

Wells County Commissioner's Meeting Minutes October 5, 2023

The October meeting was called to order by Chairman Buxa at 8:30 AM. Present at the meeting were Stan Buxa, Dennis Dockter, Leon Klocke, Bryan Lutt, Danny Maxwell, Larry Fandrich, Cheyenne Gessele, Lydia Gessele, Michaela Gessele, Samuel Gessele, Darrin Haux, Aaron Opdahl, Charles Tuttle, Daniel Stutlien, and Neil Nelson of the Herald-Press..

The meeting began with the WC Budget Hearing, as per NDCC 57-15-02.2. WC Auditor, Dan Stutlien, highlighted anticipated expenditures of \$6.547 million with forecasted revenues of \$5.629 million, not including any bank interest. There is a shortfall of slightly over \$900,000 that will be backfilled with prairie dog infrastructure funds. DD (*M*), DM (*S*) to approve the 2024 Budget as presented. Unanimously carried.

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

Employee timesheets were reviewed by the commissioners.

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

DD (*M*), BL (*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.

A thank you card was shared from the family of Romona Klocke.

Commission Portfolios were reviewed and discussed.

Larry Fandrich addressed the Commission regarding the fairness of the application of law in WC. Also, Fandrich discussed the approach previously approved to be installed in S10, Rusland Township, in the James River Diversion Channel to replace an approach removed in the past. Fandrich has installed his own approach at his own cost, and would like those costs reimbursed unless the future approach is installed on the section line. Aaron Opdahl shared his circumstance with an inability to access his pastureland without this approach. After consideration, LK (*M*), DD (*S*) to rescind the motion from Sept. '23 to replace the approach and culverts removed in the past. Unanimously carried. DD (*M*), DM (*S*) to purchase the culverts for this approach, and the dirt work to be provided by the landowner and reimburse Fandrich for the cost of his culverts. Unanimously carried. Both Fandrich and Opdahl stated they were satisfied with the compromise.

Lydia Gessele met with the Commission to discuss elections and oaths of office for county officials.

WC Sheriff, Chris Kluth, addressed the Commission with topics of discussion including the department's Calls for Service Report as well as the department's Chief Deputy's resignation. Kluth was asked the status of the development of an application process to construct fencing, either permanent or temporary, in any right of way where necessary. Kluth stated the state is trying to end this practice and is not sure there is a path forward at the county level.

WC Road Foreman, Brent Keller, met with the Commission to discuss matters of his department. Keller discussed ditch mowing, culverts that have been ordered, delivered, and installed, hauling gravel, and issues related to motor graders owned by WC. Department staffing levels were

discussed and summer help will be done at the end of October. Keller also discussed with the Commissioners County Highway #5 and the re-surfacing possibilities that were presented in September. The Commission will be meeting with their engineers in the near future to discuss this project.

Brian Tebelius met with the Commissioners to discuss the surface of County Highway #71, which currently is 9-miles of pavement in south central WC.

LK (M), DM (S) to establish the minimum sales prices for properties scheduled to be sold at auction in November at the level of taxes due. Unanimously carried.

The Commission evaluated the Beer & Liquor License fee structure which hasn't been updated since 2006. DM (M), BL (S) to accept the proposal presented. Motion carries.

WC Auditor, Dan Stutlien, shared information from the Dept. of Environmental Quality regarding stipulations for the razing of the Cathay School. The County has filed all necessary paperwork.

A new proposal for rental rates of WC properties, specifically Festival Hall and the KTL Building, was introduced. DM (M), DD (S) to adopt the new fee structure as presented, effective 1/1/2024. Unanimously carried.

A mental health training for all WC employees will be held Thursday, Oct. 12th, at 2:00 PM. WC Courthouse and all Offices will close at 1:45 PM on that day to accommodate the training.

A resignation letter from Andrew Givens, WC Chief Deputy Sheriff, was shared. DD (M), DM (S) to approve the resignation and thank him for his years of service to WC. Unanimously carried.

The Commission discussed the employee salary schedule for 2025 and beyond. The purpose of this is to have a discussion on the philosophy of the salary and benefits made available to WC employees. Insight was provided and this topic will be ongoing.

The next Six-County Meeting will be held in Emmons County Tuesday, Dec. 12th, at 10:00 AM.

The next WC Departments' Meeting is slated for Thursday, October 19th, at 9:00 AM.

The NDACo State Convention is coming up Oct. 8th-10th in Bismarck.

The regular November WC Commission meeting will be November 7, 2023 at 8:30 AM. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:02 PM.

The following Fees and Receipts were approved and ordered filed:

Clerk of Court	\$	345.00
Recorder	\$	2,128.00
Sheriff	\$	290.00
Misc.	\$	52,880.68

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

#Direct Deposit	Payroll, General (1000)	\$	91,769.31
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, Road (2001)	\$	47,086.26
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, 911 (2003)	\$	1,053.17
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, County Agent (2005)	\$	3,392.83
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, Social Welfare (2007)	\$	62,950.71

#ACH	BC/BS	Insurance	\$	62,571.49
#ACH	NDPERS	Retirement	\$	29,223.35

Oct. **General**
2023

ODP Business Solutions, LLC	\$132.97	Central Supplies
Vanguard App., Inc.	\$1825.00	Tax Dir. App.
Wells County Treasurer	\$2.71	Central Supplies
Herald Press	\$152.00	Central Supplies
Dakota Mailing	\$189.21	Postage Meter Supplies
Tao Interactive	\$599.95	Technology
Wells County Treasurer	\$344.32	Telephone
Verizon	\$55.18	Telephone
NDTC	\$736.81	Telephone
Fessenden City (Water)	\$374.32	Countywide Utilities
Central City H2O+	\$27.00	Countywide Utilities
Otter Tail	\$1,159.00	Countywide Utilities
Wells County Treasurer	\$46.60	Bank Charges
Matthew Bender	\$915.57	NDCC Supplements
Wells County Treasurer	\$57.77	Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
Dakota Dust-Tex	\$478.81	Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$101.64	Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
Tracys Market	\$31.90	Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
Elite Spraying	\$190.00	Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
Foster County Independent	\$71.50	Legal Publications
Herald Press	\$935.07	Legal Publications
Transcript Publishing	\$65.00	Legal Publications
Frey Insurance	\$80.00	ND Insurance Reserve Fund- Premiums
Softchoice	\$397.52	Technology
Tyler Technologies	\$12,424.10	Technology
NDTC	\$101.02	Technology
Central Business Systems	\$2,152.95	Technology
Software Innovations	\$750.00	Technology
Cabin Creations	\$206.00	Countywide Misc.-Bereavement
ND State Treasurer	\$105.00	Marriage Licenses
Carrie Krause	\$117.90	Travel
ND State Radio	\$120.00	Maintenance - State Radio
Wells County Treasurer	\$1,250.85	Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
NW Tire Inc.	\$397.38	Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$849.43	Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Axon Enterprise Inc.	\$5,003.69	Sheriff Cameras
Janelle Pepple	\$78.60	Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Janelle Pepple	\$29.34	BC/BS Ded.
Kotaco Fuel & Propane	\$23.48	Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Heartland Consulting Group	\$9,845.00	Grant Match
Wells County Treasurer	\$129.93	Telephone

NDTC	\$105.00	Telephone
Wells County Treasurer	\$264.60	Travel/Mileage
Tammy Roehrich	\$396.20	Travel/Mileage
Otter Tail	\$49.68	Utilities
Wells County Treasurer	\$32.00	Misc.
ODP Business Solutions, LLC	\$362.82	Ink/Maint. Contracts
NDTC	\$513.60	SS Indirect - Telephone
Dakota Central	\$388.04	SS Indirect - Telephone
New Rockford Utility Services	\$89.89	SS Indirect - Utilities
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.	\$29.40	SS Indirect - Utilities
Otter Tail	\$217.45	SS Indirect - Utilities
Duchscherer Supply	\$13.99	SS Indirect - Vehicle Maint.
B & B Service and Repair LLC	\$163.48	SS Indirect - Vehicle Maint.
4th Corporation	\$140.00	SS Indirect - KTL Maintenance
Duchscherer Supply	\$22.57	SS Indirect - KTL Maintenance
Leaf	\$461.00	SS Indirect - Copier Exp/Supplies
Central Business Systems	\$279.91	SS Indirect - Copier Exp/Supplies
NDACo Resources Group	\$1,080.00	SS Indirect - IT Support
Fessenden City (Water)	\$330.24	FH Utilities
Otter Tail	\$611.72	Festival Hall/Fair Utilities
TSC	\$606.43	FH & Fairgournd Maint.
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	\$48,712.54	

911

ND State Radio	\$19,607.34	Data Base/Circuiting/Updates
NDTC	\$156.34	Data Base/Circuiting/Updates
Dakota Central	\$300.24	Data Base/Circuiting/Updates
Janelle Pepple	\$78.60	Travel/Mileage
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	\$20,142.52	

Jail & Transp.

HACTC	\$49.80	Jail & Transport Medication
HACTC	\$7,623.00	Jail & Transport Prison Board
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	\$7,672.80	

Co. Agent

Leaf	\$235.91	Copier Lease & Maint.
Wells County Treasurer	\$121.96	Telephone
Otter Tail	\$47.31	Utilities
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	\$405.18	

Social Services

Wells County Treasurer	\$75.00	Dues/Reg Fees/Foster Care
Wells County Treasurer	\$156.47	Fuel/Foster Care
CenDak Cooperative-New Rockford	\$55.00	Fuel/Foster Care
Wells County Treasurer	\$309.03	Fuel/Child Protect. Serv.
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$80.87	Fuel/Child Protect. Serv.
Wells County Treasurer	\$50.00	Child Protect./Safety Perm.

CenDak Cooperative-New Rockford	\$61.00	Child Protect./Safety Perm.
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$161.66	Family Social Worker/Fuel
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$403.63	In Home Care/Fuel
Patriot Fuels	\$123.48	In Home Care/Fuel
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$44.01	Fuel
CenDak Cooperative-New Rockford	\$93.00	Fuel
Julie St. Germaine	\$162.44	Admin Support-Travel/Mileage
ITD	\$73.75	Zone Admin Support/IT Other
Wells County Treasurer	\$413.04	Zone Admin Support/Cell phone
Wells County Treasurer	\$88.20	Admin Support/Lodging/Hotels
Foster County Independent	\$49.00	Subscriptions & Memberships
Central City H2O+	\$158.50	Water
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	\$2,558.08	

Weed Control

Kyle Alfstad	\$242.98	Salary - Board Meeting
Danny Maxwell	\$166.76	Salary - Board Meeting
Kelly Muscha	\$217.57	Salary - Board Meeting
Dale Schmitz	\$163.14	Salary - Board Meeting
Donna Rau	\$220.87	Salary - Employee
Benson County Farmers Press	\$112.00	Advertising
Foster County Independent	\$195.00	Advertising
Transcript Publishing	\$117.00	Advertising
US Treasury	\$264.77	WC/Withholding
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	\$1,700.09	

Hwy Tax

Pat Biel Trucking, Inc.	\$9,626.26	Culverts & Bridges
True North Steel	\$23,464.88	Culverts & Bridges
Harvey Oil Co.	\$3,072.56	Fuel
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$14,555.41	Fuel
RDO Equipment Co.	\$169,500.00	Highway Machinery
Power Plan	\$646.86	Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Krahlers Parts & Service	\$1,214.50	Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Gooseneck Implement	\$728.75	Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Rick's Wholesale Tire, Inc.	\$1,455.95	Machinery Repairs & Supplies
NAPA-Carrington	\$109.96	Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Escosupply	\$4,380.32	Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Butler Machinery	\$2,916.19	Machinery Repairs & Supplies
TSC	\$750.09	Supplies
Tracys Market	\$12.46	Supplies
Linde Gas & Equipment	\$106.00	Supplies
Farm & Family	\$27.81	Supplies
NDTC	\$144.03	Telephone
Wells County Treasurer	\$74.51	Travel/Mileage
Gary Kaul	\$64.19	Travel/Mileage
Verendrye Electric	\$94.13	Utilities
Harvey City	\$64.70	Utilities

Fessenden City (Water)	\$174.32	Utilities
Cathay City	\$95.00	Utilities
Sykeston City	\$48.50	Utilities
Otter Tail	\$334.66	Utilities
ND Assn. of Counties	\$63.00	D & A Testing
SMP Health St. Aloisius	\$100.00	D & A Testing
Western Dakota Energy Association	\$500.00	Load Pass Dues
Central Dakota Family Physicians	\$140.00	Physicals
ASTECH	\$8,292.90	Road Materials
NorMont Equipment Co.	\$3,155.26	Road Materials
Flint Hills Resources	\$23,521.65	Oil
	<u>\$269,434.85</u>	

ARPA

Sykeston City	\$5,276.68	Improvements-ARPA
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24-7

Office Of Attorney General	\$845.00	Scram Fees
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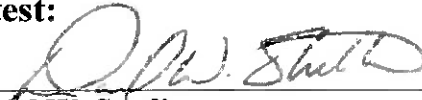
\$356,747.74

Approved:



Stanley Buxa,
Wells County Commission Chairman

Attest:



Daniel W. Stutlien,
Wells County Auditor