

## Wells County Commissioner's Meeting Minutes August 4, 2023

The August meeting was called to order by Chairman Buxa at 8:32 AM. Present at the meeting were Dennis Dockter, Bryan Lutt, Danny Maxwell, Daniel Stutlien, Neil Nelson of the Herald-Press.

Addition to the agenda: 18 mill authority for Townships.

Under the consent agenda:

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

DM (*M*), DD (*S*) to approve the minutes from the July 27<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting. Unanimously carried.

Employee timesheets were reviewed by the commissioners.

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

BL (*M*), DD (*S*) to approve Laura Muscha, Treasurer, and Daniel Stutlien, Auditor, to purchase CD's on behalf of WC. Unanimously carried. The Auditor shared current CD investments with the Commission.

The current WC Balance Sheet was reviewed and discussed.

Correspondence was shared from ND Dept. of Agriculture regarding noxious weed complaints in WC suggesting the CC retain the services of a fulltime County Weed Officer to work with the Weed Board to manage the situation. The ND Dept. of Health reached out to inform the Commission of the work soon to be required of counties to establish Human Service Zone funding. The DOT sent their Project Management Review for the Bremen Road Project completed in 2022. Safe Alternatives for Abused Families (*SAAF*) sent info highlighting their work and requested a donation from WC to help support their work. DM (*M*), DD (*S*) to approve a \$2,000 donation to SAAF for 2024. Garrison Diversion sent their annual budget while requesting the standard one mill of funding from each county. Finally, the Supreme Court sent notice of a vacancy in Judgeship No. 1 in the SE Judicial District. The Court will be seeking comment on the vacancy.

Commission Portfolios were reviewed and discussed.

Trevor Larson and Doug Hoff addressed the Commission regarding the creation of the new Bowdon Fire Protection District. The organization has already submitted petitions of more than 60% of patrons representing the complete townships of Berlin, Chaseley, Delger, Haaland (*including the City of Bowdon*), Progress, Silver Lake, Speedwell, and Sections 1-3, 10-15, 22-27 & 34-36 of Lynn, and Sections 13-36 of West Ontario Township. A small portion of Wallace Township in Kidder Co. is also included. DD (*M*), BL (*S*) to approve the creation of the new fire district. Unanimously carried. The next and final step in this process is a public hearing scheduled at the Bowdon Fire Hall (*220 Warrington Ave.*) Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00 PM.

WC Sheriff, Chris Kluth, addressed the Commission. Topics of discussion included the department's Calls for Service Report. Another item addressed the Axon body and dash camera system introduced last month. A rep from Axon made a virtual presentation to the Commission. The cost of the system or WC is estimated to be in the \$80,000 range, app. \$16,000/annually.

Kluth also addressed the portion of his '24 budget related to deputies salaries, commenting that WC salaries are not enough to get applicants.

Gene Hartl, John Hitz, and Eric Lies of Bremen Township met with the Commission to discuss culverts along 59<sup>th</sup> Ave. (*James River crossing*) that will need to be replaced in the near future. The purpose of this was to allow WC to plan for this event. As per precedents, WC is responsible for the pipe, but the township would bear the installation costs.

WC Road Foreman, Brent Keller, met with the Commission to discuss matters of his department. Keller discussed the Cathay School and that all preliminary work for demolition is completed. Process paperwork to be submitted to the State 10 days prior to demolition has been sent to RV Enterprises. The JD1575 mower ordered nearly two years ago has arrived. A new blade ordered last year will be arriving soon and will go to the Cathay route. Other projects throughout the county were shared. The chip seal scheduled for County #5 for the nearly 10 miles east of Harvey will be delayed to 2024.

On behalf of the City of Harvey, Milo Baltruch and Melissa Faul spoke with Commission regarding the Harvey City Library. The Harvey Library Board is seeking a resolution from the WC Commission to transition to a County Library. This matter would need to be a ballot question in '24. The Commission requested the Library Board create a proposal defining what the relationship would be between the City Harvey and WC.

WC Custodial employee Kayme Heintz met with the Commission regarding her departmental budget, specifically her departmental salary.

WC States Attorney, Kathleen Murray, met with the Commission to discuss her department's budget for 2024.

Kyle Hart, Chaseley Township, spoke with the Commission regarding state emergency disaster funding.

The Commission viewed an estimate to replace flooring in the North entrance and the restrooms at Festival Hall. DD (*M*), DM (*S*) to approve the flooring estimate as presented. Unanimously carried.

The consensus of the Commission it to appoint Bryan Lutt as a delegate for WC at NDACo.

DD (*M*), DM (*S*) to continue WC's lease of the State Shed in Fessenden for two years at the same cost. Unanimously carried.

The Commission reviewed a proposal from NDACo to collect all 911 & SORN funds on behalf of all 53 counties in ND. BL (*M*), DM (*S*) to authorize NDACo to undertake this process on behalf of WC as soon as they are able. Unanimously carried.

The WC Auditor and the Commission resumed '24 budget discussions. The Auditor shared WC's health insurance increase which is set at 8.77%. After reviewing each department and agency, DD (*M*), DM (*S*) to authorize the Auditor to prepare the budget as discussed. Unanimously carried.

18 mill authority for Townships was discussed by the Commission. While there is some prioritization benefit to being at 18 mills for certain state funds, the discussion was brief as the Commission has no authority to mandate what townships assess.

The next Six-County Meeting will be held in Wells County Tuesday, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 AM.

The next WC Departments' Meeting is slated for Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, at 2:30 PM.

The regular September WC Commission meeting will be September 7, 2023 at 8:30 AM. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 PM.

The following Fees and Receipts were approved and ordered filed:

Clerk of Court	\$	95.00
Recorder	\$	2,834.10
Sheriff	\$	1,230.50
Misc.	\$	55,946.77

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

#Direct Deposit	Payroll, General (1000)	\$	88,049.17
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, Road (2001)	\$	48,947.26
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, 911 (2003)	\$	1,053.17
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, County Agent (2005)	\$	3,445.33
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, Social Welfare (2007)	\$	64,981.55
#ACH BC/BS	Insurance	\$	62,537.73
#ACH NDPERS	Retirement	\$	30,038.50

**Aug.**

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**GENERAL**

Central Business Systems	\$33.28	Central Supplies
Wells County Treasurer	\$59.92	Postage
Wells County Treasurer	\$344.02	Telephone
Verizon	\$40.01	Telephone
NDTC	\$759.09	Telephone
Fessenden City	\$365.12	Countywide Utilities
Otter Tail	\$1,316.71	Countywide Utilities
Wells County Treasurer	\$36.30	Bank Charges
ND Envelope Company	\$1,303.80	Envelopes
Lemer's ACE & Rental	\$169.91	Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
Wells County Treasurer	\$403.83	Janitor Supplies
Weigelt Refrigeration	\$122.35	Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$92.54	Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
Kayme Heintz	\$23.58	Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
TK Elevator	\$1,800.00	Courthouse Maintenance
Tracys Market	\$15.39	Janitor Supplies
BW Electric	\$339.91	Courthouse Maintenance
Herald Press	\$686.70	Legal Publications
Foster County Independent	\$65.00	Legal Publications
Wells County Treasurer	\$20.98	Technology
NDTC	\$101.36	Technology
ITD	\$1,410.50	Technology
Nathan Braseth	\$279.14	Witness Fees, Tmt. Attend. Care
Ben Tureson	\$309.74	Witness Fees, Tmt. Attend. Care

Carrie Opdahl	\$29.06	Witness Fees, Tmt. Attend. Care
Kia Mikesh	\$279.59	Witness Fees, Tmt. Attend. Care
Vicki Durick	\$25.00	Witness Fees, Tmt. Attend. Care
Gaylord Buchwitz	\$25.00	Witness Fees, Tmt. Attend. Care
Lynette Vetter	\$25.00	Witness Fees, Tmt. Attend. Care
Jeff Woods	\$258.63	Witness Fees, Tmt. Attend. Care
Tanya Nye	\$25.00	Witness Fees, Tmt. Attend. Care
Jeanette Perleberg	\$59.19	Witness Fees, Tmt. Attend. Care
Shawn Banet	\$141.87	Witness Fees, Tmt. Attend. Care
Aaron Loff	\$28.14	Witness Fees, Tmt. Attend. Care
Howard Longie	\$349.14	Witness Fees, Tmt. Attend. Care
Brenda Lloyd	\$26.70	Witness Fees, Tmt. Attend. Care
Marcia Ketterling	\$291.40	Witness Fees, Tmt. Attend. Care
Scott Mekash	\$561.02	Witness Fees, Tmt. Attend. Care
Aaron Opdahl	\$29.06	Witness Fees, Tmt. Attend. Care
Radisson Hotel	\$176.40	Travel/Mileage
Daniel Stutlien	\$392.65	Travel/Mileage
Radisson Hotel	\$176.40	Travel/Mileage
Laura Muscha	\$170.30	Travel
RELX Inc.	\$134.00	Lexis Nexis Fees
ND Assn. of Counties	\$60.00	Dues/Registration Fees
ND State Treasurer	\$35.00	Marriage Licenses
Wells County Treasurer	\$673.35	Travel/Mileage
Carrie Krause	\$1,035.00	Travel/Mileage
Jana Mogren	\$262.00	Travel/Mileage
Lexipol	\$379.04	Dues/Registration Fees
ND State Radio	\$120.00	Maintenance - State Radio
NW Tire Inc.	\$170.12	Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Wells County Treasurer	\$1,096.53	Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$29.00	Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Sheriff-Civil Process	\$90.00	Travel/Mileage/Civil Fees
Kotaco Fuel & Propane	\$20.40	Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Jamestown Communications	\$50,643.01	Stonegarden-Sheriff Radios
Wells County Treasurer	\$90.00	Dues/Registration Fees
Wells County Treasurer	\$126.24	Telephone
NDTC	\$108.24	Telephone
Tammy Roehrich	\$39.30	Travel/Mileage
Otter Tail	\$56.77	Utilities
Wells County Treasurer	\$93.08	Misc.
US Postmaster	\$82.00	VSO Box Rent
Dakota Central	\$183.41	SS Indirect - Telephone
NDTC	\$513.27	SS Indirect - Telephone
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.	\$24.57	SS Indirect - Utilities
New Rockford Utility Services	\$88.35	SS Indirect - Utilities
Otter Tail	\$261.50	SS Indirect - Utilities

4th Corporation	\$140.00	SS Indirect - KTL Maintenance
Leaf	\$293.09	SS Indirect - Copier Exp/Supplies
NDACo Resources Group	\$1,015.00	SS Indirect - IT Support
Wells County Treasurer	\$81.90	SS Indirect - Postage Meter Rent
Fessenden City	\$313.72	Festival Hall/Fair Utilities
Otter Tail	\$1,527.75	Festival Hall/Fair Utilities
	<u>\$72,954.37</u>	

### **911**

ND State Radio	\$19,184.16	Data Base/Circuiting/Updates
Dakota Central	\$300.24	Data Base/Circuiting/Updates
NDTC	\$156.34	Data Base/Circuiting/Updates
	<u>\$19,640.74</u>	

### **JAIL & TRANSP.**

HACTC	\$17.21	Jail & Transport Medication
HACTC	-\$786.88)	Medication
HACTC	\$6,699.00	Jail & Transport Prison Board
	<u>\$5,929.33</u>	

### **CO. AGENT**

Leaf	\$235.91	Copier Lease & Maint.
Wells County Treasurer	\$121.39	Telephone
Otter Tail	\$54.08	Utilities
NDSU-Ag Budget Office	\$6,737.62	Share of County Agent
	<u>\$7,149.00</u>	

### **SOCIAL SERVICES**

CenDak Cooperative-New Rockford	\$171.56	Fuel/Foster Care
Wells County Treasurer	\$257.49	Fuel/Child Protect. Serv.
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$83.24	Family Social Worker/Fuel
Jodi Helm	\$250.00	In Home Care - Health Ins.
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$354.69	In Home Care/Fuel
Patriot Fuels	\$119.29	In Home Care/Fuel
Wells County Treasurer	\$260.00	Dues/Registration Fees
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$42.00	Fuel
Julie St. Germaine	\$385.14	Admin Support-Travel/Mileage
Evans Funeral Home	\$2,400.00	BA Burial Account
ITD	\$66.35	Zone Admin Support/IT Other
Wells County Treasurer	\$453.23	Zone Admin Support/Cell phone
		Zone Admin Supp./Office
Office Depot Business Account	\$112.97	Materials
Wells County Treasurer	\$194.04	Admin Support/Lodging/Hotels
Central City H20+	\$158.50	Water
	<u>\$5,308.50</u>	

## **WEED CONTROL**

Dale Schmitz	\$104.45	Salary - Board Meeting
Donna Rau	\$227.34	Salary - Employee
Steve Eckart	\$250.00	Salary - Employee
Steve Eckart	\$200.00	Township Chemical
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	\$781.79	

## **HWY TAX**

NDDOT	\$490.11	Bridge Inspection
ND Dept. of Enviromental Quality	\$1,350.00	Tank Registrations
Harvey Oil Co.	\$9,863.46	Fuel
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$13,506.08	Fuel
NAPA-Carrington	\$83.99	Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Rick's Wholesale Tire, Inc.	\$3,581.00	Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Power Plan	\$305.79	Machinery Repairs & Supplies
NAPA-Harvey	\$18.74	Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Lemer's ACE & Rental	\$162.57	Supplies
Newman Traffic Signs	\$7,466.60	Signs
TSC	\$517.55	Supplies
Linde Gas & Equipment	\$93.60	Supplies
Farm & Family	\$100.23	Supplies
MARC	\$1,724.16	Supplies
NDTC	\$144.05	Telephone
Harvey City	\$64.70	Utilities
Verendrye Electric	\$87.72	Utilities
Fessenden City	\$161.24	Utilities
Northern Plains Electric	\$188.30	Utilities
Otter Tail	\$288.58	Utilities
Sykeston City	\$48.50	Utilities
Cathay City	\$190.00	Utilities
Central Plains Water	\$500.00	Utilities
SMP Health St. Aloisius	\$50.00	D & A
Susag Sand & Gravel	\$2,457.47	Road Materials
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	\$43,444.44	

## **PRESERVATION**

Underground Vaults & Storage	\$288.00	Microfilm Box Lease
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## **ESTIMATE TAX**

Wells County Treasurer	\$57.23	Disbursements
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## **24-7**

Office Of Attorney General	\$620.00	Scram Fees
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**CO. AGENCY**

Wells County Treasurer

\$254.16 Office Supplies

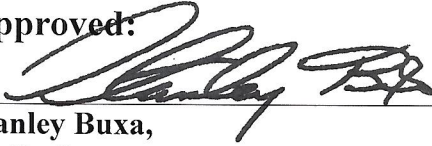
**HAZ CHEMICAL**

Grand Forks Fire Equipment, LLC

\$3,866.52 Supplies

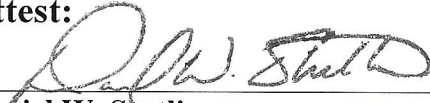
\$160,294.08

Approved:



Stanley Buxa,  
Wells County Commission Chairman

Attest:



Daniel W. Stutlien,  
Wells County Auditor