

REGULAR MEETING OF HETTINGER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
August 4th, 2021

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

Geerts motioned to approve the July minutes, seconded by Lutz. All voting aye, motion carried.

Lutz made the motion to accept the agenda, seconded by Geerts.

Elliott Finck, Road Supervisor, presented his report. The road crew has been busy with gravel hauling for the townships of Highland, Kennedy and Tepee Butte. There was a couple of equipment breakdowns, one which was able to be fixed in-house, the other will take more work and they are having RDO Equipment looking at it. It's been too dry to do any blading, but they have been fixing spots and some washboards and curves, but this takes water and it took 4700 gallons to fix 1/8 of a mile. The new Cat blade is expected in late October and a replacement blade for it might come by the end of this week. Current projects for this month are the painting of the striping on the Enchanted Highway and taking out the bridge in Merrill Township in section 21-134-92. Gravel crushing should be finished this Friday and the pile measurements will be taken on Monday. Finck is buying 2000 yards gravel fines reject from Dale Meier. Hunter Crist, Mason Friedt and Finck will be going to a corrugated metal pipe training later in the month and Finck is going to the Road Conference in October, in which commissioner Lutz is planning to attend also. There is a possibility of getting some Prairie Dog funds; although it looks like a quarter of the amount should this bucket have been full.

Sheriff Warner met with the commissioners to give the monthly Sheriff's report. She reported that the county vehicle should be available for use by the end of August.

Sylvia Gion, Recorder/Clerk of Court, and her deputy, Robin Ulrich, met with the board. Gion mentioned her department is looking into appointing part-time help and will use her Preservation Fund to cover the costs. She also mentioned that the original form DD214 Form, which is the veteran discharge papers, would continue to be retained in her office.

Geerts made the motion to appoint Lisa Aune as our new Tax Director, seconded by Lutz. Aune signed her oath of office. Discussion was held regarding using your personal vehicle versus a county vehicle. The commissioners would like the option to go to the committee of updating the employee manual of stating, if a county vehicle is available for use, and you choose to use your personal vehicle, mileage will be reimbursed for half of your trip.

Mark Resner and Sherri Cooke, representing the SW REAP Zone met with the commissioners. They explained what the zone is and how they work with economic development in our area.

Sherry Adams with the SW District Health Unit wanted to let the board now that their request of funding for next year will remain the same. She said the Health Unit's annual meeting will be on August 24, in which the commissioners should attend, either in person or by phone.

The commissioners each spoke to update each other of their respective portfolios. A few points mentioned were that a resident over sprayed chemical onto to the county right-of-way causing more costs to the county weed board for spraying of noxious weeds, Lutz will check with the State's Attorney on how to handle. JDA has done a zero percent interest loan to a business. The sales tax funds will be dispersed to their respective entities this month. There was almost an 18% increase in the sales tax over the prior year. The Fair was successful and at their last meeting, they worked on their budget for 2022 and did clean-up of the building and grounds. Social Service is requesting a new door with the option of push button unlocking versus using key. Costs of the door and labor will be checked in to.

Commissioners took a break for lunch and resumed the meeting after they returned.

Lutz made the motion to sign the NDDOT Certification of Local Match for Bridge Inspection/Load Rating, seconded by Geerts.

Geerts made the motion to approve the bills as presented: General 14,183.68; Road & Bridge 6,931.25; Emergency 911 7,269.96; County Agent 4,049.60; New Fair Building 670.00; Weed Control 500.00; Sheriff 1,712.90; 24/7 Program 310.00. Motion to second, Lutz. All voting aye, motion carried.

Geerts motioned to distribute the County Park Grant the following way; New England \$6,500, Regent \$4,000, Mott \$6,500. Lutz seconded the motion. All voting aye, motion carried.

Heidi Marxen, County Agent, presented her monthly report. There is an applicant that she would like to interview for her part-time assistant. The interview will be held at 4:00.

Commissioners worked on the 2022 Preliminary Budget.

Myra Olson joined the meeting to be interviewed for the part-time position of the County Agent Administrative Assistant. After the interview, the interviewing group decided to offer the position to her. She was called and accepted the position. She will start on Monday.

Commissioners continued their work on the budget. When finished, all changes discussed are to be completed. The board will meet on Tuesday, August 10, at 1:00 pm to approve the preliminary budget.

ATTEST

Jeri G. Schmidt, AUDITOR

Angela Carlson, CHAIRMAN