

April 5th, 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, and Brandon Krueger. Also present were Matt Roller and Ed Fuglestad.

Agenda additions – Easements, Clerk of Court funding agreement

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

The Steele County Commission meeting was recessed at 8:01 am for the Steele County Park Board meeting. The Steele County Commission meeting reconvened at 8:41 am.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Tuite to approve the Steele County Courthouse as a polling location from 8 am -7 pm. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Tuite to appoint Carly Idso as the Election Inspector for the Primary Election. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Discussion regarding an event for Finley's 125th celebration was discussed. The employees were looking for approval for holding a lunch and games at the courthouse on that Thursday.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to approve the township road mileage certification. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Tax Director Amy Czapiewski discussed sales ratios for Residential at 92.4% and Commercial at 99%. Czapiewski is proposing a 1% Agland increase for this year. There was no increase for Agland in 2021. This would bring the Agland sales ratio to 99%. The commission was not in favor of raising it at this time.

AVHSZ Director Kim Jacobson met with the commission and provided an update regarding services within the county.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to take a five-minute recess. All members voted yes. Motion carried. The Steele County Commission meeting reconvened at 9:37 am.

Road Superintendent Reed Oien met with the board. 2022 gravel bids were opened from Lakeside Construction and KRB. Gates will get bids tallied and out to the board.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tuite, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to accept the gravel bids. All members voted yes. Commissioner Strand abstained. Motion carried.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to sign and approve the Paradox One contract. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

The Sourcewell motor grader bid process example was presented and discussed by Gates. Commissioners Johnson and Strand would like bids from Sourcewell for both Cat and John Deere motor graders, along with all the financing options to present at the next meeting.

The Spring load limits are in effect and all signs are posted within the county. Crack sealing was also discussed. Oien stated that Country Road 18, 5 and 25 are scheduled to be completed this year. County Road 8 and 23 were done last year at a total of approximately 15 miles for the year.

The paving project was discussed, it is an 80/20 split with an estimated \$535,000 local cost share. This will take 5 years to replenish the counties federal aid funding. The low bid for the paving project of \$2,257,736.63 was by RJ Zavoral.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to approve, and pass the Resolution to award the paving bid project to RJ Zavoral. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Tuite to publish a Request For Proposals for Construction Engineering services to be published for the paving project. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tuite, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to appoint a selection committee of Brandon Krueger, Richard C. Strand, Reed Oien, Ben Gates and Emily Wigen for the BRP-4600(002) PCN 23562 project. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Emergency Manager Ben Gates briefly touched on the grants he currently is working on and asked the board if they have any requests. The generator is in, however they are waiting on two pieces which are estimated to be in within a week. Gates mentioned the upcoming Hazard Mitigation plan update meeting on April 12th, 2022. Commissioner Krueger was previously appointed to attend.

Public Health Nurse Kathryn Good and Home Equity Coordinator Emily Stoppler joined the meeting to provide a department update. Good proposed a restructure of the administrator role as she has accepted a new position. Good proposed that Stoppler fill the administrator roll and Good would assist for \$1,000 per month and re-evaluate in three months. State's Attorney Stock does not believe it needs to be posted if hired internally. Traill County would assist during Stoppler's upcoming leave as a contracted employee only. Good has discussed filling in with a Traill County employee to provide services at \$25 hour plus mileage.

Auditor Wigen presented the posting of positions with Title VI requirements. State's Attorney Stock does not feel that needs to be done.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tuite, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to make Emily Stoppler the interim Public Health Nurse effective April 25th through August 2nd, 2022 trial period, along with Good's proposed pay of \$1,000 per month and Traill County pay to fill in. Roll call vote: Tuite – yes, Krueger – yes, Johnson – yes, Strand – no. Motion carried.

The NDACo GIS program's joint powers agreement for the state run GIS system and yearly cost associated with the program. The board would like more information from the Emergency Manager/911 Coordinator and Tax Director at the next meeting.

State's Attorney Stock discussed the HR structure with the board. Stock discussed having the authority to request department head assistance when he needs. Risk Management duties were discussed; if the current duties change, Auditor Wigen will need to arrange training and access to the program. State's Attorney Stock got pricing information from North Risk Partners assistance which is \$125 - \$200 per hour.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to sign and approve the Clerk of Court agreement. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Strand to adjourn the meeting at 11:32 am.


Chairman – Russell Walcker


Auditor – Emily Wigen