

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
ADAMS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA
JUNE 6TH, 2024

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

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

MAY 14, 2024, MINUTES: Commissioner Pagel moved to approve the minutes of the regular scheduled meeting as presented, second by Commissioner Laufer; Commissioner Larson abstained; and by unanimous vote. Motion carried.

MAY 28, 2024 MINUTES: Commissioner Larson moved to approve the minutes of the regular scheduled meeting as presented, 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 \$38,937.64 and Sheriff \$620.00.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: financials were reviewed.

July 8th, 2024, at 7:00 am is the next regular meeting date.

EMERGENCY MANAGER/VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER: Frank Fettig met with the Commission to discuss his Veteran Service Office budget as well as the EOC budget completed worksheets. Discussion items were dues for both budgets and office supplies and equipment. Another discussion was on a new hire and needs in the EOC department. Mr. Fettig requested to purchase a laptop for the VSO office, a quote in the amount of \$1,495.00 was submitted from Computer Express. Commissioner Larson moved to approve the purchase, second by Commissioner Pagel, Commissioner Larson discussion was had on why Computer Express is used, it was discussed that he used the vendor as it is our current IT and would set it up with all necessary programs. After unanimous vote, motion carried. The fire restriction chart was sent to local fire departments, but Mr. Fettig has not received any responses. The original draft was created by the NDDES, but each County can make changes to the prohibited items.

2024 WEED COST SHARE APPLICATION: The Weed Board met and unanimously decided to recommend keeping the 80-20 percent for the cost share application. Commissioner Larson moved to approve the 2024 cost share application submitted by the Weed Board, second by Commissioner Pagel, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

NDDES 911 WIRELINE/LESS PORTAL ACCESS: The request was reviewed for 911 state radio portal access for NDDES to obtain quarterly line counts. Commissioner Pagel moved to approve granting access to NDDES, second by Commissioner Larson, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

ADAMS COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY: Aaron Roseland along with Assistant State's Attorney, Erin Melling, met with the Commission to discuss their 2025 budget request. Aaron discussed the importance of having an assistant position as it is , as they rely on each other for time off purposes. Ms. Melling is also available for required paperwork. Mr. Roseland shared statistics and information from other counties on salaries, workload, and years of experience. Mr. Roseland encouraged the Commission to utilize his research when discussing his departmental budget. Mr. Roseland discussed his budget request increases, with only slight increases. Line items discussed were professional fees (additional association lobbying fees) Travel, office equipment, and books and periodicals were also line items discussed. Commissioner Larson discussed very few counties have Assistant positions, and how other counties are completing the necessary tasks 24-7. Mr. Roseland discussed triage and necessary work is not getting completed.

ADAMS COUNTY RECORDER/CLERK OF COURT: Sheri Uecker met with the Commission to discuss her 2025 budget from her departments. A laptop was included in her request for 2025 for necessary work from home, as working with the court system causes you to be "on call" all the time. Salary for the three additional items of grant

writing, magistrate, and IT (\$500 annual for each) were included in the budget for additional salaries. Ms. Uecker has completed and was awarded for updates in the Courtroom. Magistrate (marriages) have been conducted already, and appointments continue. Ms. Uecker shared her enthusiasm and commitment to her position, and also shared that the State helps fund about \$2,800 a month for her position. Line items discussed were office equipment, and Commissioner Larson discussed the need to budget for only actual needs. Other items discussed were travel and the administrative salary with inclusion of the three additional duties. Ms. Uecker discussed her Administrative Assistant, Dennis Maier, has been completely amazing in his position.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE: Nathan Nagel met with the Commission on his departmental budgets. Line items discussed were inflation on utilities, some of the budget is harder as it the first full year to budget for. Questions on projects being planned, Mr. Nagel has included additional funds for some department maintenance needs. Human Services has requests for new doors and work to their entrance. Commissioner Laufer discussed the possibility of Roosevelt Custer for ADA improvement grant funding for both the entrance and the bathrooms. The FSA door on the North side needs to be replaced, Viking Glass was requested for a quote. Mike Marion was planning to make improvements to the parking lot as well as the addition of a window in the FSA office. The projects were approved earlier, but the work has not been lined up. Mr. Nagel will work with Mike Marion and DFC Lumber. The basement windows of the Courthouse are needing to be replaced, a quote was received from DFC Lumber. Service contract expense line items were discussed, elevator, alarm, etc. contracts and agreements were moved into his department budget from the non-department budget. Carpet cleaning services were discussed and how to budget for them. Commissioner Larson discussed additional information for FSA/NRCS on what the actual needs are. The salary was discussed and how it was calculated and budgeted, and the need to remove the City portion, as the contract will be done in October 2024. Identification of actual needs should be added to the budget to show what each item and cost is.

ADAMS COUNTY INTERIM ROAD SUPERVISOR: Interim Road Superintendent Justin Blade along with Office Manager, Jean Dix, met with the Commission to discuss items in their department. Mr. Blade discussed a quote for the purchase of a used 2021 loader for the landfill from RDO in the amount of \$260k. Mr. Blade discussed utilizing the equipment at the landfill as well as other needs on the East side the Adams County. To split the payment, the interest would be set at 7%. \$113k remains in the budget for 2024. Commissioner Laufer discussed the request would overdraw the line item and with it only being June, it might be difficult. Ms. Dix discussed the road and bridge overall budget would not go over, as some of the accounts would not be fully expended. Discussion was had on issues with the tires on the loader, Mr. Blade thought cut resistant tires would be needed, estimated to cost \$15k. Last year about \$8k was spent on the current loader. Mr. Blade discussed his extensive research he has completed for upgrading the loader. Commissioner Larson moved to approve the purchase of the loader as presented, second by Commissioner Pagel. Commissioner Larson discussed the purchase being an important improvement for the County, as well as budgetary discussions by possibly expending the entire loader with this year's budget, and not financing utilizing reserve amounts. Commissioner Pagel discussed the possibility of contacting other vendors for quotes. Mr. Blade discussed already contacted several vendors, with no luck. The condition of the existing loader is usable but barely and discussed the increased potential of adding another unit. Commissioner Laufer discussed possibly utilizing the loader this year and budgeting for a new one next year. Commissioner Pagel questioned if the current unit will last until 2025. Commissioner Larson and Commissioner Pagel voted for the purchase, Commissioner Laufer voted against the purchase, by majority vote; motion carried. A quote from Erickson Heating and Air for an exhaust-heat system for the shop was reviewed, the work was estimated in 2023, but the project has not been completed. The \$39,500.00 quote is for all equipment and labor. Commissioner Laufer moved to approve paying the down payment of \$20k for the project, second by Commissioner Pagel, Commissioner Larson requested an amendment to the motion stating the completion date be August 1, 2024, Commissioner Pagel seconded the amendment, and by unanimous vote; motion carried. Mr. Blade and Ms. Dix have not yet completed their budgets, but plan to propose at a later meeting. The landfill budget had been completed; the tire line item was discussed. Resources from the completed landfill fencing were discussed as a potential for the Sheriff impound lot.

BROSZ ENGINEERING: Billy Doerr met with the Commission to update on upcoming projects, Black and Blue Road project was the first project discussed. Changes to the plan could be made, but if approved today, advertising could be started. The project funding will be on a reimbursement basis, and engineering could be included. The scope of the project is over and above the funding, so there will be increased out of pocket expense, but "in-kind" gravel and hauling could help with the costs. Commissioner Larson discussed the need to research documentation on ownership and agreements on the different segments of the road. Mr. Doerr recommended an approval to get started to possibly move forward with the project this year yet. Road Superintendent Justin Blade recommended moving forward sooner than later. Discussion was had on the resources added in the past will still be used as the base of the road. Commissioner Larson moved to approve the authorization for Brosz Engineering to continue with the project for work to start yet in 2024, second by Commissioner Pagel. Commissioner Larson discussed the need to start the project and if at a later time, other ideas could be discussed, such as mag-chloride options. Mr. Doerr discussed the options of the road department working to help with costs. Mr. Blade would like to

see the work done sooner to have knowledge of what maintenance will be needed for the upcoming winter months. After unanimous vote, motion carried. Mr. Blade will plan to provide the gravel, the contractor will be in charge of hauling, more than likely out of the Kilzer pit. The quantity needed will be for a 3-inch layer (7k yards) Mr. Blade was confident that the gravel resources the county has will suffice. Mr. Doerr continued with discussion on flex funding projects, as Bucyrus Twp was awarded funds and will need to work with the County, as the reimbursement will be through the County. Airport Rd chip seal project is also planned for this summer, the County previously approved paying their portion of the road. The two bridge replacement projects are still in delay with DOT. The Haynes bridge ownership was discussed, as Thomas Rusch discussed possibly wanting ownership. Mr. Rusch requested what he would need to have completed to have ownership of the bridge, the Commission would need to vacate the section line to close for any public access. Discussion was had on rules and ability of closing sections lines. State's Attorney Roseland discussed the Commission has authority to close any portion of a section line unless it denies access to one's property. Closing the section line would eliminate the County responsibility and ownership of the bridge. The grant application awarded was for the removal of the bridge, but Mr. Rusch was hoping to be allowed ownership for his own personal use. Mr. Roseland shared the legal avenue the County would need to have completed to give ownership to Mr. Rusch. Commissioner Laufer requested the timeline, Mr. Doerr informed the Commission time was available for research and continued discussion before making a decision. It was decided to wait until a later time for more discussion.

ADAMS COUNTY LIBRARIAN: Lanae Kristy met with the Commission to discuss her 2025 budget appropriations. Ms. Kristy discussed the overage in buildings and grounds was due to flooring that was to be paid in 2023 and not billed until 2024. Front Lighting needs, a new AC unit, and several painting projects are needed. She has added the building update projects into her 2025 budget request. Ms. Kristy will work with Mr. Nagel on obtaining quotes. Ms. Kristy discussed her need to increase her salary position, as well as rates for other workers, as newer hires will be coming in the future. Line items discussed were books, books as gifts, technology/office equipment and library memorial. Items that could be cut were also discussed. Audio books and children's books are always in need. Ms. Kristy also discussed a desktop and laptop purchase out of her 2024 budget. A quote from Smart Computers and Consulting was presented in the amount of \$2,875.52 for both pieces. Commissioner Pagel moved to approve the purchase of both the desktop and the laptop, second by Commissioner Larson, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS W/ CITY OF HETTINGER:

-Tax Director agreement changes made were dates, increases from 10-13% and included software, Commissioner Pagel moved to approve the new agreement, second by Commissioner Larson, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

-Auditor/Treasurer agreement with changes to dates and increases from 10-15%. Commissioner Larson requested to include items duties that were previously included in duties for public works. No action was taken.

ADAMS COUNTY SHERIFF: Jordan Fisher presented a letter discussing his 2025 budget. An increase of 8% in salaries was requested, and data was shared from other counties. Data was discussed on calls of services as well as data on calls from other counties. Sheriff Fisher was also requesting an increase in overtime and outside officers to help alleviate burn out for his deputies. An increase in the ammunition item was requested, to update current stock. Training, equipment, and travel line items were discussed. Commissioner Larson discussed what the right number of staff should be for Adams County. Sheriff Fisher discussed his current employment as himself and two deputies, so is down two. Discussion was had on community policing, which is a more active approach, and what Sheriff Fisher believes is important. Sheriff Fisher would like to see himself and 5 deputies would be a good number. Commissioner Larson discussed questions and statewide issues with law enforcement. Commissioner Larson discussed the dilemma of a "more is better" attitude needs to be discussed with the city as well. Discussion was had on the difficulty with budgeting due to the lack of employees and not having a "base salary" to work off. Sheriff Fisher discussed his budgeting was based off being fully staffed. Discussion was had on police equipment, what has been updated and what needed to be purchased. New taser guns and electronic data site information such as Cellebrite for case management transfer system. A new desktop is also needed, and funds to outfit new deputies when hired. New taser guns cost about \$7-8k to outfit the department. Livescan increase is to have body and dash cam and Cellebrite cloud services for data storage. State's Atty Aaron Roseland discussed his information on the Cellebrite services, as he learned in his last training, and the importance of utility and evidentiary side of the program. Several values with the software were shared by Mr. Roseland, and he explained the great asset Cellebrite would be for Adams County. Commissioner Larson discussed the increase for the Narcotics Task Force. Sheriff Fisher explained that the invoice is based off population, and the task force would be happy to come in and talk to Commission if requested. Search warrant assistance, and they offer specialty technical services that require special qualifications.

ADDITIONAL 4TH OF JULY DAY: Katie Roseland met with the Commission to discuss the potential of an additional day off for the 4th of July, as this year the holiday lands on a Thursday, so her request was to have off

Friday the 5th. Commissioner Larson discussed his concern of additional days off for holidays could be concerning for taxpayers, so he would not be in support of the request. No action was taken.

PLANNING AND ZONING-VARIANCE REQUEST - BRAD/CHARLOTTE LEE- Tax Director, Katie Roseland was present as well as both Brad and Charlotte Lee to discuss the variance request. The Request is to construct an addition onto their home, creating this need for a variance, due to the setback requirements. The construction of the new addition would be positioned approximately 88 feet from the center of the road. The required setback is 150 feet, but the home is already at 118 feet due to being grandfathered from the zoning requirements. Commissioner Larson moved to approve the application as recommended by the County Planning Commission, second by Commissioner Pagel. Commissioner Pagel explained that the road is not a maintained road and is more or less a section line used by Lee’s themselves; and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

BNSF DISCUSSION: State’s Attorney Aaron Roseland shared his concerns with crossings being blocked by the train, and the hardship it creates with backed up traffic and what the responsibility of BNSF holds. Emergency situations have and will continue to happen, but the County is limited in what can be done. Issues were discussed on Facebook, but no one ever called the Sheriff’s Department with the complaint.

2024 EQUALIZATION HEARING: This being the advertised date and time for the County equalization hearing, Commission Chair, Dustin Laufer, opened the hearing at 1:00 pm. City assessments were the first order of business, second was Organized Townships, and lastly was Unorganized Townships.

a. City of Bucyrus

- i. City Equalization Held on 4/3/2024
 - a) No one from the public attended
 - ii. \$126,927 AGRICULTURAL
 - iii. \$78,100 COMMERCIAL
 - iv. \$720,058 RESIDENTIAL
 - v. TOTAL TRUE & FULL VALUE \$925,085
 - vi. TAXABLE VALUE: \$42,653
 - vii. 10 PARCELS WITH A HOMESTEAD CREDIT \$7,589
 - viii. 0 PARCELS WITH A DISABLED VETERANS CREDIT
- No public present. Commissioner Pagel moved to approve the total true and full value of \$925,085 for Bucyrus City, second by Commissioner Larson, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

b. City of Haynes

- i. City Equalization Held on 4/4/2024
 - a) No one from the public attended.
 - ii. \$73,093 AGRICULTURAL
 - iii. \$315,200 COMMERCIAL
 - iv. \$712,519 RESIDENTIAL
 - v. TOTAL TRUE & FULL VALUE \$1,100,812
 - vi. TAXABLE VALUE: \$51,480
 - vii. 9 PARCELS WITH A HOMESTEAD CREDIT \$7,037 T.V
 - viii. 0 PARCELS WITH A DISABLED VETERANS CREDIT
- No public present. Commissioner Larson moved to approve the total true and full value of \$1,100,812 for Haynes City, second by Commissioner Pagel, Commissioner Larson questioned on information between ag and commercial; and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

c. City of Hettinger

- i. City Equalization Held on 4/10/2024
 - a) 2 Notice of Increases sent out; 1 of those (Thomas Rusch) appeared to appeal
- ii. \$0 AGRICULTURAL
- iii. \$18,440,802 COMMERCIAL
 - a) Courtside Village \$1,862,200, previously taxed at \$950,400 due to an affordable housing exemption that should never have been allowed after the change of ownership. Commissioner Larson made a motion to approve the value of \$1,862,200 thereby denying the appeal; second commissioner Pagel – motion approved.
- iv. \$50,922,110 RESIDENTIAL
- v. TOTAL TRUE & FULL VALUE \$69,362,912
- vi. TAXABLE VALUE: \$3,213,534
- vii. 117 PARCELS WITH A HOMESTEAD CREDIT \$318,960 T.V

12 PARCELS WITH A DISABLED VETERANS CREDIT \$41,008 T. V

No public present. Commissioner Pagel moved to approve the total true and full value of \$69,362,912 for Hettinger City, second by Commissioner Larson, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

d. City of Reeder

i. City Equalization Held on 4/8/2024

a) Owners of 1 parcel (Dennis Munro & Lee Hofland) asked to have their taxes reduced on the Braddock property—this is parcel 27755000

1. My office received these minutes on June 4, 2024, so no reassessment was done prior to today’s meeting.

a. My office cannot control the taxes levied, but could look at the valuation.

2. Donald Munro, Dennis’ brother, did mention this property to me earlier in the year & at that time I added to my file to get reassessed this summer.

3. No action was taken by Reeder City Council.

ii. \$93,522 AGRICULTURAL

iii. \$1,666,285 COMMERCIAL

iv. \$4,683,665 RESIDENTIAL

v. TOTAL TRUE & FULL VALUE \$6,443,472

vi. TAXABLE VALUE: \$298,749

vii. 29 PARCELS WITH A HOMESTEAD CREDIT \$39,286 T.V

6 PARCELS WITH A DISABLED VETERANS CREDIT \$6,072 T.V.

No public present. Commissioner Larson moved to approve the total true and full value of \$6,443,472 for Reeder City, second by Commissioner Pagel, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

Organized Townships: *NDCC 57-12-01—The second order of business must be the equalization of assessments of property assessed by township boards of equalization.*

a. Beisigl

i. Equalization meeting held on 4/23/2024

a) A quorum was not present.

ii. \$9,149,937 AGRICULTURAL

iii. \$0 COMMERCIAL

iv. \$0 RESIDENTIAL

v. TOTAL TRUE & FULL VALUE \$9,149,937

vi. TAXABLE VALUE: \$457,499

vii. 0 PARCELS WITH A HOMESTEAD CREDIT

viii. 0 PARCELS WITH A DISABLED VETERANS CREDIT:

No public present. State’s Attorney Aaron Roseland explained rights of the Commission when a quorum wasn’t had at the Township meeting. Commissioner Pagel moved to approve the total true and full value of \$9,149,937 for Beisigl Township second by Commissioner Larson, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

b. Bucyrus

i. Equalization meeting held on 4/25/2024

a) No one from the public attended

ii. \$9,151,289 AGRICULTURAL

iii. \$9,129,100 COMMERCIAL

iv. \$1,304,966 RESIDENTIAL

v. TOTAL TRUE & FULL VALUE \$19,585,355

vi. TAXABLE VALUE \$972,749

vii. 0 PARCELS WITH A HOMESTEAD CREDIT:

8 PARCELS WITH A DISABLED VETERANS CREDIT: \$18,630

Commissioner Larson stepped out of the meeting. No public was in attendance. Commissioner Pagel moved to approve the total true and full value of \$19,585,355 for Bucyrus Township second by Commissioner Laufer, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

c. Cedar

i. Equalization meeting held on 4/8/2024

a) No one from the public attended

ii. \$8,749,093 AGRICULTURAL

iii. \$50,300 COMMERCIAL

- iv. \$212,212 RESIDENTIAL
- v. TOTAL TRUE & FULL VALUE \$9,011,605
- vi. TAXABLE VALUE \$449,525
- vii. 0 PARCELS WITH A HOMESTEAD CREDIT:
0 PARCELS WITH A DISABLED VETERANS CREDIT:
No person was in attendance. Commissioner Pagel moved to approve the total true and full value of \$9,011,605 for Cedar Township second by Commissioner Laufer, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

d. Chandler

- i. Equalization meeting held on 4/23/2024
 - a) A quorum was not present.
- ii. \$8,770,503 AGRICULTURAL
- iii. \$0 COMMERCIAL
- iv. \$164,830 RESIDENTIAL
- v. TOTAL TRUE & FULL VALUE \$8,935,333
- vi. TAXABLE VALUE: \$445,950
- vii. 0 PARCELS WITH A HOMESTEAD CREDIT:
0 PARCELS WITH A DISABLED VETERANS CREDIT:
Commissioner Larson back in the hearing, no person from the public was in attendance. Commissioner Pagel moved to approve the total true and full value of \$8,935,333 for Chandler Township second by Commissioner Larson, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

e. Clermont

- i. Equalization meeting held on 4/23/2024
 - a) A quorum was not present.
- ii. \$7,839,101 AGRICULTURAL
- iii. \$60,700 COMMERCIAL
- iv. \$309,838 RESIDENTIAL
- v. TOTAL TRUE & FULL VALUE \$8,209,639
- vi. TAXABLE VALUE: \$ 408,936
- vii. 0 PARCELS WITH A HOMESTEAD CREDIT:
0 PARCELS WITH A DISABLED VETERANS CREDIT:
Noone was present from the public. Commissioner Pagel moved to approve the total true and full value of \$8,2099,639 for Clermont Township second by Commissioner Larson, and by unanimous vote; motion carried

f. Darling Springs

- i. Equalization meeting held on 4/8/2024
 - i. No one from the public present.
- ii. \$8,066,121 AGRICULTURAL
- iii. \$0 COMMERCIAL
- iv. \$411,704 RESIDENTIAL
- v. TOTAL TRUE & FULL VALUE \$8,477,825
- vi. TAXABLE VALUE: \$421,837
- vii. 0 PARCELS WITH A HOMESTEAD CREDIT:
0 PARCELS WITH A DISABLED VETERANS CREDIT:
Noone was present from the public. Commissioner Larson moved to approve the total true and full value of \$8,477,825 for Darling Springs Township second by Commissioner Pagel, and by unanimous vote; motion carried

g. Duck Creek

- i. Equalization meeting held on 4/23/2024
 - a) A quorum was not present.
- ii. \$9,315,472 AGRICULTURAL
- iii. \$665,000 COMMERCIAL
- iv. \$872,698 RESIDENTIAL
- v. TOTAL TRUE & FULL VALUE \$10,853,170
- vi. TAXABLE VALUE: \$538,298
- vii. 1 PARCEL WITH A HOMESTEAD CREDIT: \$847

0 PARCELS WITH A DISABLED VETERANS CREDIT:

Noone was present from the public. Commissioner Larson moved to approve the total true and full value of \$10,853,170 for Duck Creek Township second by Commissioner Pagel, and by unanimous vote; motion carried

h. Gilstrap

- i. Equalization meeting held on 4/9/2024
 - a) No minutes turned in, but not informed of any appeals.
- ii. \$9,141,550 AGRICULTURAL
- iii. \$0 COMMERCIAL
- iv. \$65,148 RESIDENTIAL
- v. TOTAL TRUE & FULL VALUE \$9,206,698
- vi. TAXABLE VALUE: \$460,019
- vii. 0 PARCELS WITH A HOMESTEAD CREDIT:

0 PARCELS WITH A DISABLED VETERANS CREDIT:

Noone from the public was in attendance. Commissioner Larson moved to approve the total true and full value of \$9,206,698 for Gilstrap Township second by Commissioner Pagel, and by unanimous vote; motion carried

i. Hettinger Township

- i. Equalization meeting held on 4/23/2024
 - a) A quorum was not present.
- ii. \$ 7,299,962 AGRICULTURAL
- iii. \$ 1,581,271 COMMERCIAL
- iv. \$ 9,593,424 RESIDENTIAL
- v. TOTAL TRUE & FULL VALUE \$18,474,657
- vi. TAXABLE VALUE: \$875,773
- vii. 14 PARCELS WITH A HOMESTEAD CREDIT: \$48,258

1 PARCEL WITH A DISABLED VETERANS CREDIT: \$4,562

Noone from the public was in attendance. Commissioner Pagel moved to approve the total true and full value of \$18,474,657 for Hettinger Township second by Commissioner Larson, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

j. Lightning Creek

- i. Equalization meeting held on 4/23/2024
 - a) A quorum was not present.
- ii. \$ 8,924,656 AGRICULTURAL
- iii. \$ 0 COMMERCIAL
- iv. \$ 101,124 RESIDENTIAL
- v. TOTAL TRUE & FULL VALUE \$9,025,780
- vi. TAXABLE VALUE: \$450,784
- vii. 0 PARCELS WITH A HOMESTEAD CREDIT:

0 PARCELS WITH A DISABLED VETERANS CREDIT:

Noone was present from the public. Commissioner Larson moved to approve the total true and full value of \$9,025,780 for Lightning Creek Township second by Commissioner Pagel, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

k. Maine

- i. Equalization meeting was held on 4/8/2024
 - a) No appeals to values.
- ii. \$ 8,363,477 AGRICULTURAL
- iii. \$ 149,000 COMMERCIAL
- iv. \$ 0 RESIDENTIAL
- v. TOTAL TRUE & FULL VALUE \$8,512,477
- vi. TAXABLE VALUE: 425,632
- vii. 0 PARCELS WITH A HOMESTEAD CREDIT:

0 PARCELS WITH A DISABLED VETERANS CREDIT:

Noone was present from the public. Commissioner Pagel moved to approve the total true and full value of \$8,512,477 for Maine Township second by Commissioner Larson, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

i. Orange

- i. Equalization meeting was held on 4/23/2024
 - a) A quorum was not present.
 - ii. \$ 8,469,056 AGRICULTURAL
 - iii. \$ 0 COMMERCIAL
 - iv. \$ 391,246 RESIDENTIAL
 - v. TOTAL TRUE & FULL VALUE \$8,860,302
 - vi. TAXABLE VALUE: \$434,869
 - vii. 2 PARCELS WITH A HOMESTEAD CREDIT: \$4,599
1 PARCEL WITH A DISABLED VETERANS CREDIT: \$1,594
- Noone was present from the public. Commissioner Pagel moved to approve the total true and full value of \$8,860,302 for Orange Township second by Commissioner Larson, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

m. Reeder Township

- i. Equalization meeting was held on 4/23/2024
 - a) A quorum was not present.
 - ii. \$ 7,894,374 AGRICULTURAL
 - iii. \$ 131,100 COMMERCIAL
 - iv. \$ 364,216 RESIDENTIAL
 - v. TOTAL TRUE & FULL VALUE \$8,389,690
 - vi. TAXABLE VALUE \$417,669
 - vii. 0 PARCELS WITH A HOMESTEAD CREDIT:
0 PARCELS WITH A DISABLED VETERANS CREDIT:
- Noone was present from the public. Commissioner Pagel moved to approve the total true and full value of \$8,389,690 for Reeder Township second by Commissioner Larson, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

n. Scott

- i. Equalization meeting held on 4/23/2024
 - a) No one from the public present.
 - ii. \$ 8,223,053 AGRICULTURAL
 - iii. \$ 2,453,592 COMMERCIAL
 - iv. \$ 3,770,107 RESIDENTIAL
 - v. TOTAL TRUE & FULL VALUE \$14,446,752
 - vi. TAXABLE VALUE: \$703,499
 - vii. 12 PARCELS WITH A HOMESTEAD CREDIT: \$26,930
7 PARCELS WITH A DISABLED VETERANS CREDIT: \$13,294
- Noone was present from the public. Commissioner Larson moved to approve the total true and full value of \$14,446,752 for Scott Township second by Commissioner Pagel, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

o. South Fork

- i. Equalization meeting held on 4/23/2024
 - a) A quorum was not present.
 - ii. \$ 9,709,445 AGRICULTURAL
 - iii. \$ 3,500 COMMERCIAL
 - iv. \$ 0 RESIDENTIAL
 - v. TOTAL TRUE & FULL VALUE \$9,712,945
 - vi. TAXABLE VALUE: \$485,650
 - vii. 0 PARCELS WITH A HOMESTEAD CREDIT:
0 PARCELS WITH A DISABLED VETERANS CREDIT:
- Noone was present from the public. Commissioner Pagel moved to approve the total true and full value of \$9,712,945 for South Fork Township second by Commissioner Larson, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

p. Taylor Butte

- i. Equalization meeting held on 4/23/2024
 - a) A quorum was not present.
- ii. \$ 8,670,888 AGRICULTURAL
- iii. \$ 11,800 COMMERCIAL

- iv. \$ 57,876 RESIDENTIAL
- v. TOTAL TRUE & FULL VALUE \$8,740,564
- vi. TAXABLE VALUE: \$436,744
- vii. 0 PARCELS WITH A HOMESTEAD CREDIT:
0 PARCELS WITH A DISABLED VETERANS CREDIT:
No one was present from the public. Commissioner Pagel moved to approve the total true and full value of \$8,740,564 for Taylor Butte Township second by Commissioner Larson, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

q. Wolf Butte

- i. Equalization Meeting held on 4/9/2024
 - a) No appeals to valuations.
- ii. \$ 9,151,098 AGRICULTURAL
- iii. \$ 123,600 COMMERCIAL
- iv. \$ 383,932 RESIDENTIAL
- v. TOTAL TRUE & FULL VALUE \$9,658,630
- vi. TAXABLE VALUE: \$481,019
- vii. 6 PARCELS WITH A HOMESTEAD CREDIT: \$10,282
- viii. 0 PARCELS WITH A DISABLED VETERANS CREDIT:
No one was present from the public. Commissioner Larson moved to approve the total true and full value of \$9,658,630 for Wolf Butte Township second by Commissioner Pagel, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

Unorganized Townships: 57-12-02. Duties of board as to assessments in unorganized territory. The members of the board of county commissioners also shall meet as a board of equalization as respects all assessments made in assessment districts not embraced in a city or organized township and shall perform the duties prescribed for a township board of equalization as respects unorganized territory, and such board must be regarded as the local board of equalization for such territory.

a. Argonne

- i. \$ 9,558,094 AGRICULTURAL
- ii. \$ 34,000 COMMERCIAL
- iii. \$ 77,380 RESIDENTIAL
- iv. TOTAL TRUE & FULL VALUE \$9,669,474
- v. TAXABLE VALUE \$483,084
0 PARCELS WITH A HOMESTEAD CREDIT:
Noone was present from the public. Commissioner Pagel moved to approve the total true and full value of \$9,669,474 for Argonne Township second by Commissioner Larson, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

b. Cedar Butte

- i. \$ 8,783,154 AGRICULTURAL
- ii. \$ 3,200 COMMERCIAL
- iii. \$ 399,938 RESIDENTIAL
- iv. TOTAL TRUE & FULL VALUE \$9,186,292
- v. TAXABLE VALUE \$457,322
- vi. 0 PARCELS WITH A HOMESTEAD CREDIT:
0 PARCELS WITH A DISABLED VETERANS CREDIT:
Noone was present from the public. Commissioner Larson moved to approve the total true and full value of \$9,186,292 for Cedar Butte Township second by Commissioner Pagel, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

c. Dakota

- i. \$ 6,943,874 AGRICULTURAL
- ii. \$ 11,800 COMMERCIAL
- iii. \$ 163,664 RESIDENTIAL
- iv. TOTAL TRUE & FULL VALUE \$7,119,338
- v. TAXABLE VALUE \$355,157
- vi. 0 PARCELS WITH A HOMESTEAD CREDIT:
0 PARCELS WITH A DISABLED VETERANS CREDIT:
Noone was present from the public. Commissioner Larson moved to approve the total true and full value of \$7,119,338 for Dakota Township second by Commissioner Pagel, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

d. Holden

- i. \$ 7,677,280 AGRICULTURAL
- ii. \$ 0 COMMERCIAL
- iii. \$ 611,302 RESIDENTIAL
- iv. TOTAL TRUE & FULL VALUE \$8,288,582
- v. TAXABLE VALUE \$411,378
- vi. 0 PARCELS WITH A HOMESTEAD CREDIT:
0 PARCELS WITH A DISABLED VETERANS CREDIT:
Noone was present from the public. Commissioner Larson moved to approve the total true and full value of \$8,288,582 for Holden Township second by Commissioner Pagel, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

e. Holt

- i. \$ 8,718,716 AGRICULTURAL
- ii. \$ 184,500 COMMERCIAL
- iii. \$ 1,175,797 RESIDENTIAL
- iv. TOTAL TRUE & FULL VALUE \$10,079,013
- v. TAXABLE VALUE \$495,102
- vi. 1 PARCEL WITH A HOMESTEAD CREDIT: \$2,970
0 PARCELS WITH A DISABLED VETERANS CREDIT:
No one was present from the public. Commissioner Pagel moved to approve the total true and full value of 10,079,013 for Holt Township second by Commissioner Larson, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

f. Jordan

- i. \$ 8,652,050 AGRICULTURAL
- ii. \$ 0 COMMERCIAL
- iii. \$ 0 RESIDENTIAL
- iv. TOTAL TRUE & FULL VALUE \$8,652,050
- v. TAXABLE VALUE \$432,606
- vi. 0 PARCELS WITH A HOMESTEAD CREDIT:
0 PARCELS WITH A DISABLED VETERANS CREDIT:
Noone was present from the public. Commissioner Larson moved to approve the total true and full value of \$8,652,050 for Jordan Township second by Commissioner Pagel, and by unanimous vote; motion carried

g. Kansas City

- i. \$ 8,607,247 AGRICULTURAL
- ii. \$ 10,000 COMMERCIAL
- iii. \$ 310,156 RESIDENTIAL
- iv. TOTAL TRUE & FULL VALUE \$8,927,403
- v. TAXABLE VALUE \$444,826
- vi. 3 PARCELS WITH A HOMESTEAD CREDIT: \$4,500
0 PARCELS WITH A DISABLED VETERANS CREDIT:
Noone was present from the public. Commissioner Pagel moved to approve the total true and full value of \$8,927,403 for Kansas City Township second by Commissioner Larson, and by unanimous vote; motion carried

h. Lemmon

- i. \$ 10,366,161 AGRICULTURAL
- ii. \$ 0 COMMERCIAL
- iii. \$ 184,758 RESIDENTIAL
- iv. TOTAL TRUE & FULL VALUE \$10,550,919
- v. TAXABLE VALUE \$526,624
- vi. 0 PARCELS WITH A HOMESTEAD CREDIT:
0 PARCELS WITH A DISABLED VETERANS CREDIT:
Noone was present from the public. Commissioner Pagel moved to approve the total true and full value of \$10,550,919 for Lemmon Township second by Commissioner Larson, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

i. North Lemmon

- i. \$ 7,936,778 AGRICULTURAL
- ii. \$ 405,900 COMMERCIAL
- iii. \$ 928,666 RESIDENTIAL
- iv. TOTAL TRUE & FULL VALUE \$9,271,344
- v. TAXABLE VALUE \$458,923
- vi. 22 PARCELS WITH A HOMESTEAD CREDIT: \$6,850
0 PARCELS WITH A DISABLED VETERANS CREDIT:
Noone was present from the public. Commissioner Larson moved to approve the total true and full value of \$9,271,344 for North Lemmon Township second by Commissioner Pagel, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

j. Spring Butte

- i. \$ 7,571,539 AGRICULTURAL
- ii. \$ 4,500 COMMERCIAL
- iii. \$ 98,686 RESIDENTIAL
- iv. TOTAL TRUE & FULL VALUE \$7,674,725
- v. TAXABLE VALUE \$380,050
- vi. 1 PARCELS WITH A HOMESTEAD CREDIT: \$3,196
0 PARCELS WITH A DISABLED VETERANS CREDIT:
Noone was present from the public. Commissioner Pagel moved to approve the total true and full value of \$7,674,725 for Spring Butte Township second by Commissioner Larson, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

k. Whetstone

- i. \$ 8,039,462 AGRICULTURAL
- ii. \$ 0 COMMERCIAL
- iii. \$ 0 RESIDENTIAL
- iv. TOTAL TRUE & FULL VALUE \$8,039,462
- v. TAXABLE VALUE \$401,985
- vi. 0 PARCELS WITH A HOMESTEAD CREDIT:
0 PARCELS WITH A DISABLED VETERANS CREDIT:
Noone was present from the public. Commissioner Pagel moved to approve the total true and full value of \$8,039,462 for Whetstone Township second by Commissioner Larson, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

County Values

- a) \$ 240,036,972 AGRICULTURAL
 - b) \$ 35,556,350 COMMERCIAL
 - c) \$ 78,992,020 RESIDENTIAL
 - d) TOTAL TRUE & FULL VALUE \$354,585,342
 - e) TAXABLE VALUE \$17,332,284
- Commissioner Pagel moved to approve the tolerance levels presented by Adams County Tax Director Katie Roseland, second by Commissioner Larson, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

Exemptions & Credits

Tolerance Levels

- a) Agricultural: 95%
- b) Commercial: 97.9% *
- c) Residential: 92.0

Hearing was closed at 1:48 pm

BNSF MEETING W/COUNTY AND CITY: Three Commissioners, and Hettinger City Council representatives (James Lindquist, Michele Gaylord and Suzie Reuther) Engineer Billy Doerr, Sheriff Fisher, Road Superintendent Justin Blade, States Attorney Aaron Roseland were all present. 5 BNSF representatives were in attendance (grant, public affairs, public projects, train master, BNSF superintendent) Ms. McBeth discussed infrastructure challenges BNSF and the City of Hettinger have working together along with possible solutions. Data and background information was shared from BNSF along with a power point, including operation and information on the train and maintenance crews, some living in Hettinger. Commissioner Larson requested any information on the economic benefit the city receives from BNSF. Ms. McBeth discussed benefit amounts in employees being stationed and expending money here, approximately 100 different BNSF employees come in and out of Hettinger. State's Attorney

Aaron Roseland discussed the City and County are all in favor of operations with BNSF, the only issue is when the crossings are blocked during an emergency. The BNSF reps explained that is why they were here was to discuss these issues. The BNSF representative discussed infrastructure funds that are now available for projects, but the railroad themselves are not able to apply. BNSF would consider a partnership to spend more effort in helping with infrastructure. BNSF will cover expenses in applying for grant funding if a project is mutually agreed upon and will also help with the local match. BNSF would like to work together to come up with a plan/project that would be beneficial to everyone. Rail crossing elimination grant will be coming out soon, Federal IJA funding, and other infrastructure grants could be applied for to help with funding, if a project could be mutually agreed upon. Several ideas were discussed, pedestrian crossing on South Main Street, possibly building a crossing up and over the tracks. Two crossing closures were discussed, Mirror Lake Road and Country Club Rd with addition of turnarounds, or adding connectivity by adding a new road from 3rd street to Country Club Rd. The thought process was to have the ability to leave 3rd Street or Country Club Road open, so both are not closed at the same time. Commissioner Laufer discussed Highway 8 is always going to be the main route. Commissioner Larson discussed train length as well as if in the future they will be even longer. Commissioner Pagel discussed keeping Highway 8 open would be most important, State's Attorney Roseland agreed. Discussion was had on operations being conducted now and what they would look like with changes. Questions derived from one plan on why the current operations are not able to be followed even without great changes, as crossings are either blocked or they are closed. Ms. McBeth discussed possibly starting with a planning grant on a road separation for Highway 8. Mayor Lindquist discussed needs on both the emergency response as well as community needs. Discussion was had on going forward with the plan without closing two crossings, but just closing one crossing, BNSF thought they would have to visit internally, but did think it would rate lower when requesting grant funding. Commissioner Larson discussed that funding to complete work is still taxpayer money and needs to be considered.

Commissioner Larson left the meeting.

Discussion continued leaving crossings open, complaints and liability issues open for BNSF. The Commission was in favor of going forward with being the applicant if BNSF would consider completing the necessary grant work. The plan going forward would be having smaller group meetings, contact points could be Engineer Billy Doerr, Auditor Krista Faller, Commission Chair Dustin Laufer, and Mayor James Lindquist. Hettinger City Council and the Adams County Commission will all support moving forward with a plan. Mayor Lindquist discussed the proposed plan, State's Attorney Roseland discussed concerns with the plan adding a connecting road, and if the project might be getting larger that it might be just as expensive as completing a grade separation plan. BNSF explained that an application can be started even without a complete project scope. BNSF will look into the options and reach out to the Auditor to find dates for the next meeting.

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

#91972 Melling & Roseland Law \$185.32; #91973 Aaron Roseland \$754.73; #91974 Matthew Bender & Co., Inc \$81.60; #91975 Dakota Dust-Tex Inc. \$290.00; #91976 Rolling Plains Sprinklers \$110.00; #91977 C & H Cleaning \$772.50; #91978 Election Systems & Software \$6,125.92; #91979 Consolidated Communications \$115.00; #91980 Marco Technologies \$322.83; #91981 Information Technology Dept \$840.55; #91982 Southwest Multi-County Correction Center \$31.66; #91983 Central Dakota Frontier Cooperative \$1,828.09; #91984 FIBT Att: Credit Dept \$2,061.19; #91985 Jonathan Piehl \$144.00; #91986 Matthew Cude \$207.97; #91987 AT & T Mobility \$490.69; #91988 B & C Plumbing & Heating \$190.50; #91989 Graphic Attic \$376.42; #91990 Samantha Smith \$376.42; #91991 Cenex Fleet Fueling \$1,545.02; #91992 Grafix Shoppe \$1,218.00; #91993 Office of Attorney General – 1250 \$160.00; #19194 Pharmchem Inc. \$63.90; #91995 Adams County Treasurer \$75.00; #91996 Eden K9 Consulting & Training Corp. \$174.00; #91997 Eido Printing \$64.00; #91998 Southwest Water Authority \$76.96; #91999 RT Vision \$1,500.00; #92000 Linde Gas & Equipment Inc \$1,133.10; #92001 Erickson Heating & Air \$20,000.00; #92002 Laufer Vermeer \$4,634.37; #92003 Fitterer Oil Co. \$4,171.60; #92004 Butler Machinery Co. \$645.00; #92005 RDO Equipment Co. \$629.97; #92006 Frank Fettig \$219.46; #92007 Aspen Lenning \$578.88; #92008 Hettinger Public School \$100.00; #92009 Lanae Kristy \$206.02; #92010 Rusty's Burgers & Ice Cream \$130.00; #92011 Baker & Taylor \$80.09; #92012 Barnes & Noble Booksellers \$1,109.29; #92013 Center Point Publishing \$189.96; #92014 Southwest Grain \$573.65; #92015 Adams County Treasurer \$3,248.92; #92016 Adams County Treasurer \$1,010.00; #92017 Brosz Engineering, Inc \$5,483.75; #92018 Consolidated Communications \$1,357.10; #92019 Current Connection \$467.21; #92020 Dacotah Paper Co. \$104.90; #92021 Hettinger City \$261.24; #92022 J.P. Morgan Chase Bank \$88.85; #92023 Kennedy's Fresh Foods \$242.12; #92024 Montana Dakota Utilities \$2,564.89; #92025 ND State Treasurer \$1,662.90; #92026 Runnings Supply, Inc \$1,492.14; #92027 Slope Electric Cooperative \$174.04; #92028 Verizon Wireless \$84.96; May Payroll \$74,463.45

EMERGENCY MANAGER POSITION: one application has been handed in, the Auditor was instructed to put the application in the Commission tablet. Commissioner Laufer will work on setting up an interview and work with the State's Attorney on an updated employment contract to have ready for when a decision is made.

PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACT ADENDUM: an addendum was drafted by State’s Attorney Roseland to update the labor rate to \$45 per hour and to receive the gift of the City snowblower. Commissioner Pagel moved to approve the addendum to the current contract, second by Commissioner Laufer, and by unanimous vote; motion carried.

Commissioner Pagel moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Chairman Laufer declared the meeting adjourned at 4:14 pm.

Dustin Laufer, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

Krista Faller,
Adams County Auditor/Treasurer