

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

The Steele County Commission meeting was called to order at 8:01 am. Present were Chairman Russell Walcker, Commissioners Brian Tuite, Brandon Krueger, Ted Johnson and Richard C. Strand.

Additions: Mileage reimbursement rate and response to paper article

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

Commissioner Krueger brought forth a concern from a few Hope residents regarding the City of Hope ballot. It was discussed and clarified that the situation was handled correctly.

The board set a meeting date of July 19<sup>th</sup> at 1pm for budgets and to meet with department heads.

Tax Director Amy Czapiewski met with the board and submitted four building permits for approval as well as an abatement.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tuite, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to approve all building permits presented. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

The abatement was discussed. Due to error when the deed was filed, the land split was not completed; State's Attorney Stock advised Czapiewski to send a letter to the proper owner with the amount he owes.

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

Steele County Water Resources District board member Greg Thykeson joined the meeting to provide an update to the Commission and to thank the Commission for borrowing the funding for Drain 11 repair.

Emergency Manager Ben Gates discussed the Emergency Declaration which has been sent to the president for approval and signature which is expected next week.

Road Superintendent Reed Oien joined the meeting to discuss quotes for culverts and paving on County Road 23 & County Road 8.

Gates provided a department update which included disaster projects.

The FEMA Federal Disaster coverage percentage increased to 90% of costs going back to the 2020 flood which will result in funding back to the townships. The County Road 5 (west) bridge is close to being approved by FEMA as well.

Gates provided an update on the courthouse generator project; Tyler Flaten with North Star Electric stated that he should be able to start working on it next week.

Public Health Nurse Emily Stoppler met with the board to discuss the Health Equity Coordinator position that was advertised. There is one applicant that is scheduled to interview today. State's Attorney Stock and Commissioner Tuite will assist with the interview.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand for a five-minute recess, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. All members voted yes. Meeting was recessed at 9:27 am and reconvened at 9:35 am.

State's Attorney Stock provided an update regarding the Veteran Service Officer position. Interviews will be scheduled for next week with Chairman Walcker assisting.

Food Pantry board member Jenny Foss discussed keys for the food pantry. Moving the pantry to the church was also briefly discussed. Current Steele County Food Pantry board members are Renae Rayner, Darci McCullough, Jenny Foss, Tasha Krueger, and Kelsey Christian.

Foss also discussed a new lock for the Clerk of Court/Recorders second door. A grant to update to a badge/electronic system will be looked into and the door will get updated.

HR process was briefly discussed by the board. Wigen discussed setting goals each month to move the process forward.

Stock discussed a courthouse layout board for citizens to utilize to locate the correct office. Stock asked Interstate Engineering if they would help design this.

Stock requested to move his office back to where the 911 office was, currently the Tobacco Coordinator's office.

Policy manual change regarding employees attending the commission meetings was presented by Stock. Auditor Wigen requested an update regarding the policy for reporting requirements discussed several months ago. Stock stated he was in the process of working on it.

The state rate increase for mileage reimbursement was presented by Auditor Wigen, which took effect July 1st.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Tuite to approve the mileage rate reimbursement increase to remain in line with the state. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Megan Vig met with the board to provide a department update which included a quarterly report for the Extension Office. Office Assistant Jessica Serr was also present. They are preparing for achievement days.

Weed Board discussion was held. Vig inquired about the history of the payout for Golden Lake residents. The weed control in the lake is not a noxious weed that would align with the weed board plan. Leafy spurge weed control was discussed and Vig educated the board regarding the tag grant and lap program. History of the Golden Lake payouts for weed control will be researched and reviewed.

Sheriff Wayne Beckman joined the board to discuss recovered items. A 4-wheeler will be looked over by the road department and State's Attorney Stock will be consulted to see what the options are. A small shed which was part of back tax property, was discussed. Sealed bids for these items were discussed.

Beckman shared that the ambulance in Finley has been pulled out. There is only a 1<sup>st</sup> response pickup available in Finley. The board requested that West Traill Ambulance attend the July 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

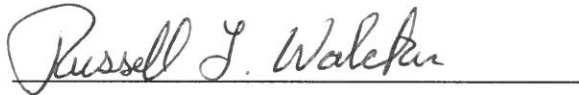
Stock informed the board that the county may be responsible for a guardian at litem fee. The bill is \$5800, and Stock will look into the matter further.

North Dakota State Auditor reached out to Chairman Walcker, they commended the work of Auditor's Office in prepping and timeliness of audit items and questions. The finalization of the 2021 audit should come later in the month.

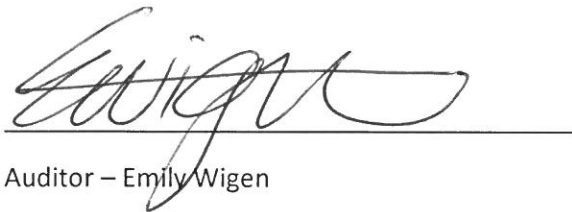
Commissioner Johnson brought forth an article in the Steele County Press last month regarding wages for the current auditor. Johnson stated that he requested and looked into the allegations, and they are false. Auditor Wigen has reached out to the author and is waiting to hear back.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Strand, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to adjourn the meeting at 10:52 am. Meeting was adjourned.



Chairman – Russell Walcker



Auditor – Emily Wigen