

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B10

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PUBLIC NOTICES

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF EMMONS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA
AT IT'S REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 4, 2025
Chairman Dan Materi called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with Commissioners James Gartner, Erin Magrum, Dan Materi, Craig Miller and James Vander Vorst being present. Also present was States Attorney, Joseph M. Hanson.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
Commissioner Magrum motioned to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2025 regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Miller. Roll Call "YES": Gartner, Magrum, Materi, Miller and Vander Vorst. Motion carried.
Commissioner Vander Vorst motioned to approve the agenda with the addition of section line discussion. Seconded by Commissioner Gartner. Roll Call "YES": Gartner, Magrum, Materi, Miller and Vander Vorst. Motion carried.
Old and Unfinished Business:
Further discussion was held regarding county employees being able to volunteer for local organizations, (such as Fire Department, EMS, etc.). Commissioner Magrum motioned that Emmons County allow for county employees to have eight hours of annual volunteer time, approved by the department head, with any modifications being at the discretion of the board of county commissioners. Seconded by Commissioner Gartner. Roll Call "YES": Gartner, Magrum, Materi, Miller and Vander Vorst. Motion carried.
Reported was the NDIRF insurance claim is still open regarding the farm

equipment damage from a road project (rock and ruts in field); therefore, no action was taken.
Discussion was held on updating the Zoning Ordinance Manual where the board agreed to work through a chapter every month with States Attorney Joseph M. Hanson. The commission decided to add zoning ordinance update – general provisions in chapter one on the March agenda.
Chairman Materi and Commissioner Miller looked into the section line matter located on the NW ¼ of Section 7, Township 136, Range 78, 55th St. SW tabled from the December 3, 2024 meeting. Chairman Materi reported that the section line is not drifted in as previously described; instead, there's a 15 – 20-foot embankment and ravine grown over with trees. Citizens are driving on a trail south of the section line. There's a small pile (wheelbarrow size) of cement pieces on the section line. GIS Coordinator, Josh Odden, stated that he found a photo dated back in the 1950's where citizens were driving around the section line. State's Attorney, Joseph M. Hanson, provided an opinion that the county could grant permission to Mr. Woodland to improve the section line using his own equipment to build up the road so that it's drivable; but, the county has no obligation to this road. The board concluded that this is not a county matter.
New Business:
Commissioner Vander Vorst inquired about the section line located in between Sections 4 and 9 in Township 131, Range 74, asking if the county would be responsible if something would happen if the section line gets washed out and impossible to cross. States Attorney,

Joseph M. Hanson, stated that this section line is not part of the county's road system, and if the section line becomes dangerous, the county could close access to the road.
Commissioner Gartner motioned to enter into a Limited Services Agreement with Tanya Wieler of Dakota Dynamics, Human Resource Consulting for Local Government, for providing general Human Resource assistance and guidance to Emmons County. Seconded by Commissioner Miller. Roll Call "YES": Gartner, Magrum, Materi, Miller and Vander Vorst. Motion carried.
Commissioner Magrum motioned to terminate Easement No. DACW45-2-70-6059 within Section 6, Township 135, Range 78, and release it to the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers. Seconded by Commissioner Vander Vorst. Roll Call "YES": Gartner, Magrum, Materi, Miller and Vander Vorst. Motion carried.
Director of Tax Equalization, Christina Seppanen, appeared to present the 2025 agricultural land valuations provided by the Agribusiness and Applied Economics Department of the North Dakota State University. NDSU calculated the statewide average values per acre with the following results:
Cropland \$910.51
Non-cropland \$163.09
All agricultural land \$676.46
Emmons County's average value per acre for the year 2025 is as follows:
Cropland \$924.38
Non-cropland \$165.55
All agricultural land \$675.89
North Dakota Century Code ruling requires County's to be within a tolerance level of 90% - 100% on their agricultural land values determined by the North

Dakota State University Agricultural Economics Department. Commissioner Gartner motioned to maintain a 92% tolerance level to keep the county average in compliance with state requirements. Seconded by Commissioner Magrum. Roll Call "YES": Gartner, Magrum, Materi, Miller and Vander Vorst. Motion carried.
NextEra Energy Resources Representatives, Clint Scherb and Evan Shea, appeared and presented information on a proposed Emmons-Logan Energy Storage Project. The project would be located on a 15-acre parcel adjacent to the substation in Emmons County. The project includes a 140-megawatt, four-hour battery energy storage project (560 megawatt hours), and is aimed to start construction in 2025 with commercial operation targeted for December 2026. The project has a lifespan of 30-35 years.
Tony Holzer and Becky Thatcher-Keller provided an update on the Emmons County Senior Food Services. The State Director for Council on Aging for Senior Services called for a Kidder County Commission meeting to be held to discuss issues with the KESS (Kidder Emmons Senior Services). There were problems with financial reports, releasing money belonging to Emmons Seniors, and bad business decisions with closing down meal sites. After a heated discussion between the State Director, board members, and guests, the Kidder County Commissioners ordered the Secretary/Treasurer with KESS to pay Emmons County Senior Food Service \$39,002.90 from a savings account for Emmons County Senior Food Services. The State Director ordered an audit

so it's unclear whether the Emmons County Senior Food Services will be receiving more funding. The Kidder County Commissioners asked all the KESS board members and the director to resign effective February 1, 2025. The Commissioners complimented Tony Holzer for the excellent job that he's doing with the Emmons County Senior Food Services. Tony Holzer stated that they are very thankful for the community contributions that they received. Noted was meals on wheels will begin delivery to Strasburg.
Francis Krumm appeared and provided a correction to the public record and comments made at the January 7, 2025 meeting regarding frost boils to the county roads at the time he was the county road superintendent. Mr. Krumm stated that when he was road superintendent, he had a conversation with Emergency Manager, Mary Senger, who recommended that the county supply all the road department employees with county owned cell phones in case of open record requests that their personal information would not be jeopardized. With the help from Mary Senger and FEMA, all grade operators were trained to locate and measure each of the frost boil sites accurately. The employees did an excellent job of locating the frost boils and provided all the paperwork requested by FEMA. After the paperwork was completed, it was turned in to Mary Senger who then filed the paperwork with FEMA. According to the conversation held with Mary Senger, FEMA did not cover the frost boils in Emmons County