

Commissioners Proceedings

On January 19, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. the Board of Commissioners of Cavalier County, North Dakota, met at the Cavalier County Courthouse in regular session, with all members present. The commissioners began the meeting in the north meeting room with a departmental meeting with the roadmen. Kevin Hettwer and Steven Ames were introduced as new snowplow drivers. A district map for the four snowplow trucks was discussed. It was decided that the snowplow truck from Vang would only plow as far west as Highway 1. The commissioners instructed the roadmen that they want them to communicate through the Team Reach app on their cell phones. Razor tracking was discussed and the fact that the Sheriff's Department is able to access it if an emergency arises to see who is closest. The state-wide radio network was discussed. It was unknown whether or not there would be radios put in the road equipment once the network is up and running. The Vang District decided to utilize the second motor grader in Munich for removal of ice in the hills.

At 1:00 p.m. the commissioners moved back to the commission room and started the meeting virtually on Webex. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Austin Lafrenz called the meeting to order and proceeded as follows:

Lafrenz asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Nick Moser made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Greg Goodman; motion carried. Nick Moser made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by David Zeis; motion carried.

Terry Johnston, Road Supervisor, met with the commissioners and provided the summary of hours for the roadmen for December. Nick Moser and Austin Lafrenz stated they would not approve Gene Feil's hours with the small amount of comp time used. David Zeis assured the commission that Feil's comp hours would get used by spring.

Johnston followed up on Ramsey County's request for Cavalier County to cost share the replacement of a bridge on the county line. Due to an agreement signed with Ramsey County in 2004, the county must cost share the cost to replace the bridge.

David Zeis made a motion to transfer \$25,000.00 from Special County Highway Fund to Road and Bridge Fund, seconded by Stanley Dick, motion carried. Greg Goodman made a motion to transfer \$7,500.00 from Special County Highway Fund to Road and Bridge Fund, seconded by Nick Moser, motion carried. Nick Moser made a motion to transfer \$2,503.34 from Road and Bridge Fund to Road and Bridge Excess Levy Fund, seconded by Greg Goodman, motion carried. Stanley Dick made a motion to transfer \$5,065.00 from Road and Bridge Fund to Road and Bridge Equipment Replacement Fund, seconded by David Zeis, motion carried. Nick Moser made a motion to transfer \$250.33 from Road and Bridge Fund to Road and Bridge Equipment Replacement Fund, seconded by Greg Goodman, motion carried.

Greg Goodman made a motion to amend the following 2020 expenditures: County Road \$531.06 (Abatements); FEMA Road 2017 \$208,816.64 (Reimbursable Expenses); Human Service Zone \$192,420.93 (State Funded); Emergency Fund \$29.52 (Abatements); VSO \$3986.85 (Reimbursable Expenses); Emergency Manager Trust Acct \$7,321.72; motion seconded by Nick Moser, motion carried.

Year-end fund balances, to include CARES funding received to date from the state was reviewed. Later in the meeting it was decided to review the interest rates on loans at the next meeting and possibly pay off some.

David Zeis made a motion to appoint David Monson and Anitha Chirumamilla to the JDA Board, seconded by Nick Moser, motion carried. Greg Goodman abstained from voting on the motion due to a conflict of interest.

Cindy Stremick, Treasurer, met with the commissioners and presented a department update. Stremick updated the commissioners on updates to the courthouse front entry to accommodate the Motor Vehicle kiosk. It was explained that a grant through Homeland Security would be used for updates to the front entries. Stremick stated she has funds available in Motor Vehicle if additional expense is incurred for the entry project.

Stremick also brought the following pledges: Choice Financial – pledge pool of \$119,000,000; Farmers & Merchants State Bank – security of pledges of \$8,562,688, and Bank of North Dakota being covered under \$250,000 FDIC. **Greg Goodman made a motion to accept and approve the security of pledges, seconded by Stanley Dick, motion carried.**

Steph Welsh, Public Health, met with the commissioners and stated at this time she is not able to reduce Bailey Dahl’s work schedule to allow her to take comp time that has been earned. Welsh also explained that Karen Kempert, Emergency Manager, has been helping with on-line registration for COVID vaccines for those who are not able to do it themselves, which has caused her to incur additional hours in the past few weeks. Welsh requested the commissioners to approve payout to Dahl and Kempert for their additional hours incurred directly related to the COVID declared emergency. **Greg Goodman made a motion to approve pay out for additional hours incurred directly related to the current emergency declaration related to COVID-19 for Bailey Dahl and Karen Kempert, effective through the duration of the declared emergency and directed the Auditor’s office to work with Public Health and the Emergency Manager to properly account for the additional hours and check on possible grant opportunities for reimbursement, seconded by David Zeis, motion carried.** Welsh updated the commissioners on the number of COVID vaccines given to date and a number of grants Public Health has received. The governor’s removal of the mask mandate was discussed. The commissioners decided to post signs at the courthouse entries “highly recommending” customers to wear masks and leaving it up to each department if they want to require masks. Welsh stated masks would be required in Public Health, but they would accommodate those who are not wearing a mask curbside.

The following met with the commissioners for department updates: Jill Denault, NVHSZ; Anita Beauchamp, Clerk of Court; Josh Short, Weed Officer; Steven Anderson, VSO. Beauchamp informed the commissioners that Governor Burgum had appointed Kari Agotness to replace Judge Fontaine, effective February 1, 2021. Steven Anderson made a request for 8 additional office hours per week. No action was taken on the request.

Steph Bata, Tax Director, met with the commissioners for her department update. Bata stated that residential values were reviewed and that no overall increase would be required for 2021, but a plan was being implemented for assessors to review a portion of the residential parcels each year.

The commission then proceeded to discuss the 2021 Forest Stewardship Contracts. After much discussion on the fairness to other taxpayers with these contracts only paying 50¢/acre tax and the fact that it is an outdated amount that has never been updated in NDCC, **Stanley Dick made a motion to not approve any new 2021 Forest Stewardship Contracts and also to not renew any Forest Stewardship Contracts up for renewal, seconded by Greg Goodman. A roll call vote was taken with all voting “yes” except David Zeis. Motion carried 4 to 1.** Bata explained that the acres would be valued at \$200/acre, the same as other tree acres in the county. Lisa Buchweitz, Soils Committee

Member and Assessor, reviewed possibly implementing soils/slope based valuation in future years for these acres once they are all mapped and updated in the Sidwell program.

Nick Moser made a motion, seconded by Greg Goodman to review and approve the following audit of claims; motion carried:

95154	TROY P OLSON	\$20.00	REFUND
95155	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT.	\$5,106.70	GENERAL/E-911
95156	MUNICH ELEVATOR & OIL CO.	\$2,149.12	R&B
95157	OTTER TAIL POWER CO	\$2,871.31	MAINT/R&B
95158	LANGDON CITY	\$350.25	MAINT/R&B
95159	ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES	\$19.00	CLERK
95160	COUNTRY MEDIA, INC.	\$357.42	COMM
95161	DACOTAH PAPER CO.	\$680.65	MAINT
95162	LANGDON HARDWARE & RENTAL	\$239.59	MAINT/SHERIFF
95163	QUADIENT FINANCE USA, INC	\$1,000.00	POSTAGE
95164	DOCUMENT OUTPUT CENTER LLC	\$3,617.06	TREAS
95165	PREMIUM WATERS, INC.	\$22.49	CLERK
95166	PREMIUM WATERS, INC.	\$86.49	MISC
95167	WEST PAYMENT CENTER	\$736.23	STATE'S ATTY
95168	COMPUTER EXPRESS	\$4,930.99	TREAS/MISC
95169	STANLEY DICK	\$81.20	COMM
95170	UNITED COMMUNICATIONS	\$1,343.82	GEN/R&B/VSO
95171	ND COUNTY AUDITORS ASSOCIATION	\$100.00	AUD
95172	SIDWELL	\$15,455.00	TX DIR
95173	DOCU SHRED INC.	\$37.87	MISC
95174	SOFTWARE INNOVATIONS	\$10,500.00	AUD
95175	COUNTRY MEDIA, INC.	\$246.50	SHERIFF
95176	BAYMONT INN & SUITES	\$345.60	SHERIFF
95177	MID-CONTINENT CABLE CO.	\$101.40	SHERIFF
95178	PREMIUM WATERS, INC.	\$35.49	DISP
95179	BALCO UNIFORM CO. INC.	\$293.34	SHERIFF
95180	FARMERS UNION OIL CO	\$1,427.54	SHERIFF
95181	LEEVERS FOODS	\$8.15	SHERIFF
95182	STONE'S MOBILE RADIO, INC.	\$3,459.64	SHERIFF
95183	CHRISTIE MOTOR SALES, INC.	\$1,304.15	SHERIFF/F-M
95184	ND STATE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS	\$120.00	SHERIFF
95185	SENIOR MEALS AND SERVICES	\$10.50	SHERIFF
95186	BALCO UNIFORM CO. INC.	\$103.26	SHERIFF
95187	FOREMAX INCORPORATED	\$116.65	SHERIFF
95188	TOM SABO	\$142.50	SHERIFF
95189	ND SHERIFF & DEPUTIES ASSOCIATION	\$400.00	SHERIFF
95190	SAM BECK	\$201.62	SHERIFF
95191	VERIZON WIRELESS	\$47.59	EMG MGR
95192	UNITED COMMUNICATIONS	\$215.48	E-911
95193	UNITED COMMUNICATIONS	\$33.77	EMG MGR
95194	JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	\$1,119.27	R&B
95195	FARMERS UNION OIL CO	\$3,145.84	MAINT/F-M/R&B
95196	BUTLER MACHINERY CO.	\$7,173.50	R&B

95197	CAVALIER RURAL ELECTRIC CO-OP.	\$104.34	R&B
95198	ERLING'S OIL, INC.	\$63.01	R&B
95199	DAHL TRUCK & AUTO	\$31.99	R&B
95200	ACME TOOLS - GRAND FORKS	\$599.80	R&B
95201	RICHARD'S WELDING, INC.	\$566.00	R&B
95202	ON THE RUN SERVICE	\$60.00	R&B
95203	HOFFARTH CONSTRUCTION	\$1,030.67	R&B
95204	NDTC	\$128.03	E-911
95205	STEVEN ANDERSON	\$369.18	VSO
95206	CLUBHOUSE HOTEL & SUITES	\$432.00	VSO
95207	VICTOR HECK	\$10.00	VSO
95208	ANITHA CHIRUMAMILLA	\$30.00	NDSU EXT.
95209	UNITED COMMUNICATIONS	\$59.08	NDSU EXT.
95210	NDSU - DEPT 3110	\$14,160.75	NDSU EXT.
95211	ANITHA CHIRUMAMILLA	\$151.00	NDSU EXT.
95212	BUSINESS ESSENTIALS	\$10.59	NDSU EXT.
95213	XEROX CORPORATION	\$158.58	NDSU EXT.
95214	JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	\$214.09	WEED
95215	READY TALK	\$11.33	SS
95216	PREMIUM WATERS, INC.	\$9.00	SS
95217	ARAMARK	\$101.25	SS
95218	ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS	\$248.73	SS
95219	OTTER TAIL POWER CO	\$134.34	SS
95220	JS WHOLESALE	\$74.84	SS
95221	JOSH PLUMMER	\$600.00	SS
95222	UNITED COMMUNICATIONS	\$554.79	SS
95223	LANGDON CITY	\$109.71	SS
95224	UNITED COMMUNICATIONS	\$631.60	SS
95225	POSTMASTER	\$277.00	SS
95226	CARL HOFFARTH	\$250.00	SS
95227	T R WAIND INSURANCE AGENCY	\$2,763.95	SS
95228	VISA	\$63.96	NVHSZ
95229	AMAZON	\$73.00	NVHSZ
95230	WALSH COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPT	\$222.80	NVHSZ
95231	TAMMY MCMILLAN	\$204.70	NVHSZ
95232	KATIE RAMSDELL	\$20.95	NVHSZ
95233	VERIZON WIRELESS	\$854.98	NVHSZ
95234	NORTHDALE OIL INC	\$19.51	NVHSZ
95235	PEMBINA COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPT	\$144.43	NVHSZ
95236	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT.	\$160.85	SS
95237	CAVALIER COUNTY TREASURER	\$24,370.19	NVHSZ
95238	CAVALIER COUNTY TREASURER	\$16,656.25	NVHSZ
95239	CAVALIER COUNTY TREASURER	\$41,868.00	NVHSZ
95240	PEMBINA COUNTY AUDITOR/TREAS	\$19,913.81	NVHSZ
95241	WALSH COUNTY AUDITOR	\$41,952.28	NVHSZ
95243	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & ABUSE CENTER	\$1,856.89	GRANT PASS
95244	RORY & DENISE RATZLAFF	\$99.65	ABATEMENT

At 5:10 p.m., Greg Goodman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Stanley Dick; motion carried.

*Board of Commissioners
Cavalier County, North Dakota*

Austin Lafrenz – Chairman

Greg Goodman – Vice Chairman

Stanley Dick

David Zeis

Nick Moser

Attest: Lisa Gellner - Auditor