

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session Tuesday, December 19, 2006, with all members present.

Kim Franklin, Emergency Manager, and Skip Skattum of KLJ met with the Commission to discuss grant application through the 2007 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program for updating county aerial maps, with a cost share of 75 percent federal funds and 25 percent local, to be split between Valley City and Barnes County.

Commissioner Opdahl made a motion, seconded by Triebold, to allow Ms. Franklin to apply for the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program grant; carrying a cost to Barnes County, upon approval, of approximately \$4,204.50, and contingent on the City of Valley City's agreement to cost share in the project. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Jason Lang, Chief Correctional Officer, and Gene Bjerke, Sheriff-elect, met with the Commission to recommend an increase in the charges for boarding prisoners at the jail.

Commissioner Berntson made a motion, seconded by Weber, to approve the increased charges for boarding prisoners by \$5.00 per day. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Opdahl made a motion, seconded by Triebold, to approve the minutes of the November 9 and December 5 meetings. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Weber made a motion, seconded by Berntson, to approve the Sunday alcohol, liquor, and beer licenses for City Lights. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Opdahl made a motion, seconded by Triebold, to renew the contract with Computer Professionals Inc., for software maintenance.

Commissioner Opdahl made a motion, seconded by Triebold, to approve the amendment of the Erosion and Sedimentation policy in the Barnes County zoning code, as recommended by the Barnes County Planning and Zoning Board, relating to a plan requirement when disturbing 2,500 or more square feet of land for grading or excavating. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Jim McAllister, County Weed Officer, and Pat Hansen, Weed Board secretary, met with the Commission to request the amendment of the 2006 budget by \$98,100.00. They reported that expenditures exceeded the budget due to chemical applications, with a revenue increase in the same amount.

Commissioner Berntson made a motion, seconded by Triebold, to amend the 2006 weed budget to cover costs not budgeted, which were supported by new revenue, at an increase of \$98,100.00. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Chris Iverson, Trial Court Manager, met with the Commission to provide an update on the court facilities improvement grant and to request authorization to follow up on a grant application.

Commissioner Opdahl made a motion, seconded by Berntson, to allow Ms. Iverson to proceed with application for the Court Facility Restoration Grant, with a total project cost of approximately \$82,000.00, and a county cost share of approximately \$20,700.00. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Sen. Larry Robinson and Reps. Ralph Metcalf and Phil Mueller met with the Commission to discuss concerns of the county relating to the upcoming legislative session.

Employee Policy Committee members Brad Cruff, Linda Anderson, and Jason Thiel met with the Commission to discuss the following amendments to the Barnes County Employee Policy & Procedure manual:

Discipline, Section E: Termination. Barnes County is an “at will” employer, which means ~~his/her Department Head Barnes County~~ can terminate an employee for any reason articulated. ~~An elected Department Head has the right to hire and fire employees; however, that Department Head should consult the portfolio holders and legal counsel.~~ All employees are employees of Barnes County and can only be terminated by act of the County Commission.

Employment and Termination, Section 3 (added): Barnes County is an “at will” employer, which means the County can terminate an employee for any reason articulated. All employees are employees of the County and can only be terminated by act of the County Commission.

Duties (added): If an employee, without cause, or through no fault of his/her own, is re-assigned to a lower grade position, no salary reduction shall occur. If the employee’s salary is above the maximum of the new grade: No new salary increment, general structure or cost of living increases will apply until the maximum for the new grade equals or exceeds the employee’s salary.

Security Classifications and Background Checks:

High Security (H) - Emergency Management; Custodians; Law Enforcement; Corrections; Social Services; State’s Attorney; MIS; Treasurer; Clerk of Court; Auditor; and City/County Health

Medium Security (M) - Recorder; VSO; Extension; Road Dept. Administration; and Weed Control

Low Security (L) - Tax Director; Commission; Road Dept. Staff

L, M & H Release/Consent from Applicant; Current Name; Former Name(s); Date of Birth; Place of Birth (City & State); Social Security Number; All prior cities and states of residence; In what states and foreign jurisdictions have you held a drivers license; In what states and foreign jurisdictions have you held a professional license; All prior traffic/criminal offenses;

M & H Fingerprint - Electronic Hand Scan (Live Scan);

L, M & H DNA

L, M & H NCIC

L, M & H USYS

L, M & H Drivers License

L, M & H Military

M & H Credit Check

L, M & H Previous Employers

L, M & H Current Employers

L, M & H Personal References

L, M & H Professional References

L, M & H Google

H Interpol

L, M & H CWIS

L, M & H III (Triple I)

L, M & H MOCIC

Current employees shall be subject to random background checks on the following rotations:

High Security - One third each year

Medium Security - One fourth each year

Low Security - One fifth each year

Commissioner Berntson made a motion, seconded by Opdahl, to approve the Employment Termination section amendment to the employee policy, effective immediately. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Triebold made a motion, seconded by Weber, to approve the Discipline section amendment to the employee policy, effective immediately. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Opdahl made a motion, seconded by Berntson, to approve the amended policy on background checks as presented, effective immediately. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Kerry Johnson, Highway Superintendent, and Alex Punton, Jr., from AP Equipment met with the Commission to discuss trading in the County's 2001 Bobcat and broom for a new 2007 Bobcat and new broom.

Commissioner Berntson made a motion, seconded by Weber, to purchase the new Bobcat Skid steer and broom, with the cost of the broom coming from the Buildings and Grounds fund, at a cost of approximately \$11,000.00. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Discussion was held with Mr. Johnson and Mark Anderson of KLJ, regarding the 5th St. NE (North Valley) Bridge project and necessary easements.

Commissioner Triebold made a motion, seconded by Opdahl, to allow Chairman Schwehr and Auditor McGough to sign the easements as they come in. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Mr. Johnson also discussed his budget for the rental of a 2007 Butler motor grader for a five-year period, with option to buy after the five-year rental program. The yearly rental cost is approximately \$35,849.00, with a buy-out cost of approximately \$35,845.39.

Commissioner Berntson made a motion, seconded by Opdahl, to approve the rental of the Caterpillar motor grader as presented. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Mr. Johnson discussed a building at the airport the County could obtain for the cost of moving it.

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

Edward R. McGough
Barnes County Auditor

Cindy Schwehr, Chairman
Barnes County Commission