

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session Tuesday, May 15, 2007, with all members present except Chairman Schwehr.

Kerry Johnson, Highway Superintendent, updated the Commission on the status of the cold in-place recycle project on County Road #21 (Kathryn Road). Ross Eberle of KLJ reminded the board of the project bid-letting to be held May 17 at 11 a.m. at the Highway Department.

Mr. Johnson informed the Commission of a disciplinary problem with a Highway Department employee, which resulted in a three-day suspension for that employee, and that further action would need to be implemented by the Commission, if warranted. Johnson stated there had been incidents of insubordination by the same employee in the past.

Commissioner Berntson made a motion, seconded by Opdahl, to terminate this employee, effective immediately. Upon a roll call vote with all members present voting "yes," motion carried.

Sheriff Gene Bjerke and Jason Lang, Chief Correctional Officer, met with the Commission. Mr. Lang introduced a new correctional officer, Justin Thornton. He also informed the board that, while the new employees are in training for certification, they will use overtime to allow for two employees on every shift.

Bjerke gave an update on the progress and preparations for the Gibbs trial, stating that the security negotiations with the Ward County Sheriff's Department are going well.

Betty Koslofsky, Tax Director, and Liz Roorda, Deputy, presented an abatement application for Willis K. Johnson and Mayvis I. Johnson.

Commissioner Opdahl made a motion, seconded by Triebold, to deny the abatement for Willis K. and Mayvis I. Johnson, to leave the true and full value at \$20,100.00 for the tax year 2006 for PCL:63-0880071, based on topography and economic deductions by the City Assessor that sufficient buildable area exists, and on recommendation by the City of Valley City and the Barnes County Tax Director. Upon a roll call vote with all other members present voting "yes," and Commissioner Weber voting "no," motion carried.

Ms. Koslofsky discussed an estimated valuation of Barnes County residential, commercial and agricultural properties.

Auditor Ed McGough presented a letter of concern from Sharon Coleman on the valuation on PCL:52-0100040, in the city of Kathryn. No action was taken on the matter.

Board appointments were discussed.

Commissioner Opdahl made a motion, seconded by Triebold, to re-appoint Tom Overn to a five-year term on the City-County Health Board. Upon a roll call vote with all members present voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Weber made a motion, seconded by Triebold, to re-appoint Gregory Dimmer to a three-year term as District 2 representative on the School Annexation, Reorganization and Dissolution Board. Upon a roll call vote with all members present voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Opdahl made a motion, seconded by Weber, to approve the minutes of May 1 as presented. Upon a roll call vote with all members present voting "yes," motion carried.

Mr. McGough presented an Event Alcoholic Beverage permit application for City Lights for a Rally in the Valley event to be held June 15, 2007 at the Barnes County Airport.

Commissioner Berntson made a motion, seconded by Opdahl, to approve the permit as presented. Upon a roll call vote with all members present voting "yes," motion carried.

McGough informed the Commission a Public Service Commission hearing on the Trans Canada Keystone Pipeline will be held July 23 at the Barnes County Courthouse.

He also informed the board that the health insurance rate will increase by approximately 20 percent, effective July 1.

McGough also expressed an employee's concern about the difficulty in backing out of the jail parking area when cars are parked in the 10-minute zone on the north side of the Courthouse and east to the street.

Vicki Zinck, Treasurer, requested to change names on bank signature cards to reflect the change in personnel.

Commissioner Berntson made a motion, seconded by Triebold, to allow Ms. Zinck to remove the name of former treasurer, Karen Magnuson, from bank signature cards, and replace it with the names Vicki Zinck, Treasurer, and Rose Hatcher, Deputy Treasurer. 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 Weber, to adjourn. Motion carried.

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Edward R. McGough  
Barnes County Auditor

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Cindy Schwehr, Chairman  
Barnes County Commission