

The Traill County Commissioners came to order on October 3, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. with the following members present: Commissioners Eblen, Elliott, Nesvig, Young and Amb. Auditor Haugen requested to add Jenni Rubash to the agenda. On motion of Amb, seconded by Nesvig and carried to approve the amended agenda. On motion of Nesvig, seconded by Amb and carried to approve the regular minutes of September 9, 2023. On motion of Eblen, seconded by Nesvig and carried to approve the Public Budget Hearing minutes of September 20, 2023.

DOORS OPENING: On motion of Amb, seconded by Elliott and to open the doors to the courthouse effective immediately. Upon roll call vote, the following Commissioners vote in favor of the motion: Eblen, Nesvig, Young and Amb, Commissioner Elliott voted against the motion, motion passed.

ND STATE FAIR BOARD: On motion of Nesvig, seconded by Amb and carried to appoint Larry Young and Kurt Elliott to the ND State Fair Board for a one-year term.

LODGING RATES: On motion of Eblen, seconded by Elliott and carried to increase the lodging rates from \$88.20 to \$96.30 in accordance with state rates, NDCC 44-08-04, effective October 1, 2023.

TAX FORECLOSURES: On motion of Eblen, seconded by Nesvig and carried to approve the starting bid prices for the following 2023 tax foreclosure sale: (1) Parcel #26-0002-05748-0 \$2,798.24 (2) Parcel #26-0002-05962-000 \$2,125.99 (3) Parcel #27-0002-06619-000 \$2,467.29 (4) Parcel #27-0003-07073-000 \$1,998.15 (5) 27-0009-07420-000 \$1,068.10 (6) 27-0010-07442-000 \$6,901.25 (7) 28-0001-04302-010 \$6,338.75 (8) 28-0005-07638-000 \$4,179.42 (9) 28-0009-08290-000 \$2,952.31 (10) 28-0009-08335-000 \$9,519.11 (11) 29-0002-08656-000 \$1,588.55 (12) 31-0002-10028-000 \$5,307.46 (13) 32-0002-04858-000 \$535.66

HIGHWAY: Corwyn Martin, Road Superintendent and Matt Lange, KJ Engineer met with the board. On motion of Amb, seconded by Elliott and carried to allow Martin to open the gravel bids. One bid was received from KRB Gravel, Clifford. On motion of Amb, seconded by Elliott and carried to accept the bid as presented. On motion of Elliott, seconded by Nesvig and carried to approve a Ditch Cleaning Permit filed by Jeffery Voltz & Hellen Breeding along County Road #1, in sections 21 & 22 in Greenfield Township. On motion of Elliott, seconded by Nesvig and carried to approve a Road Right-Of-Way Encroachment Permit filed by Tim Trnka along County Road 1, in Kemps Addition, Galesburg Township. Martin & Lange updated the board on various bridge and road repairs.

WATER RESOURCE: Jason Siegert, TCWRD & Nathan Trosen, Moore Engineering gave updates to Dam #3 along the Elm River Watershed. Bids for the repairs came in above the threshold so Water Resource will be looking to rebid, perhaps combining the project with another in the area. Commissioner Elliot expressed concerns with all the water traveling thru the dam and further downstream.

COUNTY LAND: Kayla Knudson, Tax Director and Glenda Haugen, Auditor discuss properties owned by the county. Knudson was contacted by an individual interested in purchasing a 4.37 acre of land located in Section 6, of Stavanger Township, along Highway 81. On motion of Elliott, seconded by Amb and carried to not sell this property as it encompasses part of the blacktop. Knudson was also contacted on a parcel of land located in Hatton City. Haugen explained, this parcel was foreclosed on in 2016 and was not purchased during the tax foreclosure sale. The county can sell the property at any time to recoup the taxes. On motion of Eblen, seconded by Nesvig and carried to sell the parcel #28-0001-04299-025 to Merlon Ellard for \$2754.00, which includes a \$20.00 fee for filing the deed.

SHERIFF: Steve Hunt, Sheriff presented a contract for long-term housing of a prisoner. States Attorney Stock has reviewed and approved the contract. On motion of Amb, seconded by Elliott and carried to allow Hunt to enter into the agreement with Burleigh/Morton County Detention Center.

CUSTODIAN: Jenni Rubash, Head Custodian requested to advertise for sale, the current generator which will soon be replaced. On motion of Nesvig, seconded by Eblen and carried to allow Rubash to advertise, contingent upon the installation of the new generator.

2024 BUDGETS:

Several employees, department heads and members of the community attended the commission meeting.

Haugen reminded the board of a motion made on 08-01-23 removing \$87,101.17 from the Sheriff's budget and using ARPA funds. Once transfer is made this motion will help reduce the mills for 2024.

On motion of Eblen, seconded by Nesvig and carried to use the 2nd tranche of funds received from the LATCF Grant in the amount of \$50,000.00 and COVID funds of \$55,858.54 to replenish the Emergency fund.

On motion of Amb, seconded by Elliott and carried to remove \$20,000.00 from the Custodian budget for 2024 for lunchroom repairs. On motion of Nesvig, seconded by Elliott and carried to leave \$70,000.00 in the special projects fund, in the Custodian budget for 2024.

On motion of Eblen, seconded by Amb to reduce the regular budget line item for the Hillsboro Airport Authority from \$20,000.00 to \$18,000.00 and allow their one-time request of \$25,000.00, using the COVID funds. Upon roll call vote Commissioners in favor of the motion: Eblen, Amb and Young, Commissioners voting against the motion: Elliott and Nesvig, motion passed.

After much discussion on salaries and the Gallagher Survey, the following motion was made: On motion of Commissioner Nesvig, seconded by Amb to adopt the Gallagher Survey Study, report #4 which includes updated salaries, a 3% COLA, 2-step adjustment for dual positions, a 1-4 step adjustment for years of service with all employees getting at least a 3% raise in 2024. Upon roll call vote, Commissioners voting in favor of the motion: Nesvig and Amb, Commissioners voting against the motion: Eblen, Elliott and Young, motion failed.

Discussions continued with the possibility of reducing the steps allowed for dual positions and years of service. The following motions were made:

FULL TIME SALARIES: On motion of Commissioner Nesvig, seconded by Commissioner Amb to adopt the Gallagher Survey Study, report #4 which includes updated salaries, a 3% COLA, 1-step adjustment for dual positions, a 1 to 5 step adjustment for years of service, to be disbursed over a two-year period (2024 & 2025), with all employees getting at least a 3% raise in 2024. All future COLA raises will be determined on a year-to-year basis. Upon roll call vote: Commissioners voting in favor of the motion: Eblen, Nesvig, Young and Amb. Commissioner Elliott voted against the motion; motion passed.

COMMISSIONER SALARIES: On motion of Commissioner Amb, seconded by Commissioner Nesvig and carried to freeze Commissioner's salaries at 2023 rates. Commissioners voting in favor of the motion: Eblen, Elliott, Nesvig, Young and Amb; motion passed.

PART-TIME/SEASONAL SALARIES: On motion of Eblen, seconded by Amb and carried to allow a 3% raise to all part-time and seasonal employees. Commissioners voting in favor of the motion: Eblen, Elliott, Nesvig, Young and Amb; motion passed.

The Auditor's office will make the above adjustments to the 2024 budgets, and these numbers will be reflected on the tax statements which will go out in December.

AUDITOR'S WARRANTS: On motion duly made and carried, the following bills paid by the county Auditor to October 1, 2023, were allowed paid to-wit:

107383 Traill County Treasurer (FOASI)	85,367.02	107384 NDPERS-Retirement	51,682.51
85132-85233 September Payroll	362,318.81	107385 NDPHIT Insurance	69,408.02
107387-107444 Tax Collections		107374 – 107382 Employee Deductions	

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

107386	SECRETARY OF STATE	18,000.00	107469	CHERYL JOHNSON	39.85
107445	ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS	189.81	107470	KLJ ENGINEERING LLC	9,335.72
107446	ADVANCED DRAINAGE SYSTEMS	13,716.60	107471	KRB GRAVEL LTD	78,800.00
107447	APPRIVER LLC	682.93	107472	FOSTER CARE	381.31
107448	ND BLUE CROSS SHIELD BILLING	6,746.20	107473	MARCO TECHNOLOGIES LLC	198.75
107449	BANKSYSTEMS MARKETING INC	125.00	107474	MAYVILLE TOWNSHIP	5.00
107450	BUTLER MACHINERY	2,351.75	107475	MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS, INC.	7,760.00
107451	CORE MAIN LP	94.60	107476	NAPA MAYVILLE	10.98
107452	DAKOTA HERITAGE BANK	1,920.00	107477	NORTH DAKOTA DEPT OF ENVIR	215.00
107453	ND DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	83,195.80	107478	NORTHSTAR SAFETY INC	20,512.70
107454	EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL WATER	447.56	107479	OLSEN HARDWARE	87.59
107455	FAMILY HEALTHCARE CENTER	109.00	107480	OTTERTAIL POWER COMPANY	84.32
107456	GREAT AMERICA LEASING	117.00	107481	PHARM CHEM INC	31.95
107457	GF CO CORRECTIONAL CENTER	2,900.00	107482	PAULS HOMETOWN REPAIR	230.40
107458	CROOKSTON GREENWAY	329.00	107483	RICK AND CLYDE PLADSON	500.00
107459	JAMES HALVORSON	500.00	107484	MICHAEL QUALLEY	13,091.53
107460	JOEL HALVORSON	500.00	107485	REMARK TECH CONSULTING	2,000.00
107461	DEWEY HALVORSON	500.00	107486	SANDBO PLUMBING	553.63
107462	HILLSBORO BODY SHOP	685.66	107487	SEATOL	2,000.00
107463	HUSKY MARKETING AND SUPPLY	129,048.92	107488	STRAND READY MIX	3,605.00
107464	HILLSBORO MUNICIPAL UTILITIES	2,211.48	107489	WOLD JOHNSON P.C.	200.00
107465	INTERSTATE POWER SYSTEMS	44,730.00	107490	WALKERS LAWNCARE LLC	13,261.75
107466	INLAND TRUCK PARTS	1,880.66	107491	WALLWORK TRUCK CENTER	255.70
107467	JOHN DEERE CREDIT	9.10	107492	NDPERS INSURANCE	2,069.60
107468	TINA JOHNSON	10.00			

There being no further business to be brought before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m. to meet again in regular session on October 17, 2023, at 8:00 a.m.

Attest:

Glenda Haugen, Auditor

Larry Young, Chairman