

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session Tuesday, May 16, 2006, with all members present except Commissioner Maasjo, who was ill.

Kerry Johnson, Highway Superintendent, and Ross Eberle of Kadrmas, Lee & Jackson, met with the Commission. Johnson informed the Commission that the North Dakota Department of Transportation would place a sign on I-94 indicating direction to Marion, pending approval from the County. It was the consensus of the Commission that Johnson will inform the DOT that the County has no problem with the sign.

Johnson presented the funding projections from the County federal aid program for 2007-08. Eberle informed the Commission that there is a significant decrease in Barnes County's federal aid allotment from what was previously projected. Discussion took place on how this will affect future projects such as resurfacing #21 south and #06.

Discussion took place on the possible ethanol plant to be built in Spiritwood.

Johnson discussed an approach request along County Highway 21 South (Kathryn Road). The landowner was requesting to turn the ditch block into an approach. It was the consensus of the Commission to have Johnson deal with the situation in the best interest of the County.

Mary Lee Nielson, representing the Sheyenne Valley Shuffle Committee, requested permission to use County Road 19 for a half-marathon run on September 23. The marathon is a fund-raiser for the Highway-Byway.

Commissioner Triebold made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Schwehr, to allow the Sheyenne Valley Shuffle Committee to use County Road 19 on the morning of September 23, 2006. Upon a roll call vote with all members present voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Schwehr made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Triebold, to approve the minutes of May 2, 2006, as presented. Upon a roll call vote with all members present voting "yes," motion carried.

Discussion took place on a letter from Tim Birkeland, Valley City resident, expressing concern that an area near the busy 12<sup>th</sup> Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue interchange is being used as a dump ground, creating a health and safety issue. He also noted graffiti on storage buildings to the south of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Commissioner Schwehr agreed to investigate.

Discussion was also held regarding a letter from the Southeast Water Users District, requesting a letter from the Commission in support of their merger, refinancing of debt, and application for funding to supply water to the City of LaMoure. It was the consensus of the Commission to send the letter.

Commissioner Schwehr made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Berntson, to approve a raffle permit for the Bjornson Park Golf Association. Upon a roll call vote with all members present voting "yes," motion carried.

Findings and Motion on Historical Society Abatement Application:

At 9:15 a.m. the Commission considered the request for abatement of 2004 and 2005 full and true value by the Barnes County Historical Society, Inc., 315 Central Ave N, Valley City, ND 58072, regarding Parcel No. 63-3400034 - Lot 4 Block 1, NP West First Addition to the City of Valley City.

The following persons appeared on behalf of the applicant: Bobby Koepplin, Nyle Burchill and Dean Ihla.

The following persons appeared on behalf of Barnes County: BJ Edwardson, Tax Director, in her official capacity; and Dave Ramstad, City Assessor.

BJ Edwardson was the only person to speak in regards to the application.

The County Commission, having considered such testimony and evidence and being fully advised in the premises, made the following Findings:

That Parcel No. 63-3400034 as described herein, and as described in the application, is improved property located in the City of Valley City, Barnes County, North Dakota, consisting of a convention and visitors bureau, with taxable portions used as a chamber of commerce, economic development and Winter Show.

That the original 2005 true and full valuation as determined by the City of Valley City Assessor's Office for the real property described herein was \$62,400.00.

That much of the real estate is not occupied by the improvements and/or is used for exempt purposes relevant to the Barnes County Historical Society, Inc., indicating the value of the subject property to be \$12,300.00.

Commissioner Schwehr moved to approve the abatement request to reduce the 2004 true and full value of \$62,400.00 as previously determined by the City of Valley City Assessor's Office for the real property hereinbefore described, to \$12,300.00 as recommended by the City of Valley City, and that the taxes for 2004 be abated accordingly, if any.

Commissioner Triebold made a second to the motion.

There being no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Schwehr moved to approve the abatement request to reduce the 2005 true and full value of \$62,400.00 as previously determined by the City of Valley City Assessor's Office for the real property hereinbefore described, to \$12,300.00 as recommended by the City of Valley City and now found by the Barnes County Commission, and that the taxes for 2005 be abated accordingly, if any.

Commissioner Triebold made a second to the motion.

There being no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

Edwardson updated the Commission on the Equalization Hearing to be held June 6, 2006, from 1-3 p.m.

Findings and Motion on Johanson Abatement Application:

At 9:30 a.m. the Commission considered the request to reduce the 2005 true and full value by Sonja Johansen on parcel no. 63-1330063, Lots 6 & 7+, Foss Resubdivision, 222 6<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Valley City, North Dakota.

No persons appeared on behalf of the applicant.

The following persons appeared on behalf of Barnes County: BJ Edwardson, Tax Director, in her official capacity; and Dave Ramstad, City Assessor.

BJ Edwardson and Dave Ramstad were the only persons to speak in regards to the application.

The County Commission, having considered such testimony and evidence and being fully advised in the premises, made the following Findings and Motion:

That Parcel No. 63-3400034 as described herein, and as described in the application, is improved property located in the City of Valley City, Barnes County, North Dakota, consisting of a single family residence.

That the original 2005 true and full valuation as determined by the City of Valley City Assessor's Office for the real property described herein was \$36,200.00.

The property was previously not inspected.

That previous deductions had been made for structural defects.

Upon inspection, previously unreported improvements in the basement were discovered.

Commissioner Berntson moved to deny the abatement request to reduce the 2005 true and full value of \$36,200.00 as previously determined by the City of Valley City Assessor's Office for the real property hereinbefore described, to \$30,000.00 as requested, for the following reasons:

It is presumed that the value of the Applicant's property is correct as determined by the City of Valley City, and the burden is on the Applicant to prove and persuade the Barnes County Board of Commissioners that the valuation in question is incorrect. Applicant has submitted no evidence to rebut the presumption, and the presumption has not been rebutted.

Commissioner Schwehr made a second to the motion.

There being no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

Ken Jewett met with the Commission to discuss and update them on maintenance of the ham radio operating equipment on the Barnes County repeater. Jewett requested keys for maintenance access to the County tower.

Commissioner Schwehr made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Berntson, to have Sheriff Randy McClafflin make two sets of keys for the repeater tower: one set for the Emergency Manager, and one set for the Emergency Manager to sign out to Ken Jewett for the updating of the ham system, which he will sign back in after the update is complete. Upon a roll call vote with all members present voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Schwehr made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Berntson, to promote two correctional officers to shift supervisors, at a pay rate of \$10.75 per hour, effective next pay period. Upon a roll call vote with all members present voting "yes," motion carried.

Wade Bruns and Bobby Koeplin of the Valley City Barnes County Development Corporation requested that the County de-obligate \$75,000.00 of the \$200,000.00 obligated toward the ethanol project. It was the consensus of the Board to take no action until the VC/BC Economic Development Corporation provides further information.

The Commission met with Department Heads to discuss background checks on employees of companies which contract with the County.

Commissioner Schwehr made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Berntson, to change the first July Commission meeting to July 11, starting at 8 a.m., due to the July 4 holiday. Upon a roll call vote with all members present voting "yes," motion carried.

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

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Edward R. McGough  
Barnes County Auditor

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Harlan Opdahl, Chairman  
Barnes County Commission