

February 2nd, 2021
Finley, ND

The Steele County Commission meeting was called to order at 8:00am. Present were Chairman Richard Strand, Commissioners Russell Walcker, Ted Johnson, Brandon Krueger and Brian Tuite.

Agenda additions: Correspondence received

A motion was made by Commissioner Tuite, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to approve the agenda with the addition. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

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

A discussion was held regarding AVHSZ indirect cost letter, along with the follow up information provided by the zone director.

A motion was made by Commissioner Walcker, second by Commissioner Johnson to table the AVHSZ indirect cost topic until Traill County meets and has a chance to respond. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Public Health Nurse, Kathryn Good, provided an office update that included the county COVID-19 vaccination rate.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tuite, seconded by Commissioner Johnson that the mask mandate remain until the March commission meeting. Roll call vote – Johnson – yes, Tuite – yes, Walcker – yes, Strand – yes. Opposed – Krueger. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Walcker to continue to leave the county courthouse open by appointment only until the March meeting. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Good advised the board that a payment of \$1,000 toward propane cost has now been made from her grant funding.

A motion was made by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Walcker to take a short recess at 9:18 am.

The Steele County Commission meeting was called back to order at 9:22 am.

Steele County Road Superintendent, Reed Oien, met with the board to provide an update on his projected 2021 graveling forecast. His office update also included the new blade delivery date is correctly May.

Emergency Manager, Ben Gates, provided a department update which included his quarterly state DES reports. He provided bids from North Star Electric for a new courthouse generator. The bid was put on hold as the board would like to provide more time to get additional quotes. The lighting grant was also reviewed and will be revisited next month, providing official approval of the grant.

Gates discussed a grant that was approved through the North Dakota Parks and Rec. which would allow for the purchase of an ATV at an 80/20 cost split and 100 % reimbursement toward overtime for patrolling. Gates provided quotes and trade-in value of the current ranger owned by the county.

A motion was made by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to purchase a ranger with trade-in of the current ranger and accept the grant for overtime, as well. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Gates stated that the repeater antenna in Hope was down. He was able to get the fire and school switched to different channels until they can get it repaired. This is their responsibility.

Tax Director, Amy Czapiewski, presented the commission with an abatement for a parcel which was billed twice for taxes due to an error from the previous Tax Director not placing a parcel as inactive.

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

Czapiewski advised the board that Erickson inquired regarding the value of the EDC building in Colgate being assessed too high, in his opinion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tuite, seconded by Commissioner Walcker to approve a building permit for Thykeson's for 2 bins. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Walcker to enter into executive session under century code 44-04-24.2 at 10:30 am.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tuite, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to end the executive session at 11:05 am.

A motion was made by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Tuite to approve the door upgrades. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tuite, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to enter executive session at 11:07 am under century code 44-04-19.1(5).

A motion was made by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Tuite to end the executive session at 11:32 am.

A motion was made by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Walcker to take a five-minute recess.

The Steele County commission meeting was called back to order at 11:37 am.

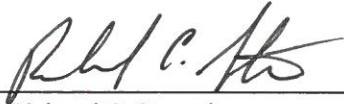
Discussion was held regarding 911 training prior to Huso leaving. The commission would like to add that to the agenda next meeting.

Correspondence received from Ella Mae Satrom was discussed by the board. As this is a water board issue, the commission would like the SCWRD to respond to her letter and provide the board with a copy.

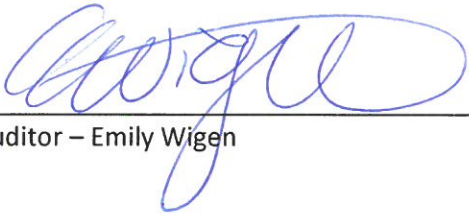
A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Walcker approve paying the bills as presented. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to leave the FFCRA time at 80 total hours per employee with the option to revisit it monthly. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tuite, seconded by Commissioner Walcker to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned.



Chairman – Richard C. Strand



Auditor – Emily Wigen