

March 4<sup>th</sup>, 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 were Auditor Jana Flaten and Park Board member Matt Roller.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the February minutes, seconded by Commissioner Grandalen. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

The Park Board meeting was called to order at 8:15 am.

Commissioner meeting reconvened at 8:29 am.

Reed Oien came to discuss getting a new pickup for crack sealing. It was budgeted for \$65,000.00. Oien went over a few different options. Commissioner Strand made a motion to approve the 2025 flatbed pickup for \$79,000. \$65,000.00 will come out of the budget line, and the rest will come out of the weight permit fund. Second, by Commissioner Krueger, there was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. Motion carried. Crack sealing will start next week.

Mike Bassingthwaite, Interstate Engineering, discussed road upgrades and the 2026 bridge funding, 2028 painting and getting all seal coating down before the paint is done. There is roughly 1.2 million in prairie dog funds. Mike estimates the job will be roughly 1.6 million for seal coating Co Rd 25. Will work on bids for April meeting. Bridge replacements should be down on Co Rd 6 South of Hope, and Co Rd 20 bridge.

1505 Covid money will also need to be spent/allocated by the end of 2025. However, there are certain things that it can be spent on. Commissioner Strand made a motion to seal Co Rd 11, 18 and 25 and the bridges on Co 6 and 20, second by Commissioner Krueger, along with discussion and adding the fog seal as an alternative on the bid, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Ben Gates discussed township bridges and grants.

It will be a few years until we will be in the positive for Federal aid money due to the two bonds taken a few years ago.

Hepper Olson would like to have a zoom meeting to discuss her findings in her report. Gates will set this up and then report back in April.

Ben Gates discussed the RFP, and it is needed, as the amount is above the threshold to go with the bid. We will get the writing of it down before the April meeting.

Charlie Stock gave an update on the building and grounds open position. Ashton and Hannah volunteered to help with the cleaning until a new person is hired. Stock talked with them to keep an organized list of things they are doing and a timecard. Krueger made a motion to pay Ashton and Hannah \$20.00 per hour for up to a year or until they hire someone to fill the position, second, by Commissioner Grandalen, there was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Discussion about the HPF Historical Grant.

Commissioner Brown discussed the concerns the water board is dealing with, which included a few landowners and drainage/culverts. The water board invited all parties to the next meeting and will hopefully resolve it all then. Brown will give an update after the water board's next meeting.

At 9:17 am Commissioner Strand made a motion for a 5 min recess, seconded by Commissioner Brown. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Meeting reconvened at 9:22am.

Macey Ard, Clerk of Court/Recorder, gave a brief update on her office and how things are going. The court is moving to a 2-judge rotation and will still share with Traill County on court days. Ard is attending the SE Recorder meeting in Fargo and is still being mentored by Sady.

Commissioner Strand made a motion to approve the Golden Lake gaming/raffle, second by Commissioner Grandalen. No further discussion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Tax Director Casey Olson presented 2 building permits and reminded everyone to make sure to send in the Primary Residents Credit, as the due date is 3-31-25. Notice of increase letters will go out by the end of March. Olson plans to reassess the towns in Steele County, as the city of Finley was done last year. The tax equalization meetings for townships will be in April.

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

Hannah Zamora, Public Health Administrator, updated the board on happenings in the public health office. They have given out 252 vaccines and about 230 have been submitted to the clearing house. Should be getting back about 90% of the vaccine cost. They have 12 clients for the foot care and Ashton is doing a great job assisting those clients. The Board of Health is now meeting every other month, as the office is running smoothly and nothing major is happening. Two radon detectors have been added to the office and can be for public use. Zamora is looking at an environment program/grant to help with mind/mental health programs.

Hannah also discussed the cleaning of the courthouse. She plans to clean evenings and weekends, and Ashton will clean Fridays. They can commit for a year but did express the busy time of the public health office during flu vaccination season.

Gates did discuss that there will more than likely be a burn ban this week due to the dryness. He will contact Brandon Oxtan when the time comes.

Gates also discussed the current legislative session and gave an update on some bills.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:54am



Chairman Brandon Oxtan



Auditor Jana Flaten