

**RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SEPTEMBER 18, 2018**

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met on September 18, 2018 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Sid Berg, Nathan Berseth, Tim Campbell, Rollie Ehlert and Dan Thompson. Others in attendance were Administration Personnel Hage and DelVal; State's Attorney Kummer; and a Daily News Reporter.

TREASURERS REPORT

Erickson distributed packets to the Board for setting minimum sale prices on delinquent tax properties. There are 76 properties plus 1 from prior years. The Minimum Sale Price Hearing will be held on October 16.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE

- Notice of grant opportunity from Court Facilities Improvement Advisory Committee.
- Thompson reported the Veterans Service Office workload is tremendous, the Social Service receptionist is currently assisting the VSO Officer. Hage will meet with Public Health Director Flack and Social Service Director Hasbargen to discuss possible coordination with those agencies.

A motion was made by Berseth to appoint Chandra Langseth and Dan Thompson as North Dakota State Fair Delegates; motion seconded by Berg. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Campbell to approve a Revenue Restoration Resolution (copy attached) for consideration by the NDCCA during the annual meeting in October; motion seconded by Berg. Vote was unanimous.

SANDY FOSSUM - SOILS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Fossum reported the Soils Committee met on September 13 and all Districts were represented. The recommendation from the Soils Committee was to stay with the current system and review some PI's. Fossum asked the Board for a recommendation on how to proceed for 2019.

Berseth and Ehlert voiced concerns with the documentation to back up the current system. Following lengthy discussion a motion was made by Berg to accept the recommendation of the Soils Committee to continue with the current system and review some PI's; motion seconded by Thompson. Voting NO were Berseth and Ehlert. The remainder voted Yes and the motion carried.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

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

Bid Opening for Walcott Shop Property - The following bids were received:

Cooper Anderson	\$75,110
Brent Jordheim	\$58,777
Kelly & Doug Muscha	\$52,500
Joe Alm	\$35,001
City of Walcott	\$22,000

A motion was made by Campbell to accept all bids received for review by the Highway Portfolio Commissioners and the Highway Engineer; motion seconded by Berseth. Voting NO was Berg, the remainder voted Yes and the motion carried.

Federal Aid Program - Our meeting with NDDOT Local Government Division Staff to discuss federal aid is scheduled for October 8 at 4:30 p.m. After the County Road 4 Project we will have a negative balance and will need to borrow ahead on our Federal Aid. A motion was made by Berseth authorizing the Chairman to sign the Federal Aid Program Sheet; motion seconded by Berg. Vote was unanimous.

Misc -

- Accepting applications until September 28 for a position in Hankinson and a position in Wahpeton/Colfax
- Co Rd 1 chip seal is complete
- Plan to begin shoulder work next week for Co Rd 4 paving
- Safety project update - 87 and 10E need permanent striping; destination lighting by Christine- electrical work should be done tomorrow, poles will be up at a later date due to sign post delays. All other striping and signing is done.

The Board briefly discussed flashing roads signs at various locations.

- Hage received a letter from the DOT about the Transportation Alternatives Program. The DOT is accepting applications for projects for the fiscal year 2020. Eligible applicants include cities. Hage was instructed to send a copy of the letter to all cities in the County.

BUDGET HEARING

Visitors included Tim Jones from Wyndmere and Rick Snyder from Fairmount.

Updated 2019 Budget information was distributed by Hage. (Copies attached). Hage explained the figures include the 10% reduction by Departments. Mills are down approximately 1.38 from last year but could adjust because of residential values. A motion was made by Thompson to approve the 2019 Budget as presented; motion seconded by Campbell. Vote was unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Kummer recommended the Executive Session be postponed for several weeks so she can gather more information.

MISC/CORRESPONDENCE continued

- Kummer reported a 4-H Group cleaned up the graffiti at Mooreton Pond.
- Berg commented on the flashing road signs discussed earlier with the Highway Department - for the past several years he has recommended several flashing signs be included in the Highway Budget each year - that has not happened. Discussion followed and included:
 - where do you start and stop?
 - what is the cost of signs?
 - how to determine the best locations to place signs, where have accidents occurred?
 - we have the DOT and a Highway Department; Commissioners are not Engineers - what is safe enough?
 - possible restrictions or requirements due to road funding
 - enforcement if signage is placed

UPCOMING MEETINGS

September

19 JDA Meeting

October

1 Park Board
2 Commission Meeting
7-9 NDACo Annual Meeting
16 Commission Meeting

November

7 Commission Meeting
20 Commission Meeting

December

11 Commission Meeting
24-25 Closed All Day

January

8 Commission Meeting
22 Commission Meeting

Being there was no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:58 A.M.

ATTEST: 
Leslie Hage
Auditor/Administrator


Rollie Ehlert
CHAIRPERSON
Board of Richland County Commissioners

REVENUE RESTORATION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the State of North Dakota sustained a budget shortfall of more than \$1 billion during the 2015-2017 biennium, and effectively increased property tax throughout the State by eliminating the 12% property tax buy down during the 2017-2019 biennium; and,

WHEREAS, despite the rejection of a decrease in the State's income tax by the voters in the General Election of 2008, the State Legislature has disregarded the will of the people during the past 5 legislative sessions and incrementally reduced the State's income tax rate by approximately 50%, contributing substantially to the inability to properly fund obligations of State and local governments; and,

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Oil Extraction Tax was reduced from 6½% to 5% by the 2015 session of the North Dakota State Legislature, reducing revenues to the State's Treasury by approximately \$20 million per month, even at today's reduced oil prices; and,

WHEREAS, the original Oil Extraction Tax rate of 6½% was set by the voters of North Dakota when they approved an initiated measure establishing the tax in the General Election of 1980;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Dakota County Commissioners Association requests that the North Dakota State Legislature respect the will of the people of North Dakota as expressed in their approval of the initiated measure in 1980 and their rejection of the income tax decrease in 2008 by restoring the Oil Extraction Tax to 6½% and the State's personal and corporate income tax rates to the levels of 2008 as part of the State's effort to restore lost revenue and meet its fiscal responsibilities.