

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD  
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
ADAMS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA  
FEBRUARY 12TH, 2024

The Board of Adams County Commissioners met in regular session with the following present: Dustin Laufer, Kevin Pagel, and Anthony Larson.

Chairman Dustin Laufer called the meeting to order at 8:00 am

**JANUARY 9, 2024, MINUTES:** Commissioner Larson moved to approve the minutes of the regular scheduled meeting as amended, second by Commissioner Pagel and by unanimous vote. Motion carried.

**AGENDA:** Commissioner Pagel moved to approve the agenda as presented, second by Commissioner Larson, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

**OFFICE FEES:** Fees collected by county officers were paid to the Auditor/Treasurer for Road and Bridge \$56,849.85, and Recorder \$1,254.70

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT:** financials were reviewed.

March 12th, 2024, at 8:00 am is the next regular meeting date.

**ADAMS COUNTY WEED OFFICER POSITION:** Commissioner Laufer presented a job description and advertisement for the open position, including a thank you to the former weed officer, Tim Milliren, informing the public of the change. Commissioner Pagel moved to request the Auditor advertise the position in the Adams County Record, Eido, and KNDC with an application deadline of March 8, 2024, second by Commissioner Larson, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS: ACDC & WEED BOARD:** One open position on the weed board remains. and four positions on the ACDC board remain for appointment. Commissioner Pagel moved to re-appoint Dustin Laufer, Trevor Wolff, and Alex Thompson for another term on the ACDC board, second by Commissioner Larson, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

**ADAMS COUNTY TAX DIRECTOR:** Katie Roseland met with the Commission to discuss the City of Lemmon Abatements. Commissioner Pagel moved to approve the City of Lemmon abatements, second by Commissioner Larson, and by unanimous vote; motion carried. Ms. Roseland also discussed the City of Lemmon completed an application for property tax exemption. The application will need to be completed annually and if at any time the Commission would like to review, they could request this to be done.

**CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT-JORDAN CHRISTMAN:** Ms. Roseland discussed the permit and recommendation for approval from the County zoning board was reviewed for a gravel pit located off 15<sup>th</sup> St NE in Section 17 Township 130 Range 93. Commissioner Pagel moved to approve the permit request, second by Commissioner Larson, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

**ADAMS COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGER/ VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER:** Frank Fettig met with the Commission to update on his departments. Mr. Fettig explained the generator did not operate during last week's power outage due to a faulty fuse. Denny's Electric came and fixed the issue and set up weekly tests to be conducted during the work week, so if an issue occurs it may be caught by employees. Mr. Fettig discussed the City's need for the placement of an antenna for the new water meter reading system. The hopes were to be able to place at the SIRN radio tower site, North of the hospital. Commissioner Pagel moved to approve the placement of the antenna at the SIRN tower location, second by Commissioner Larson, and by unanimous vote; motion carried. Mr. Fettig has been very happy with the increase in number of veterans being serviced by his office and will be attending the Spring conference in the next few months. A tabletop exercise is being planned on procedures; Mr. Fettig is hoping to get more involvement from neighboring fire departments.

**RESOLUTION-REGIONAL LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING GRANT WITH RCRC:**

Commissioner Larson discussed the resolution needs to be past by the different counties for the process of planning for any upcoming livestock infrastructure projects that may want to apply for funding that is available in the area. Commissioner Larson moved to support and approve the following resolution, second by Commissioner Pagel, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

**RESOLUTION APPROVING AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF ADAMS AND ROOSEVELT CUSTER REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR PURPOSE OF REGIONAL LIVESTOCK PLANNING GRANT ACCEPTANCE**

WHEREAS the County of Adams on behalf of its County Commission desires to enter into Agreement with the Roosevelt Custer Regional Council to apply for a Regional Livestock Planning Grant which the County is eligible. The Agreement further provides the County with identification of suitable locations for rural economic development, including animal feeding operations, agricultural processing and storage facilities and other agriculture related development.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Board of Adams, North Dakota as follows:

1. Following completion of the site analysis process the county with review county and township zoning and land use regulations. The county may update any zoning or land use regulations based on recommendations of site analysis process. Additionally, Adams County will provide information to townships of said county so they may review and update zoning and land use regulations as they see fit.
2. That Dustin Laufer the Chair of the County of Adams, and Krista Faller. County Auditor are authorized to sign the Agreement.

Passed and Adopted by the Council on this 12th day of February 2024.

**GROUNDKEEPER/CUSTODIAN:** Nathan Nagel met with the Commission to discuss items from his departments. Discussion was had on the city antenna, he informed the Commission that electricity would need to be supplied to the antenna, an agreement with the city may need to address the needs. Discussion was had on the new water meter system installation completion date being August 2024. The city of Reeder will need to work on what their options are. Commissioner Larson moved to terminate the Adams County-City of Reeder utility services agreement from 12/1/2003 as of August 1, 2024. Commissioner Pagel seconded the motion. Commissioner Larson discussed the need to terminate the old agreement, as the Commission is uncertain, they will be able to provide any services for the City of Reeder after the installation of the new equipment. Commissioner Larson discussed the intention of the termination of the agreement is to make the City of Reeder aware of the urgency to come up with a plan going forward. After unanimous vote, motion carried. Mr. Nagel discussed his research into finding another floor stripping contractor but had no luck. Mr. Nagel has been working with Dave's Quality Carpet Care out of Dickinson, to meet and discuss the project. Mr. Nagel presented a quote from Drolc Electric for the addition of a ceiling fan in the Clerk of Court office. Commissioner Larson moved to approve the quote in the amount of \$755.68 for the installation and wiring for a new ceiling fan, second by Commissioner Pagel, and by unanimous vote; motion carried. Commissioner Larson discussed with Mr. Nagel, requests for building updates do not need to be presented to the Commission. Mr. Nagel discussed the condition of the FSA parking lot. Commissioner Pagel questioned possibly adding concrete to the parking area and will work with Mr. Nagel to get quotes. Lastly, Mr. Nagel discussed the Johnson Control agreement for the Courthouse boiler system. Mr. Nagel recommended the approval of the two-year commitment to lock in this year's pricing, as \$5,375.00 each year. Commissioner Larson moved to approve the two-year contract with Johnson Controls, second by Commissioner Pagel, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

**2024 EQUALIZATION HEARING DATE AND TIME TO BE SET:** Thursday June 6, 2024 at 1:00 pm

**ADAMS COUNTY OFFICE MANAGER & ROAD OPERATOR:** Jean Dix and Justin Blade met with the Commission to update happenings in the road department. The Crew has been busy working on shop and office maintenance and organization. The crew has been working together on future road and gravel needs and upcoming projects. Steve Meier, with RDO, was also present to discuss a couple equipment quotes. A few different quotes were presented for upgrading a grader. Mr. Blade discussed that the shop crew all recommended the replacement of the John Deere blade, as it continues to have issues. Quotes for a new blade, a used 2019 blade and a used 2011 blade were reviewed. Mr. Blade recommended the purchase of the 2011 model, as a couple other items were being

requested to update out of this year's budget. Commissioner Larson moved to approve the purchase of the 2011 Blade with 2803 hours, second by Commissioner Pagel, and by unanimous vote; motion carried. Mr. Blade also discussed the need for a new packer and recommended a quote in the amount of \$27,815.00 for a WR90 series. Commissioner Larson moved to approve the purchase of the new packer, second by Commissioner Pagel, and by unanimous vote; motion carried. Lastly, Mr. Blade discussed the request for the purchase of a disc. A quote for a new disc in the amount of \$9,300.00 was presented, but Mr. Blade and Ms. Dix have requested quotes for a couple of used discs. Commissioner Larson moved to authorize the road department the ability to purchase a disc at a cost of up to \$9,300.00, second by Commissioner Pagel, and by unanimous vote; motion carried. Ms. Dix discussed the need to hire or appoint someone to be in charge of the road department or to hire an interim Road Supervisor. Ms. Dix recommended Mr. Blade as a good candidate for the interim position. Mr. Blade expressed interest in trying the position for a couple months and then making a complete decision if everyone was happy with how the shop was running. Commissioner Larson moved to approve the appointment of Justin Blade as the interim Road Superintendent at a wage of \$25.19 per hour, second by Commissioner Pagel and by unanimous vote; motion carried. Mr. Blade also discussed the need to update a couple pickups at the shop, the Commission requested he research any sales. Commissioner Larson discussed the need to identify job descriptions for the couple department openings. Ms. Dix will work with Mr. Blade on descriptions and provide for Commission feedback. Discussion amongst the Commission on who is responsible for interview and hiring of employees. Commissioner Pagel moved to approve Commission Chair, Laufer, to conduct and hire any employees alongside the interim Road Superintendent, Justin Blade, second by Commissioner Larson, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

**BROSZ ENGINEERING:** Billy Doerr met with the Commission to discuss the several upcoming bridge projects. The NDDOT sent information on Reeder bridge replacement/removal and the Schmaltz/Haynes bridge projects. The State has decided to delay the construction of several projects, and the two Adams County projects were included in the delay. Mr. Doerr believes the projects will still be funded as upcoming projects, as the design and preliminary work is supposed to continue. Decisions were needed for the removal of the Haynes bridge. The property owner requested the bridge be left and not removed. The County would have to decide to continue with the planned removal, keep the bridge in place and continue to maintain, or to try and "sell" the bridge to the landowner, and relieve the County of any financial burden of upkeep or liability. Mr. Doerr will discuss the option of buying the bridge from the County for personal use, the Commission was not in favor of continuing with maintaining the bridge. The Commission will need to decide what to do for traffic flow/control during the North Reeder bridge replacement. More information will need to be researched to help the Commission decide and help keep the public informed of their decision. The bridge being removed from South Reeder has been deemed historical, so will need to go through advertising requirements for any interested parties wanting to adopt or own the bridge. The advertisement was sent to the ACR to start the two-week advertising process. The Country Club Road project was discussed, Mr. Doerr was hopeful that the County would be notified if the grant request for funds was approved this March. Mr. Doerr explained that BNSF has shown interest in possibly working out something with the City and County on alleviating blocked crossings. The projects could potentially work together. BNSF provided preliminary photos of options that could be used, but they were just trying to find out if there was interest in working together on a future plan. The Commission was in favor of continued planning.

**CLERK OF COURT FUNDING OPTIONS:** The State requested Adams County to decide if they would like to continue on with a Clerk of Court funding option, or to fund the Clerk position fully by the County. Commissioner Pagel moved to approve the continuance of the funding option with the State, second by Commissioner Larson, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

**RESIGNATION OF ROAD SUPERINTENDENT:** Josh Anderson was reviewed. Commissioner Pagel moved to approve the resignation, second by Commissioner Larson with an amendment thanking Mr. Anderson for his dedication of employment for the last nine years. After unanimous vote, motion carried. The position will remain open until filled.

**SHERIFF FISHER:** plans to purchase the radios necessary to run his department in the amount of \$62,282.50, which was approved months ago utilizing ARPA dollars. The radio reimbursement can still be requested at an amount of \$1,500.00 per radio, which Sheriff Fisher will have completed before the March deadline. Discussion was had on why the Sheriff's Department was not provided power by the generator; the Commission explained the malfunction. Discussion was had on the need to hold an auction or bid opening for a few vehicles, Sheriff Fisher will work with State's Attorney, Aaron Roseland on the two options. Sheriff Fisher also discussed the continued need for an impound lot. Sheriff Fisher plans to meet with the Hettinger City Council on a possible location behind the City shop. Commissioner Larson discussed the need for the Sheriff to communicate any needs prior to budgeting and joint County/City meetings, to help aid in negotiating terms.

**2024 TOWNSHIP/COUNTY FORUM:** Will be held in the Community Room on Wednesday February 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 pm. Commissioner Laufer will purchase drinks and cookies to be served. Several employees will be invited to be in

attendance to help provide answers to any questions. Commissioner Larson will provide historical information on unique County-City joint agreements. The Auditor was instructed to advertise in the Adams County Record (if possible) the Eido, and KNDC.

**BILLS:** Commissioner Pagel moved the following bills be paid, Second by Commissioner Larson, and by unanimous vote. Motion carried.

#91460 ND County Auditor's Association \$200.00; #91461 Melling & Roseland Law \$174.94; #91462 Aaron Roseland \$505.89; #91463 Sleep Inn & Suites \$389.88; #91464 ND County Recorder's Association \$200.00; #9165 ND Recorder's Association \$300.00; #91466 Sidwell \$6,985.87; #91467 Bismarck Hotel & Convention Center \$96.30; #91468 Katie Roseland \$261.34; #91469 Dakota Dust-Tex, Inc \$270.00; #91470 Ecolab Pest Elimination Div \$355.62; #91471 C & H Cleaning Service \$772.50; #91472 Discovery Benefits \$42.00; #91473 Quadient Finance USA, Inc. \$1,000.00; #91474 Marco Technologies \$322.83; #91475 Software Innovations \$2,830.00; #91476 Computer Express \$2,924.99; #91477 Southwest Multi-County Correction Center \$6,390.00; #91478 Jeffrey Gooss \$205.62; #91479 AT & T Mobility \$501.70; #91480 MOCIC \$100.00; #91481 The Boom Closet LLC \$2,999.97; #91482 Auto Value Hettinger \$58.97; #91483 Cenex Fleet Fueling \$1,140.86; #91484 Office of Attorney General – 1250 \$310.00; #91485 Matthew Cude \$17.45; #91486 Graphic Attic \$240.00; #91487 FIBT Att: Credit Dept \$359.37; #91488 Roosevelt Custer Regional Council \$5,700.00; #91489 ND Township Officers Association \$2,200.00; #91490 Frank Fettig \$99.16; #91491 Brosz Engineering, Inc \$7,320.00; #91492 Hettinger City \$480.00; #91493 Linde Gas & Equipment, Inc. \$182.06; #91494 Southwest Water Authority \$74.37; #91495 Eido Printing \$208.00; #91496 Current Connection \$12.29; #91497 Eugene Strehlow Construction \$321.00; #91498 CHS Inc. \$2,732.24; #91499 Butler Machinery Co. \$566.09; #91500 Inland Truck Parts Co. \$62.53; #91501 RDO Equipment Co. \$4,429.57; #91502 West Plans Inc \$776.46; #91503 ND One Call, Inc \$2.60; #91504 Underground Vaults & Storage \$280.00; #91505 Nexus Planning & Consulting, LLC \$6,500.00; #91506 ND Association of County & Tribal Veterans Service Officers \$170.00; #91507 Capital One \$148.22; #91508 Baker & Taylor \$75.21; #91509 Barnes & Noble Booksellers \$773.04; #91510 Center Point Publishing \$189.96; #91511 Country Living \$34.97; #91512 Aspen Lenning \$196.77; #91513 Finish Line Automotive Addictions \$3,437.03; #91514 Scott Mattis \$700.00; #91515 Adams County Treasurer \$1,119.96; #91516 GS Publishing \$612.66; #91517 Central Dakota Frontier Cooperative \$1,061.81; #91518 Consolidated Communications \$1,331.61; #91519 Hettinger Chamber of Commerce \$175.00; #91520 Hettinger City \$174.38; #91521 Information Technology Dept \$850.70; #91522 J.P. Morgan Chase Bank \$58.37; #91523 Kennedy's Fresh Foods \$42.52; #91524 Montana Dakota Utilities \$6,585.49; #91525 ND Association of Counties \$530.97; #91526 ND State Treasurer \$4,522.97; #91527 Runnings Supply, Inc \$1,482.00; #91528 Slope Electric Cooperative \$187.74; #91529 Verizon Wireless \$96.30, January Payroll \$90,006.23

Commissioner Pagel moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Larson. Chairman Laufer declared the meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.

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Dustin Laufer, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Krista Faller,  
Adams County Auditor/Treasurer