coming to the County. He asked if the County would contribute with roads (19th Street and 14th Ave) up to \$1 million. The remaining \$4 million for the project would be special assessed.

Berseth asked if the projected costs could be broken down into percentages for 14th Avenue and 19th Street, which would give the County a basis for any future projects or other requests that may come.

Campbell commented on the 15 mill ballot measure coming up on the June Ballot and recommended waiting until after Election before agreeing to anything.

Berseth suggested revisiting on a regular basis and to coordinate any questions or future meetings through Sandy Fossum.

Commissioner Ehlert left the meeting at this time. 9:00 A.M.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE continued

Tax Forfeiture Properties - Miller recommended the County aggressively market any property that has come back to the County for non-payment of taxes, in particular the 2nd Ave N house in Wahpeton. Miller volunteered to take the lead and to talk with Realtors.

Berseth suggesting getting a full list of all properties, determine which to tear down and which to repair and work with Realtors.

Miller asked about a Commission to Realtors or a Flat Fee. Sara Erickson replied Century Code allows a Realtor Fee.

Miller will coordinate and work with Fossum and Erickson. The goal will be to get the properties back into the hands of someone who will rehab the properties and not be a detriment to cities.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

April

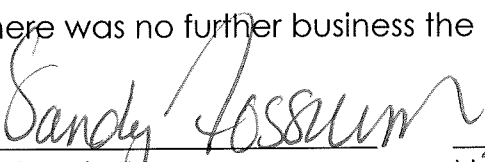
27 Pre-construction Conference at Interstate Engineering 3:00 P.M.

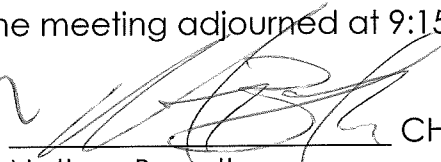
May

- 3 Commission Meeting
- 17 Commission Meeting
- 17 Eide Bailly Committee Meeting

Being there was no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:15 A.M.

ATTEST:


Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

 CHAIRPERSON
Nathan Berseth
Board of Richland County Commissioners