

May 1st 2018
Finley ND

The Steele County Commission meeting was called to order at 8:31am. Present were Chairman Brian Tuite, Commissioners Russell Walcker, Richard Strand, Ted Johnson and Randy Richards. Also present were Matt Roller, Brandon Krueger, Jake Dickson, Leo Knudson, Larry Linneman and John Byzewski.

Agenda additions: Approval of Election Inspector and Title Vi

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the agenda additions. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Richards and seconded by Commissioner Walcker to approve the April 2018 minutes. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

The Steele County Commissioner meeting was recessed for the Steele County Park Board meeting. The Steele County Commissioner meeting reconvened at 9:30am.

The recent repairs to the Sharon shop were reviewed and discussed. The final invoice will be forwarded to NDIRF.

The radio tower security grant has not received final approval from the state. Gates has consent from the board to move forward with the project upon approval from the state.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve and sign the Flood Emergency Declaration for Steele County. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Mike Bassingthwaite, with Interstate Engineering, met with the board to discuss County Road 23. It was noted that Knife River had called Strand the night prior to advise him that they would not be attending the commission meeting, as requested, to discuss the issues with their work on County Road 23. Knife River is requesting to set up a meeting at the work site in the future.

It was noted that the county has additional repair work and graveling left to do on the County Road 23 detour route from last fall.

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Strand to approve and sign the Memorandum of Agreement between Steele County and FEMA Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Program Management Office. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand and seconded by Commissioner Walcker to declare a Fire Emergency and issue a Burn Ban to remain in effect when the North Dakota Rangeland Fire Danger Rating is in Very High, Extreme and/or a Red Flag Warning. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

The Steele County Courthouse chimney was discussed. Gates will look into cost estimates at repairing or removing the chimney.

Gate advised the board that Traill County has approached him regarding the possibility of assisting them with their Emergency Manager position. After a brief discussion, it was decided that Steele County is not able to assist or combine the two counties.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to increase agland values by six percent to bring Steele County within state tolerance levels in preparation for County Equalization next month. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Gates advised the board that SCWRD requested badges to access the building before and after hours. It was noted that they are to request access panels be programmed if they have a need to access the building for a meeting after business hours as previous stated.

Bassingthwaite presented the board with Central Specialties contract for County Road 23 West.

A motion was made by Commissioner Richards and seconded by Strand to approve and sign the Notice of Award to Central Specialties for the County Road 23 West project. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand and seconded by Commissioner Walcker to approve and sign the BNSF Crossing Surface Installation Agreement. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Bassingthwaite discussed a possible pre-construction conference meeting in June for the County Road 23 West project. The Bridge replacement project south of Sharon may be moved to the November 2018 bid letting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Richards and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the \$2785 quote for wetland delineation on County Road 7. All member voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand and seconded by Commissioner Richards to approve the quote of \$2175 from Beaver Creek Archeology for field survey work on the County Road 7 project. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A quote was received from Swingen in the amount of \$21,200 and Industrial Builders in the amount of \$59,000 for bridge rail work on County Road 11 bridge.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to accept a quote from Swingen in the amount of \$21,200 to repair the damaged bridge rail on County Road 11 bridge. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Brief discussion was held regarding a bridge east of Palmers. The bridge was declined as a Federal Aid project several years ago.

Bassingthwaite will work with Road Superintendent Oien to respond to the DOT regarding an Alert Code 3 bridge.

A motion was made by Commissioner Walcker and seconded by Commissioner Strand to approve and sign the Railroad Right of Way agreement between the City of Sharon and BNSF. This corrects and replaces the previous agreement with Sharon Township. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Road Superintendent Reed Oien provided new maps detailing the intended graveling to be done in 2018 which also included areas to spot gravel. It was noted that Oien may go over budget on graveling.

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Walcker to request bids for crushed gravel for 54 miles in the county. An incentive of \$0.25 per mile will be given if completed by July 16th 2018. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Richards and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to sign and approve the Funding Agreement with the State of North Dakota for the Clerk of Courts office. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand and seconded by Commissioner Richards to approve and sign the Title VI and Nondiscrimination Policy Statement. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand and seconded by Commissioner Walcker to approve the 2018 Election inspector and clerks as presented. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand and seconded by Commissioner Richards to approve the lease lot transfer between Michael and Denise Adams to Brandon Adams and Amanda Boyer. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Auditor Wigen advised the board that two lease lot payments have not been received by the deadline. A certified letter will be mailed out with a final reminder to pay by May 15th or the lease may not be renewed.

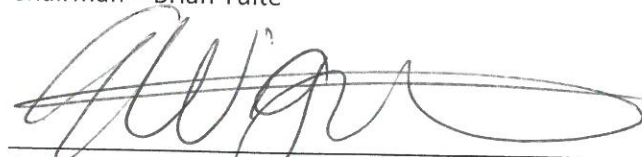
A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Strand to approve the increase in the county's network bandwidth to the next level of 50mb. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Auditor Wigen provided the Blue Cross Blue Shield Dental and Vision rates effective July 2019. An office update was provided that included the county mower being serviced by the road department, the budget review process that will begin at the June meeting. HR topics regarding social service wages and compensation for additional hours.

A discussion was held regarding Job Development and Water Resources. It was requested that wage increases follow county increases and be provided for January payroll as all other county employees. Those employees that are on county benefits to follow county policy manual and attend county trainings. Wigen will check with NDACO's workforce safety regarding specifics of certain job descriptions. An open house during Finley Days was discussed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand and seconded by Commissioner Walcker to adjourn the meeting. All members voted yes. Motion carried.


Chairman – Brian Tuite


Auditor – Emily Wigen