

June 1st, 2021
Finley, ND

The Steele County Commission meeting was called to order at 8:01 am. Present were Chairman Richard C. Strand, Commissioners Ted Johnson, Brandon Krueger, Brian Tuite, and Russell Walcker.

Agenda additions: Golden Lake lease lot transfer

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Tuite, seconded by Commissioner Walcker to approve the Golden Lake Improvement Association gaming permit. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Walcker, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to increase the general liability and business auto liability policy to 4 million. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the federal COVID-19 recovery funding the county will receive. Steele County will receive \$367,110 if requested. The allowable uses for the funding are limited and ideas for the use were discussed.

Emergency Manager, Ben Gates, presented requests to change the Steele County Personnel Manual. The request included exempt employees to not be required to work the 8-430 office hours, allowing them to work their own hours if they work the required 37.5 hours per week. Also requested was the change to not be required to use the time clock system, or tracking of hours, for exempt employees. Auditor Wigen discussed the lack of employees currently following the policy manual and that it was important to have services available to the public during posted open office hours. Discussion was held regarding employees not turning in their times to get paid or punching in and department heads currently coming in whenever they choose to.

A meeting was set for June 16th at 1 pm to hold another department head meeting with Chairman Strand and Commissioner Krueger in attendance to discuss the policy manual.

Veteran Service Officer, Dennis Lindstrom, provided the board with a brief department update which included the two Veteran Service vans.

AVHSZ Director, Kim Jacobson, provided an update on the zone which included a photo list of AVHSZ employees.

Mike Bassingthwaite, with Interstate Engineering, discussed culverts on County Road 11. Road Superintendent, Reed Oien, will compile a list of culverts the county is able to replace, and which would need to be hired out. The overlay project and the Federal Relief funding were also discussed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Tuite to approve the \$78,500 not to exceed Preliminary Engineering contract for the two box culverts on the Federal Aid program sheet. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Reed Oien provided a department update which included an update on the new motor grader which should be in the first part of July. He also provided an update regarding crack sealing of county roads.

Steele County Water Resource District board members Josh Ihry, Greg Thykeson, Tor Bergstrom, Secretary Tasha Krueger, Attorney Cassie Tostenson and Engineer Lyndon Pease met with the Commission.

Lyndon Pease, with Moore Engineering, provided an update on the Lake Tobiason project, Drain 11, Elm River Dam, Golden Lake gates, and Drain 2. Tostenson provided an update on the SCWRD budget and request to increase SCWRD to 4 mills for 2022.

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Walcker to take a five-minute recess at 10:06 am. The Commission meeting reconvened at 10:11 am.

The Steele County Commission meeting recessed into the County Equalization meeting. The Steele County Commission meeting reconvened.

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

Ben Gates met with the board to discuss generator sizes for the courthouse. Three quotes are needed, and the lowest bid will need to be accepted on the project. The grant will be covered at 85% of total cost.

The Steele County burn ban and COVID-19 Emergency Declaration were reviewed.

Gates also provided an update regarding the ATV that was ordered using a grant. The total cost was \$20,525 with a direct cost to the county of \$1200.

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to approve the lease lot transfer from Larson to Lewis. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

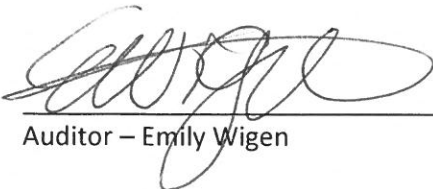
A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to approve the bills as presented. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the purchase of a stackable washer and dryer unit to be installed in the basement. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Tuite to adjourn the meeting at 12:18 pm. All members voted yes. Meeting was adjourned.



Chairman – Richard C. Strand



Auditor – Emily Wigen