

August 2nd, 2022
Finley, ND

The Steele County Commission meeting was called to order at 8:01 am. Present were Chairman Russell Walcker, Commissioners Richard C. Strand, Ted Johnson, Brandon Krueger, and Brian Tuite. Also present was Matt Roller, Paul Kroeplin, Tor Bergstrom, and State's Attorney Charlie Stock.

Agenda additions or changes – Employee Appreciation removed. Public Health Tobacco Program removed. Megan Vig – Weed added. States Attorney Stock – Annual and Sick Leave under Road Department.

Commissioner Krueger requested amendment to the July 6th meeting minutes regarding any citizen concerns were reviewed and handled correctly.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the minutes with the amendment. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Tuite to approve the lease lot transfer from Zimmerman to Hicks. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Auditor Emily Wigen discussed the 2021 Audit with the board.

The Steele County Water Resource District members Tor Bergstrom, Josh Ihry, Greg Thykeson, Attorney Cassie Tostenson and Engineer Lyndon Pease met with the commission to discuss the financial update, mill levy request for 4 mills and projects in the works.

Road Superintendent Reed Oien met with the board to provide an update on the paving work. Oien provided quotes from Zavoral and Tri-State paving to repair five spots on County Road 23 for \$51,245 - 63,000.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Tuite to approve the bid from Tri-State paving for 51,245. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Mike Bassingthwaite with Interstate Engineering met with the board to provide an update regarding the county projects. Commissioner Krueger will attend the pre-construction meeting with Bassingthwaite and the NDDOT and Zavoral next Thursday.

Oien and State Attorney Stock discussed the Finley and Hope time clocks not working. Amy Czapiewski joined to provide input regarding the time clock and paid leave tracking. The Road Department will continue to track their time until Gates gathers pricing for new time clock.

Tax Director Amy Czapiewski presented building permits for Thykeson, Lewis and Meyers.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to approve the three building permits as presented. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Megan Vig discussed the responsibility of county road ditches when it comes to spraying. It was decided that Auditor Wigen would send a letter to the townships on behalf of the commission.

Emily Stoppler introduced the Commission to Courtney Urness, the new Health Equity Coordinator.

The Public Budget meeting was set for September 14th, 6:00 pm at the Steele County Courthouse.

Budget figures and the estimated levies were discussed and reviewed by the board.

A motion by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to take a 5-minute recess. All members voted yes. Motion carried. The commission meeting was recessed. The commission meeting reconvened.

Discussion continued on the 2023 budgets and levies.

Kim Jacobson with AVHSZ joined the meeting and provided the commission with a quarterly report. The state provided funding for retention bonuses \$2100 for six zone employees. Jacobson also updated the board regarding a new program funded by COVID dollars that would assist residents with mortgages and home repairs.

Commissioner Walcker requested clarification on an incorrect food pantry phone number in a recent newsletter. The issue has been corrected. Questions regarding the URM program were also discussed.

Don Huso met with the Commission to express his concern regarding comments from previous meetings and his concerns with the Auditor's wages.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tuite, seconded by Commissioner Strand to allow employees to assist in set up for Steele County night out on county time. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Tuite to approve the bills as presented. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to adjourn the meeting. All member voted yes. The meeting was adjourned.



Chairman – Russell Walcker



Auditor – Emily Wigen