

**BILLINGS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING JULY 7, 2022.**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lester Iverson at 9:00 A.M. with Commissioners Dean Rodne and Michael Kasian in attendance.

Others were present during portions of the meeting: State's Attorney Patrick Weir, Deputy Auditor Jonna Bertelsen, Maintenance Supervisor Travis Bertelsen, Clerk/Recorder Juliana Hammerstrom, Tax Director Stacey Swanson, Ambulance Director Kyle Michels, Road Superintendent Jeff Iverson, Major Dean Wyckoff, Becky Lampp, Carla Harmann, Misty Hays, Scott Harmstead, Amy McCann, Ed O'Keefe, Linda Pancratz, Ken Vein, Andrew Krebs, Josh Muehler, Taylor Van Dyke, Shawn Olson, Steven Klym.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the board reviewed the commission minutes from the June 7, 2022 regular meeting. Kasian moved to approve the minutes. Rodne seconded. All voted aye.

Rodne moved to approve the agenda. Kasian seconded. All voted aye.

Auditor Lamb presented the quarterly pledge report. Rodne moved to approve the report. Kasian seconded. All voted aye.

Auditor Lamb went over the Primary election results.

The Billings County School Board will be at the next meeting to request Bank Head-Jones funding and a potential expansion to the school.

The Auditor's office door has added security to limit access for safety as well as to protect the public confidential records and personnel information such as social security numbers and employee protected health information.

States Attorney Weir went over a road and bridge issue with the Forest Service on Mike's Creek. Heavy rain caused the trees that the forest service cut down recently to flow into and damage the culverts. It is under preliminary investigation and the forest service was sent a letter regarding the situation. A State Land transfer congressional bill was discussed. Pat Weir, Chairman Iverson, Auditor Lamb, Tax & Zoning Stacey Swanson met with Wes Obrigewitch, president of the Medora Grazing Association and the State Land Commissioner Joseph Heringer regarding the issues surrounding the state trading state land parcels for federal minerals. The congressional delegation and the State Land Commissioner stated that they would remove the grasslands from the bill and leave the swaps within tribal lands which was the intent of the bill. They will send out a draft of the revised bill for our review. The Belfield City Council signed the JPA for the Belfield Ambulance merger and South Heart will be approached next. Weir is also working with the Theodore Roosevelt Library Foundation on the property tax/PILT potential agreements. No agreement has been drafted as of yet.

Misty Hayes was present from the USFS to give an update. They recently hired back Tyler Sherman as a Law Enforcement officer and also hired a second law enforcement officer for Watford City, Dan Smiley. She stated they are responding to washouts. Some of the Maah Daah Hey is closed due to some structure washout and there is a temporary reroute. Magpie Road to the ice caves is also closed. Misty did not receive the letter that was sent to her on June 22nd about the damage caused on Mike's Creek. Her response is that the claim will need to be submitted to them. She will send a response letter with instructions. She was provided with a copy of the letter. The forest service is reevaluating the size of debris that may be left behind. Kasian questioned her regarding sale of land for library and if they had forest service on both sides of the river up north they would consider selling to the county for the bridge crossing. The forest service does not have an area owned on both sides of the river, so the county would still need to have private land. Kasian asked if we get private land owner permission, would they consider selling us forest service land for the bridge. She stated without knowing where, she could not affirm but it would be considered.

Scott Harmstead from SRF and Amy McCann with the Theodore Roosevelt Library were present to give updates regarding the Medora Area Plan.

Representatives from Roughrider Electric were present. They were stopped from work on a 30 mile transmission line as they did not have their application for work in the county rights of way. They are placing a secondary line to cut outage time in emergencies. They started getting easements in 2017 and they are completed. The permit requirement was overlooked and they apologized. They provided maps and an overview of the entire project. There are areas where they will need to encroach within 75' of the centerline but always outside of 60'. Chairman Iverson questioned whether there were areas that structures would be a liability to the county and they stated all are on the backslope and none are a danger. Auditor Lamb asked for a contingency if approved, that NDDOT puts into writing that the county can allow encroachment on the right of way on a CMC route. Rodne moved for approval with that contingency as well as the conditions that structures must be outside of clear zone, and proper signage for work areas. Kasian seconded. All voted aye.

KLJ Andrew Krebs was present to give his monthly report. Road Superintendent Jeff Iverson was present to give his monthly report. The Highway Safety Improvement Project application was approved by the DOT with an 80-20 split. Jeff has also hired four new employees, Rod Burman, Larry Cook, Justin Nolback and Qwain Malkowski.

Ed O’Keefe, Linda Pancratz, Ken Vein and Amy McCann were present to give updates on the TRPLF. Expressed their gratitude for development agreement and are committed to being good taxpaying citizens. They have acquired the land from the forest service and recorded the deeds. They are completing the MOU with the grazing association and fulfilling the promise of holding public input. The week of September 16th there will be a community meeting in Medora and Fairfield. Their hope is that we are aligned and they want to demonstrate their commitment to the land and people and custom and culture of Billings County. The main concern of the commission right now is the PILOT. Weir expressed to their attorneys that they need to reach out and come to an agreement on property tax. What percentage of building is actually going to be dedicated to charitable purposes? The consensus of the commission is that before anything is considered for approval, there are many issues including needs for emergency services, assurance to the grazing association, the impacts to the county and the property tax issues.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:15pm and reconvened at 1:15pm.

Travis Bertelsen Courthouse Maintenance gave an update on the generator quote he received for \$130,000 which means it must be placed for bid. The commission room/auditor’s office door project will be addressed in the spring. There will be a fire alarm inspection on the 14th of July.

Ambulance Director Kyle Michels presented his monthly report. Department of Health issued Billings County their Cardiac Ready Community certificate. EMS has applied for two grants, one for \$5,000 and one for \$60,000 for next year. Mental Health Summit is July 20th & 21st to help prevent suicides and burnout in the EMS community. One ambulance has been moved to Fryburg due to the sheriff’s department needing room for confiscated property.

Major Dean Wyckoff presented the monthly sheriff’s report.

Tax Director Stacey Swanson gave her monthly report. TY Pickett annual contract for \$29,000 needs to be approved. They provide the assessments for some of the large industrial properties in Billings County. Rodne moved to approve the contract. Kasian seconded. All voted aye. Swanson also presented the ND Dispatching State Radio Contract. Kasian moved to approve. Rodne seconded. All voted aye.

Auditor Lamb presented the 2023 preliminary budget worksheets. The department heads requested to adjust the longevity pay beginning in 2023 from \$150/year of service to a staggered schedule. 1-5 years of employment is \$150/year, 6-10 years \$200/year. 10-15 years \$250/year and 16-20 years is \$300/year worked with a cap of \$6,000. Rodne made the motion to approve the request. Kasian seconded. All voted aye. The rest of the budgets were reviewed and some clarification is needed on the Domestic Violence budget request. Auditor Lamb will ask them to attend next month’s meeting.

Auditor Lamb requested approval for the budgeted transfer of \$12,000,000 from Road and Bridge into the capitol improvement Project fund for a future crossing and culvert replacements. There is enough in the fund for this transfer. Kasian moved to approve the budgeted transfer. Rodne seconded. All voted aye.

The following claims were approved for payment:

PAYEE	CHECK #	AMOUNT
Blue Cross Blue Shield of ND	21426	\$ 3,813.00
ND Public Employee Retirement Sy	21427	\$ 884.31
3D Specialties	21428	\$ 2,724.00
ABC Fencing	21429	\$ 1,837.50
All Around Tire & Oil	21430	\$ 140.06
Aramark	21431	\$ 397.84
Aspen Mills	21432	\$ 193.16
Baranko Deanna	21433	\$ 302.56
Baymont Inn & Suites	21434	\$ 518.40
Belfield Automotive Supply Inc	21435	\$ 2,075.81
Big Horn Tire	21436	\$ 1,380.00
Billings County Historical Society	21437	\$ 106.08
Billings County Rural Fire District	21438	\$ 1,977.67
Billings County School Dist	21439	\$ 6,652.31
Blue Sky Dumpsters	21440	\$ 100.00
Boespflug Trailers & Feed	21441	\$ 102.84
Boss Office Products	21442	\$ 423.21
Bound Tree Medical LLC	21443	\$ 488.51
Butler Machinery Co	21444	\$ 773.31
Capital One	21445	\$ 1,371.13
Cerberus Security	21446	\$ 30.00
Cerkoney Cathy	21447	\$ 181.90

Charbonneau Car Center	21448	\$	120.04
Collins Travis	21449	\$	70.00
Corneil Todd	21450	\$	100.00
Cowboy Café	21451	\$	370.00
Creative Energy	21452	\$	793.29
Dakota Dirt Works	21453	\$	8,310.00
Dakota Sports	21454	\$	44.53
Deans Distributing	21455	\$	4,862.79
Deere Credit Inc	21456	\$	13,934.25
Dell Marketing	21457	\$	583.60
Dickinson Public Library	21458	\$	4,930.28
E Services LLC	21459	\$	1,600.00
Ecolab Pest Elim Div	21460	\$	354.33
Edland Gary	21461	\$	14.19
Elections Systems & Software	21462	\$	590.57
Electro Watchman Inc	21463	\$	1,078.80
EMS Technology Solutions LLC	21464	\$	3,000.00
Environmental Systems	21465	\$	2,200.00
Fairfield & Woods P.C	21466	\$	232.20
Farmers Union Oil Co - Beach	21467	\$	41,144.04
First Initial Respond Systems	21468	\$	1,171.72
Four Corners Café	21469	\$	480.00
Gall's Inc	21470	\$	600.72
George's Tire LTD	21471	\$	10,282.00
Gerry's Plumbing & Heating	21472	\$	2,590.40
Gilseth, Mitchel A	21473	\$	209.28
Goosenck Implement	21474	\$	6,452.16
Heiser Electric Don	21475	\$	350.00
Hlebechuk Construction Inc	21476	\$	14,445.00
Industrial Piping Specialists	21477	\$	255.27
James Oil Well Service Inc	21478	\$	1,326.00
Just-In Glass	21479	\$	560.93
Kasian Connie	21480	\$	85.10
Kessel Anita	21481	\$	96.80
Kevin's Auto & Truck Repair	21482	\$	72.56
Kiesler Police Supply	21483	\$	136.36
KLJ Engineering LLC	21484	\$	1,035.31
Klym Steve	21485	\$	67.55
Kohler Communications Inc	21486	\$	200.00
Krebs Machine & Repair	21487	\$	4,253.47
Kubik Bogner Ridl & Selinger PLLP	21488	\$	3,000.00
Linde Gas & Equipment Inc	21489	\$	31.43
Menards Dickinson	21490	\$	1,742.65
Metro-Billing Services	21491	\$	46.00
MGM Rural Sanitation LLC	21492	\$	334.42
Midwest Doors Inc	21493	\$	382.68
Motorola Solutions	21494	\$	226.47
ND Association of Counties	21495	\$	378.00
ND Association of Counties	21496	\$	199.17
ND Attorney General's Office	21497	\$	215.00
ND State Treasurer	21498	\$	1,125.88
ND State's Attorney Association	21499	\$	300.00
NDACO Resources Group Inc	21500	\$	2,347.86
Nelson International	21501	\$	1,556.35
Newby's Ace Hardware	21502	\$	58.48
Post Board	21503	\$	135.00
Pump Systems	21504	\$	1,199.08
Putnam Karen	21505	\$	102.34
Quality Quick Print	21506	\$	55.00
Ray's Auto Electric Inc	21507	\$	183.91
RDO Equipment Co.	21508	\$	242.42
RELX Inc.	21509	\$	233.40
Ridl Authur & Cynthia	21510	\$	5,056.28
Rudy's Lock and Key	21511	\$	4,973.00
Rummel Patrick	21512	\$	70.00
Runnings Supply Inc	21513	\$	147.63
Seachange Print Innovations	21514	\$	380.00
Shockley Kyle	21515	\$	45.00
Sign Solutions	21516	\$	2,895.76
Southwest Multi-County Correction	21517	\$	601.50
Southwest Water Authority	21518	\$	35.12
Southwest Water Authority	21519	\$	2,149.53
Southwestern Dist Health Unit	21520	\$	1,597.27
Stein's Inc	21521	\$	427.86
Swanston Equipment Corp	21522	\$	117.67
The Badlands Patriot	21523	\$	571.74
The UPS Store	21524	\$	12.75

Thyssen Krupp Elevator	21525	\$	583.53
Total Safety US Inc	21526	\$	43.78
TW Enterprises, INC	21527	\$	966.79
Uniform Center	21528	\$	998.02
US Postal Service	21529	\$	2,400.00
US Postal Service	21530	\$	420.00
Verizon Wireless	21531	\$	2,435.77
Warne Chemical & Equipment Co	21532	\$	615.97
West Dakota Oil Inc	21533	\$	22,324.49
Westlie Crossroads Truck Ctr	21534	\$	640.40
Winter Equipment Co	21535	\$	2,313.71
Wyckoff Dean	21536	\$	70.00
CenturyLink	21537	\$	942.50
Information Technology Dept	21538	\$	1,191.05
Kasian Michael E.	21539	\$	211.77
Medora, City of	21540	\$	629.52
Reservation Telephone	21541	\$	40.58
Roughrider Electric Coop Inc	21542	\$	3,204.69
RTC Networks	21543	\$	1,258.41
Verizon Wireless	21544	\$	74.54
Visa	21545	\$	1,688.86
Visa	21546	\$	1,177.83
Wex Health Inc	21547	\$	63.00
ND Public Employee Retirement Sy	21548	\$	13,170.00
ND Public Employee Retirement Sy	21549	\$	43,428.87
ND Public Employee Retirement Sy	21550	\$	650.00
NDFOP State Lodge Treasurer	21551	\$	25.00
North Dakota Public Health Ins Trust	21552	\$	72,831.60
Prudential Service Center	21553	\$	14.29
State Dispersment Unit	21554	\$	717.00
Wex Health Inc	21555	\$	3,010.45

The board approved the revenue vouchers for the month of June: Recorder \$16,470.40; Zoning \$3,104.23; Court \$75.00; EMS \$1,347.12.

Revenues for materials and/or services rendered in June: Don Auto \$210.00 tires; John Tczap \$210.00 tires; Arvid Hecker \$178.13 scoria & trucking; Arvid Hecker \$700.00 scoria & trucking; Rick Baranko \$1,230.60 cmp pipe; Rodney Krogh \$995.53 scoria & trucking; Bernard Palahniuk \$663.75 scoria & trucking; Beach Community Ambulance \$1,000.00 ALS Intercepts. WEED SPRAYING: George & Irene Wolf \$16.03, Andy Prociw \$16.03, Duane Obrigewitch \$50.80, Doug Oe \$236.09, Frank Odell \$39.38, Roy Krivoruchka \$66.53, Vernon Polensky \$153.75, Jacey Hanson \$20.48, Charles Steffan \$81.87, William Kessel \$149.00, Duane Obrigewitch \$100.83.

Revenues for the month of June: Road & Bridge permits \$5,323.71; Highway Distribution \$11,528.26; Oil & Gas Production Tax \$198,308.66; Royalties \$33,111.21; Unorganized Oil & Gas Production Tax \$13,220.58; Interest \$7,342.56; State Aid Distribution \$29,210.44; 24/7 \$600.00; City of Medora EMS cost share \$181,028.71; BLM Mineral Royalty \$131,158.36; Bank Head Jones \$11,355,526.30; Federal Pilt \$138,552.00.

Payroll in the following amounts was approved for June: General Fund \$198,018.00; Road and Bridge Fund \$128,650.99; Weed Fund \$28,684.82.

With there being no further business, Kasian moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:30 pm. Rodne seconded. All voted aye.

Lester Iverson, Chairman

Attest: _____

Marcia Lamb, Auditor/Treasurer

**BILLINGS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING JULY 18, 2022.**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lester Iverson at 9:00 A.M. with Commissioners Dean Rodne and Michael Kasian in attendance.

Others Present: Fire Chief Kyle Shockley, Sheriff Pat Rummel, Major Dean Wyckoff, Dennis Kohler.

The purpose of the special meeting is to discuss what to do with the Gorham Tower that was damaged during the wind storm.

Dennis Kohler will be replacing the damaged tower and will put our replaced repeater and antennas back up if the county chooses. Fire Chief Kyle Shockley would like to see the county build our own tower after we get land owner permission. The county currently pays Kohler \$2,400 a year to rent the space on the tower and it would be a high cost to put our own tower in. The commission decided to stay with Kohler for now until we come up with options for a county tower. Will need to have the studies done and land owner permission before the county moves forward with a different option.

With there being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

Lester Iverson, Chairman

Attest: _____

Jonna Bertelsen, Deputy Auditor/Treasurer