

REGULAR MEETING OF HETTINGER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
October 12, 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 and Kent Maerschbecker.

Lutz motioned to approve the previous minutes as presented for the September 10th and Special meeting on September 20th, seconded by Carlson. All voting aye.

Carlson motioned to approve agenda with addition of November meeting, Employee 10 year recognition, NDACo Convention homework and appointment of ND State Fair Delegate, seconded by Lutz. All voting aye.

Commissioners reported on their other boards: Lutz mentioned the Weed Control sold \$10,709 of chemical for the Fall Sale and \$28,155 for the year with the inventory left of 153 quarts of Milestone, 120 2½ gal jugs of Curtail, and 67 gal jugs of Tordon. Geerts reported the Fair Association is beginning the plans for next year and is in the process of winterizing the building. Auditor will bring to the Zoning Board the possibility of adopting the IBC (Independent Building Code) when residents build new structures. The commissioners will check with SW District Health at the next meeting to see what they require when new structures are built in regards to sewer lines and such. Also with the annual meeting for SWDH the auditor had called Sherry Adams, Director, and it was stated that they must have a quorum for this meeting. There is no proxy voting, and members must either attend or call into the meeting.

Carlson made a motion to approve the bills as presented for the following: General \$24,942.44; Highway Dist. 499.98; R&B \$47,323.68; 24/7 300.00; Sheriff Drug Canine Fund \$594.21; County Agent \$826.37; Weed Control \$348.00; Unorganized Twshp-Alden \$15,435.00; Sheriff \$9,601.86. These amounts include the two bills of AT&T Mobility and U.S. Postmaster (Quadient) that were approved by the portfolio holder after the September meeting in order to pay in time. The motion to approve the bills was seconded by Lutz. All voting aye.

The 504 Transition plan was discussed so that as we complete some of the requirements, we have a list with a date of completion. Geerts mentioned that he and a representative from Minot Builders, came and looked at the handles for the doors. They have not been able to find a lever action handle to fit our current doors, but as the doors to the offices are kept open during work hours, we might be OK.

Sheriff Warner came in to give her monthly report. She reported that of the investigations for the month, Mott had a Sexual Assault and DUS, New England had three Domestic, vandalism, assault, DUI and Reckless Driving, Regent had a gunshot wound and, in the county, there was theft of property, death, drug overdose a DUS and a DUI. The Sheriff was told that the NDPERS Police officer Retirement she brought to the meeting last month will be looked at when the budget is presented next year for the following year.

Tracy Kruger, Emergency Manager, was not able to attend the meeting but wanted to let the commissioners know that the grant for the upgrade to our Security Cameras and Security Glass for Election Integrity that she has been working on, was accepted in the amount of \$15,900.00. There is also going to be a Security Assessment of the courthouse that will be done November 29th of this year.

Elliott Finck, Road Supervisor, reported on his department for the month. They've been hauling gravel out of the Dale Meier pit for townships. He's had some equipment breakdowns and has been waiting for rain to blade some county and township roads. They are currently mowing along the county roads and are planning on replacing two 30" culverts on 69th Street. Bridge #21-107-23.0 16 South and 4 East of New England had to be lowered to 3 ton weight limit. The state won't complete substructure load rating because piles are rotted away. They also have been doing road work and replacement of culverts in the unorganized townships. Finck mentioned that he did find some gravel that we could purchase from Fisher Sand and Gravel that is located in Adams County. He could use the funds that were to be use for the gravel crushing that was canceled. Lutz made a motion to purchase the approximate 12,000 yards at \$11.56/yd, seconded by Carlson. Finck also mentioned that he will put a gravel crushing bid request in the paper for the Koppinger Pit to be done next year.

Billy Doerr, Brosz Engineering, updated them on the progress on the Bentley Bridge. MDU has given the pole relocation estimate by the Bentley Bridge \$19,539.00, in which Lutz motioned to pay, seconded by Carlson. Finck mentioned that the RFP (Request for Proposals) for the engineering services for the Kouba bridge has been submitted to the NDDOT with the submission deadline of November 9th. The commissioners will review the RFPs and schedule the interviews at their next commissioners meeting.

Carlson made the motion to move the regular meeting of the commissioners to Thursday, November 10th at 2:00 p.m. – seconded by Lutz. All in favor, carried.

Teran Doerr, Executive Director Roosevelt Custer Regional Council, and Shannon Ellig, Council Administrator for RCRC, met with the commissioners to introduce themselves and let them know what RCRC can offer. RCRC has loan programs that are able to support new and existing businesses, has program management in or to engage and educate communities, businesses, and stakeholders on the Community Development Block Grant, Revolving Loan Programs, and EDA Partners in Planning Grant.

Corey Warner, custodian, met with the board to go over his contract and discuss duties. The auditor hasn't been able to find the original signed copy of the contract from 2017. There was discussion that followed, Chairman Geerts mentioned that he wanted to leave the position as is, but to think about what the board wants and bring back to the meeting next month. Of the duties discussed and additions/deletions, Carlson made a motion to sign a new contract and renegotiate. The discussion was held and the consensus is that there is a need to sign a contract. The State's Attorney will be contacted for his review of the contract and be asked to give his opinion on the ability to ask for the accountability of his amount of time he spends doing his work. The original motion made died for lack of second.

Cathy Ebert, Tax Director, would like approval to take a remote training for the TaxWise software program. She was unable to meet with the board during this meeting, and the board was needing to know if this is planned for this year or next year in the Tax Director budget.

The auditor presented the commissioners her current listing of the properties that will be in the upcoming Tax Sale on November 15th. The properties have the sale price of the three-year delinquent taxes, penalties, interest and also the estimated taxes and specials to be owed for the current tax year.

Discussion was on who will coordinate the new county website. Carlson mentioned that there should be two main people to work on the website, the coordinator and the typist/data entry person, and once the site is up and running the coordinator/administrator is done with their work. Geerts mentioned that Tracy Kruger should continue with her work and spearhead the website and to ask those she would like to have help her, and have Carlson step aside as the

coordinator. Carlson mentioned she feels very passionate for the work on the website and is excited to work on it and doesn't understand why she would be removed. Lutz mentioned there might be confusion on the fact that there were thoughts that the JDA hired Carlson and was going to pay her for the work done on the county's website, in which Carlson replied she didn't ask to get paid. Lutz stated he would go with Geerts recommendation. Carlson mentioned that she would like a motion if she is to be removed from being the coordinator on the website, and Geerts mentioned the commissioners were not the ones that made her the coordinator. Carlson mentioned that she's more than willing to coordinate the work on the website. Carlson made the motion that she will be the coordinator of the website, motion died for lack of a second.

Carlson mentioned that board of our Roughrider Human Services Zone would like to have each county in the zone contribute \$12,000 of their ARPA funds to be used to help compensate the salaries of the zone employees in which they will only be receiving 2% increase from the state. Carlson mentioned other zones are doing this. Geerts motioned to approved doing this contribution with ARPA funds, seconded by Carlson. Roll call was taken with all responding "aye" Lutz motioned to appoint Tom Geerts as the county's State Fair delegate, seconded by Carlson. Carlson brought recognition plaques for years of service awards up for discussion and to look into utilizing going forward.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

ATTEST

Jeri G. Schmidt, AUDITOR

Tom Geerts, CHAIRMAN