

County

Continued From Front

money or insurance money to pay for the new cameras. BEK officials said, “We want to work with you guys on this.” Commissioners suggested BEK staff work with Emergency Manager Daniel Schwartz and Trish Laine to get things worked out on this.

County officials have been receiving complaints regarding the appearance of county vehicles, including sheriff vehicles being overly dirty and needing proper, timely maintenance. A letter will be drafted and sent to all county employees reminding them to do a better job in maintaining vehicles.

Commissioners agreed to send a letter to a Burnstad area resident who has a fence running across a section line. The letter will request the section line be opened.

Signatures from county officials are being gathered for the surplus property application form.

Commissioners have received three applications for a possible county highway department position. Commissioners agreed to take a harder look at possibly hiring after they go

over the upcoming budget. The budget meeting will be held July 23 with a budget hearing set for September 10. Commissioner Batsch said, “We will continue running this way now, and wait until after budget review.” Auditor Kristiansen also handed out preliminary budget data to all commissioners for their review.

Due to mail delays and for other reasons, a few county employees have requested having their paychecks being a direct deposit rather than a mailed check. Auditor Jody Kristiansen will check on costs associated with offering this option.

Gravel testing results from various pits were received and commissioners agreed to work on a gravel lease with Loren Muller. Commissioners also discussed large rocks being reported on county roadways. They also suggested possibly acquiring a rock picker to assist with removing the larger rocks.

Commissioners signed a community service agreement for 2026 at a cost of \$625/quarter.

County official Laura Henry reported that new carpet tiles will be installed in the courthouse as recent carpet installation has lifting tiles. The company agreed to replace, and Henry asked for assistance with moving furniture and equipment when the time comes to install. Commissioners suggested having highway workers assist.

Newly hired NDSU Admin. Assistant Rebeca Hulme along with NDSU reps. Dustin Hammond and Josh Becker addressed the commissioners noting that prior to Hulme’s hire

she informed the interviewers that she has commitments which will require her to miss 19 days at work. Commissioners approved the time off without pay.

Commissioners discussed, but took no action on the chip sealing quote of \$33,300 from Bituminus Paving of the paved road leading to West Lake from Napoleon. Commissioners noted currently the road is that of the ND State Highway Department, and until ownership is changed, they will hold off. Also discussed was paving of the courthouse parking lot. Paving quote for this project was \$63,984. Commissioner Wald will check on cost of using concrete for this project.

The following building permits were approved. Marie Dewald – move in trailer home, T-Mobile – upgrade equipment on existing tower, Jody Horner – grain bin, Tucker Schneider – garage.

It was noted the existing leased tractor was returned and county will enter into a new 8—month lease for a smaller tractor from Valley Plains Equipment.

Commissioner Wald offered maintenance/repairs which need to be completed on a pair of county owned semi-trucks.

It was agreed to have the abandoned cemeteries mowed by McCleary’s of Napoleon and they may also need a later mowing.

Elected county officials voted during the meeting and elected John Wald as the voting delegate representative at the ND-ACO meeting which will be October 26-28 in Bismarck.

Erbele Receives \$5,000 Scholarship

Nufarm Range and Pasture Solutions recently announced the recipients of scholarships awarded in the 2025 Grassmanship Scholarship Program, including one \$5,000 and four \$1,000 scholarships provided to current and incoming college agriculture students.

Teagan Erbele, Lehr, a 2024 NHS graduate who attends North Dakota State University received the \$5,000 award. Erbele plans to graduate in 2028, and is studying Agriculture Education and Animal Sciences.

While there were hundreds of applicants with a passion for agriculture, these selected students truly embody the concept of Grassmanship through plans, aspirations and innovative ideas that will positively impact tomorrow’s land management practices. Nufarm recognizes the importance of investing in students who will contribute to the sustainability and success of agriculture for years to come.



Teagan Erbele

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