

The Traill County Commissioners attended a special-joint commission meeting with the Steele County Commission on Tuesday, November 17th, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. The meeting was held via Zoom only.

Purpose of the special meeting: To review and approve the Agassiz Valley Human Service Zone Plan.

Present were Steele County Chairman Ted Johnson, Steele County Commissioners Brian Tuite, Russell Walcker, Richard Strand, and Randy Richards. Traill County Commissioners Thomas Eblen, Les Amb, Kurt Elliot, and Larry Young. Also present was Traill/Steele States Attorney Charlie Stock, AVHSZ Director Kim Jacobson, Ben Gates, and Kathryn Good.

Kim Jacobson provided an overview of the proposed AVHSZ plan agreement, which included the zone history.

Commissioner Richards expressed concern regarding the location Steele County Food Pantry and zone office. Richards stressed the importance of ensuring the pantry and zone offices remain in Steele County and within the courthouse. Richards asked States Attorney Stock for guidance to which Stock proposed revisions to the wording to that section. Clarification regarding the financial responsibilities of the 80/20 split in the future, as well as the director voting as part of the zone board.

Traill County Commissioner Kurt Elliott inquired on the zone's involvement with Traill County's food pantry services.

A motion was made by Steele County Commissioner Randy Richards, seconded by Commissioner Richard Strand to approve the Agassiz Valley Human Service Zone plan, with the change purposed amendment by States Attorney Stock. Roll call vote: Brian Tuite - yes, Richard Strand - yes, Ted Johnson - yes, Randy Richards - yes, and Russell Walcker – yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Traill County Commissioner Larry Young, seconded by Kurt Elliott to approve the Agassiz Valley Human Service Zone plan, with the change purposed amendment by States Attorney Stock. Roll call vote: Thomas Eblen – yes, Kurt Elliot – yes, Larry Young – yes, and Les Amb – yes. Motion carried.

States Attorney Stock asked Jacobson to overview the next steps. The highlights from text will be removed, States Attorney Stocks amendment added, and the "Draft" water mark will be removed prior to being submitted to DHS for final review and action. Jacobson advised the boards could expect to receive a letter of acknowledgment and approval the zone plan by early 2021.

The zone plan will take effective January 1st, 2021. Zone Director Jacobson will provide a final plan copy to each County Auditor as well as a copy of the approval letter once received.

A motion was made by Steele County Commissioner Richards, seconded by Commissioner Tuite to adjourn the meeting. All members voted yes. The joint meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

Glenda Haugen, County Auditor

Thomas Eblen, Chairman