

May 3rd, 2022
Finley, ND

The Steele County Commission meeting was called to order at 8:05 am. Present were Chairman Russell Walcker, Commissioners Richard C. Strand, Ted Johnson, Brandon Krueger, and Brian Tuite. Also present was Extension Agent Megan Vig and Jay Showers.

Agenda additions – Tax Director, Finley’s 125th celebration, AVHSZ appointment

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

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

Megan Vig provided a brief Extension Office update. A hiring decision will be made by the end of the week.

Correspondence received from Sharon Township was briefly discussed. Road Superintendent Reed Oien and Commissioner Strand will follow up.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Tuite, to select and approve Interstate Engineering project for the Preliminary and Design Engineering services for the BRP-4600(002) PNC 23562 County Road 5 bridge project. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to reappoint the same interview committee for the paving project. All members voted yes. Motion carried. Interviews were set for May 12th at 1p for the three firms.

Veteran Service Office and the Veteran Service van was discussed due to Lindstrom being out of office. Discussion was held regarding Myron Brager currently filling in.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tuite, seconded by Commissioner Strand to appoint Myron Brager as interim Veteran Service Officer for the time being. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tuite, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to allow the Veteran Services organization to use the Steele County vehicle for use of Veteran transportation as needed. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the Barnes County prisoner boarding contract. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Tax Director Amy Czapiewski joined the meeting to present a building permit for approval. The permit is for a building in Colgate.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the building permit for Mewes. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

The board discussed the Joint Powers Agreement with NDACo for the GIS program. Tax Director Czapiewski and State's Attorney Stock provided input.

A brief update regarding the Finley 125th celebration was discussed. The Courthouse will be hosting a lunch and games.

Drafting a flyer supporting the road levy and extension levy was discussed.

A representative with Colonial Life joined the meeting. He proposed the savings he can offer employees who currently have coverage with another company for the same services. He is asking that the board give him the opportunity to offer his services to the employees.

A memo will be sent to all employees giving them the option to meet with Colonial Life on May 25th.

The open Agassiz Valley Human Service Zone board position was brought forth. Chairman Walcker asked Auditor Wigen to post the position vacancy. Next commission meeting deadline.

Mike Bassingthwaite with Interstate Engineering joined the meeting to discuss current road projects. RJ Zovoral was the low bid for the County Road 11 project. They are anticipating an August start. Prairie Dog funding was discussed and would be for 2024 constructions projects.

A motion was made by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Strand to take a 5-minute recess at 9:23 am. The Commission meeting reconvened at 9:27 am.

Emergency Manager Ben Gates provided an update regarding flood emergency in the county. Gates is expecting all roads to be open by the end of the week. Damage assessments will be gathered to turn into the state for Federal declaration.

Gates presented shop drawings for the Golden Lake emergency shelters for the east and west side of Golden Lake. Pricing went up approximately \$30,000 for the cost of the shelters. Finley Improvement donated \$15,000 towards the shelter costs.

Gates discussed with the board the ARPA Funding as Traill County approved radios and a dispatch center for use of the funds. Gates stated that the 25 percent cost share for Steele County will be due at the end of this year or beginning of next year. The cost share amount is \$106,000.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to approve using ARPA funds to cover Steele County share of \$106,000 and an additional \$40,000 for radios. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

The generator for the Courthouse has arrived and is at the Steele County shop. It is planned to move it to the NW corner in the grass area. The current generator is planned to be moved to the county shop for use. A concrete slab will be poured at the same time for that move.

Gates presented a Courthouse active shooter exercise. He requested it be mandatory training on May 26th.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Tuite to close the Steele County Courthouse for the training on May 26th. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Gates also discussed a tabletop exercise on June 16th from 2p – 430p and encourages all department heads be present at the training which is being held in the basement.

Road Superintendent Reed Oien joined the meeting to discuss the gravel bid awards for 2022. Oien recommended roads to Lakeside Construction and KRB Gravel.

A motion was made by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Tuite to award the 2022 gravel bids as presented by Superintendent Oien with a .25 cent bonus to complete by July 15th. Roll call vote. Johnson – yes, Krueger – yes, Tuite – yes, Walcker – yes, Strand- Abstained. Motion carried

State’s Attorney Stock recommended the Commission wait on viewing the bids and discussion for a motor grader until he can look into the legal points of how it was bid. Stock is clarifying if we have violated our own request for proposals by getting a quote directly from John Deere. Stock has seen the Butler bid however has not seen the John Deere bid.

Commissioner Strand asked Butler and John Deere if both bids would still be valid if the board has decided to hold off another month. The topic will be tabled until the June 7th meeting.

State’s Attorney Stock provided an update regarding HR. Stock provided an outline of what the Auditor’s Office should be responsible for and what should be HR duties. Auditor Wigen requested Stock to share a copy.

Contract for nursing services and billing, and payment for services was discussed by Stock. Auditor Wigen requested Stock forward a copy of the contracts for recording purposes.

Steele County Water Resource board members Josh Ihry, Greg Thykeson, and Tor Bergstrom, as well as Cassie Tostenson, Lyndon Pease, and Tasha Krueger met with the board regarding the flooding. Lyndon Pease provided an update on dam overflow as well as the Golden Lake water quality study. Elm River Dam was also discussed.

Elm River Dam gate controls were discussed as Oien has closed the gate after it being left open overnight for a few days. Oien has pulled the wheel off to prevent others opening it again. The SCWRD is in favor of Superintendent Oien being in control of the gate.

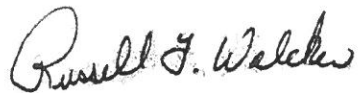
The Golden Lake structure and who is responsible for it was also discussed, along with the Luther Burke gate. The SCWRB is unsure who is responsible for both structures. Until responsibility is decided, Commissioner Strand will oversee the structures. The Lake Tobiason structure is the responsibility of the SCWRD board.

Health Equity Coordinator Emily Stoppler met with the board and discussed the grant for her position was extended until May 2024. Discussion was held regarding position of both the HEQ position and Public Health Nurse position.

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

Auditor Wigen suggested that the three employees who attended the HR conference sit down and discuss items from the conference.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tuite, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to adjourn the meeting. All members voted yes. Motion carried.



Chairman – Russell Walcker



Auditor – Emily Wigen