

REGULAR MEETING OF HETTINGER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
September 8, 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 were Elliott Finck, Road Supervisor and guest Paula Anderson, JDA Director. Geerts motioned to approve the previous minutes of the August meeting, seconded by Lutz. All voting aye, motion carried.

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

Paula Anderson, Hettinger County's new JDA Director, met with the board to introduce herself.

Tracy Kruger, Administrative Assistant in Sheriff's Department, gave the monthly Sheriff's report. Chief Deputy, Kyle Christianson joined the meeting also. The department had a resignation, but will have a new deputy starting October 4<sup>th</sup>. Kruger also reported on the Emergency and 911 departments.

Heidi Marxen, County Agent, gave her monthly report. Her new Administrative Assistant, Myra Klein, is doing well in her position.

Elliot Finck, Road Supervisor, presented his report. The gravel is now crushed and the road crew has been hauling it to the Watrous Road (74<sup>th</sup> Street). Blading has been going well, although there is a lot of hauling of commodities that will continue. The new Cat delivery is delayed to late October. The Enchanted Highway stripes were painted. In the unorganized townships: Alden – graveling on 76<sup>th</sup> St is completed and there will be a culvert put in on 74<sup>th</sup> Street; Indian Creek – pulling shoulders on 72<sup>nd</sup> Street and will be applying for a grant through the SRF Fund for road repair into Indian Creek; Odessa – Plans are to gravel 2 miles on 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue and haul clay fines to fix section line road on 55<sup>th</sup> Street. A landowner has put an approach in without a culvert and also no prior approval to do so. The State's Attorney will be contacted.

Jim Gray, West District Director for NDSU Extension, wanted to meet with the board and inform the board of the extra mill levy for the extension office is due to expire and will need to be put on the ballot next year. He mentioned that the option of General Fund dollars can also be used if there is availability in the fund.

Tamara Hofland, Director and Mark Resner, Board President of the SW Public Transit met with the board to discuss the services they provide for Hettinger County.

Billy Doerr, Brosz Engineering, discussed the upcoming NDDOT meeting that the commissioners will have at the NDACo convention in October. The projects were reviewed to put on the Federal Aid Program.

Theresa Liebsch, Vision Zero Outreach Coordinator for the Southwest Regions, met with the commissioners to inform them about Vision Zero, which has the strategy to eliminate motor vehicle crash fatalities and serious injuries. She is interested in doing some work with the schools.

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

The 2022 Budget Hearing took place at 1:00 p.m. No one appeared before the board. Geerts made the motion to approve the 2022 Budget, seconded by Lutz. Roll call was taken: Geerts – aye, Lutz – aye, Carlson – aye. Motion carried.

Geerts made the motion to approve the bills as presented: General 19,460.11; Road & Bridge 360,361.10; County Agent 303.70; Weed Control 2,329.14; Preservation 8,257.96; Sheriff 13,912.34; 24/7 Program 57.10.00. Motion to second, Lutz. All voting aye, motion carried.

Two Variance requests were received that had their hearing, in which no one appeared to contest, and the zoning/planning committee approved. Both were for structures that would be closer than the 200' required set-back. Lutz motioned to approve the variances, seconded by Geerts.

Sondra Bullinger, Human Resources, and Tracy Kruger, Emergency Mgr., will revisit the current Covid policy put in place last year.

Sherry Adams, with the Southwest District Health Unit requested a new appointment to their board that would replace Harvey Herberholz. Geerts motioned to appoint Leah Madler, seconded by Lutz. All in favor, motion carried.

Some employees met with the commissioners over their concerns regarding offices being open at noon and using their own vehicle to go to meetings getting half the mileage rate. The committee that was formed for the employee policy manual update will review and give their suggestion to the commissioners.

Resident requested of commissioner Lutz, that he look into the difference he found on the land that he owns. There was a mistake on the acreage which was corrected in 2019, but in 2020 the acreage went back to what it was before. Currently the acreage is correct. He would need to file an abatement for the 2020, which will be sent to him.

A resident requested a slower speed limit sign by his property. The county is unable to change a speed limit.

Discussion was held regarding requests for signs such as "Slow – Children at Play". A policy will be written in order to qualify for the sign with the resident to pay for the cost of the material.

Do to unforeseen circumstances the Commissioners meeting in November will be moved to the third Wednesday of the month, which will be November 17<sup>th</sup>.

We will try to get a meeting with NDPHIT insurance broker to talk about this policy to see what differences it would be with their policy compared to our current policy.

Carlson will be attending the Vision West meeting September 9<sup>th</sup>.

With nothing further to discuss for the day, Geerts made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Lutz.

ATTEST

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Jeri G. Schmidt, AUDITOR

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Angela Carlson, CHAIRMAN