

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
RICE COUNTY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Commissioner's Room / Government Services Building
Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 8:30 AM**

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(At the beginning of each Committee of the Whole Work Session meeting, the floor will be open to solicit public comments on items on the Agenda. Public comments will be limited to two (2) minutes for each person, subject to the discretion of the County Board Chairperson) This meeting was called to order by Steve Underdahl.

II. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES: Julie Runkel

A. Julie Runkel gave a brief overview of what is happening in her department. She provided a breakdown of the increase in permits. The office project happening at the landfill was brought to the attention of the Commissioners also.

III. PARKS & FACILITIES DEPARTMENT: Matthew Verdick

- A. Rich Ragatz of iDEALenergies brought, fourth a presentation explaining a little bit about the project they are looking to complete at the Public Safety Center. They are the preferred Solar Venders of the State. More follow up with the project down the line.
- B. County Commissioners are wanting to look into the Northblock development a little more before bringing this back to board and deciding. Commissioner Underdahl gave some insight and what he thought might work looking ahead. Underdahl believes it would be best to look into the interests of the public, and the City. Sara Folsted suggested setting up a special meeting to focus mainly on this topic. Commissioner Malecha suggested they look into how to use the current property for possible future growth in the County. More to come on this topic.
- C. Commissioners agreed with allowing the Historical Society to lease the undeveloped land to increase their building in the future. Commissioner Underdahl suggested that we add a contingency in case the project falls through. Rice County will continue to own the property. The Historical Society will lease the property.
- D. Cannon River Wilderness Area and Great River Greening have teamed up to go fourth to ask for a grant to start the project of making changes to the park. This was brought before the board to allow them to give the green light to move forward. A resolution will be brought to the next Rice County Board Meeting.

IV. SOCIAL SERVICES: Rick Gieseke, Mike Johnston and Val Elzen

A. Mike Johnston and Val Elzen gave an update as to what is going on with the Financial Assistance program. As of right now, they have 600 cases. They will be going through a renewal faze every 12 months. Mike discussed how they are looking into ways to hire more to alleviate overwork of the employees.

V. ASSESSOR'S OFFICE: Joshua Schoen

A. Josh Schoen gave a presentation going over the year in review and what's happening in his office.

VI. RECORDER'S OFFICE: Mike Fangman

A. Mike Fangman also discussed different projects that are being worked on in his department. Fangman states that recording fees have dropped due to interest rates peaking. He also gave some insight into future plans.

VII. FINANCE: Paula O'Connell

- A. Fran Windschitl gave a brief overview of the Cash & Pooled Investments for the Period Ending March 31, 2023.
- B. Paula O'Connell gave a brief summary of the Quarterly Financial Report for the Period Ending March 31, 2023.

VIII. HIGHWAY: Dennis Luebbe

A. Dennis Luebbe brought up the following updates: Construction at 320th Street and Hwy 19 Scott County Paving. It should be completed by mid-summer.

Baseline road, working on curb and gutters. Paving should start mid-June. Pre-con NW 52/59 project-mid Summer. Two streets for the Public Safety Center need a few things yet from Excel. The city will open bids for the roundabout on May 25th.

County Road 4 in Lonsdale has had some utility work to start June 5th. This will be a full reconstruction. County Road 81-Bridge and Culvert replacement.

Dennis also dabbled in the upcoming years and possible plans. The six-legged roundabout will not be started this year. They are too late into the season to start the process. This is still in the works and hoping to start early spring of 2024. They are also looking into additional funding at this time.

IX. ADMINISTRATION: Sara Folsted

- A. Sara Folsted discussed the \$100,000 that was being given to the County to use towards investment of the county's needs. Commissioners suggested the Friendship Garden, Parks and Fairgrounds. A list of items will be brought forward at a later date.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Gerry Hoisington, to adjourn the meeting.

RESULT: Approved, AYES: Jeff Docken, Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, NAYS: None