

The Board of Barnes County Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, May 17, 2005, with all members present.

Commissioner Schwehr made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Maasjo, to pay overtime to the Clerk of Court's office. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Kerry Johnson, Highway Superintendent, introduced a new employee in his department, Dick Korf, Equipment Operator II, to the Commissioners.

Johnson reported to the Commission that the County sale went well.

Ross Eberle of Kadmas, Lee & Jackson, updated the Commission as to ongoing county projects.

Johnson informed the Commission that Lois Bjornson's last day of employment with the Highway Department will be June 8. A cake and coffee retirement party will be planned.

Commissioner Opdahl made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Maasjo, to allow the Highway Department to remove a ditch block in Section 19, Township 138, Range 56, Binghampton Township, as requested by the Barnes County Water Resource Board. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

BJ Edwardson, Tax Director, discussed legislative changes affecting county agricultural land valuations. Senate Bill 2188 decreased the capitalization rate from 9.5 percent to 8.9 percent for 2005, which increases land values.

Jason Thiel, MIS Director, met with the Commission to request more hours for his part-time employee while Thiel is on vacation.

Commissioner Schwehr made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Opdahl, to allow approximately 25 hours per week for the MIS part-time employee, while Thiel is on vacation. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Theresa Will, City-County Health Director, met with the Commission to discuss grant dollars on the PERS Wellness Program for Barnes County employees.

Commissioner Schwehr made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Triebold, to allow Will to apply for the Wellness grant program to benefit Barnes County employees, with County costs coming from the general fund. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Ellen Bjelland, County Extension Agent, requested approximately \$300.00 from their travel budget to attend a conference in Boston.

Commissioner Maasjo made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Triebold, to approve the out-of-state travel for Bjelland to attend the Boston conference, with costs coming from the Extension budget. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Maasjo made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Opdahl, to approve the minutes of the May 3 meeting and of the May 6 meeting with correction. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Maasjo made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Opdahl, to approve a gaming site authorization for the VFW to promote gaming at the Sheyenne Lodge and Peanut Bar and Kelly's Crossing.

Commissioner Opdahl made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Maasjo, to approve an additional \$3,500.00 from Barnes County Economic Development funds toward completing the business plan for a new correctional and rehabilitation facility and joint law enforcement center. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

James Verwey was sworn in as the new Barnes County Veterans Service Officer by Judge John Paulson.

Norma Duppler, Emergency Manager, met with the Commission as chairman of the Barnes County Compensation Committee, to discuss salaries for 2006 budgets.

Chairman Berntson appointed Commissioner Triebold to represent the Commission on the Barnes County Compensation Committee, along with Commissioner Maasjo.

Commissioner Schwehr made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Triebold, to re-appoint Phyllis Otterness to represent Barnes County on the Library Board for a three-year term. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Schwehr made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Triebold, to re-appoint Marjorie Guscette and Paul Gage to the School Annexation, Reorganization, and Dissolution Committee for three-year terms. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Schwehr made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Maasjo, to re-appoint Rodger Berntson to the School Tuition Committee as a member-at-large, for a three year term. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Maasjo made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Triebold, to re-appoint Harlan Opdahl, Rodger Berntson, and Cindy Schwehr to the Social Service Board for three-year terms. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Schwehr made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Opdahl, to re-appoint Ralph Hooper to the Housing Authority Board for a five-year term. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Chairman Berntson recessed for lunch, and then reconvened the Board for discussion of problems with the County Recorder's Office. Commissioner Schwehr was absent.

Commissioner Maasjo made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Triebold, to appoint Tax Director BJ Edwardson and staff; Auditor Ed McGough and staff; and MIS Director Jason Thiel, as deputies of the County Recorder's Office on a temporary basis, to be sworn in by States Attorney Robin Huseby. Upon a roll call vote with all members present voting "yes," motion carried.

Commission Opdahl made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Maasjo, to allow Huseby to send a letter to Janna Zaun, County Recorder, asking her to either inform the County how she intends to staff the office immediately, or to resign immediately. Upon a roll call vote with all members present voting "yes," motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Maasjo made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Triebold, to adjourn. Motion carried.

Edward R. McGough
Barnes County Auditor

Rodger Berntson, Chairman
Barnes County Commission