Special Meeting Minutes of the Board of Ward County Commissioners

May 24, 2022

The special meeting of the Ward County Commission was called to order by Chairman Rostad at 8:45 AM with Commissioners Anderson, Fjeldahl, and Weppler present. Also present were department heads Brian Vangsness, Jason Blowers, Jennifer Wiechmann, Kerrianne Boetcher, Kristi Frederick, Marisa Haman, and Robert Roed.

Interview conducted with Dale Dohms regarding the open position on the Minot City Planning Commission.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Weppler to appoint Dale Dohms to the Minot City Planning Commission. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Travis Schmit appeared to present external applications received for the American Rescue Plan Act funds. In review, the total amount Ward County is receiving is $13,138,741.00. The portion of funds already committed is $4,613,871.18 with the remaining amount to be allocated at $8,524,599.82. Internal applications pending total the amount of $1,145,337.62.

Moved by Comm. Weppler, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl to pull all premium pay applications at this time and only revisit if there is money left to disperse. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

As previously decided, all funds need to be awarded by December 31, 2023 with full completion and pay out by December 31, 2025.

Moved by Comm. Weppler, seconded by Comm. Anderson to look at the sewer/water projects as a group. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Anderson, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl to fund the sewer/water projects at 30% of asking amount which comes to $3,011,966.70. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Comm. Pietsch entered the meeting at 9:22 AM.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Weppler to fund public health and housing at 30% of asking amount for all applicants. Roll call; Comm. Fjeldahl, Weppler, Pietsch, and Anderson all voted yes; Rostad voted no; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Weppler, seconded by Comm. Pietsch to fund the tourism group requests independently as there are only 4 projects submitted. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Pietsch to fund all 4 projects submitted by Visit Minot and Ward County Historical Society at 50% of their requested amount with a total of $88,724.02. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Anderson, seconded by Comm. Weppler to fund graveling projects at 50% not to exceed $25,000.00 per request. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Weppler to fund culvert/bridge group at 30% per request. Motion withdrawn.

Moved by Weppler, seconded by Fjeldahl to fund culvert/bridge projects at 40% per request. A short discussion was held. Motion amended by Weppler and approved by Fjeldahl to fund at 50% per project for a total of $1,175,504.82. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Weppler, seconded by Comm. Pietsch to fund the Burlington Splash Pad at $15,000.00. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Weppler to fund the Donnybrook Park at $10,000.00. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Anderson, seconded by Comm. Weppler to fund the remaining park projects submitted by Berthold Park District, Kenmare Park District, and Minot Family YMCA at 10% of their requests. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Weppler, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl to pull the water conservation application from consideration. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Weppler, seconded by Comm. Anderson to fund first responder projects up to a maximum of $50,000.00 each. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Weppler, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl to pull the Des Lacs Cemetery application from the road projects group and fund the remaining four (4) projects up to $10,000.00 each. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Weppler to coordinate the Des Lacs Cemetery project with Ward County and fund 50% of the project. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Anderson, seconded by Comm. Weppler to fund the city improvement projects up to a maximum of $20,000.00 each. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Recess at 10:24 AM.

Meeting was reconvened at 10:39 AM.

Mr. Schmit gave an update on where we stand with proposed money allocation on the external items with the figure being $7,454,084.33. There is another 1.2 million in internal applications that can be re-visited at this point if the Commission so chooses. The amount already approved internally is $4,613,871.18. At this point, it was decided to review the remainder of unapproved internal requests.

Jason Blowers, Information Technology Director, presented the security package proposals.

Moved by Comm. Pietsch, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl to fund the security package with Electro Watchman for a total of $145,479.99 at 100%. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Weppler to fund the dive team support truck. Motion failed due to lack of a second.

Moved by Comm. Pietsch, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl to fund the dive team support truck at 40% of requested amount. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Weppler, seconded by Comm. Anderson to approve four (4) water fill stations, two in the courthouse facility and two in the administrative facility. Roll call; Comm. Weppler and Pietsch voted yes; Comm. Anderson, Fjeldahl, and Rostad voted no; motion failed.

Moved by Comm. Anderson, seconded by Comm. Weppler to approve the breakroom door project request of $5,913.00. Roll call; Comm. Anderson, Weppler, Fjeldahl, and Pietsch voted yes; Comm. Rostad voted no; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Pietsch to fund a salt storage shed project, 65' x 85' in size, at 75% of the $450,000.00. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Weppler, seconded by Comm. Anderson to approve the Commission Chambers audio system expansion and additional microphones. Roll call; Comm. Weppler voted yes; Comm. Anderson, Fjeldahl, Pietsch, and Rostad all voted no; motion failed.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Pietsch to deny the Ward County Public Library book sanitizer. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Pietsch, seconded by Comm. Anderson to deny the Ward County Public Library new computer stations. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Pietsch, seconded by Comm. Weppler to deny the NDSU Extension Agency request for a county vehicle. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Weppler, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl to table the NDSU request to fund tables and chairs for meeting rooms at the 900 building and are asking for an updated list due to numerous tables and chairs already being moved to the building for this purpose. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Pietsch, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl to deny the application from NDSU Extension Agency for a Smart TV. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Anderson to deny the NDSU Extension Agency request for an interactive whiteboard. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Anderson, seconded by Comm. Pietsch to approve the NDSU Extension Agency request in the amount of $1,000.00 for standup desks. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Pietsch, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl to add the amount of $500,000.00 to the sewer/water projects previously approved. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Weppler, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl to continue until 12:00 pm to look at the external application list and make adjustments as necessary. Roll call; Comm. Weppler and Fjeldahl voted yes; Comm. Pietsch, Anderson, and Rostad voted no; motion failed.

There will be a meeting on May 26, 2022 at 8:00 AM to review the above in more detail.

At 11:26 AM with no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED THIS 21ST DAY OF JUNE, 2022

Chairman, Ward County Commission

ATTEST: