

REGULAR MEETING OF HETTINGER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
August 10, 2022

Chairman Tom Geerts called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with commissioners Todd Lutz and Angela Carlson in attendance. Also, in attendance was Elliott Finck, Road Supervisor.

Carlson motioned to approve the previous minutes as presented for the July 27<sup>th</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup> meetings, seconded by Lutz. All voting aye.

Carlson motioned to approve agenda with a couple of additions regarding the County Park Board and a new Road and Bridge employee, seconded by Lutz. All voting aye.

Commissioners reported on their other boards: Carlson noted that the SWRCCC will be going up on their jail costs to \$150/day vs the current \$125/day. Their insurance went up over 12%. This increase in the jail per day costs should help with the extra billing they do at the end of the year. An Economic Recovery Stipend will be discussed for the Social Service workers. She also reported that she went to a SW REAP meeting that was held in Medora. There is a possibility of support for a daycare center to be built in the county. Lutz reported that the Weed Board has been having problems with a farmer not taking care of noxious weeds on his property. Lutz and Geerts also reported that the JDA is possibly going to support a new daycare facility in Mott.

Discussion was held on some bills. They will be discussed with the office heads, when they come to the meeting.

Heidi Marxen, County Agent, met with the board to give her extension report. She was recently at the State Fair and mentioned that Hettinger County submitted thirty-five exhibits this year. She suggested that the measure for the continued levy for the Extension Office be on the November General Election ballot.

Sheriff Warner came in to give her monthly report. Josh Bullinger, representing the SW Drug Task Force, also attended. He gave a presentation of what the Task Force does, what drugs they are seeing, and that North Dakota is a "destination" state for drugs.

Elliott Finck, Road Supervisor, reported on his department. He had interviews for the new road crew position that opened due to Kevin Miller's retirement. Lutz made the motion to hire Tayler Zentner, seconded by Carlson. All voting aye.

Zentner will start August 29<sup>th</sup>. Finck also mentioned that the Kouba Bridge got accepted into the DOT Bridge Program, which will be a large amount of savings to the county. **It's a program that 100% is funded, but there may be some 80/20 funding that may have to be used.**

Billy Doerr, Brosz Engineering, met with the board to update them on the progress on the Bentley Bridge.

The bills that had questions, had been answered and Carlson made a motion to approve the bills as presented for the following: General \$25,824.58; R&B 34,070.87; 911 \$11,436.87; 24/7 312.55; County Agent \$7,743.21; Preservation \$1,385.38; Sheriff \$6,194.83; Sheriff Drug Canine Fund \$15,500.00. The bill approval was seconded by Lutz. All voting aye.

Carlson motioned to cancel Check #13725, as it was written in error, seconded by Lutz. All voting aye.

Sondra Bullinger, Human Resources, came into the meeting to discuss the Policy Manual. Carlson motioned to accept the Policy Manual with the **exclusion of Juneteenth as a paid holiday for employees**, seconded by Lutz. All voting aye.

The commissioners will review the use of the ARPA funds at the next meeting and also will invite Melanie Bauer-Dukart of the USDA to come to the next meeting to discuss the 504 evaluation of the courthouse that was done a couple of years back.

Polling locations were set for the General Election. Carlson made the motion to have a polling location in all three cities, of New England, Regent and Mott, seconded by Lutz. All voting aye.

Auditor mentioned that the election workers have not had an increase in pay for quite a few years. Carlson motioned to increase the pay for the election workers to \$15.00/hour, seconded by Lutz. All voting aye.

The Preliminary Budget was presented. Carlson motioned to approve the preliminary budget, seconded by Lutz. All voting aye.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

ATTEST \_\_\_\_\_  
Jeri G. Schmidt, AUDITOR

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Tom Geerts, CHAIRMAN