

**RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MARCH 14, 2017**

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met on March 14, 2017 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Sid Berg, Nathan Berseth, Tim Campbell, Rollie Ehlert and Dan Thompson. Others in attendance were Administration Personnel Bailey and DeVal; Assistant State's Attorney Kummer; and a Daily News Reporter.

A motion was made by Ehlert to approve the minutes of meetings February 7 and February 21; motion seconded by Campbell. Vote was unanimous.

**MISC/CORRESPONDENCE**

- Correspondence from State's Attorney McBeth to Penny Miller, Clerk of Supreme Court requesting the judgeship in the SE Judicial District be retained.
- Correspondence from David and Patty Zietlow requesting a County property in Great Bend be cleaned up (discussed later in meeting during Highway Report).
- Berg shared information he received from the SE Regional Career & Technology Center and commented on the large number of young people involved from area schools.

A motion was made by Berg to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented by Bailey; motion seconded by Ehlert. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Thompson to approve reimbursement to the Water Resource District in the amount of \$1,500.00 for Bliss Law Firm Expenses relating to the Diversion; motion seconded by Berg. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Campbell to approve the Raffle Permit Application for Richland County 4-H; motion seconded by Berg. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Thompson to approve the Sale of County Property in Great Bend to the City of Great Bend; motion seconded by Ehlert. Voting NO was Berg, the remainder voted Yes and the motion carried.

A motion was made by Berg to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between Fargo Cass, Ransom, Richland, Sargent, Steele and Traill Health Department Units; motion seconded by Thompson. Vote was unanimous.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A) Social Service - Still uncertain of legislative cuts in funding. Ehlert reported the SE Human Services Board will be meeting next month.
- B) Buildings & Grounds - A walk through was done by Ehlert and Thompson earlier today of the vacant area of the LEC where SEMCA will be relocating. Some cosmetic changes have been made, the flooring type needs to be determined - either tile or carpet.

Bailey reported he received some complaints on the walls from SEMCA, Ehlert will follow-up.

The Board also briefly discussed SEMCA funding, other participating entities involved with SEMCA and their percentage of services and funding; the supervision of Agents; the new BCI Agent and his role. Campbell will follow-up with SEMCA and ask them to give a Department Report at a future Commission Meeting and answer any questions the Board has.

Thompson gave an update on the building issues - An estimate has been received from Honeywell for a 3-year plan for new temperature controls. The first year has an estimated cost of \$15,700 for controllers with a 3-5 percent increase the following years. Down the road if a major overhaul of the system is necessary, the controls would be compatible with any system.

Bailey reported that Mike Wolf from the Assn of Counties will be here this week to look at the reception area for Social Services. He will look at security and improvements to the working space.

## HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Personnel in attendance were Lowell Bladow, Ron Hohenstern, and Moriah Herding.

Culverts under 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue - Co Rd 10 West of Walmart - The city of Wahpeton has received an estimate of \$52,000 to replace the culverts. (Approximately \$10,000 less than lining the old culverts.) The City has contacted Bladow to ask if the County is willing to cost-share in the project. Following discussion it was the consensus of the Board to pay for the cost of the culverts. Bladow will notify the City.

Bridge 119-35.1 North of Hankinson - Bids will be opened at the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Estimate three weeks to complete all work and open the road to traffic.

CH#10N West of Walmart - (two miles going north) - Received a bid from Barga Construction for \$25,868, they will fill cracks and level rutting. A motion was made by Thompson to approve the bid from Barga Construction for two miles on CH#10N; motion seconded by Ehlert. Vote was unanimous.

Spring Road Restrictions - Restrictions went into effect March 1<sup>st</sup>.

County-owned Property in Great Bend - Last December Campbell reported receiving a complaint regarding a County property in Great Bend that needs to be cleaned up - the building burned down and is a pile of debris, it was taken by the County for non-payment of taxes and is a liability and hazard.

An estimate of \$7,500 has been received from JBX, LLC to clean up and haul debris to the landfill. A motion was made by Thompson to hire JBX, LLC to clean up the property in Great Bend; motion seconded by Campbell. Vote was unanimous.

Other Department Matters -

- Will begin summer hours next week
- culvert bids will be opened at the March 21 meeting
- crushing bids will be opened at the April 4 meeting

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS continued**

C) Public Health - No Report.

D) Job Development Board - The next meeting is scheduled for March 15.  
Berseth suggested the JDA committee consider only meeting as needed rather than holding a regular monthly meeting.

E) Weed Board - A meeting was held last week; the budget was reviewed.

F) Soils Committee - No Report.

G) Park Board - Bailey received notice that the meeting scheduled for March 20 may be postponed until April. Berg will follow-up with the Chairman of the Park Board.

H) Administration - Calls have been coming in regarding Farm Exemption Applications.

The Board took a brief break at this time and Tax Director Sandy Fossum was invited to the meeting to discuss Farm Exemptions.

## **FARM EXEMPTIONS**

Fossum reported at the November 15, 2016 Commission Meeting she had presented two forms for the Boards consideration, an income Worksheet and an Affidavit Form; she requested that applicants be required to provide one of these two forms with the farm exemption application. A motion was passed to move forward with the request and the Assessors Office was going to implement the Verification process over a three year period due to the wording of the exemption stating three consecutive years of being over the limit for non-farm income.

The farm exemption applications and verification worksheets were mailed to all active farmers in 12 townships to begin with. She has received several calls regarding the verification worksheets - some feel there should be an exception for cash rent, others feel the exemption is not fair to the non-farmers that live in the townships.

Discussion followed and it was the consensus of the Board to leave as is and allow the County Assessors Office to do as that law dictates and that this issue is something the Legislature will need to clean up.

**MISC/CORRESPONDENCE continued**

A motion was made by Berg to approve the payment of bills; motion seconded by Campbell. Vote was unanimous.

- Berg reported he followed up with the Park Board Chairman during the break and the March 20 Park Board Meeting will be postponed until April 17.
- Bailey reported that the next 5-County Meeting is scheduled for April 6 and Richland County is scheduled to host.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

March

21 Commission Meeting

April

4 Commission Meeting

6 5-County Meeting

17 Park Board Meeting

18 Commission Meeting

Being there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 A.M.

Reports Filed: Tax & Property Department - Revenue Voucher for February 2017; Sheriff Department Revenue & Expenses and Civil Balance Sheet for January and February 2017.

ATTEST: Harris Bailey  
Harris Bailey  
Auditor/Administrator

Nathan A. Berseth CHAIRPERSON  
Nathan A. Berseth  
Board of Richland County Commissioners

The following claims were approved for February 2017.

PAYROLL (inclusive)	
General	222,765.13
County Highway	73,131.62
Social Services	93,939.86
911 Communications	46,208.59
Drug Court	5,672.92
County Agent	5,064.24
Veterans Service	3,154.67
Weed Officer	535.00
Public Health Fund	73,678.91
SEMCA	9,617.00
<b>PAYROLL TOTAL</b>	<b>533,767.94</b>
EXPENSES: ** Refer to resolution records	
County General	237,324.38
County Highway	135,853.95
Bridge Replacement Fd	27,441.36
Road & Bridge Equip	45,000.00
15 Mill Road Fund	220,222.39
Social Service	35,214.36
911 Communications	29,973.83
Drug Court	1,503.35
Water Rescue	798.00
County Agent	2,738.00
Veterans Service	1,343.74
Weed Control Levy	1,492.27
Public Health	27,896.42
State Medical Levy	13,795.84
Garrison Div	14,963.26
Domestic Violence	70.00
Twsp Share Gas & Oil	63,813.80
State Aid Distribution	33,505.98
Jail Concession	1,316.60
Sobriety Test Fund	1,651.00
SEMCA	14,454.65
JDA	15,494.29
Sr Citizens Fund	14,905.01
Historical Society	3,721.36
County Agt Special	278.71
Soil Conservation	14,231.68
Water Mngt Levy	59,075.06
Joint Water Resource	28,564.60
<b>EXPENSE TOTAL</b>	<b>1,046,643.89</b>
<b>TOTAL PAYROLL &amp; EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,580,411.83</b>

ATTEST:

  
Harris Bailey  
Auditor/Administrator

  
Nathan A. Berseth  
Board of Richland County Commissioners

CHAIRPERSON