



## LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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### Memorandum

**Date:** September 12, 2024

**To:** Finance and Planning Subcommittee members

**From:** Mike Sousek, General Manager

**RE:** Levy Setting Public Hearing and Finance and Planning Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

The FY 2025 Levy Setting Public Hearing was held on Wednesday September 11, 2024, at 5:30 PM in the LPSNRD boardroom. There was one member from the public in attendance (Paul Zillig). Director attendance included Gary Aldridge, Bob Andersen, Chelsea Johnson, Christine Lamberty, David Landis, Larry Ruth, Greg Osborn, Mellisa Baker, Ray Stevens, and Ken Vogel. Staff members included Chris Barber, Sam Elofson, Dave Potter and Mike Sousek. Legal counsel was also present. A brief presentation was given during the hearing which included the highlights of a 10.22% decrease in our operating budget, a property tax request of \$11,015,765.09 which is a 5.81% increase from last year. Also included was a valuation increase of 4.48% giving the district a value of \$48,722,572,547. This valuation would require setting a tax levy of \$0.022835 to support the approved budget. The hearing closed with no comments at 5:33PM.

The Finance and Planning Subcommittee met following the budget hearing, roughly 5:35pm on Wednesday September 11, 2024, at the NRD Office in Lincoln. Subcommittee members present included Chelsea Johnson, Ken Vogel, Greg Osborn, Christine Lamberty, Ray Stevens, and Melissa Baker. Absent were subcommittee members Deb Eagan and Don Jacobson. Director Dave Landis, Bob Andersen, Larry Ruth and Gary Aldridge were in attendance. One member of the public was present. Legal counsel was present. NRD staff members in attendance included Chris Barber, Sam Elofson, Dave Potter and Mike Sousek.

First on the agenda was considering the recommendation to the board to adopt a corrected FY25 budget. A clerical accounting error was recently discovered that resulted in decreasing our overall budget and decreasing the property tax requirement to support the FY25 budget. It was motioned by Ken Vogel, seconded by Ray Stevens to recommend to the board to adopt the corrected FY25 budget which contains a total budget of \$36,179,448 requiring a property tax request of \$10,974,438. See attached budget. Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was a discussion on holding a second tax levy setting public hearing to set our levy at a lower amount than was forecasted at the previous levy setting public hearing. The public hearing

to set a new levy amount will be held on Wednesday Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM. With the adoption of a corrected budget, our total operating budget will decrease by 10.57%, our property tax request of \$10,974,437.80 will be a 4.37% increase from last year, our valuation increased by 4.38% to an amount of \$48,722,572,547, giving the district a tax levy of \$0.022524. The previous year's levy was \$0.022525. It was motioned by Ray Stevens, seconded by Ken Vogel to recommend to the board to have Vice Chair Bob Andersen sign the property tax resolution which includes a property tax request of \$10,974,437.80 and sets the property tax levy at \$0.022524. See attached resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

The agenda continued to our next discussed item which was the acceptance of the bid to purchase surplus property of the district. A bid of \$1,055 for the surplus property (house) located at 2180 Arbor Road was presented. It was the only bid received and belonged to Franklin and Cynthia Robbins. The home will need to be removed from the property by September 18, 2025. It was motioned by Chelsea Johnson, seconded by Ray Stevens to recommend to the board to accept the bid of \$1,055 from Franklin and Cynthia Robbins for the excess property (house) located at 2180 Arbor Road and have the general manager sign a sale contract with Franklin and Cynthia Robbins. See attached bid and contract. Motion passed unanimously.

The fourth item on the agenda dealt with deviating from our purchasing policy. A district vehicle was recently totaled due to a hailstorm. Staff were finding good deals on car lots but kept losing the opportunity to purchase said vehicles due to our bidding process and timeline from receiving bid to placing a payment on the vehicle. It was staff recommendation to set a threshold to which we would adhere and set a maximum price to not exceed which would allow the district to capture current savings on year-end deals. See attached vehicle memo. It was recommended by Greg Osborn, seconded by Ken Vogel to recommend to the board that staff is allowed to purchase a vehicle directly off a car lot that meets the minimum specifications of the district in an amount not to exceed \$45,104 and forgo normal bidding processes. Motion passed unanimously.

Last on the agenda was a discussion on leasing equipment needed for our land management functions. The workload has demanded we expand the district's equipment inventory. A second skid loader has been identified as the most needed piece of equipment to alleviate the stress of shared equipment in land management. Discussion of purchasing v. leasing, the pros and cons and the financial considerations were discussed. It was motioned by Chelsea Johnson, seconded by Ray Stevens to recommend to the board that the general manager sign a lease agreement for a 2024 John Deere 325G Compact Track loader with severe duty forestry package for a term of 3 years at a cost of \$22,460.88 annually. See attached memo for machine/lease details. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05PM

MJS

cc: Chair Landis, Bob Andersen, Donna Reid