

REGULAR MEETING OF HETTINGER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
January 11, 2023

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

Laufer motioned to approve the minutes from the December 21, 28 and 29, seconded by Geerts. All in favor, motion carried.

Geerts motioned to approve the agenda with an addition of appointment to board on SW REAP when discussed later, motion seconded by Laufer. All in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Reports: Laufer attended the fairboard meeting and this board is currently booking bands for the fair. They are going to try to do something in New England this year and the National Guard is having an upcoming event at the fairgrounds and ask if the county road crew would be able to move snow. Finck mentioned he could help, but would like to work with the city workers on this also. Laufer also mentioned he attended the Weed Control Association Annual Convention. Geerts and Lutz reported that JDA will need re-appointment of board members Donald Schaible, Walter Frank, and Art Krebs. Motion was made by Geerts and seconded by Laufer to re-appoint these three to another three year term. There was one member on the JDA board that resigned from the board, so Director Myra Klein is looking to fill that position. All in favor, motion carried.

Geerts motioned to appoint Myra Klein to the SW REAP board, seconded by Laufer. All in favor, motion carried.

Geerts made a motion to approve the bills as presented for the following: General \$70,594.36; R&B \$87,570.65; County Agent \$851.95; Weed Control \$605.06; Sheriff \$15,819.60 and also the amount of \$690.49 for the AT&T Mobility invoice, seconded by Laufer. Roll Call vote, all voted aye. Motion carried.

Laufer motioned to transfer \$150,000 out of the Road & Bridge Fund into the Highway Distribution Fund, seconded by Geerts. Roll Call vote, all voted aye. Motion carried.

Geerts motioned to void check #14073 in the amount of \$400 and reissue in the same amount due to lost check, seconded Laufer. Roll Call vote, all voted aye. Motion carried.

A detailed list of funds expended by check is available for public inspection anytime during regular business hours at the Hettinger County Auditor's Office.

Laufer made the motion to sign the Certification of Local Match for Bridge Inspection/Load Rating, seconded by Geerts. Cathy Ebert, Tax Director, appeared before the board. She mentioned she will be attending the NDAAO upcoming winter workshop. She shared the Office of State Tax Commissioner Agricultural Value per Acre 2023 Assessment. Hettinger County's Agricultural Land increased from the average estimated amount of \$485/acre to \$518.92/acre.

Heidi Marxen, County Agent, gave her extension office monthly report.

Sylvia Gion, Recorder/Clerk of Court, appeared before the commissioners to inform them of her upcoming retirement, which will be at the end of May. She will be appointing Robin Ulrich to her position and will be looking to hire and appoint someone to the position of Deputy Recorder/Clerk of Court.

Myra Klein, JDA Director, appeared to give her Director's report.

Sheriff Sarah Warner gave the monthly sheriff's report.

Tracy Kruger, Emergency Manager, appeared to update the board of the county's new website, which she has scheduled to be up by the end of the month. She discussed the meaning of declaring a snow emergency should the commissioners need to do so.

Auditor Schmidt presented the 2022 Budget Amendments and end of year reports for commissioner review. There were three departments that needed to be amended, the General for \$5,600, Emergency 911 for \$5,549.73 and in Road and Bridge for \$170,667.65. Motion by Geerts, seconded by Laufer, to amend the budget as presented. Roll Call vote, all voted aye. Motion carried.

Elliott Finck, Road Supervisor, gave his report. Billy Doerr, Brosz Engineering, appeared during this time. A listing of bridges that need work by NDDOT inspections, Finck, and Doerr were presented to the board. This list will be given to the NDDOT and the NDDOT will choose the bridge/s that may be able to get funding. A change order #1 for the Bentley was given to be board for consideration. This change has to do with the embankment material of the road to the bridge by using the remaining common excavation from the existing roadway to finish building the new roadway to the bridge, while still maintaining traffic. Geerts motioned to approve Change Order #1, seconded by Laufer. All in favor, motion carried.

Finck mentioned to commissioners that he's an exempt employee, and is salaried wages, but in case of having to work overtime when he has to come in on the weekends for instances, he doesn't get any over-time pay. Laufer motioned that when Finck works on weekends and holidays, he be paid at time and a half, if all approved through Human Resources, seconded by Geerts. All in favor, motion carried.

A window needs to fixed in the Social Service office. Laufer made the motion to repair window, seconded by Geerts. All in favor, motion carried.

Commissioners reviewed the Pledge of Securities received by the Commercial Bank of Mott.

We received the purchase agreement to replace our boiler through H.A. Thompson, but insurance hasn't been to look at the boiler yet. With the need of the boiler to be purchased, Geerts motioned to sign the purchase agreement with H.A. Thompson after the insurance company tells us it's OK to order, seconded by Laufer. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

ATTEST

Jeri G. Schmidt, AUDITOR

Todd Lutz, CHAIRMAN