

June 3, 2025, Steele County Commission Meeting

The Steele County Commission meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. Commissioners Brandon Oxtan, Perry Brown, Brandon Krueger, Richard Strand, and Chris Grandalen were present. Auditor Jana Flaten was also present.

Commissioner Krueger motioned to approve the April minutes, seconded by Commissioner Grandalen. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

One addition to today's agenda - Shrine Raffle at Golden Lake.

The Steele County Park Board meeting began at 8:16 a.m.

The Steele County Commissioner Meeting was re-convened at 8:36 a.m.

Gravel bids were discussed. KRB and Lakeside both submitted bids. Commissioner Krueger motioned to award KRB gravel 8a and 6 for \$87,587.50 and Lakeside Const 7, 16, 20, and 15 for \$113,475.00, seconded by Commissioner Brown. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion was carried out, and Commissioner Strand abstained from the vote.

Reed Oien discussed that there will be 10 miles of spot gravel. Oien gave a brief recap of crack sealing and the summer work at the shop. The crack sealing is done on Co Rd 25, and they are about 5 miles west on Co Rd 11. They also did shoulder work and mowed them before replacing the blade. They hope to have crack sealing done by the end of July.

Mike Bassingthwaite discussed the culvert study done on Co Rd 6 by Hope and Co Rd 20 culvert. It was discussed that an aluminum culvert be used for both sites. Mike went over the bids he received from KRB and Lakeside Const. Commissioner Brown motioned to award KRB Co Rd 6 culvert work for \$77,200.00 and Lakeside Const Co Rd 20 culvert work for \$63,720.00, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion was carried out, and Commissioner Strand abstained from the vote.

Mike discussed Co Rd 8, by the Grand Forks County line, where the pavement meets the bridge on both sides. It is blown out and needs to be replaced. He reached out to 2 different contractors. He received one back from RJZavoral for \$73,384.00. RJZavoral said they could get the job done by the end of June. Commissioner Brown motioned to accept RJZavoral's bid, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye.

Doug Peterson with Bravera Insurance came to ask the commissioners to consider using Bravera Insurance as the carrier for the county insurance NDIRF. He discussed our current plan through Ihry Insurance and a few slight changes he would make to the policy. The commissioners discussed that in the past, it rotated between Ihry and Bravera, as both companies are based in Steele County, and they want to support both companies. Commissioner Strand made a motion to switch insurance carriers to Bravera Insurance for 4 years, and then back to Ihry Insurance, and keep on this rotation. Commissioner Grandalen seconded this. The discussion was held to have a Zoom meeting on June 24th to go over any changes in the plan before the renewal date, which is July 1st. Papers were signed to let Bravera start working and to access the NDRIF policy.

At 9:17 a.m., Commissioner Strand made a motion for a 5-minute recess, which Commissioner Grandalen seconded. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Paul Hanson and John Motter came to discuss the culvert on Co Rd 10. They have previously worked with the Steele County Water District. They gave a brief history of the culvert, which was placed 20-40 years ago. The

culvert was cleaned/ditched to make the ground not level with it, causing it to drain more water than it had in the past. Hanson supplied pictures of the drain now and past pictures. The SCWD has told landowners of the cleaned/ditched land to backfill the land to match the old grade of the land. They must do this by the fall or as soon as possible. The Commissioners agreed with the SCWD and decided to backfill the county's right-of-way to the old grade of the land. Mike will look at the culvert and see if he needs a new culvert. He will report back at the June 24th meeting.

One building permit needed approval. Commissioner Brown moved to approve the building permit, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Flaten discussed the 2026 county budget. Flaten provided each department's budget and would like the commissioners to review them. Each department head is asked to attend the July meeting to review the budget.

Commissioner Grandalen went over the Architectural interviews that were held. Grandalen and the rest of the interview committee agree that Bartlett West would be the best architectural firm for Steele County and the planned projects. Commissioner Brown moved to approve Bartlett West, seconded by Commissioner Strand. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Karen Bergstrom requests approval for a Kem Shrine raffle drawing at Golden Lake - Commissioner Strand moved to approve this, seconded by Commissioner Brown. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Commissioner Strand moved to approve bills, seconded by Commissioner Grandalen. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

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 at 10:07 a.m.

Brandon Oxtan- County Chairman,

Jana Flaten -County Auditor

