

**BILLINGS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING JUNE 1, 2021.**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Michael Kasian at 9:00 A.M. with Commissioners Dean Rodne and Lester Iverson in attendance.

Others were present during portions of the meeting: Road Superintendent Jeff Iverson, EMS Directors Mitch Gilseth and Kyle Michels, Fire Chief Kyle Shockley, Maintenance Supervisor Travis Bertelsen, Sheriff Pat Rummel, Clerk of Court/Recorder Juliana Hammerstrom, Deputy Auditor Jonna Bertelsen, States Attorney Pat Weir, Bill Palanuk, Holly Praus, Amber Hofstad, Trisha Kelly, Justin Hyndman, Tax & Zoning Director Stacey Swanson

The board reviewed the commission minutes from May 6 and 26, 2021 special meetings. Iverson moved to approve. Rodne seconded. All voted aye.

Kasian moved to approve the agenda for the current meeting. Iverson seconded. All voted aye.

Rodne moved to appoint Juliana Hammerstrom as 2-year delegate to NDaco. Iverson seconded. All voted aye.

Commissioner Kasian asked about the county dump site on Medora's south side. Fire Chief Kyle Shockley and Maintenance Supervisor Travis Bertelsen stated they will go to city council tonight and get final ok on the cost share. Commissioner Rodne asked what the approximate cost is. Last bill was 1.75 hours at \$135/hour transport. Branches will need to be sorted off to lower the cost to less than \$400. They are transported to the Dickinson dump site. Spring time is usually the busiest and then we will get rid of it for the winter. Lamb will be in contact with the city auditor regarding the billing for the cost share. Road Superintendent Jeff Iverson will clean up and level the spot.

Bill Palanuk was present to discuss the concerns with traffic on Blacktail Road. There have been issues with speeding and vehicles going around school buses when stopped at a residence. This is a cause of great concern for the children in these areas. Bill and some of the neighbors that he has asked feel there needs to be an awareness sign down the road. He has talked with quality quick print on getting an 8'X16' sign for around \$1,800.00 on the section line where it changes from pavement to dirt. The entire project will be around \$2,500. Palanuk is hoping to fund raise in the area for the cost. This is a county wide issue. This will need to go into further discussion with Zoning, Road Superintendent, Sheriff's Office, States Attorney and Engineers. States Attorney Weir stated that there are regulations that need to be followed and will present this to zoning.

Tax & Zoning Director Stacey Swanson presented 3 ARW Applications that were approved with conditions by the Road Superintendent & Weed Officer.

- Roughrider Electric Coop – Section 31-142-101 across East River Road.
- McKenzie Electric – Section 4- across 123rd Avenue
- Andeavor – Section 3-142-99 pipeline connector. ROW will be deeded back to the county after completed.

Rodne moved to approve the permits. Iverson seconded. All voted aye.

Kasian asked Iverson's thoughts on the issues Bill Palanuk brought forward. Jeff Baranko has been going to a lot of sign workshops and is aware of the regulations. Landowners putting up a sign on a right of way is concerning for county liability. Baranko can look into putting up a slow lighted sign. Iverson stated he will also make a call to Dale Heglund with NDLTAP. Rodne would rather see the county do it for liability purposes.

Road Superintendent Jeff Iverson gave his monthly report. Crews are surfacing in all three districts. Removed and reset a cattleguard on East River Road. Reset washed out culvert before 3rd Creek turnoff. Crews will be applying dust control. Discussed possibly looking into a new dust control chemical made from soy beans. Iverson will be looking into doing a possible test run with it. Working with KLJ and Brosz Engineering on 2 FLAP applications that need to be submitted by June 23rd. Doing some erosion repair on East River Road south. Forest Service gave some seed and will need to use it to reseed some reclaimed areas due to the drought. Rented an 872gt from RDO for a week. Met with Julie Reis about next year bus routes. Bridge inspections to begin this month. Leasing 3 tractors at \$14/hr for roughly 275 hours. FLAP signature pages given to the board to sign.

KLJ representative Justin Hyndman was present to give the KLJ monthly report. Wetland monitoring should be complete this month. Gerbig pit is in final review and acceptance. Knife River should be back in July to finish the crushing in the Krehlik. Jeff asked KLJ to monitor this project a little more this time around. Continuation will be signed for all pit agreements. Jeff will meet with Fran Armstrong to discuss the updates for the Wannagan creek project. Countywide chip seal to be done in 2026 with federal aid. Structure replacement for bridge north of the county that is being claimed as deficient. Jeff will get with States Attorney Weir to discuss who is liable. The Master Service Agreement was presented to be updated. States Attorney Weir has concerns about the liability limitations. Weir will discuss with KLJ regarding the agreement.

Auditor Lamb requested that Sunrise Youth Bureau be added to the agenda at 11:00am.

Holly Praus and Amber Hofstad were present to discuss what Sunrise Youth Bureau does for our county. The commission appropriates \$7,000 per year to offer services to county residents. Amber works with the court when an officer cites a juvenile to do educational classes on anger management, rights and wrongs of shoplifting, reasons not to vape, smoke, or chew etc. and to write letters of apology. When they have completed the class she lets juvenile court know and they either close the case or deal further. If a parent in the county is having issues with their child, they can work with them individually and support the family. They have an out of school suspension program where kids do homework and provide educational materials. Holly is in charge of attendant care and is on call 24 hours/day. A child may be held for 24 hours and may have to get social services involved. May be held longer if a social worker has to get involved. Prevention programs in the school. They don't charge the school because they get county funding. Bullying and mental health issues are a serious cause for concern these days.

Ambulance directors Mitch Gilseth and Kyle Michels gave their monthly reports. They reviewed the budgets and spending for Medora and Belfield ambulance. CPR and First Aid Trainings are being held. Muffins with Medics is currently taking place. Kyle went to the Mental Health training in Fargo. They will set up a meeting with Department of Emergency Services to discuss the potential ambulance merger.

The board recessed for lunch at 12:00pm. Meeting resumed at 1:00pm.

At 1:00P.M. the board recessed as the Billings County Commission and convened as The Billings County Board of Equalization.

Tax Director Stacey Swanson was present to discuss the valuation changes for 2021. Director Swanson gave an overview of the appraisal process and then went over changes in agricultural, commercial and residential values. No changes were made to residential land values. Increases were made as needed for new construction, assessment updates and for properties going from exempt to taxable. No overall change was made to commercial land values. Increases were made as needed for commercial new construction and assessment updates. Swanson went over individual industrial parcels which increased and decreased as needed and were assessed by Thos & Pickett & Co. County ag land values had overall change of +2% from 2020. Total projected net taxable value for locally assessed property is \$13,789,223. No one appeared in protest of their individual assessment. Iverson moved to approve the tax assessments for 2021 as presented by Tax Director Swanson. Rodne seconded. All voted aye.

At 1:45P.M. the board recessed as the Billings County Board of Equalization and convened as the Billings County Commission.

Trisha Kelly was present from the Roosevelt Custer Regional Council to introduce herself and request \$5,700 as has been contributed to RCRC for the past few years. This request will be included in the preliminary budget.

Swanson presented an abatement application for a vacant mobile home for Jay and Jolene Obrigewitch. Rodne moved to approve. Iverson seconded. All voted aye.

Fire Chief Kyle Shockley gave his monthly report. Shockley reported that he went and took pictures from the April 1st fire but has not looked into it anymore. Kasian would like an investigation done by the county. Forest service is required and has their own investigators. There needs to be an updated agreement with the forest service, currently there is not one in place. Will review with state's attorney Weir. Shockley would like further review of the Service Awards for volunteers since it is getting harder to get help with fires. Lamb will check with Eide Bailey and State's Attorney. Fire Convention is this weekend, Medora will host the convention in 2023.

A letter was reviewed from the Eberts family regarding mineral royalties on the Elkhorn Gravel Pit. States Attorney Weir stated that their cause of action for someone that sold their gravel as tenants in common is against the other mineral owner. Weir will send them a letter.

Cost of Living increases were discussed. Recorder/Clerk of Court Juliana Hammerstrom represented the department heads and presented the CPI for the Midwest which is 4.9% over the last year. The request for an increase was for 5% of individual salaries. The board wants salaries to be sustainable. Kasian moved to approve 3.5% of the individual salaries. Rodne seconded. All voted aye.

Sheriff Rummel gave his monthly report. Calls are up a little bit as tourist season is underway. The burn ban is back to following the fire index but the emergency declaration is still in place. Kyle Shockley was appointed as assistant 911 coordinator in October last year and there was discussion of him getting an increase in salary for this but was never finalized. Rummel is asking the commission to approve a \$6,000.00 increase to his salary for the extra duties he has taken on that will be retroactive to January. He will move into the Emergency Manager Position effective immediately. Kasian moved to approve an additional \$6,000.00 and appoint Kyle Shockley as the Emergency Manager effective today. Iverson seconded. All voted aye.

Travis Bertelsen presented the one quote received on duct cleaning for \$12,600.00. Board told him to go ahead with hiring. Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation is putting in the new parking lot next door and needs to connect to our parking lot. It will cost \$3,165 to connect it and TRMF agreed to cost share.

ARW Application – Petro – Hunt, LLC – Section 3 & 4-144-98. Along 6th St SW, Cross 123rd Ave SW. Oil pipeline for operated wells.

The following claims were approved for payment:

PAYEE	CHECK #	AMOUNT
Blue Cross Blue Shield of ND	19683	\$ 3,860.60
ND Public Employee Retire System	19684	\$ 881.89
3D Specialties	19685	\$ 1,376.25
Aakre Construction LLC	19686	\$ 11,776.00
ABC Fencing LLC	19687	\$ 5,644.45
Advanced Collision Center Inc	19688	\$ 13,025.77
Alex Air Apparatus Inc	19689	\$ 3,217.20
All Around Tire & Oil	19690	\$ 2,273.85
Aramark	19691	\$ 326.06
Baesler Mitchel	19692	\$ 98.00
Belfield Automotive Supply	19693	\$ 1,074.10
Billings County Historical Society	19694	\$ 413.77
Billings County Pioneer	19695	\$ 91.64
Billings County Rural Fire District	19696	\$ 7,647.59
Billings County School District	19697	\$ 39,870.99
Black Hills Ammunition	19698	\$ 338.95
Blue Sky Dumpsters, LLC	19699	\$ 1,346.57
Boss Office Products	19700	\$ 1,302.42
Bound Tree Medical	19701	\$ 237.96
Brooks & Associates, C.E.	19702	\$ 740.83
Burt Keela	19703	\$ 98.00
Butler Machinery Co.	19704	\$ 2,302.76
Cerberus Security	19705	\$ 6,007.75
Cerkoney Cathy	19706	\$ 89.20
Charbonneau Car Center	19707	\$ 45,264.00
Corneil Todd	19708	\$ 50.00
Creative Energy	19709	\$ 292.23
Crowell & Moring LLP	19710	\$ 18,007.00
Dakota Business Solutions	19711	\$ 413.99
Dakota Cover Crop & Forage	19712	\$ 731.92
Dakota Dirt Works	19713	\$ 21,400.00
Dickinson Public Library	19714	\$ 4,326.84
Ecolab Pest Elim Div	19715	\$ 251.00
Environmental Systems	19716	\$ 2,200.00
Fastenal Company	19717	\$ 15.75
Four Corners Café	19718	\$ 1,120.00
GT Architecture	19719	\$ 9,711.00
Gallagher Benefit Services	19720	\$ 3,687.50
George's Tire LTD	19721	\$ 3,567.00
Hestekin NPR/IC Jennifer	19722	\$ 550.00
Highlands Engineering & Surveying	19723	\$ 5,160.00
Hlebechuk Construction Inc	19724	\$ 5,462.50
J and J Operating LLC	19725	\$ 12,706.76
Jacobs, Kelly	19726	\$ 13,300.00
James Oil Well Service Inc	19727	\$ 17,853.53
Jandt Plumbing & Heating	19728	\$ 588.92
Jerome Distributing Inc	19729	\$ 1,020.00
Johnson Controls Fire Protection LP	19730	\$ 2,554.79
Kasian, Connie	19731	\$ 50.00
KDIX Radio	19732	\$ 120.00
Kessel Anita	19733	\$ 144.80
KLJ Engineering LLC	19734	\$ 121,352.42
Kohler Communications Inc	19735	\$ 400.00
Kubik Bogner Ridl & Selinger PLLP	19736	\$ 3,000.00
Kutzler Marilyn	19737	\$ 71.12

LF Grading LLC	19738	\$	11,600.00
Little Missouri Restaurant & Saloon	19739	\$	2,440.00
Mac's Inc	19740	\$	108.94
Malkowski Trucking	19741	\$	5,375.00
Malley's Safety Supply LLC	19742	\$	1,278.11
Medora, City of	19743	\$	414.06
Menards Dickinson	19744	\$	801.97
Metro-Billing Services	19745	\$	46.00
MGM Rural Sanitation LLC	19746	\$	296.50
Mid-American Research Chemical	19747	\$	707.86
Midstate Communications	19748	\$	1,209.78
ND A A O	19749	\$	30.00
ND Association of Counties	19750	\$	401.00
ND Association of Counties	19751	\$	113.86
ND Cowboy Hall of Fame	19752	\$	200.00
ND State Radio Communications	19753	\$	784.16
ND State Treasurer	19754	\$	1,290.02
NDACo Resources Group INC	19755	\$	900.87
Nelson International	19756	\$	737.49
Newby's Ace Hardware	19757	\$	421.95
North Dakota One call	19758	\$	3.60
North Dakota Safety Council	19759	\$	320.00
PB Electric	19760	\$	402.93
Pickett Thomas	19761	\$	13,000.00
Prairie Excavation LLC	19762	\$	400.00
Pump Systems Inc	19763	\$	7,341.89
Putnam Karen	19764	\$	153.36
Quality Quick Print	19765	\$	1,210.72
RDO Equipment Co	19766	\$	6,186.99
RELX Inc	19767	\$	103.80
Rodne, Dean	19768	\$	197.04
Romanyshyn Trucking	19769	\$	1,885.00
Runnings Supply Inc	19770	\$	1,089.33
Sanford Health Occupational Medicine	19771	\$	170.50
Sax Motor Co.	19772	\$	1,680.92
Service Printers	19773	\$	650.45
Share Corporation	19774	\$	301.18
Southwest Business Machines	19775	\$	58.04
Southwest Water Authority	19776	\$	3,467.58
Southwest Water Authority	19777	\$	1,655.36
Southwestern District Health Unit	19778	\$	6,501.22
St. Alexius Medical Center	19779	\$	497.61
Steffan Saw and Bike	19780	\$	192.98
Thompson Madison	19781	\$	98.00
Thompson McKenna	19782	\$	98.00
Total Safety US Inc	19783	\$	23.40
Toyne Inc	19784	\$	260.00
TrueNorth Steel Inc	19785	\$	16,146.14
Underground Vaults Inc	19786	\$	212.00
Universal LLC	19787	\$	125.55
Verizon Networkfleet Inc	19788	\$	129.52
Verizon Wireless	19789	\$	2,220.05
Vogel Law Firm	19790	\$	864.00
Wal-mart Community	19791	\$	461.60
Watchguard Video	19792	\$	324.00
West Dakota Oil Inc	19793	\$	46,752.30
Westlie Crossroads Truck Ctr	19794	\$	3,382.00
Zoll Medical Corp	19795	\$	1,530.00
Choice Financial	19796	\$	38.00
ND Public Employee Retire System	19797	\$	11,139.00
ND Public Employee Retire System	19798	\$	43,777.59
ND Public Employee Retire System	19799	\$	650.00
NDFOP State Lodge Treasurer	19800	\$	25.00
North Dakota Public Health Ins Trust	19801	\$	74,134.82
Prudential Service Center	19802	\$	14.29

State Dispersment Unit	19803	\$	717.00
Wex Health, Inc.	19804	\$	2,579.61
CenturyLink	19805	\$	952.20
Directv	19806	\$	122.99
Information Technology Dept	19807	\$	1,023.50
Kasian, Michael	19808	\$	95.20
Medora, City of	19809	\$	602.06
Reservation Telephone	19810	\$	40.00
Roughrider Electric Coop	19811	\$	4,007.49
Verizon Wireless	19812	\$	43.20
Visa	19813	\$	3,671.75
Wex Health, Inc.	19814	\$	63.00
Visa	19815	\$	1,077.89

The board approved the revenue vouchers for the month of May: Recorder \$3,356.30; Zoning \$3,225.54; Court \$35.00; EMS \$4,752.00, Sheriff 40.00.

Revenues for materials and/or services rendered in May: Jeff Schmidt \$15,000.00 residual gravel; Robertson Metal Recycling \$330.00 used road signs WEED SPRAYING: Jerry Shae \$173.57, Carmen Waldo \$66.27, Debbie Leintz \$110.25

Revenues for the month of May: Sheriff \$10,180.09 permits, Highway Distribution \$13,622.01; Oil & Gas Production Tax \$425,455.38; Royalties \$25,701.82; Unorganized Oil & Gas Production Tax \$28,363.69; Interest \$11,705.46; Sheriff 24/7 \$150.00; ND Library State Aid \$6,418.24, Bankhead-Jones \$4,576,899.25, NDACo \$9,414.04; ND Treasurer Tax payments \$1,872.39

Payroll in the following amounts was approved for May: General Fund \$192,982.31; Road and Bridge Fund \$128,663.97; Weed Fund \$11,795.11.

With there being no further business, the meeting ended at 4:55 pm.

Michael Kasian, Chairman

Attest: _____

Marcia Lamb, Auditor/Treasurer

Special Meeting
June 16,2021

Present for the meeting: Wes Obrigewitch Keith Winter, Kathy Starda, Greg Pennington, Gary Anderson, Howdy Lawlay, Ty Skarda, Craig Hystad, Paul Schmitz, Dean Rodne, Merle Just, Pat Rummel, Maxine Rasmussen, Shawn Bergquist, Larry Lambourn, Jim Arthaud, Mike Kasian, Lester Iverson, Stacy Swanson, Deanna Baranko, Jonna Bertelsen, Marcia Lamb, Pat Weir. Via video, Tamra Sperry, Connie Brooks, Danielle Bettencourt.

All of the entities involved in the Billings County et al. v. United States Roadless Lawsuit were represented to listen to the updates on the suit as well as to discuss potential steps for moving forward. No decisions were made at this meeting.

The meeting ended at 3pm.

Michael Kasian, Chairman

Attest: _____

Marcia Lamb, Auditor/Treasurer