

Cavalier County Commission Proceedings

On December 19, 2023, 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. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman David Zeis called the meeting to order and proceeded as follows:

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

Terry Johnston, Road Supervisor; and Sheldon Romfo, Road Foreman; met with the commissioners to review updated bids for a storage building in Vang. After reviewing bids from Walhalla Building Center and Langdon Building Center, **Stanley Dick made a motion to accept the bid in the amount of \$190,732.75 from Langdon Building Center, seconded by Greg Goodman. A roll call vote was taken, with all commissioners voting “yes”, motion carried.** It was decided that the State’s Attorney would draw up a contract for the construction of the storage building.

Jeff Daley, KLJ, met with the commissioners and reviewed projects for the Flexible Road Funding application. It was decided to propose a paving project through the gorge on County 55; and a project to pave the Mt. Carmel Dam access road.

The commissioners were in agreement not to proceed with hiring an engineer for the Langdon shop project, and to advertise to purchase an existing shop or look into a bank building one and entering into a lease to own with the county.

Sheldon Romfo informed the commissioners that when he was replacing the receiver hitch on his Ford Expedition, it was discovered that the frame was bent. The commissioners suggested turning in an insurance claim. Romfo stated he would drive the old pickup from the Vang district in the meantime.

Precincts for the 2024 elections were discussed. Paul Henderson, Chairman of the District 9B Republican Party, brought forward a proposal to add a third precinct which included the 10 western townships in the county. Henderson explained that ND Century Code allows for voting based on number of precincts in the legislative district of each county to endorse a candidate, if the chairman chooses, which would then only allow Cavalier County one vote. Henderson stated this has happened in other districts and it would leave Cavalier County under represented if a candidate is endorsed based on number of precincts in each county. The unknowns with the current lawsuit regarding legislative districts was also discussed. **Nick Moser made a motion to table the decision and call a special meeting next week after a decision is made on the legislative district lawsuit, seconded by Greg Goodman.** Lisa Gellner, Auditor, suggested that if a precinct were to be added, it would make sense to have Langdon City in a separate precinct being it is already mapped out in the election program and has a different ballot for the Primary Election. **Nick Moser rescinded his motion and Greg Goodman rescinded his second to the motion. Stanley Dick made a motion to add a precinct, making Langdon City – Precinct 1; the remainder of the property in Cavalier County in District 9B – Precinct 2; and that portion of Cavalier County in District 19 – Precinct 3; and continue doing Vote by Mail with that election board located in the Commission Room in the Cavalier County Memorial Courthouse for the 2024 elections, seconded by Greg Goodman. A roll call vote was taken with all commissioners voting “yes”, motion carried.** It was reiterated that one

precinct-consolidated vote center/polling location at the Cavalier County Memorial Courthouse for the 2024 elections was approved at the September 5, 2023 commission meeting.

Dave Azure, Matt VanThuyne, and Emily Fernan, US Fish and Wildlife, met with the commissioners asking for a line of communication for any construction in county road right of way. Bob Blake, Brian Hardy, and Kensi Breyer were also in attendance representing the Water Board. A map of the wetland acres was reviewed. The commissioners voiced frustration with the loss of tax revenue the wetlands create, as well as damage to the roads. Angelo Mondragon, State’s Attorney was also in attendance and joined in the discussion.

Matt Wright, Chief Deputy Sheriff; and Shane Gallagher, Sheriff; joint the meeting for the appointment of Sheriff effective January 1, 2024. Zeis asked Gallagher for his recommendation. Gallagher stated he felt Matt Wright should be appointed. Wright stated he was willing to be appointed. **Austin Lafrenz made a motion to appoint Matt Wright as Sheriff effective January 1, 2024, at the same pay rate at the current Sheriff, seconded by Nick Moser. A roll call vote was taken, with all commissioners voting “yes”, motion carried.** The 2-year unexpired term for Sheriff will be on the ballot for the 2024 elections.

Nick Moser made a motion to re-appoint Greg Goodman to the North Central Planning Board, seconded by Stanley Dick, motion carried.

Greg Goodman made a motion to re-appoint the following members to the JDA board: Anitha Chirumamilla, Patrick Rime, Austin Lafrenz, Marcus Lewis, Duane Otto, and Kyle Moen, seconded by Stanley Dick, motion carried. Austin Lafrenz abstained from voting on the motion due to a conflict of interest. Shannon Duerr introduced Kari Phillips as her newly hired employee at JDA.

The commissioners reviewed a letter received from The Walsh County Record, stating they were resigning as the official county newspaper effective December 31, 2023; as well as a letter received from The Borderland Press stating they are now qualified to serve as the official county newspaper for Cavalier County. Angelo Mondragon, State’s Attorney, reviewed findings for a Resolution determining that The Borderland Press qualifies to serve as the county’s official newspaper. **Nick Moser made a motion that The Borderland Press is qualified to serve as the county’s official newspaper; and the principle editorial office is located in Cavalier County; seconded by Stanley Dick, motion carried. Greg Goodman abstained from voting on the motion due to a conflict of interest. Stanley Dick made a motion that The Walsh County Record no longer qualifies to be the county’s official newspaper, seconded by Austin Lafrenz, motion carried. Greg Goodman abstained from voting on the motion due to a conflict of interest. Nick Moser made a motion to appoint The Borderland Press as the official newspaper of Cavalier County, effective January 1, 2024, until such time as a successor is elected and takes office, seconded by Stanley Dick, motion carried. Greg Goodman abstained from voting on the motion due to a conflict of interest.** A Resolution will be prepared by Mondragon setting forth the findings to be signed by David Zeis as Commission Chair.

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

103167	CAVALIER COUNTY AUDITOR	\$298.35	FEMA
103168	CAVALIER COUNTY WATER BOARD	\$2,340.48	FEMA

103169	ELGIN TOWNSHIP CLERK/TREASURER	\$16,810.88	FEMA
103170	GREY TOWNSHIP CLERK/TREASURER	\$1,309.00	FEMA
103171	CYPRESS TOWNSHIP CLERK/TREASURER	\$11,781.21	FEMA
103172	LOAM TOWNSHIP CLERK/TREASURER	\$8,789.00	FEMA
103173	MORGAN PRINTING, INC.	\$211.86	COMM
103174	LISA GELLNER	\$36.68	AUD
103175	NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES	\$450.00	COMM
103176	THE VILLAGE FAMILY SERVICE CENTER	\$1,260.00	MISC
103177	PREMIUM WATERS, INC.	\$27.98	CLERK
103178	FARMERS UNION OIL CO	\$391.77	MAINT
103179	THE BORDERLAND PRESS	\$46.05	COMM
103180	QUALITY SPEC PRODUCTS	\$44.73	STATE'S ATTY
103181	QUALITY SPEC PRODUCTS	\$47.00	TREAS
103182	ECOLAB	\$129.00	MAINT
103183	SOFTWARE INNOVATIONS	\$950.00	AUD
103184	MOSTAD INSURANCE SERVICES	\$53.00	MISC
103186	ND DEPT OF ENV QUALITY	\$420.00	MISC
103187	COMPUTER EXPRESS	\$1,884.00	AUD
103188	COMPUTER EXPRESS	\$198.50	CLERK
103189	R. SCOTT STEWART	\$78.66	STATE'S ATTY
103190	R. SCOTT STEWART	\$279.98	STATE'S ATTY
103191	QUADIANT LEASING USA, INC.	\$977.10	MISC
103192	QUADIANT FINANCE USA, INC	\$2,000.00	MISC
103193	UNITED COMMUNICATIONS	\$1,482.17	GEN/R&B/VSO
103194	MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES	\$1,716.16	GEN/R&B
103195	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT.	\$4,534.69	GEN/E-911
103196	OTTER TAIL POWER CO	\$2,264.68	GEN/R&B
103197	ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES	\$36,856.17	WORKERS COMP
103198	JP MORGAN CHASE BANK	\$2,348.68	SHERIFF
103199	AT&T MOBILITY	\$902.88	SHERIFF
103200	JOHN METZGER	\$63.24	SHERIFF
103201	BUSINESS ESSENTIALS	\$13.18	SHERIFF
103202	UP NORTH PLUMBING LLC	\$209.18	SHERIFF
103203	LEXIPOL, LLC	\$3,473.93	SHERIFF
103204	MID-CONTINENT CABLE CO.	\$110.83	DISP
103205	DOLLAR GENERAL -REGIONS 410526	\$35.95	SHERIFF
103206	HUBERTS OUTDOOR POWER	\$660.26	SHERIFF
103207	CHRISTIE MOTOR SALES, INC.	\$137.75	SHERIFF
103208	FARMERS UNION OIL CO	\$3,571.63	SHERIFF
103209	POST BOARD	\$90.00	SHERIFF
103210	LEEVERS FOODS	\$18.43	SHERIFF
103211	PEMBINA COUNTY SHERIFF	\$2,700.00	SHERIFF
103212	ERLING'S OIL, INC.	\$351.02	R&B
103213	CLYDE FARM SERVICE & SUPPLY, INC.	\$50.00	R&B
103214	SHAWN HALL	\$98.25	R&B
103215	BUTLER MACHINERY CO.	\$6,032.70	R&B
103216	FARMERS UNION OIL CO	\$4,085.65	R&B
103217	DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	\$1,156.04	R&B

103218	DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	\$5,097.57	R&B
103219	FINEST AUTO BODY & GLASS LLC	\$1,618.29	R&B
103220	ERLING'S OIL, INC.	\$887.70	R&B
103221	RICHARD'S WELDING, INC.	\$4,247.40	R&B
103222	BUSINESS ESSENTIALS	\$850.15	R&B
103223	CAVALIER RURAL ELECTRIC CO-OP.	\$139.98	R&B
103224	NDLTAP - UGPTI	\$125.00	R&B
103225	KLJ ENGINEERING LLC	\$2,057.97	R&B
103226	KAREN KEMPERT	\$714.46	EMG MGR
103227	VERIZON WIRELESS	\$47.75	EMG MGR
103228	NDTC	\$128.03	E-911
103229	BUSINESS ESSENTIALS	\$816.77	EMG MGR
103230	UNITED COMMUNICATIONS	\$203.79	E-911
103231	UNITED COMMUNICATIONS	\$37.91	EMG MGR
103232	KATIE HENRY	\$39.73	NDSU EXT.
103233	KATIE HENRY	\$30.00	NDSU EXT.
103234	BAILEY REISER	\$30.00	NDSU EXT.
103235	UNITED COMMUNICATIONS	\$59.59	NDSU EXT.
103236	ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS	\$359.02	NDSU EXT.
103237	AGTERRA TECHNOLOGIES, INC	\$1,550.00	WEED
103238	AG TERRA TECHNOLOGIES INC	\$4,045.00	WEED
103239	MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES	\$225.89	WEED
103240	ARAMARK	\$105.09	SS
103265	OTTER TAIL POWER CO	\$119.96	SS
103266	QUILL CORPORATION	\$116.95	SS
103267	CARL HOFFARTH	\$60.00	SS
103268	LANGDON HARDWARE & RENTAL	\$25.98	SS
103269	LANGDON CITY	\$112.43	SS
103270	DEBRA FRASER	\$100.00	NVHSZ
103271	ANN WEST	\$100.00	NVHSZ
103272	LAVERNE DOYLE	\$145.85	NVHSZ
103273	JANNE MYRDAL	\$50.00	NVHSZ
103274	STANLEY DICK	\$384.49	NVHSZ
103275	JILL DENAULT	\$218.40	NVHSZ
103276	KAREN ANDERSON	\$94.54	NVHSZ
103277	AMY KRAM	\$100.00	NVHSZ
103278	HOLLY FETSCH	\$46.51	NVHSZ
103279	MADISON PRITCHARD	\$130.35	NVHSZ
103280	MCKINZIE KIPP	\$67.33	NVHSZ
103281	WALSH COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPT	\$625.21	NVHSZ
103282	XCEL ENERGY	\$228.91	NVHSZ
103283	WINDWOOD ESTATES	\$882.50	NVHSZ
103284	COUNTY OF GRAND FORKS	\$4,752.00	NVHSZ
103285	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT.	\$143.70	SS/NVHSZ
103286	VERIZON WIRELESS	\$1,592.20	SS/NVHSZ
103287	VISA	\$2,177.81	SS/NVHSZ
103288	STANLEY DICK	\$544.66	COMM

At 12:00 p.m., Nick Moser made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Greg Goodman; motion carried.

*Board of Commissioners
Cavalier County, North Dakota*

David Zeis – Chairman

Attest: Lisa Gellner - Auditor