Official Proceedings of the Stutsman County Commission – October 1st, 2013

At 3:00 p.m., Chairman Klose called the joint meeting with SCDRC Executive Committee and JSDC Executive Committee to order. Denny Ova, Dale Marks, David Schwartz, Craig Neys and Mark T. Klose answered the roll call.

Mark T. Klose informs the South Central Dakota Regional Council Executive Board of the concerns raised by their budget of which was turned into the Stutsman County Auditor's office. County commissioners are searching for answers from the SCDRC Executive Board in regards to the deficit they currently carry, how their money is being spent currently, and the request to hire another full-time staff member.

Casey Bradley, Stutsman County Auditor/COO, has gone through the requested budget submitted and raised awareness of a 64% increase in revenues along with a 96% increase in expenditures. From 2008-2009 the SCDRC carried _____ total loans outstanding, in 2012-2013 they had 41 total outstanding loans. There is an increase of $395,000.00 with total loans decreasing by 8%. Bradley informed the commission of a 33% decrease in new jobs created by the South Central Dakota Regional Council as well.

Anne Ehni, South Central Dakota Regional Council Board Member, brings ND Century Code 54-40.1 to quote the state mandates set and urges that they are in compliance with all of the mandates. Ehni reiterates to the commission how many resources they can offer in the City of Jamestown and Stutsman County.

Klose voices concern to the $16,000.00 deficit, the hiring of another full-time staff member and also questions if there will be sufficient revenue to cover the salary for the staff member they are inquiring to hire.

Deb Kantrud, SCDRC Executive Director, brings attention to contracts SCDRC is in the process of negotiating which she feels will change the deficit along with the option of taking money out of the reserves to help with the costs.

Ehni sites the SCDRC receives numerous requests from various communities and SCDRC would like to hire an additional full-time staff member to help manage all of the communities that fall into the regional boundaries. Kandturd states that there are various jobs to which the new employee would be in charge of. Kantrud foresees the new hire working on township plans, mitigation plans to help access FEMA funds. She adds the job could also entail updating and writing grants in the process. Kantrud states the smaller communities could benefit and help tremendously with mitigation planning in helping assist in filing risk assessment paperwork. The SCDRC would like for the new planner to go out and visit each city and county to see what they are in need of and help them reach those goals. Ehni urges that the board authorized extra personnel in hopes of receiving extra grant money and does not foresee county due going up.

Klose site a decrease in loans also a decrease in small business usage which is a problem to the commission. Ehni replies that the current staff they have now is swamped with other work and projects going through the region. David Schwartz has been in contact with a SCDRC board member who is questioning the changes requested. The anonymous board member does not see the justification on the percentage spent on wages namely the 5.5% wage increase that was recently voted on by the board. Kantrud stated that all staff members with the exception of her would be receiving a 5.5% wage increase. She also notes the Housing Study was done by an outside consultant that worked along with one member from each county. February 14, 2013 all data was brought together to present to the state since they felt the state study was inaccurate. Kantrud informed the commission that business clients consulting gradually increased adding to the workload. In the year 2013 Becky J. Thatcher-Keller was hired and had seen 89 clients for business consultations. Loan funds decreased due to short staffing according to Kantrud. She states the SCDRC had seventeen different FEMA grants which takes up majority of the staffs' time. Currently SCDRC serves nine counties in the region and they feel more staff is needed to accurately serve all of the communities in those counties.

Schwartz inquires about a Board Member stepping down from the Committee for Growth in regards to a disagreement with the direction in which the anonymous individual feels the board is going. Schwartz states there are no mandates for a building inspector and continues to question where the funding will come from to hire a full-time planner.

Gary , SCDRC, draws attention to a survey that was sent out by the SCDRC siting the number one priority was housing and number two being planners. Gary states Dickey County had two grants fall through for

lack of mitigation funding. Ehni adds that a planner would be able to help address the needs of infrastructure which they see as a major issue for the region.

The joint meeting with SCDRC Executive Committee, JSDC Executive Committee and Commission is adjourned at 3:46p.m.

The regular Stutsman County Commission meeting is called to order at 3:53p.m., all commissioners present.

Mickey Nenow, Stutsman County Highway Superintendent, requests the approval of Utility Permit for BEK Communications for a communication line going from Highway 46 up to 281. Schwartz made a motion for approval of Utility Permit for BEK Communications, seconded by Marks. All aye, motion carried.

Nenow asks for the approval of a utility permit for Great River Energy in which they plan to burry three power lines boring underneath the road north of the cemetery. Ova made a motion to approve the Utility Permit for Great River Energy, seconded by Neys. All aye, motion carried.

Casey Bradley, County Auditor/COO, requests the commission to approve CDBG money for the James River Senior Center. Marks made a motion to accept the CDBG money for the James River Senior Center, seconded by Ova. All aye, motion carried.

Schwartz made a motion for approval of commission minutes for the month of September meetings, seconded by Marks. All aye, motion carried.

Nenow presented the commission with his monthly report stating Border States Paving put in a request for a two week extension on Highway 40. Border States has had trouble with soft spots on one mile on the east road and would like a two week extension to allow time to finish the project. Schwartz made a motion to grant a two week extension to Border States Paving, seconded by Marks. All aye, motion carried.

Nenow informed the commission that gravel crushing is almost complete for the year. He also stated that Aspen Construction will continue work on road south of Cleveland city. An agreement was reached between Stutsman County and Aspen Construction to complete work on the job they were awarded which was initially slated to be finished in November 2012. Nenow is hoping to have paving work completed in three weeks to close up projects. The Sydney township low water crossing bridge will have work completed next week. County Road 38 has many soft spots that the road crew is in the process of fixing. Nenow received notice from RTS Shearing that they will lower their price by twenty-five cents but they are excessively over on their completion date which Nenow believes will make up for the other costs. Schwartz questions Nenow if County Road 67 could be built up or made wider to compensate for the amount of traffic.

Kate Naumann, Stutsman County Assistant State's Attorney, informed the commission there are no additions or changes to the State's Attorney's monthly report.

Bradley requested approval for out of state travel for Tracey Trapp, Jail Administrator. Trapp is requesting travel to Minnesota for the Jail Nurse and the Nurse's Assistant to attend a healthcare conference. Schwartz made a motion to approve out of state travel for the Jail Nurse and her assistant, seconded by Marks. All aye, motion carried.

Bradley informed the commission of current issues with the library and what they wanting to request from the county. The library board would like to have a joint powers agreement between the city of Jamestown and Stutsman County so they can move forward in building a new library. Marks, Commissioner and Library board member, voiced that the library board would like to set up meetings with Bradley and also the commission. Bradley reminds Marks that in order to build a new library the collector of funds, Stutsman County and City of Jamestown, would have to oversee all of the funding and the building project itself.

Regular commission meeting goes to recess at 4:35p.m.

Stutsman County Park Board meeting called to order at 4:35p.m. all board members present except Bob Woodward.

Motion made by Neys for the approval of September meeting minutes, seconded by Hoge. All aye, motion carried.

Houge questions if Dennis Lorenz, Park Superintendent, inquired price quotes on lumber that he purchased from Central City Lumber. Lorenz states he did call around and get price quotes and businesses in Jamestown did not carry the size he was in need of. He also checked with a local colony and they could only get glued lumber for the size that was needed.

Schwartz made a motion to approve bills for payment, seconded by Marks. All aye, motion carried.

Bradley brought attention to the Pelican Point contract in which the last park board meeting they unanimously voted to accept resignation from Natalie Telken. Hank Telken, former Pelican Point Landing contract holder, stopped by Bradley's office to inform Bradley it was not their intentions to terminate the contract completely. The Telken's stated they wanted some changes made in the contract and they felt by resigning was the only way these changes could be made. Telkens are requesting that they do not have to offer grilled food but will continue to provide other warmed food just not a grilled menu. Additionally they want the county to take responsibility in trimming branches due to the high branches that they do not have equipment to reach. Stutsman County has agreed to pay for long distance as long as the bill stays within reason and also to trim the trees to avoid potentially dangerous situations. Concessionaires voiced that they will continue to do the weed trimming but had received complaints from Lorenz and how the job was done. Houge suggests clarifying the contract further and rebidding the concessionaires' job opening vacated by the Telkens. The board decided not to rescind their acceptance of the Telkens resignation but will rebid the job.

Dennis Lorenz presented the park board with his monthly report requesting more funding for the Ypsilanti Park to six-hundred dollars. Schwartz suggested an increase in funding to seven-hundred dollars since they have not raised the funding for numerous years. Schwartz made a motion to increase Ypsilanti Park's funding to seven-hundred dollars, seconded by Houge. Roll call vote: Ova, Marks, Schwartz, Neys, Klose and Houge all vote aye, motion carried.

Lorenz informed the commission of the Pelican Point Landing boat ramp needing to be replaced. The Game and Fish Department awarded $23,000.00 in grant money and have been in contact with Lorenz inquiring if the money would be used or if they should begin looking to allocate the money to another park. Dakota Anglers Club has offered to pay twenty five percent of the money to buy a useable ramp. Lorenz has looked at using the Game and Fish money to tear out the old boat ramp currently in place and have a new ramp put in. Lorenz stated the funding has to be expended by November 30th, 2013 so he would like to start getting price quotes from contractors to tear out the old ramp and begin immediately while the water is low. Lorenz received a quote last year of $13,000.00 to tear out the old ramp but fears he will not have the funding to replace the boat dock. The board suggests having a member from the Game and Fish come to assess the current boat ramp and get recommendations from them on how to proceed. Lorenz will begin to get more price quotes from contractors to tear out the ramp so they can look at the budget.

Lorenz was notified of the Lakeside Marina's new playground equipment delivery today. The equipment will be kept at the campground until the park department can get there to assemble it. Pelican Point's toilet has the hole dug and will have handicap accessibility to them. The park department is currently working on three new Parkhurst shelters and they are waiting for cement to be poured for the new shelter put up at Pelican Point Landing.

Lorenz updated the commission on the Wilhelm cabin stating that there has not been significant improvement or work being done. Originally the park board granted the owners until November 1st, 2013 to fix the cabin to the standards the park board requested.

Mark Schlecht from the Spiritwood Lake Association requested to burn a slough and coordinate the burning with the Wimbledon Fire to perform a controlled burn on the slough. Schwartz made a motion to approve the burn request, seconded by Neys. All aye, motion carried.

Houge made a motion to adjourn the Park Board meeting, seconded by Schwartz. Park board adjourned at 5:15p.m.

Stutsman County Commission meeting called back to order at 5:15p.m.

Schwartz made a motion to approve the payment of bills, seconded by Marks. Roll call: Marks, Schwartz,

Neys, Klose, and Ova vote aye, motion carried.

At 6:00 p.m., Chairman Klose called the 2014 county budget and 2013 property tax levy hearing of the Stutsman County Commission to order.

The hearing was held on the proposed 2014 budget. Casey Bradley, Auditor/COO, reported on the 2014 budget. Bradley stated that all residents who recently received notices of increase were required to receive the same notice they were given during the spring time. The mill levy will remain the same with retirement taking a fifteen percent increase. Health insurance will increase due to the Affordable Health Care Act taking effect as of January 1, 2014. Revenues will be increasing by $22,399,244.00 along with an increase in State and Highway aid. Thirty-seven cents is collected by property taxes for revenues also shared revenues (state aid). Expenditures will be decreasing by $663,415.00 and with road projects decreasing the expenditures will balance more. An increase of two percent will take affect for retirement and the county will cover eighty percent on health insurance for a family plan with remaining twenty percent being the employee's responsibility. Health insurance for a single plan will change with the county paying ninety percent and the employee paying ten percent. The county road's main back shop will need to be replaced in 2014 and there will be three major road projects scheduled.

Bradley informed the commission there will be more budgeted to add staff but will not necessarily add more staffing. The number one project priority is to fix the courthouse elevator, if it cannot be fixed the courts will have to be moved so they are handicap accessible. Number two project on the priority is the replacement of the courthouse roof.

Bradley stated levying the same amount of mills will create some tax relief but if taxable values increased on a property then there will be an increase on the property taxes. With numerous levy districts each property has to be calculated by the levy districts they fall in. Bradley explained that a property assessor would assess the true and full value of the house. The true and full value of the house is multiplied by fifty percent to get the assessed value. The assessed value is then multiplied by nine percent to get the taxable value of the home. The taxable value is multiplied by the mills to get the amount of taxes a piece of property owes. For agricultural land the assessed value will be multiplied by ten percent and then multiplied by the mill rate. Bradley stated if property values stayed the same then there should be a slight property tax decrease for the upcoming billing season.

Ova made a motion to adopt the 2014 Proposed County Budget and 2013 Property Tax Levy, seconded by Schwartz. Roll call: Ova, Marks, Schwartz, Neys, and Klose all vote aye, motion carried.

Marks made a motion to adopt the 2014 Five Year Capital Plan, seconded by Schwartz. Roll call: Marks, Schwartz, Neys, Klose, and Ova all vote aye, motion carried.

Bradley presented the commission with 2014 Budget Transfers of $186,000.00 from the General Fund to the Courthouse Maintenance. Also a $3.4 million transfer to the Highway department for projects that are coming up. Neys made a motion to approve the 2014 Budgeted Transfers, seconded by Marks. Roll call: Schwartz, Neys, Klose, Ova, and Marks all vote aye, motion carried.

Schwartz made a motion to adjourn county commission meeting, seconded by Neys. All aye, motion carried

At 6:30 p.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Schwartz, seconded by Neys. All aye, motion carried.

ATTEST:

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Casey Bradley
Auditor/COO

Mark T. Klose
Commission Chairman