

January 4th, 2022
Finley, ND

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

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

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

Auditor Wigen provided a brief HR update for the board including COVID leave for employees.

Dennis Lindstrom provided an update on the food pantry, as well as Veteran Service department.

Auditor Wigen provided an update on the election and end of year reports.

Tax Director Amy Czapiewski presented an abatement for the Hefta property which was classified as commercial instead of residential property.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the abatements for Hefta as presented. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

An abatement for Zerface was discussed. The paperwork was previously filled out incorrectly by owner, however, the property does qualify for the exemption. The topic was tabled until next month and a phone call will be made to the owner.

Czapiewski updated the board on 2022 Agland figures from the state. The average price for state went down.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to approve the Hope Golf Course 2022 licenses. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the Anderson lease lot transfer. All members voted yes. Motion carried. A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Johnson to appoint Jenny Foss to the AVHSZ board. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Strand motion to take a short recess at 9:01am.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Tuite to reconvene the Steele County Commission meeting at 9:08 am.

Oien provided a brief department update which included bids for a new motor grader by May to be delivered in January of 2023. Gravel bids were also briefly discussed.

Mike Bassingthwaite with Interstate Engineering provided an update on road projects and priorities. Bassingthwaite, Oien and Gates narrowed down the options to three bridges for funding use for 2023 construction, following the full federal aid process. This funding is not guaranteed but with a maximum of 2 million per county.

Paperwork for the County Road 11 Federal Aid Project was reviewed and signed by Chairman Walcker.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to keep the 2022 lease lot rate at \$850. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve and sign the NDDOT Certificate for local matching on bridge inspections. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

One culvert bid was received and opened at 10:00 am. The bid was from TrueNorth Steel.

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to accept the TrueNorth Culvert bid received. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tuite, seconded by Commissioner Strand to have vacation time used if on vacation during a storm day. All member voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to approve the 2021 budget amendments as presented. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Lesley Lubenow with NDSU Extension joined the meeting. Lubenow discussed salary rates for the open Agent position as well as the recent resignation of Amber Stockland.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to approve the salary of \$54,000 for the Extension Agent. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Kathryn Good, Public Health, joined the board and presented her year end office report. COVID quarantine guidelines were presented and reviewed by the board. An update on the Health Equity Coordinator position was given.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to take a short recess at 10:57 am. The Steele County commissioner meeting reconvened at 11:03 am.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Tuite to enter executive session at 11:05 am. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tuite, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to reconvene the commission meeting at 11:30 am. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Dina Splettstoesser, Building and Grounds, discussed new floor cleaning machine quotes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Tuite to purchase the \$3700 Brenco machine. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A discussion was held regarding Splettstoesser taking unpaid leave instead of sick and vacation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to allow Splettstoesser to take they week unpaid. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

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

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


Chairman – Russell Walcker


Auditor – Emily Wigen