

REGULAR MEETING OF HETTINGER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

June 8, 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 as presented, seconded by Carlson. All voting aye, motion carried.

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

Commissioners reported on the other boards they represent for the county. Carlson reported that the SW REAP board approved a new loan for a new restaurant projected to open in the Legion Hall in Regent mid-June. The Vision West Group met for the first time held in Hettinger County on May 19th at the Enchanted Castle in regent. In attendance from Hettinger County was Todd Lutz, commissioner, Paula Andersson, JDA director, Heidi Marxen, County Agent and Karagen Friedt, County Agent intern. Speakers included several from Hettinger county, Gary Greff spoke about the enchanted highway, Rachele Juntunen and Kelli Krieg spoke about the behavior health program at DWCRC, and Angela Carlson, Commissioner provided the welcome and an overview of Hettinger County. John Roswich was slated to speak from South 40 Beef, but unable to attend due to illness.

Lutz reported that the County Weed Board sold \$17,185 worth of chemical in their dispersal in spring dispersal last month. In an attempt to save money amid the current environment of rising costs, the weed board bid on chemical needed for 2022 in the fall of 2021. As reported by the weed board members present, they are unsure of what the savings was or if there was any savings by bidding early.

Geerts reported that the fair building bathrooms are still not finished. He met with Fairboard president Garrison Risner and Mott Mayor Troy Mosbrocker at a meeting called by Mayor Mosbrucker on June 5th to review the project and move VBS to the Mott/Regent School this week given the bathrooms were not functioning. The goal is to get the bathrooms operable for the Hettinger County fair the week of July. Commissioner Geerts will also check the NDCC to determine who approves board members of the HCAA.

Myra Klein, Administrative Assistant to the County Agent, and Karagan Friedt, doing internship through the County Agent's office, met with the commissioners. Friedt explained her internship and as one of the requirements interviewed the commissioners about how they view the county agent's office and its impact on the needs of the county residents and local producers. Myra reported on admin training she attended in May. She found it very helpful and would have been thrilled to the opportunity to attend this shortly after being hired, but unfortunately it is only offered once a year in the spring.

Tracy Kruger, as Floodplain Administrator, discussed with the board the need to update our Floodplain Ordinance, which was last done in 1987. Carlson made a motion to approve the **Floodplain Ordinance** which shall apply to all special flood hazard areas within the jurisdiction of Hettinger County as identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in its latest Flood Insurance Rate Map, dated March 2nd, 2012. This map is adopted by reference and declared to be a part of this ordinance. It is on file in the Emergency Manager's office in the courthouse located at 336 Pacific Avenue in Mott, ND. Lutz made a motion to second, all voting aye, motion carried. This ordinance in its entirety can be viewed in the auditor's office. The commissioners discussed the website with Kruger. The plan is to keep the current website and hopefully will transition to the new website in the near future.

Sheriff Sarah Warner attended the meeting to give her monthly sheriff report. She, along with Deputy Pippenger, reported donations of \$15,000 from an anonymous donor, \$2500 from Consolidated in Dickinson and \$10,000 from the City of New England for the new Hettinger County drug K-9 unit. Deputy Pippenger shared she has applied for several grants and there are many others that have offered to donate to the new general fund account set up by the auditor for the drug K-9. The sheriff reported that her department will be purchasing Hettinger County's drug K-9 with the donations received. The cost of the K-9 and training is \$10,000. Deputy Pippenger will be attending a six-week class of training with the K-9 in Pennsylvania after the dog is purchased. She will drive a Hettinger County deputy car to the training in order to bring the K-9 back to Hettinger County. Cost to the tax payers at this time is the cost of gas, hotels and food for Deputy Pippenger traveling to and from Pennsylvania. Sheriff Warner assured the commission that Hettinger County would not feel any difference in the patrol rotation in Deputy Pippenger's absence. The example was given that during Deputy Kohler's leave, Deputy Pippenger was in two week training and with two deputies down, there was not any issues during that two week period.

Sheriff Warner also shared she has been elected for a two year term as President of the ND Police Chief's Association (2022-2023).

Commissioners also discussed the rising cost of fuel/gas and ways to keep county fuel costs down. It was noted that coops in the county like DFC provide patronage dividends and Deputy Pippenger shared with the commissioners that Fitterer Oil provides an estimated 15 cent discount for gas purchased by county sheriffs team. There is one coop patronized by Hettinger County significantly that doesn't at this time provide any patronage dividends. When asked why the county doesn't get patronage dividends, the local coop manager shared that they don't because they are not set up to pay a government entity. Auditor Jeri Schmidt will check with the states attorney regarding what is legally appropriate and report back to the commission.

Lutz made a motion to create a Canine Fund for the donations received and the expenses that will be utilized for the costs of having canine drug dog, seconded by Carlson.

Elliott Finck, Road Supervisor, gave his monthly road department report. Billy Doerr, Brosz Engineering, met with the board. Lutz motioned to approve and sign the **RESOLUTION** to award Swingen Construction Co. the contract for Project BRC-2141(001), which is also known as the Bentley Bridge. Carlson seconded the approval of this resolution. All voted aye, motioned carried.

Billy Doerr, Brosz Engineering, met with the board and mentioned the Enchanted Highway striping is complete and the billing will be submitted.

Charlotte Aldinger, President-Commercial Bank of Mott, met with the commissioners to explain the Pledge of Securities the bank sends when there are changes. The pledges are to make sure the amount of money we have in the bank is covered.

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.

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-5% decrease, Residential-in New England-5% increase, Regent-no change, Mott-5% decrease. Commercial-5% increase. Carlson made the motion to accept the value change recommendation, seconded by Lutz. All voting aye, motion carried.

The board reconvened the regular commissioners meeting.

Rachelle Juntunen, SW Multi-County Correctional Center, was called and while on speaker, held a PowerPoint presentation giving an overview regarding the costs of the facilities.

The expenditures for the month were presented for the following funds: General \$31,156.43; Road & Bridge \$13,748.95; Emergency 911 \$120.75; County Agent \$648.59; Weed Control \$315.00; Sheriff \$6,092.47; 24/7 \$10.00. Carlson motioned to approve for payment, seconded by Lutz.

Lutz motioned to cancel check #11953 dated 7/2/2020 for the amount of \$18.00 and submit it to State Unclaimed Property, seconded by Carlson.

Commissioners reviewed the Policy Manuel with Deputy Auditor, Sondra Bullinger.

Geerts will talk with Corey Warner about the agreement that he has with the county for the building, mowing and snow removal.

With nothing further to discuss, this meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST

Jeri G. Schmidt, AUDITOR

Tom Geerts, CHAIRMAN