

The following are "unofficial minutes" subject to change at the next meeting.

BOARD OF PEMBINA COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS

Special Meeting

www.pembinacountynd.gov

August 27, 2024

8:00 AM

Board of Pembina County Commissioners met in Special Session in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Courthouse. Vice Chairperson Otto called the meeting to order at 8:37 AM.

Roll call: Jim Benjaminson, Laverne Doyle, Blaine Papenfuss, and Darin Otto. Absent: Andrew Cull. A quorum was declared.

Others present: Devin Johnson, Jeff Daley, Wade Thompson, Bill Gunderson, and Garret Fontaine, States Attorney.

Jeff Daley and Wade Thompson with KLJ addressed the commission on the collapse of the box culvert on County Road 4 South of Junction 1. Gowen informed KLJ they were testing after every foot put down. They left the site at 8:30 pm Saturday night and returned at 6:45 am Sunday and found that it had collapsed. KLJ, the NDDOT, Gowan Construction, a representative from Contec, and Devin Johnson were all on site Monday for an inspection. The commission was told a new aluminum box culvert could be delivered in approximately three weeks. A concrete box culvert was discussed. The concrete box culvert would have cost 2.36 million dollars and wouldn't have been available until approximately the next construction season, so was rejected as an option in January of 2023. Jeff Daley confirmed the county was not responsible for the collapse. KLJ confirmed the damaged structure will need to be removed. There was no traffic on the structure that caused the collapse. It was closed off. States Attorney Fontaine stated he thinks answers on why the collapse happened will need to be determined before any decisions could be made and a replacement goes forward. States Attorney Fontaine stated the commission doesn't have enough information to make a decision right now as there are too many questions remaining unanswered to make an educated decision. He then asked for some temporary options. KLJ stated they could put in a temporary fix in the meantime, installing some smaller culverts and building up the roadway. This would still allow for water to get through but people could still use it. It will probably take up to two weeks to get the damaged structure removed. Mr. Doyle asked about costs and stated he feels it shouldn't fall on the county.

States Attorney Fontaine stated he wants to make sure that there is no quick decision made because of the potential danger if it was quickly replaced and does not want this situation to happen again. He stated that since it is a beet truck route and potential school bus route, it is a real concern for the county and commission.

Bill Gunderson asked how long a temporary fix would be in place. KLJ stated through winter. He also asked if the county would work with the township on rerouting traffic around 2 miles east and putting a lot more gravel down and blading it. Mr. Benjaminson requested Devin Johnson assess the area and come up with alternate routes that can be considered. Mr. Benjaminson stated detour signs will need to be placed so people need to know where to go. Mr. Otto stated he agreed with Mr. Fontaine to not make any quick decisions. KLJ stated they would get the county the information as quickly as possible as to what caused it and what can be done to get a temporary access for the winter.

Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Laverne Doyle to adjourn the meeting. All voting in favor; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:06 AM.