Official Proceedings of the Stutsman County Commission—May 23, 2023

At 8:15 a.m., Chairman Klose called the special meeting of the Stutsman County Commission to order. Jerry Bergquist, Mark Klose, Chad Wolsky, and Joan Morris answered the roll call. Steven Cichos was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Fritz Fremgen, State's Attorney, presented that Megan Carmichael, Asst. State's Attorney, put in her resignation and her last day is set for June 23, 2023. He suggests upping the salary for Attorney I to $100,000 and raising the State's Attorney salary to send a message that if an assistant wants to take a job here, they have someplace to go in the future. He is unable to hire and retain attorneys with the current salary. If Carmichael leaves, Fremgen will be the only attorney in the office. He is still having to push away cases that he would normally try based on the nature of the case because they have been short one attorney since January of 2022. The court schedules jury trials and double stacks the attorney's office and with only one attorney that will not be possible.

Shannon Davis, Human Resource Director, presented the 2019 salary study and comparisons to starting wages for other counties. Stutsman County salaries and starting wages are coming in low compared to other counties. Her recommendation is to move the Asst. State's Attorney I to a Grade 22, and the Asst. State's Attorney II, achievable after 2 years of experience, to a Grade 24, which would make the county wages more comparable to other counties.

The Honorable Daniel Narum, District Court Judge, stated Jamestown is the busiest county in the Southeast District and has two full-time judges and two judges that spend ¼ of their time here. Judge Narum believes it is necessary to have state's attorneys in multiple courtrooms at the same time. He can tell that Fremgen has had to prioritize because there is a reduction in filings, and he has not seen that in his 17 years on the bench.

A motion was made by Bergquist to move Asst. State's Attorney I to Grade 23, Asst. State's Attorney II to Grade 24, add the Chief Assistant State's Attorney position back at a Grade 25 and the State's Attorney to a Grade 26 effective June 1, 2023, seconded by Morris. Roll call vote: Bergquist, Wolsky, Morris, and Klose voted aye. Cichos was absent. Motion carried.

The Personnel Committee will meet to discuss changing the Asst. State's Attorney I to a six-month probationary position and to update the job description for Chief Assistant State's Attorney.

At 9:27, a motion to adjourn was made by Morris, seconded by Bergquist. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Jessica Alonge	Mark T. Klose
Auditor/COO	Commission Chairman