


MINUTES
February 4, 2022
10:30 A.M.
Special Board Meeting-Zoom Video Conference
NDPISB

1. Chairman Mike Wetsch called the Zoom special meeting to order at 10:32 A.M. Board members present: Mike Wetsch, Justin Blinsky, Jason Nelson, and Ernie Thurman. Board members absent: Steven Lundin and Randy Ziegler Others present: Executive Director John J. Shorey III and North Dakota Assistant Attorney General Allison Hicks.

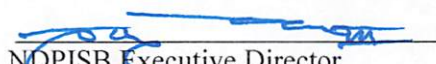
2. John stated the Board had several open records requests for the disputed documents, that cost estimates were provided to complete the redactions of the disputed documents to the requestors, and one of the open records requestors has provided payment based on the estimate provide by the Board to complete its review for redactions of the disputed documents. John stated based on only himself working in the Board Office, and the backlog of Board operations currently occurring, he thought it was prudent to explore other options to complete the redactions in a quicker manner than just himself completing the review for redactions. John advised the idea of utilizing independent contractors to assist him in completing the redactions came up. John advised per law the Board can charge \$25.00 per hour with the first hour being free. John advised his thought was to pay the potential indepenant contractors \$25.00 per hour and enter into contracts and confidentiality agreements. John advised proposed contacts, proposed confidentiality agreements, and information on two proposed independent contractors had been emailed to Board members. There was Board discussion based on the current status of the disputed documents case, if there was a possibility that the Board would need to pay back the requestor, depending on what the court decision ultimately is, or if it was defensible for the Board to wait to complete the reactions until there was direction from the courts on the issue. There was discussion about the Board's current financial situation as it relates to this issue. Allyson advised she would advise the Board to enter into the independent contactor agreements, and the Board could wait to complete the reactions until there was a order from the Supreme Court, and if applicable, the Board could terminate the contracts with no work being done. John asked Allyson if it was defensible for the Board to wait to do the redactions. Allyson said it absolutely was. The Board agreed that would be the best course of action, which was to enter into the agreements, and wait until there was a decision from the Supreme Court to begin the redactions, if applicable. Allyson advised she would need to work on the proposed contracts to reflect the Board's intentions. Justin made a motion to approve the use of independent contractors at \$25.00 per hour for redactions of the disputed documents, waiting for a decision from the Supreme Court until any work on the redactions is completed. Ernie seconded. A roll call vote was taken, and it was unanimous to approve the motion.

3. Jason made a motion to allow any employee or permitted contractors of the Board to assert any exemption or confidential provision in the redaction of the disputed documents. Justin seconded. A roll call vote was taken, and it was unanimous to approve the motion.

4. Ernie made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jason seconded. A roll call vote was taken, and it was unanimous to approve the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 A.M.


Chairman

7-16-25
Date


NDPISB Executive Director

7-16-25
Date