

July 7, 2021

10:00 A.M.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nancy Marquart. Roll Call was taken and the following members were present: Commissioners Cody Johnson, Steve Forde, Don Fougner and Maynard Loibl.

Also present were Lee Williams and Brian Perkuhn from Leading Edge Equipment, Seth Hamre and Jayme Tenneson.

The board and visitors present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Commissioner Loibl and seconded by Commissioner Fougner to approve the minutes of the June 3rd and 29th, 2021 meetings. All members voted "Yes". Motion carried.

Addition added to the agenda: President Tour.

Moved by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Forde to approve the July agenda. All members voted "Yes". Motion carried.

Seth Hamre discussed that the Highway Department has been busy with graveling, replacing culverts and spraying.

Brian Perkuhn, Leading Edge Equipment, discussed that the Highway Department has a lease on a 6175 John Deere tractor that will be expiring. He also discussed that the county has equity on the tractor, which the county can either buyout the tractor or trade-in for a newer lease tractor. If the county trades-in and leases a newer tractor, Leading Edge will pay the yearly payments. Brian discussed a five year lease plan on a new tractor at no cost to the county and that the county would be able to trade-in every year for the next five years for a newer tractor. The board discussed that after one year if they can get a 7000 series instead of a 6,000 series, which Brian will check into.

Moved by Commissioner Fougner and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to trade-in the old 6175 JD tractor for a new five year lease tractor with no yearly payments and will be able to trade-in after one year for a new 7000 series JD tractor and trade every year after that until the five year lease is up with Leading Edge Equipment. On a roll call vote all members voted "Yes". Motion carried.

Jayme Tenneson discussed the letter that the County Commissioners received from SAAF (Safe Alternatives for Abused Families). SAAF serves as a vital role in providing protection from domestic violence and victim advocacy within several counties including Nelson County.

Moved by Commissioner Forde and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to pay SAAF \$4,000.00 for the fiscal year 2022 from the Victim Witness Advocate fund once the other expenses are paid out of that fund. On a roll call vote all members voted "Yes". Motion carried.

The board discussed Juneteenth as a federal holiday.

Moved by Commissioner Fougner and seconded by Commissioner Loibl to add Juneteenth as a paid federal holiday in the County's Policy Book. All members voted "Yes". Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Loibl and seconded by Commissioner Forde to reappoint Cody Johnson to the Nelson County Weed Board. All members voted "Yes". Motion carried.

Jenny Wigen discussed on switching the county's IT from ReadITech to NRG.

Moved by Commissioner Forde and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to switch the county's IT from ReadITech to NRG. On a roll call vote all members voted "Yes". Motion carried.

The board discussed on switching the Stump Lake Park Board members from no terms to a three year term.

Moved by Commissioner Fougner and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to change the Stump Lake Park Board from no terms to a three year term starting September 1, 2021 with scattering the two board member's terms. On a roll call voted all members voted "Yes". Motion carried.

Angela Herda discussed that the water levels are down on Stump Lake and Devils Lake. Stump Lake is currently at 1447.92' and Devils Lake is currently at 1447.91'.

Angela discussed that she applied for the SHSP Non-Profit Grants and received a total of \$88,000.00 for all the fire departments and ambulance districts in Nelson County. The grant will be used to purchase the new radio systems.

Rick McDonald joined the meeting during public comments. Rick discussed with the board about the burning ban and the rules associated with it. He also discussed that it should be up to each fire district in the county to allow a person to burn or not, instead of the States recommendation.

Keith Olson presented the Calls for Service. There were 204 calls for the month of June.

Erin Fossen discussed the Court Facility Improvement Grant. This grant is a cost share grant, which the county pays 25%. This grant is

used to upgrade the courtroom in the courthouse. Erin discussed that she was looking at purchasing carpet for the courtroom, along with more insulation in the door frames to help with noise barrier during court.

The board discussed on having Erin get a quote on how much it will cost to purchase carpet for the courtroom.

The re-designation hearing began at 1:45 P.M.

Present for the hearing were Michael Donohue and Dennis Gutting.

Mr. Donohue and Mr. Gutting both expressed their concerns on the re-designation of the County Treasurer and County Recorder/COC positions. There was a discussion regarding their concerns and questions. The appointment process was also discussed.

The re-designation hearing ended with no other public input.

Ryan Ehlie from Vanguard Appraisals, Inc. joined the meeting and presented a quote to the board on what it would cost the county to have Vanguard Appraisals, Inc. come into Nelson County and reappraise the total county. The board discussed that they will look into this more.

Michelle Linstad presented three abatements on parcel numbers 18-0002-35461-000, 02-0002-11592-000 and 18-0002-35507-000.

Moved by Commissioner Loibl and seconded by Commissioner Fougner to approve the abatements on parcel numbers 18-0002-34561-000, 02-0002-11592-000 and 18-0002-35507-000. All members voted "Yes". Motion carried.

John Steffan joined the meeting and discussed about installing a 41,000 gallon anhydrous tank on his farm. The board decided to table until they get the application and paperwork from the state for the commissioners to sign.

Brittany Paxson, Ryan Nieters, Bryan Kleinjan, Kenneth Paulson, Marcus Knutson, Peter Manstrom, Clay Cameron and Tom Vonbische from NextEra Energy, Inc. joined the meeting. Brittney Paxson, Project Manager, introduced the land team and discussed that their team is working on the Prairie Wind project within Nelson County and Grand Forks County.

The board discussed salary increases for all Nelson County employees for the year of 2022.

Moved by Commissioner Fougner and seconded by Commissioner Loibl to give Nelson County employees a 4% raise in 2022. Additionally, the Deputy Auditor, Deputy Treasurer/Auditor and the two Deputy

Recorder/COC will get a \$250.00 per month raise. On a roll call vote all members voted "Yes". Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Forde to pay all the bills as listed. On a roll call vote all members voted "Yes". Motion carried.

There being no further business, moved by Commissioner Forde to adjourn the meeting. All members voted "Yes". Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Jenny Wigen
Nelson County Auditor

Nancy Marquart, Chairman
Nelson County Commissioners

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