

**RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY 17, 2022**

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met on May 17, 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; a Daily News Reporter and Visitors Sheriff Leshovsky, Chief Deputy Ruhl, Wahpeton Mayor Steve Dale and Kelly Larson.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Campbell to approve the Agenda. Vote was unanimous.

JILL BREUER - LIFESAVER AWARD & STAFF RETIREMENT

Breuer reported the Lifesaver Award has been postponed.

Breuer reported that the Communications 911 Assistant Manager will be retiring July 31 and requested authorization to begin advertising the position. A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Campbell to authorize advertising for a Communications 911 Assistant Manager position. Vote was unanimous.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

A motion was made by Berg and seconded by Miller to approve Temporary Liquor Licenses for the Black Pelican for events at the Bagg Farm on May 28-29, June 4-5, August 20-21 and September 3-4. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Ehlert to approve a \$2,000 reimbursement to the City of Fairmount to help with the demolition cost of a tax foreclosed property. (110 N 3rd St). Vote was unanimous.

Fossum requested the Board add JDA expenses into the 2022 Budget for record keeping purposes even though they do not levy. A motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Miller to add JDA expenses into the 2022 Budget. Vote was unanimous.

ASSESSORS OFFICE - BUSINESS EXEMPTION

Others in attendance were County Assessor Rick Score and Jason Schuler from Giant Snacks Inc.

Tax Director Melissa Brown reported Giant Snacks Inc has submitted an application for property tax incentives for a new or expanding business. Giant Snacks is building an addition and is requesting a 5-year, 100% exemption.

Campbell voiced concerns with giving a 100% exemption when typically a 5-year, 50% has been given to expanding businesses.

Following discussion a motion was made by Miller and seconded by Berseth to approve a 5-year, 100% exemption to Giant Snacks for a business expansion. Voting NO was Campbell, the remainder Voted Yes and the motion carried.

NATHAN BRANDT, WYNDMERE MAYOR - COUNTY PROPERTY

Brandt reported the City of Wyndmere currently has three dilapidated buildings on the west side of 4th Street; the County owns two of the properties. The City has been exploring the option of replacing these buildings with a 2-story mixed use building consisting of residential apartments, a senior citizen center, multiple retail spaces and a multi-use community gathering center.

Brandt requested a Partnership with the County to take the dilapidated buildings down. The City would commit funds and is also looking into grants. They have received two estimates ranging from \$133,000 to \$154,000.

Following discussion a motion was made by Ehlert and seconded by Campbell to contribute up to \$75,000 in demolition costs contingent on a Purchase Agreement between the City of Wyndmere and the County for the two County-owned properties. Vote was unanimous.

JOEY BORRACI - SUMMIT CARBON SOLUTIONS

Joey Borraci with Turn Key Logistics distributed a handout on Summit Carbon Solutions and gave an update of the Project which included:

- quarterly updates of the project will be given to the Commission
- Summit has contracted with a company for an Economic Study
- the project is on-schedule to start the summer of 2023
- they have obtained 100 miles of easements including 6 miles in Richland County
- Summit would like to do Community Outreach and requested a list be provided to them for review
- Annual new property taxes are estimated at \$752,975 for Richland County

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Personnel in attendance were Engineer Sedler and Ron Hohenstern.

Hankinson Shop - Crews will be hauling sand to the area this week and work is expected to begin next week.

RFP's for Engineering/Drain 3 - Interviews are scheduled for May 25.

Flooding - Issues with flooding everywhere, multiple bridges, crossings, and roads are out. FEMA will be involved.

Grant Funding for Bridges - Information just came out about additional grant funding, will discuss with Highway Portfolio.

OLD BUSINESS

Kelly Larson who presented a renovation plan for a County owned property at the May 3 Commission Meeting reported that she has spoken with contractors and hopes to have some numbers soon. Larson also reported there is an urgent need to get several windows covered that were blown out in a recent storm.

Larson was informed that someone from the County would need to be with, at all times, if contractors or Larson were in the building, for liability reasons.

Being there was no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:35 A.M.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

May

18 JDA Meeting

June

7 Commission Meeting
7 County Equalization Meeting
13 Boys State Tour
21 Commission Meeting

July

5 Commission Meeting
5 Budget Meetings
7 Budget Meetings
11 Park Board Meeting
19 Commission Meeting

ATTEST: Sandy Fossum
Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

Nathan Berseth CHAIRPERSON
Nathan Berseth
Board of Richland County Commissioners