

REGULAR MEETING OF HETTINGER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
May 11, 2022

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

Lutz motioned to approve the previous minutes from April 25 with the changes of adding the commissioner board reporting, seconded by Carlson. All voting aye, motion carried.

Carlson made the motion to accept the agenda as presented with additions, seconded by Lutz.

Commissioners reported on the other boards they represent for the county. Carlson mentioned that the SWMCCC is hoping the legislature does not have new issues when considering the correctional center's funding. Lutz mentioned that the chemical dispersal will be next week Wednesday, but later in the commissioners meeting, due to circumstances the date is now changed to Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. Geerts reported that the zoning board met yesterday and approved a variance, and also reported that the fair board is getting the fair building ready for events.

Carlson made the motion to accept the lower bid received from Erickson Heating & Air for two mini-splits to be installed, seconded by Lutz.

It was brought to the attention of the commissioners that the JDA office on the third floor of the courthouse had some damage like the Sheriff's office has. Lutz made a motion to request this to be done if possible, when the company comes to repair the Sheriff's office, seconded by Carlson.

Sheriff Sarah Warner attended the meeting to give her monthly sheriff report. She, along with Deputy Pippenger, Chief Deputy Christiansen and Dunn County's, Deputy Wolf and introduced "Drone" a drug dog that works in Dunn County. Sheriff Warner presented letters of support for a canine unit for Hettinger County. After discussion regarding the canine unit, Carlson motioned to approve a canine unit with the following conditions – that there would be no increase of the sheriff's budget, there would be no loss in patrolling, and also that the handler, Deputy Pippenger, will agree to serve for the life of the dog, or will purchase the service life left, should she leave employment with Hettinger County, seconded by Lutz. All voting aye, motion carried.

Sheriff Warner also reported that while she was at a convention her name was drawn to be the recipient of body cams for her deputies, greatly reducing her budget for purchasing them.

Tracy Kruger, 911 Coordinator, informed the commissioner that the State Radio fees will be increasing. It can be a very slight increase, or the increase could be as much as 15 cents/line if McKenzie County pulls out of State Radio access. As Emergency Manager, she has been working on various grants to help with the costs of security cameras, election equipment storage security and also a Hazmat Exercise.

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

Elliott Finck, Road Supervisor, along with Billy Doerr, Brosz Engineering, met with the board. Doerr mentioned that the bid opening will be held this Friday for the Bentley Bridge project. He also mentioned that there is a new grant becoming available for the Kouba Bridge to be done that covers 100% of the costs. Doerr also put together a cost estimate for the main street in Regent of \$550,000. Finck gave his monthly road department report.

Jeri Haberstroh, representing Solon Township, met with the board to discuss possible road work to be done on their roads. Although they have funds available to pay for this project, there is a balance on a prior project that is owed. The commissioners have discussed that if there is a balance owing on a project, special road work is not to be done until balance is paid. The commissioners will discuss this at a later date once Solon Township finds out if they get accepted for a grant for their project.

The commissioners recessed for lunch and when they returned, Geerts called the meeting back to order.

The expenditures for the month were presented for the following funds: General \$27,482.37; Highway Dist. \$95.83; Road & Bridge \$171,312.34; Emergency 911 \$11,212.90; ARPA \$1,136.97; 24/7 \$695.15; County Agent \$548.39; Weed Control \$68,407.22; Preservation \$489.90; Senior Citizens \$25,500.00; Sheriff \$6,220.23. Carlson motioned to approve for payment, seconded by Lutz.

Cathy Ebert, Tax Director, presented the board with a Farm Exemption Abatement, Lutz abstained from voting, Carlson motioned to approve, seconded by Geerts. Ebert also presented an Abatement for 2021 due to loss of house due to fire, Lutz motioned to approve, seconded by Carlson. Lutz motioned to approve Ebert to become a Notary, seconded by Carlson.

Pledge of assets were reviewed.

Carlson motioned to approve a variance of 50' for hopper bins, seconded by Lutz.

Carlson motioned to approve the hourly rate contract for GIS Mapping Services with Sidwell, seconded by Lutz.

A request of a resident was made to see if the county could do some anti-dust work and put a sign by a curve. The county will look into putting up a sign for the curve.

Another resident request was that the county talk to a person that had a fence put up across section line that the resident couldn't open. The board decided that it was not the county's responsibility to do this.

Lutz motioned to adjourn, seconded by Carlson.

ATTEST

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Jeri G. Schmidt, AUDITOR

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Tom Geerts, CHAIRMAN