

Finley, ND  
December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

The Steele County Commission Meeting was called to order at 8:00 am. Present were Commissioners Richard C. Strand, Brandon Krueger, Brandon Oxtan, Perry Brown and Don Huso.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Huso to appoint Brandon Krueger to Chairman. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Agenda Additions: Sheriff Wayne Beckman, Gary Hiam – township bridge

An additional meeting was set for December 20<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 am.

A motion was made by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Oxtan to add an "Old Business" section to the agenda. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

New Portfolio delegations were reviewed and distributed.

Commissioner Brown discussed the JDA board appointment for discussion. It was suggested by States Attorney Stock that Brown resign for the City of Hope and take on Commissioner role for JDA as to avoid a commissioner quorum. Commissioner Oxtan will join the JDA board as the second commissioner and Commissioner Brown will try find someone to fill Hope City JDA board appointment.

Chairman Krueger discussed that he would like to resign being on the Lake Agassiz Board now that he is Chairman of the Commission. Commissioners Brown and Huso will serve on the Lake Agassiz board.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Huso to approve the portfolios and appointments. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Correspondence received from taxpayer Renae Rayner was brought forth. Chairman Krueger referred this to State's Attorney Stock to address.

Ted Keller with General Roofing was not able to make the meeting. The board reviewed a quote and report from Keller regarding the courthouse exterior.

A motion was made by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Oxtan to move forward with the quote to rent a lift to inspect the courthouse exterior. All members voted yes. Motion carried. Passed.

VSO Position discussion by State's Attorney Stock advised that Dennis Kubischta may be interested again. The decision to pursue Kubischta if he wants the job back and consider Traill if he does not.

Stock provided an HR update and reviewed the request to check on employees serving on boards during county time. Stock advised the board that it was not a pressing matter, and the topic was tabled.

A legal bill received was brought forth. Stock informed new board members of the bill. Stock discussed pulling funds from Clerk of Courts budget to pay for a portion of the bill.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Huso to pay \$4050 out of the Clerk of Court budget and remainder from the general fund as well. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

State's Attorney Stock discussed the Clerk of Court/State Funding. Stock strongly advised against supporting this for many reasons. Stock stated he will try get state legislators to attend the commission meeting to discuss the matter.

Extension Agent Megan Vig and office assistant Jessica Serr entered meeting at 8:49 am for Weed Board meeting.

Auditor transition was discussed by the board. Stock stated other county auditors are willing to help with the transition. Commissioner Brown asked if there is training for her to which it was confirmed there is not. A request for her to get on payroll in March so she can train in before her term starts was discussed. The topic will be revisited in "Old Business" at the next meeting.

Gary Hiam joined the meeting to discuss a bridge that needs replacing and what the county can offer as assistance for the cost. The estimated cost of repair is \$50,000.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Brown to move forward with the project with the county covering half the cost and allowing the township to pay half now and half will be billed when completed this spring.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Huso to recess the commission meeting for the Steele County Weed board meeting at 9:05 am. All members voted yes. Motion carried. The Commissioner meeting reconvened at 9:22 am.

Mike Bassingthwaite with Interstate Engineering met with the board and discussed future projects. There was discussion regarding bridges versus culverts on sites as well. Bid requests will be advertised and will be discussed on the December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Road Superintendent Reed Oien brought forth a proposal to increase summer and winter blading from \$105 per hour to \$120 per hour in order to keep up with surrounding counties and increasing costs.

A motion was made by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Oxtan to increase the blading hourly rates effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Huso to take a five-minute recess at 9:56 am. All members voted yes. Motion carried. The meeting reconvened at 10:02 am.

The selection committee made up of Ben Gates, Reed Oien, Richard Strand, Brandon Krueger and Tim Nerby for the BRJ-0046 (052) PNC23727 bridge project will meet at 1 pm on December 14<sup>th</sup> to interview firms and then make a recommendation to the board at the December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The generator maintenance annual load test agreement for a five-year program paid for from a grant in the amount of \$21,949.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Brown to accept contract in favor of generator annual load testing agreement. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Emergency Manager Ben Gates discussed the radio purchase request estimated at \$14,000 and possibility of using covid funding was discussed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Huso, seconded by Commissioner Oxtan to purchase radios using any available COVID funding. All members voted yes. Motion carried.



There was discussion regarding the coroner wage and 2023 budget amount.

A motion was made by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Huso to raise salary to \$5000 annually for coroner. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Brown to approve the 2023 Soil Modifiers as presented. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Sheriff Wayne Beckman asked for consideration of having two Commission meetings per month. Beckman also asked to close the courthouse the afternoon of the 23<sup>rd</sup> off as majority of employees will be gone anyway.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Oxtan to close the courthouse at 1:00 pm with no lunch on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

The West Trill Ambulance contract for 2023 was briefly discussed. The board would like to invite them to the meeting on December 20<sup>th</sup> for a 3 month report.

A motion was made by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Strand to approve the End of Year transfers as presented by the auditor. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Lesley Lubenow with NDSU extension joined the meeting to discuss FCW position split proposal with Nelson County.

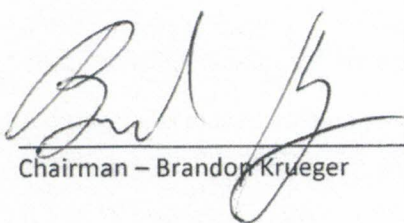
A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Brown to approve offer to potential candidate for the FCW position. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

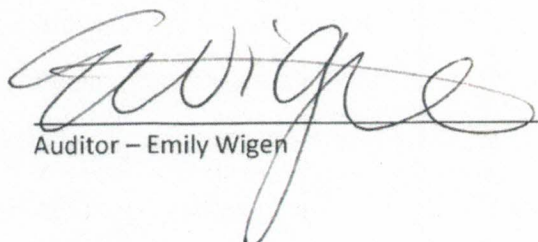
A motion was made by Commissioner Huso, seconded by Commissioner Oxtan to approve the bills as presented. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

It was mentioned that there is an upcoming wind tower meeting at the school to which Commissioner Brown stated he would attend.

Commissioner Huso mentioned complaints on the meeting audio the last few years, so Commissioner Huso will look into a new system.

A motion was made by Commissioner Huso, seconded by Commissioner Brown to adjourn the meeting at 11:19 am. All members voted yes. Meeting was adjourned.

  
Chairman – Brandon Krueger

  
Auditor – Emily Wigen