

The Traill County Commissioners came to order on January 5, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. with the following members present (in-person): Tom Eblen, District 1; Kurt Elliott, District 2; Ken Nesvig, District 3; Larry Young, District 4. Commissioner Les Amb, District 5 attended via Webex. On motion of Nesvig, seconded by Young and carried to approve the minutes of 12-22-20.

On motion of Young, seconded by Amb and carried to appoint Kurt Elliott, Chairman for 2021.

On motion of Eblen, seconded by Young and carried to appoint Ken Nesvig, Vice-Chairman for 2021.

On motion of Nesvig, seconded by Young and carried to appoint the following Commissioners to the 2021 portfolios as follows: (1) COURTHOUSE: Eblen (2) SHERIFF/JAIL: Amb (3) ROAD: Nesvig (4) VSO: Young. It was noted that Commissioner Elliott will remain on Lake Agassiz and the Traill County Soils Committee. Commissioner Eblen resigned his position on the Agassiz Valley Social Service Zone Board. On motion of Eblen, seconded by Amb and carried to appoint Commissioner Young to fulfill Eblen's unexpired term.

On motion of Nesvig, seconded by Eblen and carried to set the 2021 mileage reimbursement rate at \$.56 cents effective 01-01-21. This motion follows the ND State mileage rates.

HIGHWAY: Corwyn Martin, Road Superintendent and Matt Lange, KLJ met with the board. On motion of Young, seconded by Nesvig and carried to allow the Chairman, States Attorney and Auditor sign the ND DOT Construction and Maintenance Agreement for LPA Federal Aid Project #BRO-0049(27) with a total cost of \$1,619,266.00 with Traill County's share being \$308,794.00. On motion of Eblen, seconded by Nesvig and carried to allow the Chairman and Auditor sign an Engineering Agreement with KLJ for a survey, right-of-way and design for the Highway 16 widening project with estimated services totaling \$98,500.00. Lange informed the Board the Kaldorville bridge will go to bids in February and a selection committee will be appointed at a later date to review the bids.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Jim Murphy, TC EDC Executive Director met with the Board. On motion of Young, seconded by Amb and carried to reappoint Roxanne Phipps to serve on the Economic Development Board.

HILLSBORO CITY: Ashley Frederick, Hillsboro City Auditor informed the Board of a grant the city can receive to help pay for a sidewalk running across the I29 overpass going east along CR 11. Frederick noted the project is paid by NDDOT and Hillsboro City with no cost to Traill County. On motion of Eblen, seconded by Young and carried to allow the Chairman to sign the grant paperwork as Traill County's Sponsoring Official, supporting the project.

OFFICE 365: On motion of Amb, seconded by Young and carried to pay AppRiver, LLC \$7,014.85 for the 2021 Office 365 support bill which covers the entire year saving the County \$216.95.

CUSTODIAN: Jenni Rubash, Custodian presented a proposal from RS Electric, Hillsboro to retrofit all fluorescent fixtures with LEDs. Savings to the county will be approximately \$1,680.00 per year. On motion of Nesvig, seconded by Eblen and carried to allow Rubash to proceed with allowing RS Electric to do the work at a cost of \$9,920.00.

SHERIFF: Steve Hunt, Sheriff presented a DES Grant provided by Office of Attorney General. The grant will provide computers and set up fees for the office at no cost to the County. On motion of Eblen, seconded by Young and carried to allow the Sheriff Hunt to sign the documents to receive the \$10,950.00 Grant.

EMPLOYEES WORKING AT HOME/IN OFFICE: Department heads were invited to discuss the possibility of having all employees come back to work in their offices. After much discussion, the department heads requested the following: Kim Jacobson, AVHS Zone Director requested to continue the flexibility within her department. Brenda Stallman, Traill District Health Director requested to keep people where they are to reduce the spread. Steve Hunt, Sheriff requested to continue as is and to keep the jail closed to inmates for now. Carla Swanson, Treasurer feels the department heads should be responsible for their own departments. Charlie Stock, States Attorney requested for each office to make their own decisions. Rebecca Hodgson, VSO Director requested to maintain working from home. Jill Lagein, County Extension Agent is in favor of bringing employees back to work. Glenda Haugen, Auditor feels it is

safe to bring employees back to their offices. Tom Eblen, Commissioner is in favor of bringing employees back to work in their offices and keeping the building restricted to the public. The cost for all the equipment and remote working is a huge expense stating the CARES ACT fund should not be paying the bill. Eblen also stated the Social Service Department follows guidelines from the State DHS Department. Eblen has witnessed employees at the courthouse not wearing a mask and all employees need to follow the Mask Mandate policy. Ken Nesvig, Commissioner stated that what we are doing is working. Nesvig would like to see the County continue for at least another 60 days. Larry Young, Commissioner is in favor of bringing employees back to work in the offices. Les Amb, Commissioner stated he has and is still in favor of bringing the employees back to work in the offices. Discussion was held on the costs involved with equipment and technology expenses to work remotely. Eblen stated we need to fix this problem. The Auditor's office was asked to get a breakdown of all computers and expenses involved and bring back to the next meeting.

On motion of Amb, seconded by Young to bring all employees back to work in their offices and to continue restricted access to the public, all those in favor voting Aye: Commissioners Eblen, Amb & Young. Voting Nye: Commissioner Nesvig, motion passed. On motion of Young, seconded by Eblen to bring all employees back to work in their offices effective Monday, January 11, 2021, all those in favor voting Aye: Commissioners Eblen, Amb & Young, voting Nay: Commissioner Nesvig, motion passed.

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

101039	JP Morgan Chase Bank	5341.23	101064	ND County Commissioner Association	1650.00
101040	NDPERS	2282.24	101065	ND 24 7 Attorney General	310.00
101041	ND Public Health Ins Trust	58241.24	101066	ND Water Users Association	100.00
101042	Advanced Business Methods	26.49	101067	Northern Engine and Supply	302.88
101043	Business Essentials	255.97	101068	OK Tire Store	1195.35
101044	City of Buxton	224.00	101069	Olsen Hardware	304.13
101045	ND Dept of Transportation	2175.86	101070	Ottertail Power Company	132.24
101046	East Central Regional Water	234.19	101071	Chicago Power Plan	4133.43
101047	Great America Leasing	117.00	101072	Remark Tech Consulting	1184.40
101048	Govern Soft	13317.00	101073	Jennifer Rubash	135.00
101049	Great Plains Benefits	250.00	101074	Sorum Oil Co	876.37
101050	Grainger	732.00	101075	Steele County	1332.50
101051	Global Safety Network Inc	125.00	101076	Traill County Treasurer	395.02
101052	Hillsboro Municipal	3086.45	101077	Traill County Tribune	263.25
101053	Halstad Telephone Co	102.27	101078	Verizon Wireless	332.31
101054	John Deere Credit	76.11	101079	Verizon Wireless	72.28
101055	Loffler	46.63	101080	Wilson Brothers ND	71.10
101056	Sara Mack	100.00	101081	West Central Regional Water	40.00
101057	Millers Fresh Foods	42.28	101082	Wells Fargo Bank Rent	985.00
101058	Metropolitan Mechanical Contracting	812.03	101083	Judd Wilson	2250.00
101059	National Assoc of Counties	450.00	101084	West Side Steel	255.88
101060	New Century Press	128.00	101085	Zee Medical Services	118.60
101061	ND Association of Counties	28969.92	101086	Zep Manufacturing Company	171.54
101062	ND Association of Counties	44.00	101160	Remark Tech Consulting	81413.00
101063	ND Association of Counties	8961.00	101161	APPRIVER, LLC	7014.85

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 a.m. to meet again on January 19, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

ATTEST:

Glenda Haugen
County Auditor

Kurt Elliott
Chairman