

June 24, 2025, Steele County Commission Meeting

The Steele County Commission meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. Commissioners Brandon Oxton and Chris Grandalen were present, as was Auditor Jana Flaten. Commissioners Perry Brown, Brandon Krueger, Richard Strand and Mike Bassingthwaite attended via Zoom. Bravera Reps Doug Peterson and Brittany Olson were also in attendance

Doug Peterson with Bravera discussed our current plan and offered a few slight changes -Up the Auto deductible from \$100/\$250 to \$500/\$1,000 (this would be a savings of \$8,124.00) and increase the Property debris removal on the buildings, currently all buildings are at \$10,000.00. Commissioner Strand motioned to switch insurance carriers to Bravera Insurance for 4 years and to rotate between Ihry Insurance. Commissioner Grandalen seconded this. Roll call vote – Strand- Yes, Brown -No, Krueger-No, Grandalen- Yes, Oxton- Yes. Motion Passed.

Commissioner Strand moved to increase the Auto Deductible to \$500/\$1,000.00. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried. Commissioner Strand wants to thank Ihry Insurance for their excellent work and would like to keep the rotation between Bravera and Ihry to keep the insurances local and in Steele County.

Commissioner Grandalen motioned to increase debris removal for Finley, Sharon, Hope shops, and the Lake Store to \$100,000, Courthouse debris removal to \$250,000, and all other buildings to \$10,000.00. Commissioner Strand seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Commissioner Strand discussed the backfill on the Co Rd 10 culvert. He met Mike Bassingthwaite at the site, and about 20 feet of backfill will need to be done in the county's right way. They will match it to the old grade on either side of the new ditching. Commissioner Brown motioned to approve the backfilling, which Commissioner Krueger seconded. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried. Flaten discussed the new hiring in the road department. Sterling Enerson started as a summer employee in May, but Reed Oien offered him the open position as a road maintainer. Commissioner Grand made a motion to approve the hiring. Second, by Commissioner Krueger. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Flaten talked about the recent storms. Hannah Zamora (Public Health) and Flaten delivered food, snacks, and other necessities to the communities of Luverne, Colgate, Hope, and the Hope Golf Course. They were very thankful for the delivery to the communities. We reminded them that if anything is needed, please contact the courthouse, and we will get things out to them or find a way to help. Zamora planned to bring some more items to the Colgate and Luverne area today, as they are still without power.

Ben Gates brought an Emergency Declaration to the commissioners to approve. Commissioner Brown motioned to approve the Emergency Declaration, seconded by Commissioner Strand. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Commissioner Strand thanked Zamora and Flaten for helping the communities during this time and appreciated all the help that's happening in Steele County.

Commissioner Strand moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned 9:19 a.m.

Brandon Oxton- County Chairman,

Handwritten signature of Brandon Oxton in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Jana Flaten -County Auditor

Handwritten signature of Jana Flaten in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Due to technical difficulties, the video was not recorded and will not be posted. The recording and video device have been checked and are now working properly.