

October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018  
Finley ND

The Steele County Commission meeting was called to order at 8:24am. Present were Chairman Brian Tuite, Commissioners Russell Walcker, Richard Strand, Ted Johnson and Randy Richards. Also present were Matt Roller, Brandon Krueger, Jake Dickson and Ben Gates.

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

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

The Steele County Commission meeting was recessed for the Steele County Park Board meeting at 8:25am. The Steele County Commission meeting reconvened at 9:04am.

Steele County States Attorney Charlie Stock and Mike Bassingthwaite with Interstate Engineering, joined the meeting.

Bassingthwaite provided the board with Response to Notice of Intent to File Claim correspondence received from Knife River regarding the County Road 23 east project. It was discussed that the county would respond with a letter back denying the claim. Bassingthwaite will meet with States Attorney Stock after the meeting to review the items.

A progress update on County Road 23 West and County Rd 8 and 5 were discussed. Bassingthwaite estimated there were eight days left of paving. He also noted that shoulder work west of Richards place and County Road 6 going south needed top soil, which will be hauled by the county to save on costs, and Central Specialties will level it. Patching the dips from old pavement to new will be needed as well.

Richards inquired about the possibility of replacing and lowering a culvert under the state highway before work is done on highway 38 next year. Bassingthwaite provided an opinion that there was no guarantee and it would cost several thousand dollars to the county in work. It was also discussed that Bassingthwaite will work on documents to deed back unneeded right of way to the land owners.

Westfield Township board members, Don Nygaard, Brady Palmer, Steve Hanson and Keith Palmers, met with the Commission to discuss the bridge between section five and section eight of Westfield township. The road serves as a bus route, mail route and access for residents. In 2015 the bridge inspection resulted in a rating of 37 out of 100 and structurally deficient by the DOT. Bassingthwaite suggested a minimum eight-foot double culvert, or three seven foot arch pipes measuring 120 x 83 inches. Materials are estimated at \$23,000 with a total cost estimate of between \$50,000 to \$70,000.

A motion was made by Commissioner Richards and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to split the cost 50/50 with Westfield township with half the payment due upon completion in 2018 and the remaining portion due in 2019. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Richards and seconded by Johnson to hire Lakeside Construction to complete the Westfield bridge/culvert project. Roll call vote – Richards – yes, Johnson – yes, Walker – yes, Tuite – yes, Strand – abstained. Motion passed.

Road Department Office manager, Ben Gates, presented the board with Razor tracking reports, blading hours for September and gravel reports to review. Road Superintendent Reed Oien presented the open road department position for discussion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand and seconded by Commissioner Richards to increase Rosnow's wage effective Oct 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 to \$18.54 per hour and hire the new position at \$18 with a 3% increase January 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 and another review six months following. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

The Steele County Commission meeting moved to the courthouse basement at 10:51 am for a presentation by Steele County Extension employees Angie Johnson and Kristi Berdahl.

Johnson and Berdahl provided a review of SBARE and NDSU Extensions strategic plan and strength.

Gates met with the board to provide an update on the tower and cameras. Gates presented the board with an abatement request for the KIA property in the City of Hope.

A motion was made by Commissioner Richards and Commissioner Strand to approve the abatement of taxes prorated for 2018 when statements come out. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Gates presented the board with the idea of taxing the Golden Lake lease lots under the possessory interest clause in century code. It was discussed that the Lessee's are currently taxed on the structures and pay the yearly lease fee for the lot. Taxing the Lessee for the possessory interest of the land would generate approximately \$13,806 per year. Gates proposed adding the 40 lots as omitted property for 2018 taxes. Auditor Wigen expressed concern adding them for 2018 taxes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Richards and seconded by Commissioner Walcker to add forty Golden Lake lease lots to the tax rolls for 2019. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Gates discussed and requested the purchase of a Microsoft Surface for his office estimated at \$3,000. Wigen will check on the technology budget for next month's meeting and provide a list of other office computers in need of updating.

Gates requested permission to obtain VPN access to the network when he is away from his office. The board will allow a three-month trial at this time. Gates also provided an update on Vanguard's reassessment project.

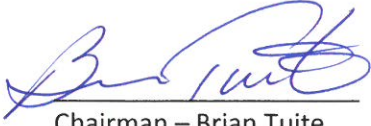
A motion was made by Commissioner Richards and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the minimum sale prices as presented for the November 20<sup>th</sup> 2018 Tax Sale. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Sheriff Wayne Beckman discussed some recent damage to signs throughout the county.

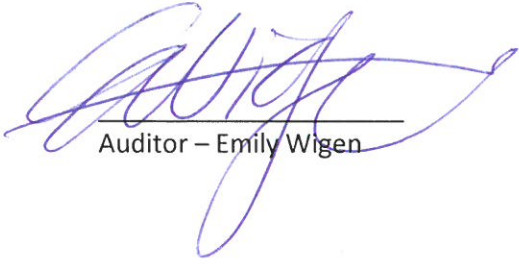
A motion was made by Commissioner Richards and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve Pam and Russell Walcker as Steele County's delegates for the State Fair. Roll call vote – Richards – yes, Strand – yes, Johnson – yes, Tuite – yes, Walcker abstained.

Auditor Wigen provided an office update that included the Halloween open house, staffing, open enrollment period and the upcoming audit. Wigen also requested and was granted a three-month VPN trail.

A motion was made by Johnson and seconded by Strand to adjourn the meeting at 2:40pm.



Chairman – Brian Tuite



Auditor – Emily Wigen