

May 7, 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 (attended via zoom). Also present, Auditor Jana Flaten, Ben Gates, Reed Oien. Park Board Chairman Matt Roller, board member Ed Fuglestad, Paul Kropelin and Paul Kotaska.

There is a video problem and there will be no video, but the audio is working and being recorded.

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

Commissioner Oxtan made a motion to approve the special April minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Krueger. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Agenda additions – Commissioner Brown would like to add a new sheriff office laptop.

Matt called the Steele County Park Board meeting at 8:09am

Steele County Commissioner meeting reconvened at 8:31am

Oien updated the board on gravel bids, Gowan-CR17, Lakeside- CR11 and KRB – CR 8A,8,9,5 and 1 with a total of \$185,887.50. Brandon Krueger made a motion to award the gravel bids seconded by Oxtan. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Strand abstained from the vote. Motion carried.

There are 10 townships that have joined with the county for load pass. Richard Strand made a motion for the approval of the 10 townships second by Commissioner Krueger. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried. Oien gave a brief overview of the road department. Crack sealing is the number one priority this spring/summer. Load restrictions are coming off this Thursday (May 9th).

There is a CR 5 Bridge meeting on Monday (May 13th) at 10am. Finley Twp bridge wants to start next week if the weather is good. Co Rd 18 contract to sign, we have awarded it already. Interstate engineering will be up to stake out the parking lot and look at the fuel tank.

Co Rd 5 detour – the public needs to be notified on the website/Facebook that it will be closed for about 3 weeks. Brown discussed NDIRF insurance, and the board discussed waiting to switch/rotate service until next year. We will revisit January 2025.

Commissioner Oxtan made a motion to have Cia as the election inspector second by Commissioner Krueger. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Gates discussed the Fire Declaration and burn ban and the declaration that is signed year after year. Commissioner Strand made a motion to approve the fire declaration second by Commissioner Krueger. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Stock discussed public health and an update from that office. Sam Hofmann sent in her resignation from Steele County Public Health as the health nurse/admin. Commissioner Strand made a motion to accept her resignation second by Commissioner Krueger. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried. Stock reached out to the ND crisis nurse and at this time they are not able to come and help. Discussion was had about hiring a new nurse, maybe part time and then hiring an administrator for the public health office that is not a nurse like Sargent/Ramsey County. Amber Thykeson and Sam Thykeson from the public health board did reach out to say that they can help but it would be only as needed as they are employed full-time. Strand would like more time to keep the Steele County public health office open and not being in a district. Commissioners all agree about trying to keep public health in Steele County. There will be a Steele County Public Health board meeting next week to discuss the hiring of filling the open position.

Stock /Gates discussed the salary budget and the salary schedule. There will be an employee meeting next Wednesday and Ben will go over this with employees at that time.

Lesley with NDSU came to discuss the Family community wellness agent. It is in the best interest to cut that position as they have gone through 2 agents in 3 years and it is generally a hard position to fill. Nelson County is no longer going to staff that position and will use funds elsewhere in the county. Lesley and Megan Vig have talked about still being able to support the schools with the nutrition and mental health that was previously provided. Lesley would like to add this job task in to Megans scope of work and then she would be able to fulfill those duties with the schools. This would also give a few more job tasks and responsibilities to Macey.

At 9:29am Commissioner Oxtan made a motion to take a 5min recess seconded by Commissioner Krueger. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

9:35am meeting reconvened

Two building permits were brought to the board. Commissioner Strand made a motion to approve the building permits seconded by Commissioner Krueger. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

There are also two transfers that have been signed and are looking for approval. The paperwork was done by Charlie Stock and signed by both parties. This would give the small pieces of land back to the homeowners instead of having the yard split into two with the county owning part of the lot. Commissioner Oxtan made a motion to approve the transfers seconded by Commissioner Strand. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:43 am

 Chairman Perry Brown

 Auditor Jana Flaten