

REGULAR MEETING OF HETTINGER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

June 7, 2023

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

Geerts motioned to approve the minutes from May 10th, seconded by Laufer. All in favor, motion carried.

Geerts motioned to approve the agenda, motion seconded by Laufer. All in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Reports: Geerts and Lutz reported they are continuing their look for a JDA Director. Laufer reported that the Chemical Dispersal went well and that the Fair Association has everything lined up for the county fair next month.

Laufer made a motion to approve the following vouchers with Geerts seconding the motion. Roll Call vote, all voted aye. Motion carried.

14685 BUTLER MACHINERY CO. \$2,348.34: 14686 CARDINAL INSURANCE AGENCY \$8,261.00:14687 CATHY EBERT \$256.12:14688 CITY OF MOTT \$211.05:14689 CONSOLIDATED \$1,202.90: 14690 COREY WARNER \$3,348.15:14691 DAKOTA WEST INSPECTION SERVICES \$3,096.90: 14692 DEERE CREDIT, INC. \$5,500.00:14693 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION \$127,762.85:14694 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & RAPE CRISIS CENTER \$3,500.00: 14695 EIDO PRINTING \$276.49: 14696 FIRESIDE OFFICE PRODUCTS INC \$97.35: 14697 FITTERER OIL \$31,137.17: 14698 FRIEZE AUTO PARTS, INC. \$217.40: 14699 HEIDI MARXEN \$245.29: 14700 HI-ACRES \$90.00: 14701 MARCO \$172.01: 14702 MOTT EQUITY EXCHANGE \$684.16: 14703 OIEN GROCERY \$47.66: 14704 PUMP SYSTEMS \$66.26:14705 QUILL CORPORATION \$174.90: 14706 RDO EQUIPMENT CO \$1,639.13:14707 ROBIN ULRICH \$631.57: 14708 ROOSEVELT-CUSTER REGIONAL COUNCIL \$7,350.00:14709 SIDWELL \$162.50: 14710 SLOPE ELECTRIC COOP \$128.25: 14711 SOUTHWEST DIESEL & REPAIR \$1,073.26: 14712 SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY \$56.61: 14713 STELTER REPAIR INC \$149.06: 14714 SUNRISE YOUTH BUREAU \$2,500.00: 14715 SW MULTI-CO. CORRECTION CENTER \$7,500.00: 14716 TODD LUTZ \$27.51: 14717 TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC. \$15,841.58: 14718 U.S. POSTAL SERVICE \$1,000.00: 14719 VANGUARD APPRAISALS, INC. \$1,050.00: 14720 VISA \$1,713.31: 14721 AXON ENTERPRISE, INC. \$2,010.00: 14722 IDEMIA IDENTITY & SECURITY USA LLC \$5,265.00: 14723 OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL \$310.00: 14724 REGENT GARAGE \$401.87: 14725 TOP LINE ENGINE & REPAIR \$1,523.09: 14726 VISA \$199.33: 14727 WOLF BODY & GLASS \$470.69: 14728 CENEX FLEET FUELING \$1,224.60: 14729 MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES \$1,362.50: 14730 WILBUR-ELLIS CO \$32,932.90: 14731 BLACK HILLS MONUMENT \$7,500.00:

By Funds: General Fund \$64,749.86; Road & Bridge \$170,385.75; County Agent \$1,566.51; Weed Control \$34,499.41; Sheriff \$11,221.73; 24/7 \$310.00.

The auditor updated the board on the boiler installation project. The insurance has sent a check for reimbursement of what has been allowed to be paid so far. They had wanted to close this claim, as they thought all work was done, but auditor had them re-open as the claim is not complete. The burner still needs to be installed.

The Auditor/Treasurer convention will be held next month when the regular scheduled commissioner meeting would be held, so the commissioners will hold two special meetings next month. July 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 1:00 p.m. and on July 26<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Geerts motioned and Laufer seconded the motion to close the courthouse on July 3<sup>rd</sup> with employees having to use a vacation day. After discussion, Geerts motioned to amend the previous motion to say that the courthouse is to remain open, but there will be limited services and, in some offices, no services. County employees who would like to take a vacation day, can do so, leaving some offices closed. This amended motion was seconded by Laufer. All in favor, motion carried.

Cathy Ebert, Tax Director, met with the board to discuss the changes legislature did with the Homestead and Vet Disability credits. She will post a release in the paper to show resident's that income level has increased and if you haven't qualified prior, you may qualify now.

Karagan Friedt, Administrative Assistant to County Agent, stopped in to give the commissioners the County Agent's report.

Sheriff Warner gave the monthly Sheriff's report. Warner would like to have the Sheriff's office begin using

the Sheriff's Retirement plan. Laufer made the motion to utilize this retirement plan for the sheriff's office and Geerts seconded. Discussion followed with Laufer amending the motion with new employees able to start in the plan of the new sheriff's retirement with the existing officers effective January 1, 2024, seconded by Geerts. All in favor, carried.

Warner would like to get some funds in the Capital Improvement budget next year for a loft in their building, along with gutters. She also discussed with commissioners the need to increase starting wages when hiring. If it is possible, she would also like for the board to consider acquiring the West River Clinic, if possible, to have a larger working area for her office.

Corey Warner, custodian, met with the commissioners to discuss with what to do with the heating system actuators and thermostats. He mentioned the burner for the boiler should be coming this month.

Teran Doerr, Roosevelt-Custer Regional Center, called in to mention that they are applying for an Impact Grant, and are asking the counties with Roosevelt-Custer to help support the local match needed for this grant.

Hettinger County's portion would be \$5,000. The grant will be used for advertising and marketing campaign. There was no motion made at this time.

Alex Aldinger, Cardinal Insurance, came to the meeting to discuss the county's current insurance policy.

Sheriff Warner came into the meeting with a gas bill from Cenex Fleet Fueling for \$1,224.60. Laufer motioned to approve for payment, seconded by Geerts. All in favor, motion carried.

Elliott Finck, Road Supervisor, gave his report. He discussed the work that needs to be done to replace the bridge for a crossing located four miles south of the Alton Lien property. Finck had reached out to companies for bids and received one. Geerts motioned to accept the bid from Schwartz Construction, seconded by Laufer. All in favor, motion carried.

Billy Doerr, Brosz Engineering, gave an update for the progress on the Bentley Bridge. The completion date is set for July 29<sup>th</sup>. They are currently removing the old bridge. Pre-construction meeting will be held for the Juniper and Regent roads on June 8<sup>th</sup>, with construction to be completed in August.

The commissioners adjourned for lunch.

At 1:00 p.m. the commissioners reconvened as the Board of Equalization for the county and the three unorganized townships of Indian Creek, Alden and Odessa. No one appeared before the board for the Odessa, Alden or Indian Creek Townships equalization.

No one appeared before the board for the county equalization, and Tax Director Cathy Ebert gave the following recommendations for valuations in order to stay within compliance with the state: Agricultural-no change, Residential-in New England-no change, Regent-no change, Mott-7% increase. Commercial-no change. Geerts made the motion to accept the value change recommendation, seconded by Laufer. All voting aye, motion carried.

The board adjourned the equalization meeting and reconvened the regular commissioners meeting.

The board interviewed Moore Engineering, Inc. and Brosz Engineering for the Preliminary & Design Services for the Hettinger County Bridge Replacement Project BRJ-0021(024) PCN 23982, consisting of three bridges.

The firms each respectively gave their presentations and answered questions the interview committee had for them. The scores were tallied and discussion was held to determine the firm to do this project. Geerts motioned to approve Brosz Engineering, seconded by Laufer. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

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

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Todd Lutz, CHAIRMAN