

SPECIAL MEETING OF HETTINGER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
December 21, 2022

Chairman Tom Geerts called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with commissioners Todd Lutz and Devan Laufer in attendance as well as Elliott Finck, Road Supervisor.

With the weather conditions to worsen as the day goes on today, Finck called the engineering firms that were to interview for the Kouba Bridge preliminary engineering this afternoon and will schedule for a different date next week.

Laufer made the motion to approve the December 7th minutes, seconded by Lutz. All in favor, motion carried.

Lutz made the motion to approve the bills as presented for the following: General \$1,832.57; Highway Dept. \$796.04; R&B \$5,558.02; Emergency 911 \$25.00; Sheriff Drug Canine Fund \$4.98; County Agent \$144.00; Sheriff \$2,212.23; 24/7 Program \$150.00. Seconded by Laufer. All in favor, motion carried.

Robin Ulrich, Deputy Clerk of Court, showed the request of \$29,761.29 that she would like to submit for the courtroom grant, in which the county would be responsible for 25% of the grant if approved. The grant includes courtroom ceiling, computer, flags and an air conditioner/heating unit for the deliberation room. Lutz motioned to apply for the grant, seconded by Laufer. All in favor, motion carried.

Tracy Kruger, Emergency Manager, asked that the commissioners rescind the burn ban for 2022. Laufer made the motion to approve the rescind of the burn ban, seconded by Lutz. Kruger also presented the board with the letter of participation for the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan must be updated every few years to enable the county to apply for FEMA funding should the need arise for it. Laufer motioned to sign the letter of participation, seconded by Lutz. All in favor, motion carried.

Lutz made the motion to approve Cathy Ebert, Tax Director, to get Adobe Pro through the NRG Tech Services for five dollars/month, seconded by Laufer. All in favor, motion carried.

County Agent, Heidi Marxen, met with the board and gave her monthly report.

Chief Deputy Kyle Christenson gave the monthly sheriff's report. Christenson mentioned that while the Sheriff's office is all cleared out for repair in her office, it might be a right time to consider the new flooring. A quote for new flooring was received, Laufer motioned to have the new flooring installed and pay in this current year, seconded by Lutz. All in favor, motion carried.

Jeri Schmidt, County Auditor/Treasurer, wanted to meet with the board to inform them of some grants that have been applied for and have received. We have received our American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and have had a few items that fit into the required uses. Laufer motioned and Lutz seconded the motion to form a committee to plan out the accepted spending for these funds and bring back to the commissioners for approval. Laufer will sit on the committee and will request the other office heads to be on this committee also. Schmidt mentioned that the county has received some funding from the National Opioid Settlement and she also has submitted for the federal funding offered through the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF) in which is an added section of the ARPA funding.

Schmidt also mentioned that KONE, our company that works with our courthouse elevator, submitted a proposal to modernize the elevator. This will be looked at with the ARPA committee.

Lutz motioned to sign the gravel contract with Dan and Tammy Koppinger, seconded by Laufer. All in favor, motion carried.

Elder Care, which offers the nutrition program for seniors age 60 and over, has requested funding due to their budget shortfall this year. Laufer motioned to approve their request, seconded by Lutz. All in favor, motion carried.

Elliott Finck, Road Supervisor, gave his report. He will be setting up a date in February to accept blade bids. He reviewed with the board the snow policies. Discussion was held on county bridge applications, NDDOT traffic counts and tractor quotes.

Re-organization of the commissioners took place. Geerts motioned for Lutz to become the Chairman, seconded by Laufer. All in favor, motion carried. Lutz motioned for Laufer to be Vice-Chair, seconded by Geerts. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

ATTEST _____

Jeri G. Schmidt, AUDITOR

Tom Geerts, CHAIRMAN