

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
RICE COUNTY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
Commissioner's Room / Government Services Building  
Tuesday, August 1, 2023 at 8:30 AM**

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

(At each Committee of the Whole Work Session meeting, the floor will be open to solicit public comments on items on the Agenda after they are presented. A Comment Card will need to be filled out in order to speak about any of the items. Public comments will be limited to (3) minutes for each person, subject to the discretion of the County Board Chairperson)

**II. OUTSIDE AGENCY:**

- A.** Rice County Agricultural Society Director John Dvorak gave a small presentation stating his appreciation for the County Commissioners' support. The Rice County Agricultural Society is asking for \$20,000.00 in county funding for the year 2024. John will be stepping down as director in 2023. He thanked all the Commissioners for working with him over the years.
- B.** Natalie Draper, Director of the Northfield Public Library, gave a presentation to the County Commissioners. The Northfield Public Library is asking for a 4% percent increase for the year 2024. Future projects consist of developing services, programs, and collections at Library Oasis with community involvement and feedback. Continue working with partners such as NH+C and CAC, continue to expand outreach to older adults, evaluate and update current strategic plan by involving community input, implement laptop and hotspot lending, work with NCCC to develop paid library internship opportunities, and increase public meeting space for small groups.

**Public Comment:** *Bill North-Resident, member of NPL Friends, thanks the County Commissioners for funding the library users, delivery, and digital technology. The contributions help make this all possible for the community.*

- C.** Kathy Jasnoch, Shelter Director for Prairie's Edge, is asking the Rice County Commissioners for \$5,000.00 for 2024. According to Kathy, from 6/25/2022 to 6/25/2023 they have taken in 54 cats. 25 were owners surrendered, 12 were returned adoptions, and 17 were strays. Kathy stated that it's really frustrating because a lot of these animals do not have medical care or are not up-to-date on veterinary support. During this time, they also took in 15 dogs, 11 were surrendered, 2 were return adoptions and 2 were strays. They do charge a minimum surrender fee. However, some people cannot pay. They will still take the animal if it needs help.
- D.** Delane James, Director of Buckham Memorial Library gave us a short presentation of the new items brought forward from the Library. Buckham Memorial is requesting a 4% increase for 2024. Many different programs are being provided through the library and they are looking to expand what they are currently have available.

**Public Comment:** *Pat Raftery, Resident and friend of the Library Board, stated that everyone who walks through the doors at Buckham is considered welcome. She thanked the Commissioners for their contributions.*

- E.** Dave Nichols, Executive Director of the Rice County Historical Society, is requesting \$43,000.00 for the upcoming year 2024. He gave a brief overview of what's changed and what's taking place. He is looking to get the community of Rice County more involved. He is also hoping to get schools involved to bring students to see the Historical Society.

**III. COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS: Angela Brewer**

- A.** Angela Brewer, Director for Community Corrections, brought forth statutory changes that become effective August 1, 2023. Public Safety Bill. This will mandate the waiver of certain fees for individuals meeting criteria set forth in the statute. Rice County Community Corrections has revised the processes of fee collection, fee waiver, and revenue recapture collections to comply with the new statutory requirements. Presentation provided an overview of the fees imposed, collection and waiver procedures as well as alternative options to fees.

**IV. FINANCE: Paula O'Connell**

- A.** Paula O'Connell, Finance director, gave an overview of the quarterly report on investments.
- B.** Paula O'Connell gave an overview of the Quarterly Financial Report ending June 30, 2023.

V.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Steve Underdahl, seconded by Gerry Hoisington, to adjourn the meeting.**

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