

Finley, ND
November 2nd, 2021

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Walcker, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to approve the agenda. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

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

Auditor Emily Wigen provided an update regarding 2020 Census redistricting, WSI annual training, 2021 Tax statements and levy.

Dina Splettstoesser with Buildings and Ground provided an update for the board regarding the courthouse roof leaking, front lighting in need of repair. Supplies budget, leaves, back door lighting, and steps to the basement were also discussed. Splettstoesser also expressed interest in the open Extension position.

Clerk of Court, Jenny Foss provided the board with an office update which included staffing and office staffing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tuite seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve Jenny Foss, Clerk of Court/Recorder as an exempt employee. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A brief update on the delay in the repair of the courthouse elevator was discussed.

Discussion was held regarding pay for employees due to coming in for mandatory testing on a Sunday.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tuite, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to pay mileage to employees who drove to courthouse with no other pay. Roll call vote: Johnson – yes, Krueger - no, Tuite – yes, Walcker – no, Strand – no. Motion failed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Walcker to not pay employees for testing. Roll call vote: Johnson – yes, Krueger – no, Tuite – no, Walcker – yes, Strand – no. Motion failed.

More discussion was held.

A motion was made by Commissioner Krueger to pay all employees who tested on Sunday a \$40 flat rate. Motion failed for lack of a second.

Further discussion was held by the board including input from additional employees. Item was tabled until next month.

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to take a short recess at 9:15 am. The Steele County Commissioner meeting reconvened at 9:20 am.

The Steele County Water Resource District board met with the board to provide an update from their office. The Golden Lake project was discussed. An Elm River Dam update regarding the up-stream issues

was discussed. The SCWRD board members expressed disappointment in not receiving additional mills requested for the 2022 budget year.

Road Superintendent Reed Oien and Mike Bassingthwaite with Interstate Engineering joined the meeting. NDDOT notified Oien that bridge 116-02 that needs to be closed west of Lake Tobiason. A hydraulic study was completed and noted that bracing could potentially increase the load rating of 15 tons. Clips will be put on the bridge to get it reopened. There will also be discussion with the township regarding the cost moving forward if more work is needed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Tuite to enter executive session under the advice of State Attorney Charlie Stock at 10:03 am. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tuite, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to end the executive session at 10:42am with no formal motions made. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Walcker to reconvene the Steele County Commission meeting. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Emergency Manager, Ben Gates met with the Commission to discuss the storm shelter grant. County cost is approximately \$26,000 which can include any in-kind labor. The grant is to be completed by January 1, 2024. Project reimbursement period for funding will be approximately a 45-day. Sheriff Beckman will be the alternate applicant agent for this project.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tuite, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to name Gates as accepting agent. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tuite, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to support AVHSZ taking on the URM program. Roll Call Vote: Johnson – no, Krueger – yes, Tuite – yes, Walcker-yes, Strand – yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to recess at 11:08 am. The commission meeting was reconvened at 11:11 am.

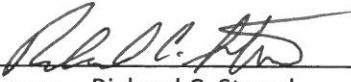
Public Health Nurse, Kathryn Good provided an office update which included financials, grant updates, and vaccine clinics.

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to approve moving the expense line for the additional employee in Public Health one day a week. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

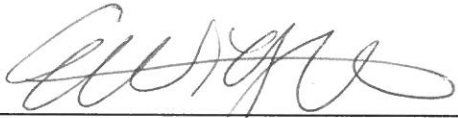
A motion was made by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Walcker to approve Public Health Policy Covid – 19 Policy #602- workplace algorithm. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Tuite, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to adjourn the meeting. All members voted yes. Meeting adjourned.



Chairman – Richard C. Strand



Auditor – Emily Wigen