

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE MCHENRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 19, 2024

9:00 AM

Chairman Nelson called the meeting to order. Commissioners Brady Nelson, Bryan Bruner, Armann Anderson, Lance Johnson and Duane Drader present.

A motion was made by Johnson and seconded by Drader to approve the November 7th minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Nelson read the county land procedures and those present were given a copy of the informational document regarding purchasing property. Josh Frey joined the meeting. Chairman Nelson conducted the county land sale. All bids were heard. A motion was made by Anderson and seconded by Bruner to approve the sale of the following tracts of land as bid. Motion carried unanimously. The Auditor and Chairman, on behalf of the County, are to sign the deeds as same. The unsold parcels will continue to be available for purchase at the advertised price.

Lot 1 Blk 19 in Original Drake	Jesse Nelson	\$2,223.73
Lots 13-14 of Blk 2 in Frankhauser's Add	Jesse Nelson	\$1,442.34
S 95' of E 295'2" Pt NE1/4NE1/4 in Sec 22-151-75 Unplatted Anamoose N 100' of E 225' less r/w Pt SE1/4NE1/4 Sec 22-151-75 Unplatted Anamoose	Glen Mayer	\$1,944.05
Lots 3-6 Blk 3 Original Kief	Jesse Nelson	\$87.11
Lot 1 Blk 9 Original Bergen	Jesse Nelson	\$85.92

A motion was made by Bruner and seconded by Drader to issue the proper deeds for the redemption of county property described as: Lorraine Wright and Beverly Lynch for Lots 1-3 less W 10' Blk 19 in White's 1st Add Towner; Robert L and Jo L Berger for Lot 4 Blk 4 Larson's 1st Add Drake; Christopher & Elizabeth Dokken and Richard & Kerri Bauer for Lots 7-10 Blk 4 and Lot 1 Blk 5 Original Velva; Kenneth Francis Richter Jr for S 10' Lot 2 and all Lots 3-4 Blk 18 including vacated Adams St Original Anamoose. Motion carried unanimously.

State Representatives Dick Anderson and Dan Vollmer joined the meeting.

A motion was made by Nelson and seconded by Johnson to approve and finalize the box culvert project North of Granville. Motion carried unanimously.

The Auditor mentioned she has received several calls regarding the lack of blade service in the Towner area. Commissioner Drader stated the blade is concentrating on the more traveled roads.

Cliff and Mary Hanretty, Sheri and Trapis Gebhardt, State Senator Paul Thomas, Patrick Wagner and Jerry Kuntz joined the meeting. Sheri questioned the board on what has been done to come up with a solution to the bridge closure leading to the residence of Cliff and Mary Hanretty. A magnetic particle test has been completed to determine the severity of the cracks. The findings were not favorable. The State is requiring that welding on the bridge must be done by a state certified welder. An engineer would then need to inspect and sign off, stating it is safe for travel. Commissioner Nelson mentioned it will be

difficult to find an engineer to sign off. An alternate route has been considered to access the residence from the West across the meadow. Cliff stated a road to the west would not be feasible, as it would flood in the spring due to the Eaton Irrigation project and a portion of the proposed road is generally wet and boggy. Sheri asked about possible funding from NDDOT, as she was told by a legislator in her area that bridge funding wasn't that hard to obtain. Senator Thomas stated the bridge funding the legislator was referring to was when the State had funds available so it was easier to get, but funds are not available at this time and will be extremely difficult to obtain since the State bases their funding decisions on the traffic counts. Commissioner Nelson stated the county has prioritized some bridges for funding, but the State makes their own priority list and will provide funding for the State's choices. Another long-term option would be to place the bridge on the historical preservation and restoration list. The county has had a bridge on this list for several years and has not been approved for funding. The bridge could be sold to the Hanretty's and they could keep it open, but they did not want that liability. The county engineer is having Gladen Construction look at the bridge to get their opinion and to possibly get an estimate on repairs. Commissioner Johnson will try to find a State certified welder and the county will look at the cost of building a road to the west. The State has mentioned if welding is pursued, it would only be a temporary fix as there are other significant issues that could cause future closures.

Vern Kongsli, Patrick Wagner, Bo Thorson and Bill Metzger joined the meeting to discuss an approach off of Co Rd 5 to provide access to the proposed fire hall. Commissioner Nelson contacted the NDDOT to question them on why access on the south of the lot was denied. The State did not provide much of a reason, but said they would agree to moving the existing approach about 35' to the east and allow them to widen it for shared access. This is not a feasible solution for the fire department. A motion was made by Johnson and seconded by Anderson to allow the fire department to place an approach along Co Rd 5, as far north as possible. Motion carried unanimously. The fire department will meet with the commission to determine the exact location.

A request was received from the Sheriff to increase starting pay for deputies, as we are a little low compared to Bottineau County, and some counties are also paying recruitment bonuses. No action was taken by the board, as funds received from Back the Blue for recruitment and retention were chosen to be used for retention only.

A motion was made by Anderson and seconded by Bruner to purchase a diesel tank for up to \$2,300 for the Upham shop. Motion carried unanimously.

At 12:35 PM, there being no further business to come before the board at this time, a motion was made by Drader and seconded by Bruner to adjourn.

ATTEST:

Darlene Carpenter, Auditor/Treas.

Brady Nelson, Chairman