

February 4th, 2025, Steele County Commission Meeting

The Steele County Commission meeting was called to order at 8:15 am. Present were Commissioners Perry Brown, Brandon Krueger, Richard Strand, Brandon Oxtan and Chris Grandalen. Also present, Auditor Jana Flaten, Golden Lake Association members Dave Rustabakke, Darin Renfrow, Tom McDonald and Jason Ness and Park Board members Matt Roller and Ed Fuglestad

Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the amended January regular minutes, second by Commissioner Krueger. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Additions to the agenda- JDA member and Culvert (interstate Engineering).

The park board meeting was called to order at 8:16am.

Commissioner meeting reconvened at 8:39am.

Mike Bassingthwaite – Interstate Engineering gave an update on culvert 8a, Steele County Water Resource gave the permit paperwork that was submitted for this project to the state on behalf of the landowner. Mike discussed his concerns about the permit and will write a letter on behalf of the county and will get it sent to the state.

Prairie Dog Funding was briefly discussed and what to use the funds for. The Prairie Dog Fund Buckets should be filled and dumped in or around March. Mike will set up a meeting soon to have a longer discussion about upcoming projects. He would like to wait until some house bills are resolved before allocating the money.

Reed Oien discussed the flashing stop sign that will need to be replaced. Unfortunately, it was never added to the insurance plan when we got it so it is not covered. Oien will order a new one and get the information to Flaten to get added to the insurance plan.

At 8:53am commissioner Krueger made a motion for a 5min recess Seconded by Strand
No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Meeting reconvened at 8:58am

Bobbie Hepper Olson joined the meeting to discuss the scope she did on the outside of the building. One major item she found is that the ramp will need a toe kick added to be up to code. There are grants available to replace the ramp if a total ramp replacement is wanted. She discussed the brick and stonework that is necessary. There are some bad spots that will need total replacing and another spot that just needs patch work done. Roof looks in good shape and nothing will need to be done up there. Estimated cost for outside masonry work – \$300,000.00-\$400,000.00. If we choose to do the HVAC and window work, it would be \$600,000.00-\$800,000.00. Work can be done by sides depending on the funding available. Also discussed was upgrading the lighting- Ben Gates said that the grant is already in the works, and he should be getting the final grant paperwork soon.

Ben Gates discussed the lengthy process to get an architect, as the job cost is higher, and grant funding will be used. The project will be opened for bids and then we will have a bidding meeting and go through the same process as road projects.

Wayne Beckman discussed that we need to do a large cleanup in the basement and get things organized better downstairs. If we can get all hands helping it should only take a day or two.

Flaten discussed employee tax and nontaxable reimbursements, and other counties are making all reimbursements nontaxable. Stock will check on this and see if this is something that can be done.

Finley Gaming Improvement Association sent in an application for gaming out at Golden Lake. Approval is needed from the county to renew the state licenses. Commissioner Strand made a motion to approve the gaming at Golden Lake, second by Commissioner Brown. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Beckman provided the Barnes County Jail Contract. This is the same contract amount as last year and nothing has changed. Commissioner Krueger made a motion to approve the contract, second by Commissioner Brown. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Megan Vig with NDSU Extension informed us of her new hire that will be starting Feb 21st, 2025. She also brought a MOU between NDSU and the county. Commissioner Krueger made a motion to approve the MOU, second by Commissioner Grandalen. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Brown discussed the new opening on the JDA board. There was a nominee for the vacant spot Tiffany Hatcher of Finley. Commissioner Strand made a motion to approve the second nominee, second by Commissioner Brown. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

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

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Commissioner Brown, second by Commissioner Grandalen. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:42am



Chairman Brandon Oxton



Auditor Jana Flaten