

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
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OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE STARK COUNTY COMMISSION
September 5, 2024

Chairman Franchuk called the regular meeting of the Stark County Board of Commissioners to order at 9:07 a.m. Commissioners Present: Dean Franchuk, Paul Clarys, Bernie Marsh, Neal Messer, and Cory White. Department Heads Present: Auditor Karen Richard, Sheriff Corey Lee, Road Superintendent Al Heiser, State's Attorney Amanda Engelstad, Human Resources Joetta Percy, Tax Director Natalie Wandler, and Emergency Manager Alaynea Decker.

MOTION BY: Messer

To approve the agenda as presented.

Franchuk adds JPA for Dickinson Ambulance and Manufacturer Declaration to the agenda.

AMENDED MOTION BY: Messer **SECONDED BY:** White

To approve the agenda with the addition of the Manufacturer Declaration and the JPA is on the current agenda.

All voted aye, motion carried.

Franchuk calls for approval of the minutes from August 6, 2024.

MOTION BY: Clarys **SECONDED BY:** Messer

To approve the August 6, 2024, meeting minutes.

All voted aye, motion carried.

Franchuk calls for approval of the minutes from August 19, 2024.

MOTION BY: Messer **SECONDED BY:** Clarys

To approve the August 19 minutes as submitted.

All voted aye, motion carried.

Franchuk calls for any questions about Accounts Payable. Per the Park Board discussion, the payment to Kolling needs to be amended to \$42,000 for work that still needs to be finished.

MOTION BY: Clarys **SECONDED BY:** White

To approve the bills for, the month of, August 2024, with the revision under County Park, the pay estimate to Kolling & Kolling be reduced from \$49,009.51 to \$42,000.00 until the warranty items are taken care of at the fairgrounds and the \$7,009.51 be authorized once the work is completed.

Roll call, all vote aye, motion carried.

No park board items to discuss.

Lee presented the August 2024 Sheriff report to the Commission: • Total calls for service 1687 – down from 1970 last year • Traffic stops 300 – down from 366 last year • 14 theft-related calls – up from 9 last year • 274 PR stops – down from 332 last year • 26 calls for K-9 • Truck Reg 5 stops / 20 additional CFS • Transports: 10 Prisoner, 9 Court, 0 Juvenile, 1 Medical, 3 MH • Responded to 18 accidents: 0 pedestrians, 0 fatality, 1 hit & run, 6 injury, and 9 property • 108 Total Arrests and 65 Warrants served • Civil Division: 232 attempts / 33 Subpoenas / 146 Civil Papers / 23 Criminal Papers.

Lee discusses the Belfield contract and Engelstad states it is fine as written if Belfield finds it acceptable. The Gladstone contract was signed and went into effect last week. Lee requested a replacement for the vehicle wrecked, \$7900 was received from insurance and he would like to buy the car back from Belfield, which was turned back to them, for \$7900.00. It will be a training vehicle, so it won't need to be re-equipped.

MOTION BY: Marsh **SECONDED BY:** Clarys

To approve the car purchase from Belfield.

Roll call, all vote aye, motion carried.

Lee also reports on highlights from his conference last week and Franchuk requests that citations and warnings be reported on the monthly report.

Heiser reports the crew has been helping with a big haystack fire west of Dickinson, they take water tankers to the scenes. He also states the resolution needs to be signed for the box culvert in South Heart. The Bypass is complete, the turn lane needs to be striped and will be chip-sealed next year. There will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony on the new bypass and notes that we are the 1st county to have a project completed with Flex funding.

Heiser addressed the speed limit on the bypass, and that a traffic study was completed. Todd Miller reports on the stats - the max speed was 92.7 mph, the min speed 10 mph, and the mean speed 51.5 mph. Travel has picked up since it has been paved. He also reports the speeds have stayed the same from gravel to pavement.

Miller also reports that in the golf course subdivision, all signs are now up, and speed bumps will be in place soon. The speed bumps will be removed with the first snowfall.

Heiser states they will need to replace some trucks; a couple of new trucks are coming in toward the end of the year that will be out of the 2024 budget. He would like to order a couple more for next year's budget. They are approximately \$160,000 each. Messer suggests he include those in the preliminary budget and order them after that.

MOTION BY: Messer **SECONDED BY:** Clarys

To authorize the Chairman to sign the Edward H Schwartz contract for Project BRJ-0045(075) for \$1,040,608.13.

All voted aye, motion carried.

Andrew Krebs, KLJ, updates on the roundabout project that they are currently working on utility and conflict drawings and the environmental document. The Chip Seal project on Hwy 10 East is completed except for cutting spotting tabs which should be completed in September.

James Kadrmas, Interstate Engineering thanked the commission for the resolution to award and asked for any questions.

Highlands Engineering is not present.

Jeremy Wood, Northern Plains advises the 41st and 109th project has been seeded and erosion control was just completed. The 32nd and 107th bypass paving is done, and they are working on reimbursements. The first reimbursement was \$800,000 and they have been revising that with the DOT who is still setting up the reimbursement process so the money should come next week. There will be a reimbursement for #2, which is \$5.6 million, and they will do that one after the first one is done.

Jeremy Presnell, Dickinson Fire Chief, presented the JPA between the City and the County regarding the operation of the Dickinson Ambulance and the agreement to purchase the assets of the ambulance service 50/50. The city will oversee the day-to-day operations, and it will be jointly funded. Currently, both have committed \$1.2 million. The date to take over the ambulance has moved up by 6 months and they are prepping and will be ready to make it happen when needed.

MOTION BY: Marsh **SECONDED BY:** Clarys

To authorize the Chair to sign the JPA.

Roll call, all vote aye, motion carried.

Presnell introduced the Division Chief Tyler Kientopf, he has over 20 years of experience and most recently the operations supervisor for Sanford Health in Bismarck. Kientopf addressed the commission and expressed excitement for his new role.

Zach Jahner, Baker Boy presents the Manufacturing Day Proclamation for Commission consideration.

This is an annual day, and they invite local students to attend an event at the BAC which presents students with opportunities in manufacturing.

MOTION BY: Messer **SECONDED BY:** Marsh

To approve the resolution to declare October 2, 2024, as Manufacturing Day in Stark County.

All voted aye, motion carried.

Dave Ouellette with the Badlands Big Sticks presents a promotional video to the commission regarding Big Sticks Baseball. He is requesting financial assistance on an annual basis as they are not a profitable business, even though it is a for-profit business. This is a wood-bat baseball league, and it is a vital community event and a community gathering place. He is requesting support from Stark County to get this to cash flow and keep it in business here and in the future. Each game recognizes a Veteran, and they employ many 14-16-year-olds who may not be able to work other places, each game a non-profit does a 50/50 raffle, and the baseball players do not receive any compensation for playing. They use it as a step to hopefully move up to the major leagues. At the City of Dickinson, they are in support, but it is a grey area because it is a for-profit and they have to figure out how to justify the logistics of how to handle this. The city met with Park and Rec to talk about offsetting Park and Rec, so it is currently in the works. The lease rent of the park is between \$18,000 and \$20,000 a year. Engelstad expressed concern about the anti-gifting clause of the constitution and would like to research this. Messer excused himself from making any decisions, due to a conflict.

MOTION BY: Marsh **SECONDED BY:** Clarys

To table to allow Engelstad to research.

All voted aye, except Messer who did not vote, the motion carried.

Break 10:25 a.m. – 10:38 a.m.

Decker advises all Community Lifelines are stable. There were sixty fires in August and 29 wildfires with 34 acres burned. September is National Preparedness Month, and she encourages people to start a conversation about preparing for disasters with their families and how to deal with potential disasters afterward.

Brad Banya, Assistant Emergency Manager presents information on Perry Weather which is a weather monitoring system. This system has weather stations that have sirens and send warnings. There are also rain gauges, wind gauges, sensors, a housing box, and a streaming camera. The software and weather station with warning system is \$3,250.00 per year which includes ten licenses and allows for mass notification. It can do lightning detection and send out an alert, along with a countdown to give an all-clear. They run \$2,850 without the warning part. He would like three stations, one at Belfield, one at Richardton, and one at Dickinson. The Dickinson station would have an alert and the other two would not have the warning part. The initial purchase total is \$12,150.00 with an annual subscription of \$11,200.00. Could do a cost share across the licenses and could charge each user an access fee of \$400.00. They would like to add this to the 2025 budget and will bring it forward at the September budget meeting.

Decker advises that we need a county representative for the advisory board regarding the recent JPA with the City for the Ambulance Service and Dispatch. She recommends Clarys.

MOTION BY: Messer **SECONDED BY:** White

To appoint Clarys to the Emergency Service Board.

All voted aye, motion carried.

Clarys presents an overview of the small city proposed funding, \$1 million would be placed in a special fund for each of 3 years, that the small cities in Stark County could access. This money would be sunset on 12-31-28. He presented the criteria for this proposal. The criteria are that it aligns with county priorities, and safety is the biggest priority (water and road). Another criterion is project management, and the funding will be a 50/50 match with the small city and the county. He states they hope to promote the idea of applying for as many grants as possible and the 50% county match could be used as the match for these grants received. The board will screen the projects and Clarys presented a scoring form with a threshold of sixty points, which will go in front of the commission for final approval.

MOTION BY: Clarys **SECONDED BY:** Messer

To adopt the Stark County Small Cities Infrastructure Proposal along with the criteria and scoring.

Roll call, all vote aye, motion carried.

White discusses the Mercer County VSO contract. Mercer County lost its Veteran Service Officer and asked if Stark County would take that over. McClellan and Engelstad worked together with Mercer County and put together a JPA that will pay \$15,000 a year to Stark County and \$5,000 for the rest of 2024.

MOTION BY: White **SECONDED BY:** Messer

To approve signing the JPA.

All voted aye, motion carried.

Discussion on the co-compensation pay for the addition of Mercer County for McClellan. Messer says there may be a cap, and we need to discuss this at the budget meeting.

The total of all bills approved from August 7, 2024, through September 5, 2024, equals \$6,984,949.93.

A detailed list of bills paid by check and ACH is available for public inspection anytime during regular business hours at the Stark County Auditor's office.

Commissioner White made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 11:28 p.m., Commissioner Messer **SECONDED**, Adjourned.


Karen Richard, Auditor


Dean Franchuk, Chairman