

Special Meeting Minutes of the Board of Ward County Commissioners

May 26, 2022

The special meeting of the Ward County Commission was called to order by Chairman Rostad at 9:00 AM with Commissioners Anderson, Fjeldahl, Pietsch and Wepler present. Also present were department heads Jason Blowers, Jennifer Wiechmann, Marisa Haman, and Robert Roed.

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 total amount requested is \$31,788,023.34. During a previous meeting the Commission considered approving \$7,953,234.33. The Commission met to review previously considered requests.

The Commission began with reviewing a tabled requested from Ward County NDSU Extension for purchase of 8 tables and 15 chairs for their meeting rooms.

Moved by Comm. Wepler, seconded by Comm. Anderson to approve the request from Ward County NDSU Extension for a total of \$8,239.00. Roll call; all voted no, except Comm. Wepler who voted yes; motion failed.

Moved by Comm. Anderson to form a Committee to review the external request instead of a meeting of the whole Commission. After discussion, Comm. Anderson withdrew his motion.

Moved by Comm. Wepler, seconded by Comm. Anderson to review each item requested starting at the top and removing or reducing as needed. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Pietsch, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl to approve the culvert/bridge installation projects requested by Maryland, Afton, Burlington, Tatman, Eureka, Brilliant and Newman Townships at 50% of amount requested and the County will fund the difference. Roll call; all voted yes, except Comm. Wepler who voted no; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Pietsch, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl to approve the culvert/bridge installation projects requested by Burt, Carbondale, Iota Flat, Kirkelie, Margaret, Rolling Green, Shealy and Willis townships at 50% of amount requested and the Townships will fund the difference. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Pietsch, seconded by Comm. Wepler to approve the gravel projects requested by Carbondale, Mandan, Surrey and Maryland townships at 50% of amount requested up to a maximum of \$25,000 per project. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Pietsch, seconded by Comm. Wepler to approve Afton Township's request for funds for the 30th Street improvement project at 60% of the requested amount. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Wepler, seconded by Comm. Pietsch to approve allocating the amounts as listed: Berthold Park District-\$21,864.70; Burlington Recreation Commission- \$15,000; Donnybrook Park District- \$10,000; Kenmare Park District- \$50,000 and the Minot Family YMCA- \$30,000. Roll call; all vote yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Wepler, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl to approve allocating the amounts as listed for sewer/water project: the City of Berthold- \$937,467.59; the City of Burlington-\$376,255.77; the City of Carpio-\$1,472,663.71; the City of Makoti- \$262,351.01; the City of Des Lacs- \$80,699.17; the City of Donnybrook \$8,169.61; the City of Sawyer- \$318,319.22 and West River Water & Sewer District- \$56,040.62. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Wepler, seconded by Comm. Pietsch to approve allocating the following amounts for the purchase of radio equipment for First Responders: Burlington Rural Fire District-\$31,200;

Des Lacs Fire Protection District-\$47,721.40; Kenmare Fire Department-\$50,000; Minot Rural Fire Department-\$50,000; Sawyer Fire Protection District-\$23,558; Surrey Fire Protection District-\$50,000 and Ryder-Makoti Rural Fire Protection District-\$10,000.

Emergency Management Director Jennifer Wiechmann and Assistant Emergency Management Director Kelly Haugen appeared to answer questions.

Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Wepler, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl to approve allocating \$8,000 for a truck snow plow and remove funding for UTV Cab/plow and snow blower to the Burlington Rural Fire District. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Anderson, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl to approve allocating 100% of the requested amount from the Burlington Rural Fire District for personal protective equipment-\$52,000; dive boat & trailer-\$14,000 and dive equipment-\$23,560.

Moved by Comm. Wepler, seconded by Comm. Anderson to amend the original motion and allocate 50% of the amount requested. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Roll call on original motion; all voted no; motion failed.

Moved by Comm. Wepler, seconded by Comm. Anderson to deny the Burlington Rural Fire District's request for funds to purchase a thermal monocular, a drone and a CanAm OHV. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Pietsch to approve allocating \$56,000 to the Burlington Police Department to purchase one police vehicle. Roll call; Commissioners Fjeldahl, Pietsch and Anderson voted yes, Commissioner Wepler and Chairman Rostad voted no; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Wepler, seconded by Comm. Pietsch to approve the total amount requested up to a maximum of \$10,000 for the rip rap projects in Carbondale and Kirkelie Townships. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Wepler to approve the 30% of total requested amount of \$57,500 for constructing the Des Lac Cemetery retaining wall. Motion withdrawn

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Wepler to approve the 75% of total requested amount of \$57,500 for constructing the Des Lac Cemetery retaining wall. Motion withdrawn

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Wepler to approve the 100% of total requested amount of \$57,500 for constructing the Des Lac Cemetery retaining wall. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Pietsch, seconded by Comm. Anderson to approve allocating the following funds: City of Kenmare for a portable generator \$20,000; City of Kenmare for Sanitary Sewer assessment \$20,000 and City of Donnybrook \$7,875 for Community Center update. Roll call; all voted; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Wepler to approve Domestic Violence Crisis Center request for funds for an emergency shelter in the amount of \$92,121.60. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Wepler, seconded by Pietsch to approve \$28,583.70 be allocated for the Domestic Violence Crisis Center High Risk Team. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Weppler, seconded by Comm. Pietsch to deny the Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch request for \$35,000 for tuition assistance for continuing education. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Anderson to deny the Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch request for \$120,614.16 for vaccine mandate accommodation expenses. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Weppler, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl to approve allocating \$13,500 to Kenmare Wheels & Meals and \$4,161.30 to Minot Commission on Aging. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Weppler, seconded by Comm. Pietsch to approve allocating \$60,000 to Northern Plains Children's Advocacy Center.

Chief Deputy Larry Hubbard appeared and provided the Commission with information regarding services the Northern Plains Children's Advocacy Center provides.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Anderson to amend the motion and allocate \$100,000 to Northern Plains Children's Advocacy Center. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Roll call on the original motion; all voted no; motion failed.

Elizabeth Larson from Project Bee appeared to answer questions from the Commission regarding their requests.

Moved by Comm. Weppler, seconded by Comm. Anderson to approve allocating \$340,320 to Project Bee for establishing a mental health team. Roll call all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Anderson, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl to deny the Project Bee's request for funding to purchase a truck to pull their mobile shower/laundry trailer and for their Tiny Home housing project.

Moved by Comm. Weppler, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl to amend the motion and allocate \$27,675 for the purchase of a truck for the Project Bee's mobile shower/laundry trailer. Roll call; Commissioners Weppler, Fjeldahl and Pietsch voted yes, Commission Anderson and Chairman Rostad voted no; motion carried.

Roll call for the original motion; Commissioners Weppler, Fjeldahl and Pietsch voted no, Commission Anderson and Chairman Rostad voted yes; motion failed.

Moved by Comm. Anderson, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl to approve allocating 100% of the requested amount of \$21,792.16 to the Sanctuary Sober Living Home for Women's behavioral services request and 30% to Backpack Buddies.

Motion withdrawn.

Moved by Comm. Anderson, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl to deny the request from the Souris Valley United Way to use for the Backpack Buddies program. Roll call; all voted yes, except Comm. Pietsch; motion carried.

Kerry Israel from the Sanctuary Sober Living Home for Women appeared to answer questions from the Commission.

Moved by Comm. Anderson, seconded by Comm. Weppler to approve allocating \$21,792.16 to the Sanctuary Sober Living Home for Women for the behavioral health services request. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Weppler, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl to approve allocating \$20,000 to the Souris Valley Animal Shelter for animal welfare services. Roll call; all votes yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Weppler, seconded by Comm. Pietsch to approve allocating \$2,500 to the Difference-A Holistic Approach for Healing Our Communities project.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Weppler to approve allocating \$5,000 to the Difference-A Holistic Approach for Healing Our Communities project. Roll call; all voted yes motion carried.

Roll call on original motion; all voted no; motion failed.

Moved by Comm. Weppler, seconded by Comm. Pietsch to approve the allocation of \$90,931.20 plus \$340,320 to Project Bee for the Broadway Circle Competition. Roll call; all voted yes, except Chairman Rostad who voted no; motion carried.

Moved by Weppler, seconded by Comm. Pietsch to remove the \$340,320 previously allocated to Project Bee for the mental health nursing project. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Pietsch, seconded by Comm. Weppler to table the request from the Sanctuary Sober Living Home for Women for funds to purchase the home they currently use. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Weppler, seconded by Comm. Pietsch to table the request for Youthworks short term care and assessment center and transitional housing. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Weppler to approve allocating \$96,000 to Minot Convention and Visitors Bureau for Visit Minot/Ward County Tourism Promotion project.

Stephanie Schoenrock from Visit Minot appeared to answer the Commission questions.

Roll Call; all vote yes, except Comm. Pietsch who voted no; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Weppler, seconded by Comm. Pietsch to approve allocating \$1,860.03 to the Ward County Historical Society for technology updates. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Chairman Rostad left meeting at 10:20 am. Comm. Pietsch took over as Chairman.

Moved by Comm. Weppler, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl to approve the allocation of \$6,294 for the Ward County Historical Society multi use building infrastructure and \$ 21,500 for building foundation. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Weppler, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl to allocate \$500,000 to the Youthworks short term care and assessment center and transitional housing.

After a discussion Commissioners Weppler and Fjeldahl changed their motion to allocating \$600,000 with the purchased building being owned by Ward County. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Weppler, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl to remove the Sanctuary Sober Living Home for Women for funds to purchase the home they currently use from the table. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Anderson, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl to approve the allocation of \$303,104 for Sanctuary Sober Living Home for Women for funds to purchase the home they currently use. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Travis Schmit informed the Commissioners there is not enough funds available for the amount they have approved allocating.

Moved by Comm. Fjeldahl, seconded by Comm. Anderson to allocate \$250,000 to the Sanctuary Sober Living Home for Women for funds to purchase the home they currently use. Roll call all voted yes; motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Wepler, seconded by Comm. Fjeldahl to remove the \$21,792.16 funds previously allocated to the Sanctuary Sober Living Home for Women. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

At 11:05 AM with no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED THIS 21ST DAY OF JUNE, 2022

Chairman, Ward County Commission

ATTEST:
