

The Traill County Commissioners came to order on February 16, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. with the following Commissioners present in person: Eblen, Elliott, Nesvig & Young. Commissioner Amb attended via Webex. On motion of Eblen, seconded by Young and carried to amend a motion made on 02-02-21 changing the cost for the employee assistant program from \$2,130.00 to \$2,010.00. On motion of Eblen, seconded by Nesvig and carried to approve the amended minutes of 02-02-21.

INSURANCE BIDS: On motion of Young, seconded by Eblen and carried to allow the County Auditor to advertise for County Insurance.

COVID VACCINE REQUEST: Glenda Haugen, Auditor requested to allow the Traill County employees to volunteer their time to help the Health District with their vaccine clinics and not have to use their vacation/annual leave. On motion of Eblen, seconded by Nesvig and carried to approve the request.

NDLTAP AWARD: Leanna Emmer, Technical Support Representative with ND Local Technical Assistance Program presented the 2020 Innovation Champion Award to Traill County. Corey Ackerman and Jay Showers, employees at the Traill County Highway Department developed a pipe cleaner for culverts making the job safer for employees, saving tax dollars and making our roads safer. Ackerman and Showers were also the recipient of the 2017 Innovation award by constructing a drain tile trailer.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Corwyn Martin, Road Superintendent (in-person) and Matt Lange, KLJ (via Webex) met with the Board. Commissioner Amb introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, which was seconded by Commissioner Nesvig: WHEREAS, the bid in the amount of \$1,275,965.00 from Swingen Construction Co. received in the bid opening of February 5, 2021 for Project BRO-0049(027) was the low bid received. WHEREAS, this bid is considered reasonable. NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of County commissioners of TRAILL COUNTY will award to Swingen Construction Co. the contract for Project BRO-0049(027) and hereby authorizes the Chairman of the Board to sign said contract. IT IS FURTHER UNDERSTOOD that the County shall reimburse the North Dakota Department of Transportation for any payments made under this contract, which are not collectible from the Federal Highway Administration. Upon roll call vote, the following voting aye: Commissioners Eblen, Elliott, Nesvig, Young and Amb. The following voting nay: none, whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed. On motion of Eblen, seconded by Young and carried to set gravel, culverts, fuel and bituminous oil bids for March 16, 2021 starting at 8:05 a.m. Martin was given the go ahead to allow Gowan Construction to build a by-pass road along County Road 1 north of Grandin. Martin informed the board of issues on Bridge 354, 2 miles north of Hatton along County Road 25. Grand Forks County flagged the bridge and it will need to be replaced, possibly with a box culvert. The project will be a 50/50 split with repairs scheduled for 2022. Lange updated the board of the progress on the HWY 16 project with Right-of-way purchasing underway. Lange noted the county does own 70' on each side of the highway which will be a savings to the county. Bridge 111 will be inspected for future updates.

NDPHIT-WELLNESS: Heather Hovey, Chief Deputy Auditor and Stacy Smelden, Deputy Auditor presented the NDPHIT Member Employer Wellness Services Agreement. On motion of Eblen, seconded by Nesvig and carried to allow the Traill County Wellness Program to continue with granting employees up to 8 hours of vacation to those who complete the program over a 12 month period which also gives Traill County a 1% discount on health insurance premiums. On motion of Young, seconded by Eblen and carried to allow the Chairman to sign the NDPHIT service agreement.

SHERIFF: Steve Hunt, Sheriff requested approval to hire Lexipol, Frisco Texas to develop and update his policy manual at a cost of \$3,739.58, prorated for 2021 and \$4,986.10 for 2022. On motion of Amb, seconded by Eblen and carried to approve Hunt's request.

MASK MANDATE: Public attending the meeting in-person: Alicia Saure, Gregg Saure and Wade Pearson, attending via Webex: Sarah Adams. Discussion was held whether to lift the mask mandate or to continue as is. Saures, Pearson and Adams all feel that it is time to remove the mask mandate and leave the decision of wearing a mask up to the individuals and businesses, noting that Governor Burgum lifted the state mandate on January 18, 2021. Children

having to wear masks all day during school is emotionally & physically draining on them and research they have found shows that wearing a mask is not stopping the virus and cases in Traill County are going down. Charlie Stock, States Attorney agrees with the group and it is time to rescind the mandate noting that if Traill County does rescind the mask mandate, that doesn't mean the business and schools will remove their mandates. Brenda Stallman, Traill District Health Director stated that we are following the CDC guidelines and until we can have "herd" immunity with 70% of individuals receiving the vaccine, we need to continue wearing masks. Commissioners Eblen and Young have been approached by the school administrations and several members of the public asking for Traill County to continue the mandate while Commissioner Amb maintains that the schools and businesses can make those decisions on their own. On motion of Eblen, seconded by Nesvig to continue with Traill County's mask mandate until it is reviewed again on Tuesday, May 4, 2021. The vote was approved with Commissioner Amb voting against the motion.

STEELE COUNTY COST SHARE: Commissioner Eblen discussed the email received from the Steele County Auditor on behalf of the Steele County Commission questioning the process *"when additional county funds, be known, and approved by the respective county commissions prior to them occurring"* and potentially hold a joint meeting to review and approve the indirect cost budget and come to an agreement on a process for unbudgeted items." In April 2020, the AVHSZ Board approved COVID related items such as technology, office safety, employee stipends for personal internet and cell phone usage. On December 1, 2020 Kim Jacobson, AVHSZ Director requested \$19,944.03 from the Traill County COVID Cares Act Funds to replenish her COVID related items, which the Traill County Commissioners approved and instructed Jacobson to request \$3,988.81, 20% cost share from Steele County. Eblen explained that Steele County Commissioners Randy Richards and Ted Johnson, who also sit on the AVHSZ Board knew about the expenses and approved them back in April 2020 during the AVHSZ Board meeting. Commissioners asked that a letter be sent to Steele County Commissioners and Auditor on the subject.

On motion duly made and carried, the following bills presented to the Board were ordered paid, to-wit:

101356	Discovery Benefit Fees	49.00	101382	Mayport Hardware Hank	58.95
101357	Fargo Acme Tools	375.94	101383	Magnusons Tires and Service	3782.10
101358	Altru Health Systems	27037.25	101384	Napa Mayville	130.82
101359	Aramark	389.00	101385	Farnam's Genuine Parts	756.33
101360	Kelly Archambeau	100.00	101386	NDACO 877	200.00
101361	Business Essentials	254.02	101387	ND 24 7 Attorney General	205.00
101362	Butler Machinery	480.41	101388	Nodak Electric Coop	107.62
101363	Crane Johnson Lumber	65.88	101389	Northern States Supply	15.93
101364	Code 4 Services Inc	514.25	101390	Northern Truck Equipment	80.00
101365	GF Co Correctional Center	3151.20	101391	Sheri Paulson	28.00
101366	Larry Hanson	13.44	101392	Portland Farmers Union	246.45
101367	Hillsboro Banner	95.52	101393	Praxair	521.23
101368	Hatton Coop Oil Co	105.72	101394	RDO Truck Center	175.85
101369	Hillsboro Lumber	12.98	101395	Sanders Metal Products Inc	253.40
101370	Heather Hovey	50.40	101396	Tammy Sand	50.00
101371	Delray Huot	25.76	101397	Spring Prairie Electric	128.71
101372	Information Tech Dept	1083.75	101398	Larry Syverson	23.52
101373	Inland Truck Parts	3223.08	101399	Town and Country Coop	220.69
101374	Kim Jacobson	50.00	101400	Toshiba Financial Serv	306.80
101375	Little Keepers	96.40	101401	Waste Management IL	75.78
101376	Allison Klassen	50.00	101402	Wright Brothers Partner	61.98
101377	Kayla Knudson	33.43	101403	Walsh County Sheriff Office	1425.00
101378	Lawson Products	319.71	101404	West Side Steel	47.65
101379	Loffler Companies Inc	28.95	101405	Wallwork Truck Center	4991.02

101380	Merrill and Janet Meyer	30.80	101406	Xcel Energy	233.65
101381	Motion Industries Inc	159.86			

AVHSZ: Kim Jacobson, Director informed the board that her Eligibility workers administering economic assistance cases at the highest productivity level of any zone. Agassiz Valley economic assistance team members averaged 331 cases per worker per month. The highest productivity level of all 19 zones in North Dakota.

ND STATE FAIR BOARD MEETING: Commissioner Young informed the board he attended the annual State Fair Board meeting on February 9th & 10th in Rugby. The ND State Fair will be held on July 23-31, 2021.

There being no further business to be brought before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m. to meeting again on March 2, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

Attest:

Glenda Haugen, Auditor

Kurt Elliott, Chairman