

March 9th, 2024, Steele County Commission Meeting

The Steele County Commission meeting was called to order at 7:59am. Present were Commissioners Perry Brown, Brandon Krueger, Richard Strand, Brandon Oxtan and Don Huso. Also present, Auditor Jana Flaten and Ben Gates. Huso made a motion to approve the February minutes second by Krueger. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Agenda additions- Jail Contract

Strand made a motion to approve the agenda. Second by Oxtan. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Discussion was had for an approval of the RFP going into the paper. Strand made a motion to approve the RFP, second by Krueger. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Co 18 bids will be open March 18<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. Approval of the bids will be on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 10 am via Zoom.

Ben Gates discussed the communication tower west of Finely. The State is going to go with Minn Kota for all the towers. Ben believes the best option is just to have the state build it and leave the county out of it.

Sheriff Beckman discussed the new Barnes County Jail contract. It did go up \$20.00 a day. Oxtan made a motion to approve the contract, second by Huso. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Sheriff Beckman briefly discussed the new proposed correctional center in Devils Lake.

State Attorney Stock discussed different compensation/reimbursement options with reimbursement from the state with the Clerk of Court. The county is currently getting reimbursement by the state – 1/3 wage cost to the Clerk of Court. Stock suggested keeping with option 1. Strand made a motion to approve option one, seconded by Krueger. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Finley Improvement Association is asking for approval for gaming out at Golden Acres- this will include E-tabs and paper tabs. Strand made a motion to approve gaming at Golden Acres seconded by Oxtan. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Lakeview Catering submitted and paid for the liquor and beer licenses. Krueger made a motion to approve the liquor license seconded by Oxtan. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Tax Director Casey Olson brought a building permit for J. Hashbarger to update a dryer. Krueger made a motion to approve the permit seconded by Huso. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

The Vanguard contract is up for renewal. There is the option to do a yearly or 5-year contract. Strand made a motion to approve the 5-year contract for \$9625.00 seconded by Huso. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Vet Services are looking to hire another driver and provided an applicant for the position. Krueger made a motion to approve the applicant with ok background check seconded by Huso. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Auditor Flaten discussed the transfers and budget amendments. Flaten worked with Linda Leadbetter and both are complete.

The road department is working on load limits and putting signs up. Restrictions will go on Monday 11<sup>th</sup>. The new blade will be here in the middle of the month. Reed is currently looking at a few trucks and a different fuel tank or maybe getting another one. G Keller will get added to the cell reimbursement.

Flaten discussed Deputy Auditor Cia and her 6-month evaluation and pay raise- Flaten went through the paperwork for the evaluation and reports thing are going well and very happy with the work Cia is doing. Flaten and Gates discussed her pay raise and to get on track on the salary schedule. Flaten is asking that Cia's salary be raised to \$21.28. This will then get her on the schedule and easier come budget time. Krueger made a motion to raise the deputy auditor to \$21.28/hr seconded by Oxton. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Megan Vig- Township Secretary talked about the upcoming annual township meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup> in Hope ND. She also discussed a new budget program to help the township create their budget every year. It is a \$50.00 one-time fee per township. She went to the training and believed it would be a great resource for the townships. She was hoping the county would pay for it upfront and then as the township wanted it they would pay the county the fee. Strand made a motion to buy the township budget program and seconded by Oxton. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

At 8:38 am Strand made a motion for a recess until 9am seconded by Huso. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Meeting resumed at 8:51am

Doug Peterson from Bravera wanted to discuss the option to have the county go through Bravera for NDIRF. Back years ago, the county would rotate on who the county would get NDIRF from and that way would be able to include more businesses in the community. Doug stated that it had been at least 10years since Bravera/Citizens insurance had the opportunity to bid/ quote the county for insurance. It would be the exact same policy we currently have just through a different agency. No action was taken but will be discussed again before the renewal date.

Mitch Calkins with the Lake Agassiz Reginal Council came to the board to discuss they Animal Ag Grant program. They would help to see where and what locations in the county are good for animal ag including processing facilities, feed lots and so forth. This has been piloted in Traill and Ransom County. It generates reports and creates a bunch of maps to show where in the county would be best. Mitch is looking for approval for the study to take place. State Attorney Charlie Stock will be looking more into this before the commissioner makes a final decision on the resolution.

Commissioner Strand made a motion to pay the bills seconded by Commissioner Oxton. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Huso, seconded by Krueger. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14am



Chairman Perry Brown



Auditor Jana Flaten