

July 2nd, 2024, Steele County Commission Meeting

The Steele County Commission meeting was called to order at 7:59 am. Present were Commissioners Perry Brown, Brandon Krueger, Richard Strand, and Brandon Oxton. Also present, Auditor Jana Flaten and Chris Grandalen.

Corrections on the June minutes – date change and change the wording to abatement. Commissioner Krueger made a motion to approve the June minutes with the corrections, second by Commissioner Oxton. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Krueger wanted to take a moment of silence for Don Huso for the dedication and commitment Don made in Steele County (this was done). He will be missed greatly.

Commissioner Oxton made a motion to approve July's Agenda, second by Commissioner Strand. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

The District 5 vacancy spot was discussed. Commissioner Strand made a motion to nominate Chris Grandalen for County Commissioner in District 5. Second by Commissioner Krueger, no further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Chris Grandalen accepted the nomination.

Commissioner Krueger made a motion to appoint Grandalen as District 5 County Commissioner until November 2024 to fill the current vacancy. Grandalen then will need to run in the election in November to fulfill a 2-year term of District 5, which will end in November 2026.

Tasha Krueger reached out and would like to be the state fair delegate. The position is currently held by Sady Kjorven. Both individuals agreed to the change. Commissioner Strand made a motion to name Tasha Krueger the Steele County State Fair Delegate, seconded by Commissioner Oxton. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried. Commissioner Krueger abstained from the vote.

Tax Director Olson presented a building permit from Minn Kota Power. Commissioner Strand made a motion to approve the building permit, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Public Health Admin Zamora gave an update on the public health office. The board has hired a nurse, and she will be starting July 15th. She will be shadowing for training, and Zamora will go along to home visits to start until the new nurse feels comfortable doing them by herself. Grant funding was discussed along with changes that may happen this fall due to the ending of some grants.

HR/ State Attorney Stock gave a brief update on HR and how things are going. No concerns or issues currently.

Oien talked about the gravel, which should be done this week. Co Rd 9 is the last. Commissioner Krueger discussed going back and spot graveling in some areas. Crack sealing on Co Rd 5 is still getting worked on.

Barry Grotte (Easton Township) and Brad Lundstrom (Greenview Township) talked about the bridge that needs to be replaced. It is the main road between Greenview and Easton Townships. It will be replaced by a culvert placed at an angle to the water flow. Grotte received a quote from Kylo (dirt work) and the culvert job cost is looking at about \$70,000.00. Both Townships agree to 25% each with the county to help with the other percentage. Commissioner Strand made a motion to approve the bridge/culvert project, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Mike Bassingwaite with Interstate Engineering discussed projects that are ready to be accepted. Co Rd 5 west is done and is ready to be accepted and released from the contract. Broadlawn and Finley projects are looking good. Grass is coming in and the job is ready to be released. Commissioner Strand made a motion to approve Finley and

Broadlawn townships, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Co Rd 5 East pavement won't be done until August 16th. Gravel is packed in and is drivable. Commissioner Strand is wondering if we can maintain the road/gravel while we wait to get it finished, if we open it up while we wait, since it has been closed for so long. Mike believes it would be a good idea to have a soft opening and have a few signs; a speed limit sign and a bump sign. The project would pay for the signs to be added. Leave the detour signs as they will need to be up when the pavement is up. The road will be closed again when paving starts, and the barricade will get put back up so no one can drive down the road while paving is getting done.

Co Rd 18 start date is set for July 22nd. This will include in-town and out to the Griggs County line, along with the work around the courthouse. The contract is looking for a pay request of \$113,653.57 with the work that has been done. Commissioner Strand made a motion to pay this, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

8:55 am - Commissioner Strand made a motion to have a 5-minute recess, seconded by Commissioner Oxtan. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

9:00am - meeting reconvened.

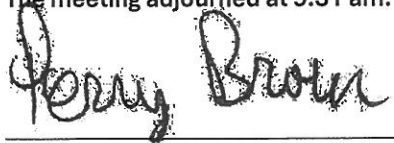
The 2025 budget was briefly discussed. There will be a separate meeting on July 25th. The Commissioners would like to have dept heads and anyone that gets funded by levies available if there are questions about the budget.

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

Stefan Hofer with West Traill Ambulance was on speaker phone to give an update on the West Traill ambulance service. There are 3 people that finished the EMT class. They are in training right now to work with West Traill Ambulance. They can start working in Finley in a few weeks. The Ambulance is in Finley and is ready for calls. The State is changing things, and the ambulance will now be treated as a district and will need to be created by June 30th, 2025. Flaten will get together with Stefan and Traill County Auditor Haugen to discuss this.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 am.



Chairman Perry Brown



Auditor Jana Flaten