

June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Finley, ND

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Strand to approve the minutes as presented.

The Steele County Commission meeting was recessed for the Steele County Park Board meeting at 8:01 am. The Steele County Commission meeting reconvened at 8:17 am.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to change to the BCBS Dental Preferred plan. All voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to select Interstate Engineering for Construction Engineering services for the paving project. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Auditor Emily Wigen provided an office update to the board which included a flag drop box that will be added to the front door of the courthouse to allow citizens a place to properly dispose of their flags. This is a free drop box through NDACo. An Election update was provided, as well as an update regarding the Finley Days courthouse luncheon and games for Thursday. Donations for the event were received from Lakeside Construction, Mic's Grocery, Dakota Rural Water, Golden Lake Acres, Bravera Bank, Russell & Pam Walcker, Emily Wigen, Amy Czapiewski, Aurora Moore and Dina Splettstoesser.

Mike Bassingthwaite with Interstate Engineering joined the meeting and provided an update on the County Road 11 paving project which is estimated to begin in August. Strand stated the culverts will be replaced just after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Bassingthwaite provided information on potential funding for bridge projects and changes to the NDDOT bridge funding. Future projects were presented and discussed for 2023 – 2025. Bassingthwaite and Strand will meet and discuss bridges in Newburgh township with the township board members.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to take a five-minute recess at 8:56 am. The Commission meeting reconvened at 9:00 am.

Road Superintendent Reed Oien met with the board with a department update on graveling, culverts on the county roads, and crack sealing on county roads.

A representative from CAT, Kevin, and RDO/John Deere, John, joined the meeting for the discussion of the motor grader bids.

Discussion was held regarding sealed bids, Sourcewell bids and how this process was handled. State's Attorney Stock recommended the Commission either go with the Sourcewell bid or rebid altogether.

Discussion was held regarding prices of both machines as well as the warranty and specs.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to purchase the Butler machine for \$341,755 with a 7-year warranty and 9,000 hours. Roll call vote: Strand – yes, Johnson – no, Krueger – yes, Walcker – yes. Motion carried.

The July Commission meeting was moved to July 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am.

State's Attorney Stock met with the board to discuss the Public Health Nurse position. One applicant who is the current Health Equity Coordinator.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to appoint Emily Stoppler as the Steele County Public Health Nurse. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

The Veteran Service Officer position was discussed and will be advertised. A memorial donation to the Finley Legion in Dennis Lindstrom's memory was discussed.

A motion was made by Commission Strand, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to donate 100 dollars memorial to the Finley Legion in memory of Dennis Lindstrom. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

There was a HR discussion with State's Attorney Stock regarding his proposal for HR duties. Auditor Wigen suggested a discussion regarding the duties and feasibility of them as listed.

State's Attorney Stock informed the board that he submitted a budget for HR.

Agassiz Valley Human Service Zone board position was discussed. One applicant was received.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to appoint Diane Jacobson to the AVHSZ board. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Drain 11 funding request from the SCWRD was discussed. They would like to borrow \$60,000. This would be reimbursed with the anticipation of a federal declaration.

A motion was made by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Strand to borrow \$60,000 to the SCWRD for the Drain 11 project with the understanding that it will be paid back. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to recess for the County Equalization meeting at 10:03 am. The Steele County Commission meeting reconvened.

Buildings and grounds keeper Dina Splettstoesser met with the board to discuss new lights for the front of the courthouse. Estimates were received from Verwest and Lovro Electric to repair and replace the lights.


Splettstoesser discussed supplies being taken for offices, as well as getting locks for her janitor room. She also informed the board that the snow removal crew was busting the cement. A planter was also damaged.

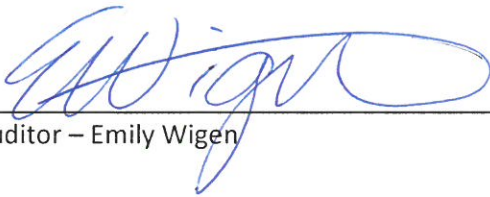
A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the bills as presented. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Lesley Lubenow with NDSU Extension joined the meeting to discuss the FCW agent position. She presented a 50/50 split with Nelson County. The home base would be the decision of the application selected.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Jonson to split the FCW position 50/50 with Nelson County. Commissioners Strand, Johnson and Walcker voted yes. Commissioner Krueger was not present. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Strand to adjourn the meeting at 10:44 am. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

  
Chairman – Russell Walcker

  
Auditor – Emily Wigen