

The Barnes County Commission held the second public hearing regarding the proposed “Plan” to consolidate the offices of County Recorder and Tax Equalization on September 20, 2005, pursuant to publication. All members were present except for Commissioner Maasjo, who was ill. Also present were Robin Huseby, States Attorney; Ed McGough, Auditor; and representatives of the Recorder’s and Tax offices.

Community members attending were: Keith Colville, James O’Brien, Palmer Paulson, Cal Bender, Arvid Winkler, Rocky Kowalski, Mike Schwehr, Vicki Zinck, John W. Ertelt, Karen Magnuson, Julie Forsman, Jake Dosch, Jay Cink.

Huseby read the resolution adopted in June of 2005. Several community members spoke. Concerns were expressed about having the office appointed instead of elected, and that the only recourse to the plan’s adoption by the Commission would be public referral. Huseby read the statute describing how the Tool Chest law would come into play if the Commission finally adopted the plan and published it. Those attending said they would like to have notice of when the topic will be addressed again. Cost savings were also discussed.

There being no further testimony or discussion, the hearing was closed.

Edward R. McGough
Barnes County Auditor

Rodger Berntson, Chairman
Barnes County Commission