

Finley, ND
February 2nd, 2022

The Steele County Commission meeting was called to order 8:02 am. Present were Chairman Russell Walcker, Commissioners Richard C. Strand, Ted Johnson, Brandon Krueger and Brian Tuite.

Agenda additions – ND parks and Recreation grant and 2022 mileage rate

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Tuite to approve the mileage rate of .585 per mile for 2022. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation grant was discussed for shelters at Golden Lake. Commissioner Strand and Park Board Chairman Matt Roller will gather more information.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to approve the lease lot transfer for Boura. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Auditor Emily Wigen presented an increase of pay for the relief overtime deputies in the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Beckman and Auditor Wigen have previously reviewed and discussed this.

Tax Director Amy Czapiewski joined the meeting to discuss the building permit for Steinke for approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to approve the building permit from Steinke. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

The tax exemption for Zerface from last month was discussed by the board. Commissioner Krueger had a discussion with Zerface regarding the abatement request.

A motion was made by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Strand to approve the 2021 abatement for Zerface. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the beer and liquor license for Lakeview Catering. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Emergency Manager Ben Gates joined via Zoom to present using APRA funding for radios, as well as funding for road projects that can be used to match Federal Aid. Gates also discussed a community flood meeting in the courthouse on Feb 17th.

Mike Bassingthwaite with Interstate Engineering joined the discussion along with Reed Oien. Spoke about the additional infrastructure funding. HB1505 funding was discussed, and potential DOT accounting requirements are tied to that funding.

The HB1505 bridge funding projects that were submitted were discussed and the County Road 5 bridge east of Hope was approved for a box culvert.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to accept the HB1505 County Road 5 bridge project through the NDDOT. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

County Road 11 paving project will be on the DOT bid letting for March and is estimated at 2.4 million. The County will move forward with borrowing ahead on the DOT federal aid account pushing it out to potentially 2028, depending on the infrastructure funding amounts. Local cost is estimated at \$450,000 for this project.

Oien discussed areas within the County that will need to be pushed back with a dozer.

A motion was made by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Tuite to hire a local contractor to move snow off roadways up to \$20,000. Roll call vote – Tuite – yes, Krueger – yes, Johnson – yes, Walcker – yes. Strand – abstained. Motion carried.

Chris Johnson, Curtis Ness and Shane Ebach from Beaver Creek joined the meeting to discuss the bridge repair in the township. The initial repair to bridge #116-02 will not work for a long-term solution. The county is interested in a cost share to this repair which is estimated to cost \$30,000 – 35,000.

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Strand to take a short recess at 10:07 am. The Commission meeting was reconvened at 10:12 am.

Oien discussed the applicants and hiring of a new road department employee. The applicant deadline closes on February 4th, 2022. Commissioner Strand will assist with the interview and hiring along with the standard duty assessment and drug/alcohol screening.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to appoint Merle Ferry and Chad Aberle to the Steele County Job Development Board. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Megan Vig, NDSU Extension, joined the meeting along with Lesley Lubenow via zoom to discuss the open staffing position in Steele County. The FCW agent is currently a split position with Nelson County with a 60/40. Discussion was also had regarding the support staff hours being increased, along with the weed board.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve moving forward with a FCW agent at .60 and advertising a for a support staff position with 20-25 hours per week at the rate of \$18 per hour. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

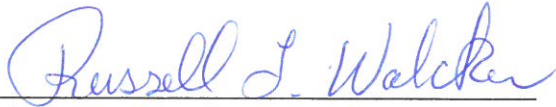
A motion was made by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Strand to take a recess at 11:26 am. The Steele County Commission meeting reconvened at 11:32 am.

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

Kathryn Good, Public Health Nurse, joined the meeting and provided an office update which included COVID cases and vaccines.

The monthly HR report was reviewed by the Commission and Human Resources discussion was held.

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Strand to adjourn the meeting at 12:38 pm. All members voted yes. Meeting was adjourned.



Chairman – Russell Walcker



Auditor – Emily Wigen