

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session Tuesday, August 21, 2007, with all members present.

Kerry Johnson, Highway Superintendent, presented a proposed load limit permit schedule and discussed disaster projects. He informed the Commission that Border States will begin the overlay on the first part of County Road 21 South (Kathryn Road) August 22. He also provided an update on the 4th St. Bridge project.

Mr. Johnson also discussed problems with corn crops planted along county roads which block visibility at corners, advising that the problem may increase in coming years as corn planting becomes more widespread. It was the consensus of the Board to raise the issue at the township officers' fall meeting, requesting that they communicate through their townships that crops may not be planted in the road right-of-ways as per the law.

Commissioner Weber made a motion, seconded by Opdahl, to approve the minutes of August 7, 2007, as presented. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Weber made a motion, seconded by Triebold, to approve an Event Alcoholic Beverage Permit for Kelly's Crossing during the Sodbuster Bull-o-rama.

Commissioner Berntson made a motion, seconded by Triebold, to approve a raffle permit for the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Gene Bjerke, Sheriff, and Jason Lang, Chief Correctional Officer, presented monthly reports. Sheriff Bjerke stated he has begun preparations for the upcoming Gibbs trial in Bismarck.

Discussion took place on deputies' vacation unused due to the vacation freeze placed during the first Gibbs trial.

Commissioner Opdahl made a motion, seconded by Berntson, to allow Sheriff's deputies to accrue vacation over the 200-hour limit, on an individual basis, because of the Gibbs trial. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Officer Lang discussed a correctional officer's resignation to accept other employment in her field. It was the consensus of the Board that Lang hires a replacement.

Lang updated the Commission on a recent inmate fight. He said the officers on duty did a great job of handling the incident and following protocol.

Theresa Will, CCHD Director, discussed the County Wellness Grant project.

Commissioner Triebold made a motion, seconded by Weber, to allow the Wellness Committee to apply for a 2007-08 Wellness Grant. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Brad Cruff, States Attorney, met with the Commission to discuss changing the Employee Policy Manual's at-will policy.

Betty Koslofsky met with the Commission to discuss the state equalization meeting and its possible results.

Commissioner Opdahl made a motion, seconded by Weber, that Ms. Koslofsky request that the state lower Barnes County to 100 percent for residential valuation. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Gary Retterath, Valley City Fire Chief, met with the Commission as a follow-up to an earlier letter, which requested \$17,000.00 to purchase a new 4-wheel drive, $\frac{3}{4}$ ton, 4-door cab vehicle to pull their haz-mat trailer. It was the consensus of the Board that no action be taken at this time.

Mr. Retterath also informed the Commission that state law will now allow the sale and use of fireworks for a two-week period starting in July of 2008.

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

Edward R. McGough
Barnes County Auditor

Cindy Schwehr, Chairman
Barnes County Commission