

RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARCH 21, 2023

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met on March 21, 2023 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Tim Campbell, Rollie Ehlert, and Terry Goerger. Commissioners Nathan Berseth and Perry Miller joining through Teams. Others in attendance were Administration Personnel Fossum and DelVal; State's Attorney Kummer; Assistant State's Attorney Rydell; and a Daily News Reporter.

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

JOEL PAULSON - HEMNES CEMETERY

Joel Paulson and Peggy Carter from the Metro Flood Diversion Authority (MFDA) met with the Commission to discuss property ownership for the Hemnes Cemetery. Paulson explained the cemetery is in the upstream area and the MFDA has been working with the owners to purchase the property. After that it would not be feasible for the Diversion Authority to own it; they would like the County to take over ownership and be responsible for maintenance of the cemetery. The MFDA Legal Department is working on a draft deed to send to the County State's Attorney for review. THE MFDA is continuing with geo-technical work on bank stability issues and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will do a study to determine the feasibility of erosion stabilization of the Red River near the cemetery.

Emergency Manager Lambrecht provided the Commission with a brief history of the cemetery. Oliver Mathison from Fargo had been taking care of the cemetery for many years on his own. In 2008 -2009 he was dealing with the Corp and FEMA because there was no cemetery board and water was getting near some of the graves. An application was started to get the cemetery placed on the National Register of Historic Places but the paperwork was never submitted.

Discussion followed: Concerns voiced by the Commission were the liability and who would be responsible for any future damages if the cemetery were flooded by the FM Diversion and the graves would need to be moved; and also who would make the determination if it were diversion related or natural erosion.

The Commission requested Paulson and Carter come back to another meeting after the Corp study is complete and a deed is prepared for the Board to review.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

A motion was made by Goerger and seconded by Campbell to approve a Raffle Permit Application for the Hankinson Sandhills Saddle Club. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Miller to approve the sale of two County properties in Wyndmere to the City of Wyndmere. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Berseth and seconded by Goerger to honor the tax discount to John Hertsgaard due to the delay in mail service. Vote was unanimous.

-Correspondence from Dakota Prairie Grasslands re- trail improvements

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

FEMA - Flood Disaster 2022 - Helendale and Moran Township have received payments for damages.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing Report - All money is used locally. \$20,143.81 was collected and will be split equally between Richland County and Wilkin County.

Emergency Declaration - Lambrecht presented a Declaration for Spring Flooding. A motion was made by Goerger and seconded by Campbell to approve the Emergency Declaration as presented. Vote was unanimous.

Sand Bag Supply - Lambrecht reported appx 10,000 bags are currently on hand; the state also has appx 96,000 stored at the Wahpeton National Guard which could be available if necessary.

Lambrecht will talk to the Sheriff Dept about storage space and will check to see what is available with the Corp in Fergus Falls before ordering additional sand bags and will report back to the Board in two weeks.

Hemnes Cemetery - Lambrecht requested direction from the Board on the application to get the cemetery placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Board recommended Lambrecht visit with the Mathison Family.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Personnel in attendance were Engineer Sedler and Donnie Witt.

Drain Tile Bids - A motion was made by Goerger and seconded by Campbell to award the Drain Tile Bid to Red Rock Tiling, Kensington MN. Vote was unanimous.

Gravel Crushing Bids - A motion was made by Goerger and seconded by Berseth to award the bid to Mark Sand & Gravel, Fergus Falls. Voting NO was Campbell, the remainder Voted Yes and the motion carried.

Road Restrictions - Restrictions will go on next week.

Hankinson Shop - Should be moving in by the end of April.

Winter Road Conditions - JBX, Ehlerts and Viele's have all been hired to assist.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE continued

Fossum reported an individual has accepted the GIS position and will tentatively begin May 1.

Commissioner Campbell was congratulated by the other Commissioners for recently being inducted into the ND Officials Hall of Fame.

Miller commented on staffing shortages in several departments and recommended the Board discuss signing bonuses and longevity bonuses prior to the budgeting process. Ehlert replied he would visit with Fossum and HR prior to budget meetings in June.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

April

- 4 Commission Meeting
- 4 Housing Authority
- 4 Township Officers Meeting
- 7 Holiday - Offices Closed
- 11 Public Hearing SCS Application for Pipeline Project
- 18 Commission Meeting

May

- 2 Commission Meeting
- 16 Commission Meeting

Motion to adjourn by Goerger.
Meeting adjourned at 9:20 A.M.

ATTEST: Sandy Fossum
Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

Ken Miller 4-4-23 CHAIRPERSON
~~Rollie Ehler~~
Board of Richland County Commissioners