

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session Tuesday, June 19, 2007, with all members present.

Kerry Johnson, Highway Superintendent, and Ross Eberle of Kadrmars, Lee & Jackson, were present to discuss storm damage in the county, which included water over roads and washouts, as well as a failed culvert on County Highway 34. They discussed the placement of lights and barriers at dangerous sites.

They also discussed the proposed upgrade of the County's minimum design standards for highways and structures.

Commissioner Berntson made a motion, seconded by Triebold, to adopt the proposed Minimum Design Standards for Highways and Structures, from 10-25 years for the county on-system, and 10-15 years for the county-township off-system. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Berntson made a motion, seconded by Weber, to pay MidState Reclamation and Trucking \$523,943.20 for work done on County Highway 21, Project CP-0221(007), for 9 ½ miles, with 2 percent, or \$8,809.06, to be paid after inspection and approval by the Commission. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Jason Lang, Chief Correctional Officer, and Mark Peterson, Chief Deputy, updated the Commission on their departments.

Leo Zaun met with the Commission to discuss his termination from the Highway Department, and to correct what he felt were discrepancies in the circumstances leading to his termination.

Jason Thiel, MIS Director, introduced a new part-time MIS employee, Danilo (JJ) Angeles.

Discussion was held concerning the County's two-year new home tax exemption policy, and all the property types (such as lake cabins and garages) which are also included under the ND Century Code.

Commissioner Berntson made a motion, seconded by Opdahl, to discontinue the Barnes County two-year new home tax exemption policy, effective August 1, 2007, not to include those residents already receiving the discount, and anyone signing up before the August 1 deadline. Upon a roll call vote with Commissioners Berntson, Weber, and Opdahl voting "yes," and Triebold and Schwehr voting "no," motion carried.

Greg Lewis and Dick Monson met with the Commission to discuss unauthorized garbage dumping on their property, including appliances, furniture, and equipment, and to request a solution to stop the littering there and in other areas of the county. The Commission tabled the matter pending further investigation.

Chairman Schwehr recessed the Commission meeting, and Park Board Chairman Dale Maasjo opened the Park Board meeting.

Brian Kietzman, Gene Van Eeckhout, and BJ Kratz of the ND Game and Fish Department, were present to discuss the Clausen Springs agreement and an incident in which the Park Board had cleared cattails from an area. The agency asked the Board to, in the future, stay 8-10 feet back from the water's edge and that trimming would be allowed but no mowing, in order to preserve water quality.

There being no further business to come before the Park Board, Chairman Maasjo closed the meeting. Chairman Schwehr reconvened the Commission meeting.

Gary Retterath, Valley City-Rural Fire Chief, was present to request financial help from the County for the purchase of a $\frac{3}{4}$ ton, 4-door pickup to pull the hazardous materials trailer. He stated their current vehicle is unable to pull the trailer safely.

The Commission agreed to discuss the matter at budget time.

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

Edward R. McGough
Barnes County Auditor

Cindy Schwehr, Chairman
Barnes County Commission