

April 2nd, 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, Ben Gates, Reed Oien. Park Board Chairman Matt Roller and member Ed Fuglestad.

Commissioner Oxtan made a motion to approve the March minutes second by Commissioner Huso. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Matt called the Steele County Park Board meeting at 8:03am

Steele County Commissioner meeting reconvened at 8:26am

Reed Oien gave a road Department update- 2 used freightliner trucks were purchased. They will begin crack sealing soon on Co Rd 5. Commissioner Strand and Commissioner Krueger would like to see more crack sealing done as it helps make the paved road last longer. There are 174 one-way miles of highway. Gravel bid will be done in May, and he will provide a map of the areas that will be getting gravel.

There was a bid for the engineering on Co Rd 5 bridge. That was Interstate Engineering. A committee was set up to go over the bid. Oxtan, Brown, Flaten, Gates and Oien will be meeting with Interstate Engineering on April 17th at 9am. We will then have a special meeting April 24th to approve the bid.

Auditor Flaten discussed the tax foreclosure properties that didn't sell. One property is in Sharon and the other is in Hope. Discussion was had to sell it back to the city. Commissioner Krueger made a motion to sell the properties back to the city for \$1.00 and have them in charge of all deed paperwork and fees. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried. Flaten will send out a letter to each city.

Charlie Stock discussed the Lake Agassiz Regional Animal Ag Grant program. Stock said this is a good program and will help townships with zoning. He recommends approving the agreement. Commissioner Krueger made a motion to approve the Lake Agassiz Regional Animal Ag Grant program agreement, seconded by Commissioner Huso. No further discussion. Huso, Krueger, Oxtan and Strand voted aye, Brown- nay Motion carried.

Discussed reimbursement of Strands healthcare. He is no longer under the county since January 1st, 2024. Commissioner Brown made a motion to reimburse Strands healthcare and back pay to January 2024. Seconded by Oxtan. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Auditor Flaten talked about the upcoming Finley Days and was asked by the Finley Days board if the courthouse would like to host anything. Flaten was thinking of doughnuts/rolls and juice with an open house the Friday morning of Finley Days. Commissioner Strand made a motion to have Flaten plan the event with a \$500.00 budget seconded by Oxtan. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Auditor Flaten discussed the NDIRF annual conference - No commissioners will be attending.

Poll location was discussed for the upcoming election. It will be on the third floor in the courtroom of the Steele County Courthouse from 8am-7pm. Commissioner Strand made a motion to approve the polling location seconded by Commissioner Krueger. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Tax director Casey Olson presented a building permit-Morman. Commissioner Strand made a motion to approve the building permit seconded by Commissioner Krueger. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Ben Gates discussed the Honor Wall that would replace the shadow box that is currently displayed on the first floor for the veterans in Steele County. This would all be displayed on a monitor like what public health has. There would be names and pictures that will scroll to show the veterans. All the upkeep and startup is done by the company and all

we would do is set up the monitor. The cost of this would be \$3000.00 with a \$1000.00 per year to keep it upgraded. Finley Improvement Association has donated the startup cost of \$3000.00 to help get this going. Commissioner Krueger made a motion to approve the \$1000.00 yearly cost of the Honor Wall seconded by Commissioner Huso. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Gates reminded the commissioners that the yearly reviews are done and will need to be completed by April 30th. Gates briefly discussed the Annual township meeting happening on April 9th at 1:30 pm in Hope. There will be a quorum at the meeting.

Brown wanted to congratulate Wayne Beckman on the start of his 30th year as Sheriff in Steele County. Gates and Krueger also gave their gratitude's and congratulations to Beckman. Beckman was honored with a plaque for his dedication to Steele County.

Commissioner Huso made a motion to pay the bills seconded by Commissioner Strand. 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 9:26 am



Chairman Perry Brown



Auditor Jana Flaten