

Commissioners Proceedings

On January 5, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. the Board of Commissioners of Cavalier County, North Dakota, met at the Cavalier County Courthouse in regular session, with all members present. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic there was limited audience capacity in the courthouse meeting rooms. Webex was utilized for those wanting to attend the meeting virtually. 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 David Zeis; motion carried. Greg Goodman made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Nick Moser; motion carried.

Terry Johnston, Road Supervisor, met with the commissioners and reviewed the list of upcoming road projects. There was discussion on the PI test done on the gravel Mikkelsens used from the McLean pit. Another test is going to be done.

A letter was reviewed from the Ramsey County Highway Department, requesting the county to cost share 50% of the cost to replace bridge number 10-102-32.0, six miles south of Calio on the county line, in the stretch of road that Ramsey County maintains. Ramsey County is proposing replacing the bridge with culverts. Johnston explained that the bridge is a minor structure that is listed on Cavalier County's inventory of bridges with the state, and that minor structures are not required to be inspected and they do not qualify for federal funds. The commissioners asked Johnston to see if a contract could be drawn up that would require Ramsey County to cost share for future bridges needing to be replaced in the stretch of road that Cavalier County maintains. Johnston returned later in the meeting to report that there is only one major structure in Cavalier County's portion of the county line shared with Ramsey County, and it has already been replaced. IT was decided that Johnston would visit with the Ramsey County Highway Superintendent regarding the project and follow up with the commissioners at the next meeting.

A proposed district map for the four snowplow trucks was reviewed. There was discussion on communicating between the districts on where the trucks are needed. It was decided to bring the roadmen in for a department meeting during the next commission meeting to discuss the districts and decide the chain of command for communicating when the snowplow trucks are needed.

Steph Bata, Tax Director; Lisa Buchweitz and Mark Schneider, Soils Committee; met with the commissioners and presented the proposed soil valuations for 2021. There was lengthy discussion on the future of the Forest Stewardship contracts in relation to the value of trees in the county. The possibility of not renewing the contracts in the coming years was discussed being the 50¢/acre tax for these contracts is an outdated amount of tax being paid for those acres and bills to increase it do not seem to be supported by legislature. It was discussed that this is not fair to the rest of the county taxpayers. Bata recommended starting with a value of \$200/acre for the trees coming out of the Forest Stewardship Program, and eventually get them all mapped property with Sidwell and valued as non-cropland by soil type, with a discount for slope. It was decided to discuss renewing the Forest Stewardship contracts at the next meeting. **Greg Goodman made a motion to approve the Soils Committee's proposed 2021 Soil Valuation Schedule, seconded by Stanley Dick, motion carried.**

Abby Borchardt met with the commissioners regarding the county's On-Site Sewage Treatment System Regulations. Steph Welsh, Public Health; Candace Carlson and Allen McKay, Lake Region Public Health; also join the meeting virtually via Webex for the discussion. Borchardt voiced frustration with Section 5A on page 14 of the regulations, which requires inspection of rural sewage

treatment systems when a property is sold, as well as penalties for non-compliance. It was explained that NDCC gives the Cavalier County Board of Health authority to make changes to the regulations and that legislature is also currently looking at making the regulations more consistent state-wide. Options for disclosure of any findings during the inspections were discussed, allowing the seller and buyer to agree to leave current systems in place if they are in working order and do not pose a health/environmental risk. It was suggested that Borchardt take her concerns to the next Cavalier County Board of Health meeting on January 25th at 4:30 p.m.

Greg Fetsch, Sheriff, and Shane Gallagher, Chief Deputy, met with the commissioners and reviewed some legislative bills. Fetsch also presented his annual report for his department. Fetsch informed the commissioners that he has been advertising for both a dispatcher and deputy. He has received applications for the dispatcher positions, but no interest in the deputy position yet. Gallagher offered the commissioners to ride along for a shift if they would like to. They also informed the commissioners that they are getting the virtual active shooter simulated training set up and will be getting state certified to do training hours with it.

The 2019 annual audit prepared by the ND State Auditor’s Office was reviewed. **Stanley Dick made a motion to approve the 2019 annual audit, seconded by David Zeis, motion carried.**

Steph Welsh, Public Health, briefly visited with the commissioners regarding progress on issuing COVID-19 vaccines. Welsh informed them that 117 doses had been given so far and she finds out on Tuesday or Wednesday each week how many vaccines are allocated from the State to Cavalier County for the coming week. Welsh was hopeful to get around 100 vaccines for the coming week.

David Zeis made a motion to transfer \$296.21 from VSO Fund to County General Fund, seconded by Greg Goodman, motion carried. Nick Moser made a motion to transfer \$4,176.26 from E-911 Fund to County General Fund, seconded by David Zeis, motion carried.

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

94972	OFFICE OF STATE AUDITOR	\$13,950.00	GEN
94973	CUMMINS SALES & SERVICE	\$435.91	GEN
94974	SCHROEDER FURNITURE	\$4,793.51	TX DIR
94975	COMPUTER EXPRESS	\$1,100.00	GEN
94976	BUSINESS ESSENTIALS	\$41.78	GEN/R&B
94977	PREMIER BENEFITS GROUP INC.	\$500.00	GEN
94978	SAMSON ELECTRIC LTD.	\$422.21	GEN
94979	LISA GELLNER	\$32.00	GEN
94980	R. SCOTT STEWART	\$386.64	STATE'S ATTY
94981	MID AMERICAN RESEARCH CHEMICAL	\$1,929.00	GEN
94982	MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES	\$1,651.24	GEN/R&B
94983	VERIZON WIRELESS	\$47.54	EMG MGR/GEN/R&B
94984	TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.	\$3,823.91	RECORDER
94985	ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS	\$666.82	GENERAL/F-M
94986	GALLS, LLC	\$130.32	SHERIFF
94988	ND SHERIFF & DEPUTIES ASSOCIATION	\$50.00	SHERIFF
94989	ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS	\$261.97	SHERIFF
94990	SHANE GALLAGHER	\$105.00	SHERIFF
94991	GREGORY FETSCH	\$142.01	SHERIFF
94992	BALCO UNIFORM CO. INC.	\$98.84	SHERIFF
94993	STREICHER'S	\$2,409.80	SHERIFF

94994	WALHALLA COOP OIL CO.	\$454.62	R&B
94995	3D SPECIALTIES	\$3,596.31	F-M
94996	HANSEL PLUMBING & HEATING, LLC	\$1,253.78	R&B
94997	RAZOR TRACKING, INC.	\$300.00	R&B
94998	KEVIN MIKKELSEN	\$63.25	R&B
94999	RDO EQUIPMENT COMPANY	\$3,408.88	R&B
95000	NORTHEAST REGIONAL WATER	\$55.00	R&B
95001	JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	\$11.47	R&B
95002	MCCURDY, INC.	\$17.00	R&B
95003	CLYDE FARM SERVICE & SUPPLY	\$264.99	R&B
95004	KLJ ENGINEERING LLC	\$3,300.00	F-M
95005	CLOSE CONSTRUCTION	\$1,350.00	F-M
95006	STONE'S MOBILE RADIO, INC.	\$4,800.00	EMG MGR
95007	WITZEL CONSTRUCTION LLC	\$7,208.00	WEED
95008	MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES	\$72.42	WEED
95009	OTTER TAIL POWER CO	\$35.73	WEED
95010	CAVALIER COUNTY REPUBLICAN	\$41.00	VSO
95011	VICTOR HECK	\$18.20	VSO
95012	QUILL CORPORATION	\$12.69	HUMAN SERV. ZONE
95013	DISCOVER	\$243.33	HUMAN SERV. ZONE
95014	AUSTIN FUNERAL HOME	\$2,000.00	HUMAN SERV. ZONE
95015	VERIZON WIRELESS	\$632.41	HUMAN SERV. ZONE
95016	ASKEW FUNERAL HOMES	\$2,000.00	HUMAN SERV. ZONE
95017	S&A, INC.	\$80.00	HUMAN SERV. ZONE
95018	NATIVE AMERICAN TRAINING INSTITUTE	\$200.00	HUMAN SERV. ZONE
95019	MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES	\$118.76	SS
95020	NICK MOSER	\$134.55	COMM
95021	DAVID J. ZEIS	\$55.78	COMM
95022	AVI SYSTEMS INC.	\$1,605.00	CLERK
95023	JOSH PLUMMER	\$846.00	GEN
95024	ND CLERK'S ASSOCIATION	\$100.00	CLERK
95025	QUALITY SPECIALTY PRODUCTS	\$21.99	TX DIR
95026	TIM KINGZETT	\$75.00	TX DIR
95027	CHAD HENDERSON	\$75.00	TX DIR
95028	LISA BUCHWEITZ	\$75.00	TX DIR
95029	BUSINESS ESSENTIALS	\$1,454.94	AUDITOR
95030	DAKOTA WHOLESALE TIRE	\$575.28	SHERIFF
95031	LISA JACOBSON	\$75.00	TX DIR
95032	CAVALIER COUNTY AUDITOR	\$33.05	VSO/WEED
95033	SUPERPUMPER, INC.	\$33.89	SHERIFF
95034	GALLS, LLC	\$358.11	SHERIFF
95035	HANSEL PLUMBING & HEATING, LLC	\$535.00	SHERIFF
95036	POST BOARD	\$100.00	SHERIFF
95037	MID-STATES CRIME INFO CTR	\$100.00	SHERIFF
95038	BLUETARP CREDIT SERVICES	\$156.18	R&B
95039	FARMERS & MERCHANTS STATE BANK	\$66,715.96	R&B
95040	CARQUEST OF LANGDON	\$342.01	GEN/R&B
95041	VERIZON WIRELESS	\$153.65	GEN
95042	POSTMASTER	\$55.00	NDSU EXT.
95043	CAVALIER COUNTY AUDITOR	\$204.85	NDSU EXT.
95044	NDSU - DEPT 3110	\$200.00	NDSU EXT. TR
95045	POLAR COMMUNICATIONS	\$373.70	E-911
95048	ND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT	\$114,607.68	HEALTH INS

At 12:00 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