

REGULAR MEETING OF HETTINGER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
February 10, 2022

Chairman Tom Geerts called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with commissioners Todd Lutz and Angela Carlson in attendance.

Lutz motioned to approve the previous minutes for January, seconded by Carlson. All voting aye, motion carried.

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

The Tax Director position was discussed and the commissioners will decide who will be the portfolio holder. Carlson motioned to have the Flex Benefit removed as the hours worked is under the requirement in the county policy, and if it is possible due to the change in working hours, seconded by Lutz.

Monica McConkey, LPC with Eyes on the Horizon Consulting, talked with the Commissioners regarding a grant that Hettinger County is eligible through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. It will need to be decided whether the county wants to be a part of this grant, to be sub-recipient, or make the plans and apply for the grant ourselves.

Sheriff Sarah Warner attended the meeting to give her monthly sheriff report. Deputy Pippenger was also in attendance to request the possibility of getting a Canine Unit. No approval was made at this time.

Tracy Kruger, Emergency Manager, presented a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOA) from Adams County for mutual aid. Lutz motioned to not sign the new MOA, as we have a current one on file, seconded by Carlson.

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

Gary Greff, representing the Enchanted Highway, spoke with the board about the possibility of some help through funding and sight maintaining. The commissioners mentioned that the Road Crew might be able to help with the sites, but need to check with the Road Supervisor. Any funding would have to be looked at for the next budget.

Paula Anderson, JDA Director, stopped in briefly to talk with the commissioner. She mentioned that a company that applied for a RDBG, from SW Reap, but did not qualify.

Corey Warner, our County's Building and Grounds Custodian, visited with the board to inform them of his duties that he does at the Courthouse and the Social Service building. He discussed some of the issues that need to be done in the courthouse, which will be discussed for the next budget.

Elliott Finck, Road Supervisor, along with Billy Doerr, Brosz Engineering, met with the board. Geerts had signed a document needed for the approved project of the Bentley Bridge Replacement to continue on its timeline. This document regarded the engineer project concepts and the selection of the Build Alternative. The Kouba bridge was approved by the NDDOT for the HB1505 funding. Lengthy discussion was held on whether to continue with HB1505 funding or whether it should be put on the Federal 80/20 Bridge Funding. Decision was to table for now until we can find out for sure if ARPA funds can be used with HB1505 funds or not. Lutz made the motion to sign the agreement with Jeffery Wruck for a bridge that the county has closed, seconded by Carlson. Once Wruck returns signed agreement, the county will get a Quitclaim deed done to give him the bridge.

The commissioners will continue with the audit services of Rath & Mehrer for the upcoming county audit for years 2020-2021.

Auditor Schmidt requested a motion to have the following measure to be placed on the ballot for the June 14th, 2022 Primary Election. This measure is required because of changes made in the 2015 Legislative Session on Senate Bill 2144. "As per N.D.C.C. 57-15-06.7 (5), shall the governing body of Hettinger County continue the 5 mills for County Roads and Bridges above the 10-mill levy limitation set out in the N.D.C.C. Chapter 57-15-06.7 for a total of 15 mills?"

Yes – Means you approve the measure as summarized above.

No – Means you reject the measure as summarized above.

Lutz motioned to approve, seconded by Carlson.

Lutz made the motion to approve the following resolution and to place the measure on the ballot for the June 14th, 2022 Primary Election and motion seconded by Carlson: **A RESOLUTION OF THE HETTINGER COUNTY COMMISSION FOR AN INCREASE IN THE COUNTY'S 911 FEES** WHEREAS, emergency 911 services are critical to public safety in this county; and WHEREAS, the current fee imposed pursuant to NDCC 57-40.6-02(1) (first implemented by resolution of this Board and approved by the voters of this county) is limited to \$1.00 per month per telephone access line and wireless access line; and WHEREAS, NDCC §57-40.6-02(2) requires the county to add fifty cents to the fee imposed pursuant to NDCC 57-40.6-02(1) in support of the statewide interoperable radio network fund, making the total current fee the sum of \$1.50; and WHEREAS, once established by NDCC §57-40.6-02, §57-40.6-02(4) provides that the maximum fee may be increased, decreased, or eliminated by a majority vote of the electors, with the question to be placed on the ballot of any general, primary, or special election by a resolution of the governing body; and WHEREAS, it is necessary to increase the maximum fee to cover increasing costs of maintaining the 911 system. **NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Board of Commissioners of Hettinger County, that the existing 911 fee be increased an additional 50 cents, and that the following measure be placed on the ballot:

HETTINGER COUNTY BALLOT MEASURE

Shall the current emergency service (911) communication fee of \$1.50 be increased to \$2.00 (a total increase of 50 cents) per month per wireless access line and telephone access line for the operation and maintenance of the emergency 911 communication system, with said increase to be effective January 1, 2023?

YES ___ A "Yes" vote means you approve the fee increase.

NO ___ A "No" vote means do not approve the fee increase.

Carlson made the motion to continue the choice of funding agreement of services with the State of ND, seconded by Lutz. Lutz made the motion to approve the bills as presented, Carlson seconded the motion with an amendment to exclude payment of the two checks to the Western States Sheriffs Association, until a question is asked of Sheriff Warner. Lutz motioned to pay bills except the two checks to the Western States Sheriff's Association: General 72,186.33; Road &

Bridge 42,283.04; Emergency 911 11,405.62; 24/7 Program 762.90; County Agent 6,197.02; Weed Control 553.66; Sheriff 26,725.44. Motion to second made by Carlson. Roll call with all voting aye, motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

ATTEST

Jeri G. Schmidt, AUDITOR

Tom Geerts, CHAIRMAN