

October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Finley, ND

The Steele County Commission meeting was called to order at 9:00 am. Present was Chairman Russell Walcker, Commissioners Richard C. Strand, Ted Johnson, Brandon Krueger and Brian Tuite. Also present was State's Attorney Charlie Stock, Extension Agent Megan Vig, Jill Larson and Lisa Saxberg.

Agenda additions: Building permit, Back Tax properties, Buildings and Grounds, Road Superintendent Reed Oien, Emergency Manager Ben Gates.

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

Extension Agent Megan Vig provided a quarterly update and informed the board that Palmer Amaranth was found just into Traill County. The FCW agent position is currently advertised as a shared position with Nelson County. This is dependent on the Nelson County mill levy passing. A Legislative update will be held on Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. Vig urges any farmer who questions a weed to reach out as soon as possible.

State's Attorney Stock discussed the open Veteran Service Officer position as Dennis Kubischta has resigned. Stock will advertise for the position again. The option of partnering with Traill County was brought forth. Stock will reach out to Traill County. Myron Brager will continue to aid and be a driver for the Vet service van.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Tuite to appoint Myron Brager as interim VSO and Carly Idso as assistant VSO and included authorization for both to sign monthly purchasing card reports. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

The inquiries requested by Don Huso were discussed by Stock. He stated the percentage appeared to be correct. Auditor Wigen pointed out that was the budget amount increase and not her actual wage. Discussion followed regarding the Auditor actual wages and budget for Auditor wages. Stock also stated that Mr. Huso has received a copy of his findings as well.

Stock addressed Jana Flaten's request that a new or additional Election Inspector position be appointed.

Policy manual addition regarding option benefit changes was brought forth for approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tuite, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to approve the policy addition regarding optional benefit changes. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand at 9:57 am to take a short recess. All members voted yes. The commissioner meeting reconvened at 10:03 am.

Interstate Engineering Mike Bassingthwaite joined the board to discuss the bridge projects and the recent paving project on County Road 11.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand to request bids for the County Road 5 box culvert FEMA project, seconded by Commissioner Johnson. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

The board has asked Bassingthwaite to research the culverts and info regarding the Colgate bridge. Road Superintendent Reed Oien met to discuss the state water resources complaint Steele County filed against Nelson County back in 2019. The state would like to know if Steele County is still interested in pursuing this complaint as they are ready to begin the investigation. Commissioner Strand will attend the water board meeting tomorrow to discuss it with them further as well.

Oien provided a brief department update as well. It was discussed who is responsible for curbs and gutters on County Road 18 within city limits. Oien discussed the courthouse generator project. He has not heard back from North Star Electric.

Emergency Manager Ben Gates met with the board to request moving forward with grant funding for flood grant.

Stock discussed his follow up with Mrs. Flaten with her option to have someone observe the election.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Tuite to approve the appointment of Carly Idso as the Election Inspector and to be paid from the election fund. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to approve both lease lot transfers. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Court Facilities Improvement Grant was discussed and possible projects for the future were also reviewed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to appoint Pam and Russell Walcker to be the county State Fair Delegates. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

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

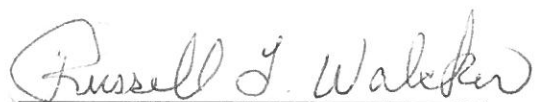
A motion was made by Commissioner Tuite, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the minimum sale price for the tax sale. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to approve the building permit as presented. All members voted yes. Motion carried.  
2023 Budgets were reviewed by the commission.

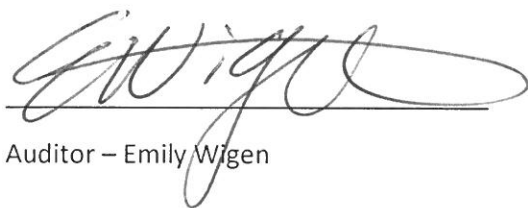
A motion was made by Commissioner Tuite to approve a 3% across the board raise for all county employees in 2023. Roll call vote: Strand -yes, Johnson -yes, Krueger -yes, Tuite – yes, Walcker -yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tuite, seconded by Commissioner Strand to hereby authorize and instruct the county Auditor to extend upon the tax list for the year 2022, against all real property and utilities assessed within the county for said year, a county tax levy as listed in detail. The question being called is the adoption of the motion, adopting the county budget, fixing the county levies for the year 2022. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Krueger, to adjourn the meeting. All members voted yes. Meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Russell J. Walcker". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Chairman – Russell Walcker

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emily Wigen". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Auditor – Emily Wigen