

Finley, ND
July 6th, 2021

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Tuite, seconded by Commissioner Walcker to approve the agenda with the addition of a second building permit under Tax Director. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

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

The Recovery funding was discussed by the board briefly and tabled at this time.

Discussion was held by States Attorney Charlie Stock regarding exempt employee schedules, including their time keeping. An employee who was short hours was reviewed. Stock presented a draft option to change the policy manual, which would exempt out the exempt employees from using the time clock as well as courthouse hours requirements. Stock stated this was drafted towards the concerns from Emergency Manager Ben Gates and Public Health Nurse Kathryn Good. Auditor Wigen stated that both employees already track their hours for grants and Covid funding. The county also has recently transitioned to an app. to simplify time keeping for all departments.

Steele County Treasurer, Kari Dekker, met with the board and provided a brief office update. The county CD's were briefly reviewed and discussed.

Dina Spletstoeser met with the board to provide an update on buildings and grounds.

Mike Bassingthwaite, Interstate Engineering, advised that County Road 11 preliminary plans for the paving project are due. The board needs to decide what to do with the culverts. Bassingthwaite estimates \$44,000 with an increase of roughly 20% on top of that. Chairman Strand requested Bassingthwaite put together a bid plan with all culverts to send out to local contractors for review at the next meeting.

Reed Oien, Road Superintendent, provided an update on the new blade expected to arrive this month. They are currently working on County Road 8 crack sealing, which will be followed by County Road 18 crack sealing. Oien was pleased with the graveling by KRB and Lakeside. The county also did spot graveling on county roads.

County Road 5 was not selected for funding from FEMA. This project will not be in the works for 2022 now until a funding source is available.

Amy Czapiewski, Tax Director, met with the board to present two building permits for approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Walcker, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve building permit upon payment for Hanson. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tuite, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to approve the building permit for Dahl. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Extension Agent, Angie Johnson, discussed the recent interviews for the open administrative assistant position in her office. Johnson did not feel that either candidate would be a good fit for the office. Future funding of the position was discussed. Johnson would like the position to be put on hold until funding is determined.

A motion was made by Commissioner Walcker, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to take a 5-minute recess at 9:55 am. All members voted yes. Meeting was recessed. The meeting was called back to order at 10:01 am.

Public Health Nurse, Kathryn Good, discussed she will begin billing for COVID shots. Good will have COVID vaccine available as part of the grants for her office. She has also discussed current funding received for public health. Good is holding a rapid community assessment on July 7th at 6 pm at Golden Lake.

Ben Gates, Emergency Manager, met with the board to discuss his request to fund the fire departments radios until reimbursement is received.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tuite, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve funding of radios requested by Gates. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Gates recommended the Commission continue the Burn Ban and that the Unified Command recommended the COVID Declaration continue. Gates provided the board with an update regarding the Full-Scale Exercise he is planning for Sept 13th at MSU in Mayville. Steele County is planning an Emergency Services day August 11th at the Finley Park from 4-8p.

Contract for Stutsman County was signed by Sheriff Backman for jail services. The contract was reviewed and briefly discussed by the board and States Attorney Stock.

A motion was made by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to recess at 12:08 pm. All members voted yes. The meeting was called back to order at 12:12 pm.

The 2022 department budgets were reviewed and discussed at length.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Walcker, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to adjourn the meeting at 1:40 pm. All members voted yes. Meeting was adjourned.



Chairman – Richard C. Strand

Auditor – Emily Wigen