

Wells County Commissioner's Meeting Minutes September 7, 2023

The September meeting was called to order by Chairman Buxa at 8:31 AM. Present at the meeting were Stan Buxa, Dennis Dockter, Leon Klocke, Bryan Lauth, Daniel Stutlien, and Neil Nelson of the Herald-Press.

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

Employee timesheets were reviewed by the commissioners.

BL (*M*), DD (*S*) to approve the bills as presented, including a bill from Gooseneck Imp. for a '23 JD 1575 multi-purpose tractor and accessories for \$57,430.45. Unanimously carried.

LK (*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.

Pledged Securities for DHB accounts were reviewed by the Commission. It was the consensus of the WC Commission the securities were adequate to cover the county's current deposits.

The current WC Balance Sheet was reviewed and discussed.

Correspondence was shared from Wold Engineering inviting the Commissioners to their annual Social and Dinner at NDACo State Convention October 8th. The Court Facilities Improvement Advisory Committee sent their annual application for grant funds to improve the WC Courtroom. The WC Soil Conservation District sent a synopsis of the July 10th meeting on the Harvey Dam. A thank you note from Lorelei Henne was read thanking the Commissioners for recognition of her retirement.

Commission Portfolios were reviewed and discussed.

Aaron Opdahl addressed the WC Commission regarding the location of an approach near or on a section line for access to his property. BL (*M*), DD (*S*) to install the approach in S10, Rusland Township, in the James River Diversion Channel to replace an approach removed in the past. Unanimously carried.

WC Sheriff, Chris Kluth, addressed the Commission with topics of discussion including the department's Calls for Service Report as well as patrons building fences in right of ways on county roads. DD (*M*), LK (*S*) to create an application process to construct fencing, either permanent or temporary, in any right of way where necessary. Unanimously carried.

Jennie Krause of KLJ met with the Commission to discuss developments with the three bridge projects in WC. Regarding the site south of Harvey, all field work is completed and paperwork is being completed. Next step is to determine design with a hope of a May '24 bid opening. With this project, WC will need some right of way acquisition. DD (*M*), BL (*S*) to have KLJ handle the acquisition. Regarding the sites north and east of Fessenden, options were provided for the removal of a bridge. LK (*M*), BL (*S*) to eliminate a bridge (52-125-12.0) and shift the allocated money to the other bridges (52-123-11.0 & 52-123-12.0), with WC eventually removing one bridge (52-125-12.0) and closing the road. Unanimously carried.

WC Road Foreman, Brent Keller, met with the Commission to discuss matters of his department. Keller discussed the millings purchased by WC from the Highway 30 project and potential use for these millings. Keller also discussed personnel in his department.

Kent Indvik of Wold Engineering spoke with the Commission regarding County Road #5 and options for the road. Micro-surfacing is app. \$85,000/mile, micro-milling is app. \$105,000/mile, and a complete re-paving, which would be very difficult due to various road width factors, would be app. \$700,000/mile. The Commission is committed to making a decision on this project this fall.

Lowell Malard of Butler Machinery sat with the Commission to discuss recently ordered equipment by WC. Malard informed WC the two machines will be earlier than anticipated with equipment set to arrive in December. In the build of these machines, the tires requested are no longer available. With that, alternative tires will be put on the machines and the replacement tires, which cost less, will be a total parts credit of \$3,500 at Butler for WC. The Commission was agreeable to this.

Carrie Krause, WC Recorder, spoke with the Commissioners about her trip to Austin, TX this summer. Krause briefly discussed the federal farm program, mental health, and the need for a new printer in her office. Additionally, there is a need approaching for a new wi-fi network for WC. Krause and Tammy Roehrich are working on a grant for this.

Tammy Roehrich, WC DEM, addressed the Commission. First of all, Roehrich informed the Commission that the City of Fessenden was funded for \$2,000,000 to retrofit/upgrade the city's wastewater/lagoon system. In addition, the Eddy/Wells County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan was discussed. Roehrich presented some minor changes to the document. DD (M), BL (S) to adopt and approve the Eddy/Wells County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Unanimously carried. Roehrich went on to discuss the NFIP (*National Flood Insurance Program*) portion of her budget. This area in her budget was eliminated.

WC Auditor, Dan Stutlien, shared the AG's Opinion on the violation of the Open Meetings Law which occurred at a Departments' Meeting February 24, 2022. Stutlien stated the difference between the letter of the law and the spirit of the law and acknowledged this circumstance violated the letter of the law. Stutlien went on to state the monthly WC Departments Meetings have been fully compliant from that day to the present.

At the August WC Departments' Meeting, a request was made for a mental health training for WC employees. WC HR co-Directors, Janelle Pepple and Dan Stutlien, have secured a training through Eyes on the Horizon Consulting, LLC to conduct a training for all WC employees 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.

The next Six-County Meeting will be held in Wells County Tuesday, Sept. 12th, at 10:00 AM. Agenda items for the meeting were discussed amongst the Commissioners.

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 Commissioners discussed the petition currently being circulated to eliminate property taxes in ND.

WC Auditor, Dan Stutlien, distributed the 2024 WC Budget. Stutlien discussed the contents highlighting anticipated expenditures of \$6.547 million with forecasted revenues of \$5.629 million, not including any bank interest. This would mean a shortfall of slightly over \$900,000 that will need to be backfilled with prairie dog infrastructure funds. The Commission will hold a public hearing on the WC Budget at their next meeting Oct. 5th.

The regular September WC Commission meeting will be October 5, 2023 at 8:30 AM. This meeting will include the Budget Hearing for WC. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM.

The following Fees and Receipts were approved and ordered filed:

Clerk of Court	\$	280.00
Recorder	\$	4,676.75
Sheriff	\$	834.00
Misc.	\$	69,691.62

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

#Direct Deposit	Payroll, General (1000)	\$	90,660.31
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, Road (2001)	\$	54,473.26
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, 911 (2003)	\$	1,053.17
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, County Agent (2005)	\$	3,414.83
#Direct Deposit	Payroll, Social Welfare (2007)	\$	61,469.84
#ACH BC/BS	Insurance	\$	62,537.73
#ACH NDPERS	Retirement	\$	30,335.75

Sept. 2023 General

Wells County Treasurer	\$214.90	Central Supplies
ODP Business Solutions, LLC	\$89.64	Central Supplies
Wells County Treasurer	\$8.56	Postage
Pitney Bowes	\$144.00	Postage Meter Rent
Wells County Treasurer	\$344.02	Telephone
Verizon	\$40.01	Telephone
NDTC	\$725.24	Telephone
Fessenden City	\$349.84	Countywide Utilities
Otter Tail	\$1,112.97	Countywide Utilities
Central City H20+	\$63.00	Countywide Utilities
Wells County Treasurer	\$26.60	Bank Charges
ND Envelope Company	\$498.10	Blank Books
Monica McConkey, MA, LPC	\$900.00	Continuing Education
Wells County Treasurer	\$59.99	Janitor Supplies
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$116.97	Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
TJ Plumbing	\$3,372.00	Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
TK Elevator	\$5,048.68	Courthouse Maintenance
Kayme Heintz	\$6.44	Janitor Supplies
Dakota Dust-Tex	\$1,174.93	Courthouse & KTL Maintenance
Herald Press	\$56.80	Legal Publications
Frey Insurance	\$307.00	Premiums
WSI	\$250.00	CS Premium
Central Business Systems	\$49.33	Recycling

Wells County Treasurer	\$19.99 Technology
NDACo Resources Group	\$330.21 Technology
Software Innovations	\$1,100.00 Technology
NDTC	\$101.04 Technology
ITD	\$1,450.35 Technology
SMP Health St. Aloisius	\$100.00 D & A Testing
ODP Business Solutions, LLC	\$966.96 Ink supplies/Maint. Contracts
Laura Muscha	\$106.11 Travel/Mileage
RELX Inc.	\$67.00 Lexis Nexis Fees
ND Assn. of Counties	\$100.00 Dues/Registration Fees
Andrew Marquart	\$288.00 Civil Commit; Indig. Council
Carla Johnson	\$268.55 Travel/Mileage
Wells County Treasurer	\$105.00 Dues/Registration Fees
Wells County Treasurer	\$1,145.73 Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$265.82 Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Drive Chevrolet Buick Harvey	\$1,172.27 Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Opdahl Body Shop	\$75.00 Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Kotaco Fuel & Propane	\$66.58 Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Lautt's Auto Body & Towing	\$245.00 Travel/Mileage/Veh.Maint.
Wells County Treasurer	\$126.24 Telephone
NDTC	\$108.49 Telephone
Otter Tail	\$50.08 Utilities
ND Assn. of County and Tribal VSO	\$120.00 Dues/Registration Fees
NDTC	\$508.63 SS Indirect - Telephone
Dakota Central	\$196.83 SS Indirect - Telephone
New Rockford Utility Services	\$87.16 SS Indirect - Utilities
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.	\$27.71 SS Indirect - Utilities
Otter Tail	\$222.25 SS Indirect - Utilities
CenDak Cooperative-New Rockford	\$76.27 SS Indirect - Vehicle Maint.
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$141.28 SS Indirect - Vehicle Maint.
Drive Chevrolet Buick Harvey	\$114.02 SS Indirect - Vehicle Maint.
Opdahl Body Shop	\$1,289.11 SS Indirect - Vehicle Maint.
4th Corporation	\$140.00 SS Indirect - KTL Maintenance
JB Vending, LLC	\$145.25 SS Indirect - KTL Maintenance
Jeffs Key & Lock Repair	\$419.00 SS Indirect - KTL Maintenance
Leaf	\$461.00 SS Indirect - Copier Exp/Supplies
NDACo Resources Group	\$2,030.00 SS Indirect - IT Support
Wells County Treasurer	\$81.30 SS Indirect - Postage Meter Rent
Fessenden City	\$301.88 Festival Hall/Fair Utilities
Otter Tail	\$632.54 Festival Hall/Fair Utilities
Tom's Home Furnishings	\$5,762.00 Repairs/Maintenance-FH
	<u>\$35,973.67</u>

911

OnSolve, LLC	\$4,404.53 Code Red System
NDTC	\$156.34 Data Base/Circuiting/Updates
Dakota Central	\$300.24 Data Base/Circuiting/Updates
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	\$4,861.11

Jail & Transportation

Lake Region Law Enforcement	\$34.13 Jail & Transport Medication
Lake Region Law Enforcement	\$340.00 Jail & Transport Prison Board
HACTC	\$10,010.00 Jail & Transport Prison Board
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	\$10,384.13

County Agent

Leaf	\$235.91 Copier Lease & Maint.
Herald Press	\$37.00 Office Supplies
Wells County Treasurer	\$118.67 Telephone
Wells County Treasurer	\$150.00 Travel/Mileage
Hannah Peterson	\$344.98 Travel/Mileage
Otter Tail	\$47.70 Utilities
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	\$934.26

Social Services

Wells County Treasurer	\$89.02 Fuel/Foster Care
CenDak Cooperative-New Rockford	\$116.42 Fuel/Foster Care
Wells County Treasurer	\$255.09 Fuel/Child Protect. Serv.
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$44.42 Fuel/Child Protect. Serv.
Atif Ahadujjaman	\$19.87 Meals/Child Protect. Serv.
NDACo Resources Group	\$1,726.96 Technology
Wells County Treasurer	\$47.04 Office Materials
Wells County Treasurer	\$157.75 Family Social Worker/Fuel
CenDak Cooperative-New Rockford	\$37.22 Family Social Worker/Fuel
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$124.01 Family Social Worker/Fuel
NDACo Resources Group	\$1,726.96 Technology
Wells County Treasurer	\$22.55 Meals/Foster Care
Wells County Treasurer	\$88.20 Lodging
Becky Dockter	\$17.92 Client Support
Patriot Fuels	\$89.22 In Home Care/Fuel
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$355.59 In Home Care/Fuel
Vicky Calheim	\$64.85 In Home Care - Travel/Mileage
Jodi Helm	\$28.82 In Home Care - Travel/Mileage
NDACo Resources Group	\$1,726.96 Technology
ND Human Service Zone Directors Assn.	\$200.00 Dues/Registration Fees
NDACo Resources Group	\$1,183.87 Technology
Central Business Systems	\$98.67 Zone Admin Support/Misc
ITD	\$73.75 Zone Admin Support/IT Other
Wells County Treasurer	\$453.14 Phone
Wells County Treasurer	\$19.73 Supplies
Wells County Treasurer	\$203.95 Zone Admin Supp./Office Materials

Wells County Treasurer	\$158.76 Admin Support/Lodging/Hotels
Central City H2O+	\$49.50 Water
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	\$9,180.24

Weed Control

Donna Rau	\$220.87 Salary - Employee
Miller Elevator Co.	\$4,006.25 Township Chemical
The Arthur Companies	\$3,450.00 Township Chemical
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	\$7,677.12

Hwy Tax

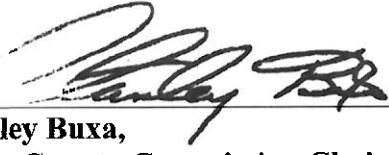
NDLTAP-UGPTI	\$250.00 Training
Gooseneck Imp.	\$57,430.45 Equipment
Krahler's Parts & Service	\$35.70 Supplies
Verendrye Electric	\$97.95 Utilities
Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden	\$7,527.02 Fuel
Harvey Oil Co.	\$2,940.93 Fuel
Weigelt Refrigeration	\$13,486.94 Improvements-Harvey Furnace
NAPA-Harvey	\$15.29 Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Patzer Truck Repair	\$9.05 Machinery Repairs & Supplies
High Plains Equipment	\$67.40 Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Power Plan	\$2,017.63 Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Gooseneck Implement	\$9.09 Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Butler Machinery	\$894.77 Machinery Repairs & Supplies
Lemer's ACE & Rental	\$60.33 Supplies
TSC	\$32.56 Supplies
Linde Gas & Equipment	\$103.20 Supplies
Farm & Family	\$119.78 Supplies
NDTC	\$144.04 Telephone
Dakota Central	\$100.00 Phone
Wells County Treasurer	\$89.00 Travel/Mileage
Harvey City	\$64.70 Utilities
Fessenden City	\$161.48 Utilities
Otter Tail	\$263.43 Utilities
Sykeston City	\$48.50 Utilities
Northern Plains Electric	\$384.52 Utilities
NDDOT	\$6,000.00 Shop Lease
Border States Paving	\$7,520.88 Road Materials
Susag Sand & Gravel	\$492.11 Road Materials
NorMont Equipment Co.	\$3,870.00 Road Materials
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	\$104,236.75

Sykeston City	\$44,723.32 ARPA GRANT
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Office Of Attorney General	\$1,265.00 Scram Fees-24-7
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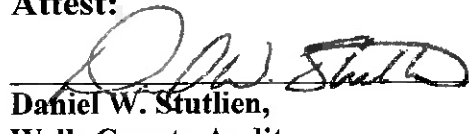
NDSU	\$100.00 Supplies-Co. Agency
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\$219,335.60



Stanley Buxa,
Wells County Commission Chairman

Attest:



Daniel W. Stutlien,
Wells County Auditor