

The Board of Barnes County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 20, 2004, with all members present.

Discussion took place on the funding request to Valley City/Barnes County Development Corp for the Skandia Mills project due to the discovery of delinquent taxes on the applicant's personal residence. It was the consensus of the Board to allow the funding, now that it has been verified that taxes have been paid.

Commissioner Schwehr moved and Commissioner Opdahl seconded to approve the minutes of April 5, 2004. Upon a roll call vote with all Commissioners voting "Yes", motion carried.

Norma Duppler, Emergency Manager, presented a Burning Advisory declaration.

Commissioner Maasjo moved and Commissioner Berntson seconded to adopt the following Burning Advisory declaration. Upon a roll call vote with all Commissioners voting "Yes", motion carried

Barnes County Burning Advisory

Because of dry conditions and the possibility of wildfires or controlled burns becoming out of control the Barnes County Commission advises "No Burning" from now until significant rain or green up.

This burning advisory means that if anyone is conducting a controlled burn, and such burn goes out of control that person is responsible for the costs of fighting that fire.

Even after rain, this burning advisory will be in effect when conditions return to dry, until May 15, 2004.

Dated this 6th Day of April, 2004.

Palmer Paulson, Chair
Barnes County Commission

Bill Buell, Verizon Wireless, met with the Commission to request a conditional usage permit to put up a 350 foot tower south of I-94 on Broadwell property.

Dean Stenson stated that he is against putting up the tower because of its location so near his property.

Melvin Wendel stated that he was in favor of the tower, but not for the location selected.

Arlene Berntson stated that she understands Dean Stenson's concerns but is in favor of the tower and would like to see it put up.

Commissioner Opdahl moved and Commissioner Maasjo seconded to approve the request from the special usage permit for Verizon Wireless to put up the communication tower. Upon a roll call vote with Commissioner Opdahl, Maasjo, Schwehr, and Paulson voting "Yes", and Commissioner Berntson voting "No", motion carried.

Members of the Grievance Committee met with the Commission to make a recommendation regarding a grievance procedure for a Correctional officer. The recommendation was that no further action be taken.

Commissioner Berntson moved and Commissioner Opdahl seconded to accept the recommendation of the Grievance Committee. Commissioner Maasjo and Schwehr abstained from the vote due to a conflict of interest. Upon a roll call vote with Commissioner Opdahl, Berntson, and Paulson voting "Yes", motion carried.

Residents of Valley City and Barnes County met with the Commission to express concerns on moving the City/County Health Department to another location outside of the Courthouse.

The City/County Health Board also met with the Commission to discuss the proposed move of the City/County Health Department.

Commissioner Schwehr read a letter from Dr. Buhr, Barnes County Health Officer who was unable to attend the meeting, stating his concerns on moving the City/County Health Department from its present location. Dr. Buhr did state he was against the move.

Marcy Grant, Director, presented fact sheets to the Commission for their review.

Dean Koppelman, Valley City School Superintendent, addressed those present on his concerns about the students in the Valley City School District if the City/County Health Department were to be moved out of the Courthouse.

Carol Nelson presented petitions with 460 signatures in support of leaving both the City/County health Department and the County Sheriff's office in their current locations.

Dean Ross, Valley City Chief of Police, stated that he would not want to move the Sheriff's Department.

Lloyd Nelson addressed those present on not moving the Sheriff's Department and the City/County Health Department.

Norma Duppler, Emergency Manager, met with the Commission to discuss concerns the Commission has with Norma doing FEMA buyouts for the City of Valley City through the County.

Commissioner Schwehr moved and Commissioner Berntson seconded that the County Emergency Manager no longer process FEMA buyouts within the City of Valley City, with the exception of the seven properties she is currently working on. Upon a roll call vote with all Commissioners voting "Yes", motion carried.

Commissioner Maasjo moved and Commissioner Opdahl seconded that the Barnes County Water Resource Board go to a temporary 3-member board. Upon a roll call vote with all Commissioners voting "Yes", motion carried.

Ellen Bjelland, Extension Agent, met with the Commission requesting approval to attend an out-of-state meeting with the cost s over \$1,000.00 coming from the Extension Travel Line item.

Commissioner Opdahl moved and Commissioner Maasjo seconded to allow Ellen to attend the meeting. Upon a roll call vote with all Commissioners voting "Yes", motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Maasjo moved and Commissioner Opdahl seconded to adjourn.

Edward R. McGough
Barnes County Auditor

Palmer Paulson, Chairman
Barnes County Commission