

Wells County Commissioner's Meeting Minutes April 4, 2024

The April meeting was called to order by Chairman Buxa at 8:32 AM. Present at the meeting were Stan Buxa, Bryan Lutt, Danny Maxwell, Lydia Gessele, Cheryl Ryan, Gunar Soberg, Jeff Soberg, Lee Wentz, Daniel Stutlien, and Neil Nelson of the Herald-Press. Dennis Dockter joined the meeting telephonically.

Added to the agenda was recorded meetings, as well as the Office of the States Attorney and Sheriffs Dept.

BL (M), DM (S) to approve the minutes from the March Meeting. Unanimously carried.

Employee timesheets were reviewed by the commissioners.

DM (M), BL (S) to approve the bills as presented. Unanimously carried.

BL (M), DM (S) to approve Laura Muscha, Treasurer, and Daniel Stutlien, Auditor, to purchase or cash out CD's on behalf of WC. Unanimously carried.

The current WC Balance Sheet was reviewed and discussed. Also, the Auditor shared current county investments as well as Commission controlled WC funds.

Correspondence from Garrison Diversion's Recreation Committee and the ND Insurance Reserve Fund were shared.

Commission Portfolios were reviewed and discussed.

Lydia Gessele met with the Commission to discuss the venue for meetings of the Commission. A request was made to place the meetings in a venue that is more accommodating to the public. Gessele also requested meeting times be in the evenings to be more accessible to the public. Also discussed was recording meetings to make available to the public 24-7. The Commission will take each of these items under consideration.

Kyle Hart of Chaseley Township sat with the Commission to discuss county budget issues, specifically in regards to townships. Possibilities were raised for merging townships and/or their governing bodies. This is a concern for many areas in rural ND.

Jason Mayfield of Wold Engineering met with the Commission to inform them WC was not awarded any funding for County Highway #5. Official notification will be arriving soon, but this puts any work on this project and future needs in jeopardy. Also discussed was the James River Bridge on County Highway #1 just North of Fessenden. Mayfield was asked to provide a preliminary estimate to WC for bridge replacement as well as addressing the Hamberg Slough area of #5. BL (M), DM (S) to grind the 1.5 miles from ND #30 West through the Hamberg Slough area. Unanimously carried. DM (M), BL (S) to also grind the edges of 34th Ave. 7 miles South of Old Highway #52 at the same time. Unanimously carried.

WC Road Foreman, Brent Keller, met with the Commission to discuss matters of his department. Specifically, Keller shared tasks the dept. is working on at this time, planned work, as well as prospective employees who have reached out for an application for a soon-to-be vacant shop position in WC.

Bryan Tykwinski of KLJ Engineering addressed the Commission regarding the updated project status of the three bridges currently being prepped for in WC. The Harvey site has all forms submitted and is on track for bid opening May 10th. WC will have to prepare a RFP for construction engineering. The two bridge sites north and east of Fessenden have been pushed back to 2026. KLJ is still completing tasks associated with those sites. Tykwinski shared and discussed options for the two sites.

While there is not presently a burn ban in effect for WC, BL (M), DM (S) to allow DES to put a ban in place upon the agreement of local Fire Departments. Unanimously carried.

WC Auditor Daniel Stutlien visited with the Commission regarding Election '24 and training the Auditor's Office has been a part of. Deadlines were also shared. Stutlien also intends to hold a demonstration of election equipment utilizing a mock election Friday, May 24th, at 10:00 AM in the KTL Building. District #14 Legislators, ND SOS Office officials, officials from Benson, Eddy, Foster, Kidder, McHenry, Sheridan, and Wells County are invited. Members of the public, as space allows, will also be allowed to attend.

WC Auditor Daniel Stutlien shared fiscal information with the Commission, this month focusing on township funding in WC, WC assessed mill rates, and a comparison of some fundamental prices over the last 48 years.

A resignation from Leon Klocke, WC County Commissioner, was read as Klocke no longer resides within District #2. BL (M), DM (S) to approve the resignation of Klocke. Unanimously carried. WC will advertise the position with the Commission hoping to appoint someone from District #2 at the May meeting of the Commission.

A resignation from Tammy Roehrich from the NFIP portion of her job was read. DM (M), BL (S) to deny the resignation as NFIP best fits in the DES job portfolio. Unanimously carried.

The office of States Attorney and Sheriffs Dept. were added to the agenda for discussion. After some discussion, BL (M), DM (S) to reduce the salary of the States Attorney and Sheriff by 20% due to the unwillingness to file and follow through on paperwork, as well as the unwillingness to communicate and cooperate with taxpayers. Roll call vote: BL (Y), DM (N), SB (N). Motion failed.

The next Six-County Meeting will be held in Kidder County. As the corresponding date is Election Day, no date has yet been established.

The next WC Departments' Meeting is slated for Thursday, May 23rd, at 8:30 AM.

The regular May WC Commission meeting will be Tuesday, May 7th, 2024 at 8:30 AM. There will be a Special Meeting of the WC Commission Friday, May 24th, at 10:00 AM at the KTL Building regarding election equipment and processes. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:09 PM.

The following Fees and Receipts were approved and ordered filed:

Clerk of Court	\$	318.00
Recorder	\$	3,088.40
Sheriff	\$	1,200.50
Misc.	\$	53,603.14

On motion, the following bills were ordered paid: (*Gross wages, when listed*)

#Direct Deposit	Payroll, General (1000)	\$	87,510.74
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#Direct Deposit	Payroll, Road (2001)	\$ 49,285.28
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, 911 (2003)	\$ 1,210.14
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, County Agent (2005)	\$ 3,071.60
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, Social Welfare (2007)	\$ 64,590.31
#ACH BC/BS	Insurance	\$ 59,577.85
#ACH NDPERS	Retirement	\$ 33,038.22

Apr-24 General

Wells County Treasurer	\$199.78	Central Supplies
Wells County Treasurer	\$46.10	Postage
Wells County Treasurer	\$345.38	Telephone
NDTC	\$858.42	Telephone
Fessenden City	\$330.96	Countywide Utilities
Otter Tail	\$1,746.22	Countywide Utilities
Wells County Treasurer	\$36.30	Bank Charges
G & R Controls, Inc.	\$4,536.50	Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
Kayme Heintz	\$33.25	Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
Dakota Dust-Tex	\$430.25	Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
Klocke Enterprises	\$286.00	Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
ES & S	\$254.55	Elections
Herald Press	\$555.48	Legal Publications
Frey Insurance	\$97.00	ND Insurance Reserve Fund
First International Insurance	\$3,259.00	Hartford Steam Policy
Central Dakota 6-County Organization	\$180.00	County Dues
Central City H2O	\$54.00	Utilities
Wells County Treasurer	\$19.99	Technology
Vigilant Solutions, LLC	\$2,184.00	Technology-Sheriff
Tyler Technologies	\$321.63	Technology
ITD	\$1,456.40	Technology
NDACo Resources Group	\$187.50	Technology
NDTC	\$100.93	Technology
Danny Maxwell	\$91.79	Travel/Mileage
Leon Klocke	\$237.50	Travel/Mileage
Stan Buxa	\$110.55	Travel/Mileage
Dennis Dockter	\$311.55	Travel/Mileage
Bryan Lutt	\$349.74	Travel/Mileage
Wells County Treasurer	\$96.30	Travel/Mileage
Daniel Stutlien	\$324.28	Travel/Mileage
RELX Inc.	\$72.03	Lexis Nexis Fees
Matthew Bender	\$222.68	Lexis Nexis Fees
ND State Treasurer	\$35.00	Marriage Licenses
Krahlers Parts & Service	\$170.28	Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Drive Chevrolet Buick Harvey	\$121.58	Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
NW Tire Inc.	\$132.46	Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Wells County Treasurer	\$602.92	Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.

Andrew Zachmeier	\$168.84	Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Kotaco Fuel & Propane	\$231.49	Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Lautt's Auto Body & Towing	\$285.17	Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Opdahl Body Shop	\$992.36	Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$907.51	Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Guardian Fleet Safety	\$1,031.64	Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Cobblestone Inn & Suites	\$481.50	Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Modern Marketing	\$431.72	Sheriff Promo Supplies
Wells County Treasurer	\$129.46	Telephone
NDTC	\$106.84	Telephone
Otter Tail	\$43.12	Utilities
Rosas Pizza	\$140.00	Misc.-DES
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.	\$138.28	SS Indirect - Utilities
New Rockford Utility Services	\$91.37	SS Indirect - Utilities
Otter Tail	\$193.10	SS Indirect - Utilities
4th Corporation	\$140.00	SS Indirect - KTL Maintenance
Fessenden City	\$301.24	Festival Hall/Fair Utilities
Otter Tail	\$575.63	Festival Hall/Fair Utilities
	<u>\$26,787.57</u>	

911

Dakota Central	\$300.24	Data Base, Circuiting updates
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Jail & Transp.

HACTC	\$15.03	Jail & Transport Medication
Ward County Auditor	\$257.14	Jail & Transport Medication
HACTC	\$3,828.00	Jail & Transport Prison Board
Ward County Auditor	\$1,530.00	Jail & Transport Prison Board
	<u>\$5,630.17</u>	

Co. Agent

Leaf	\$471.82	Copier Lease & Maint.
NDTC	\$123.21	Telephone
Wells County Treasurer	\$150.00	Travel/Mileage
Otter Tail	\$41.05	Utilities
	<u>\$786.08</u>	

Social Services

Wells County Treasurer	\$80.12	Fuel/Foster Care
CenDak Cooperative-New Rockford	\$65.02	Fuel/Foster Care
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$138.83	Fuel/Foster Care
Wells County Treasurer	\$281.60	Fuel/Child Protect. Serv.
Wells County Treasurer	\$37.76	Family Social Worker/Fuel
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$70.31	Family Social Worker/Fuel
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$264.82	In Home Care/Fuel
Patriot Fuels	\$60.95	In Home Care/Fuel

Andrea R Scheen	\$95.14	In Home Care - Travel/Mileage
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$19.00	Vehicles
Dales Radiator & Repair	\$81.50	Vehicles
Foster County Independent	\$251.28	Zone Admin Support/Advert.
Herald Press	\$353.93	Zone Admin Support/Advert.
Transcript Publishing	\$251.28	Zone Admin Support/Advert.
Wells County Treasurer	\$75.00	Dues/Registration Fees
Pitney Bowes Global Financial Services L	\$81.90	Contracted Services
Leaf	\$461.00	Contracted Services
Advanced Business Methods	\$307.52	Contracted Services
CenDak Cooperative-New Rockford	\$51.00	Fuel
Wells County Treasurer	\$1,060.21	Telephone
Dakota Central	\$378.90	Telephone
NDTC	\$512.33	Telephone
Madison Crisman	\$739.01	Admin Support-Travel/Mileage
Central City H20+	\$13.50	Zone Admin Support/Misc
Duchscherer Supply	\$35.40	Zone Admin Support/Misc
ITD	\$18.75	Zone Admin Support/IT Other
NDACo Resources Group	\$1,065.00	Zone Admin Support/IT Other
Wells County Treasurer	\$38.50	Zone Admin Supp./Office Materials
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	\$6,889.56	

Weed Control

Dale Schmitz	\$431.74	Salary - Board Meeting
Danny Maxwell	\$160.80	Salary - Board Meeting
Kelly Muscha	\$283.70	Salary - Board Meeting
Kyle Alfstad	\$159.18	Salary - Board Meeting
Donna Rau	\$220.87	Salary - Employee Noxious Weed/Leafy Spurge/Cost
Germantown Township	\$500.00	Sharing
US Treasury	\$437.74	WC/Withholding
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	\$2,194.03	

Hwy Tax

Hulis H. Burton	\$250.00	Health Insurance
NDDOT	\$13,813.79	Culverts & Bridges
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$1,302.26	Fuel
Gooseneck Implement	\$20.60	Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Wells County Treasurer	\$265.54	Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Power Plan	\$1,176.00	Machinery Repairs & Supplies
NAPA-Carrington	\$61.98	Machinery Repairs & Supplies
NAPA-Harvey	\$207.17	Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Harvey Sand & Gravel	\$41.76	Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Patzer Truck Repair	\$131.00	Machinery Repairs & Supplies
General Trading	\$217.75	Machinery Repairs & Supplies

TSC	\$647.15	Supplies
MARC	\$1,773.95	Supplies
Lemer's ACE & Rental	\$70.94	Supplies
Newman Traffic Signs	\$1,181.08	Supplies
Linde Gas & Equipment	\$121.63	Supplies
NDTC	\$145.33	Telephone
Wells County Treasurer	\$139.13	Travel/Mileage
Double M Sanitation	\$175.00	Utilities
Wells County Treasurer	\$416.03	Utilities
Fessenden City	\$161.64	Utilities
Harvey City	\$128.40	Utilities
Sykeston City	\$48.50	Utilities
Cathay City	\$95.00	Utilities
Northern Plains Electric	\$921.70	Utilities
Otter Tail	\$437.27	Utilities
Verendrye Electric	\$408.35	Utilities
Central Plains Water	\$400.00	Utilities
	<u>\$24,758.95</u>	

ARPA

Sykeston Fire Dept.	\$4,500.00	Grant
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24-7

Office Of Attorney General	\$600.00	Scram Fees
Wells County Treasurer	\$383.40	Pharm Chem
	<u>\$983.40</u>	

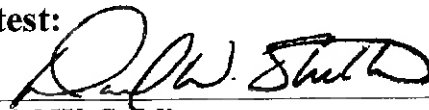
\$72,830.00

Approved:



Stanley Buxa,
Wells County Commission Chairman

Attest:



Daniel W. Stütli,
Wells County Auditor