

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session Tuesday, May 20, 2008, with all members present.

Kerry Johnson, Highway Superintendent, and Mark Anderson of KLJ met with the Commission to discuss the bid for Project CP-2008(001), Barnes County Highway 21 S.

Commissioner Triebold made a motion, seconded by Berntson, to award the bid for Project CP-2008(001), which includes pavement removal, grading, aggregate base and incidentals, to the Strata Corporation of Grand Forks, with a bid amount of \$297,452.20. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Mr. Johnson presented and recommended approval for an approach application from Lewis Legge for Sec. 15, Twp. 140, Range 60.

Commissioner Berntson made a motion, seconded by Triebold, to approve the approach application for Mr. Legge as presented. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Johnson also requested authority to approve approach applications on behalf of the County for the wind turbines and pipelines, and stated he already approves the approaches for the townships.

It was the consensus of the Board that County approach applications be presented to the Commission for approval.

Commissioner Opdahl made a motion, seconded by Weber, to approve the minutes of May 6 as presented. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Chairperson Schwehr appointed Commissioner Weber to represent the Commission on the Canvassing Board for the 2008 election.

Schwehr recessed the Commission meeting and opened a variance hearing on a wind turbine height.

A representative of Ashtabula Wind, LLC, requested a variance for a single wind tower, No. 128, located in Noltimier Township, Sec. 2-141N-57W.

Commissioner Berntson made a motion, seconded by Opdahl, to close the hearing. Motion carried.

In the temporary absence of Chairwoman Schwehr, Vice-Chairman Opdahl recessed the Commission meeting and opened a hearing concerning a 5-year tax exemption on a \$200,000.00 new construction building for Bald Hill Creek Adventures, as requested by Henry Berger, owner/operator.

Commissioner Opdahl made a motion, seconded by Triebold, to close the hearing. Motion carried.

Commissioner Triebold made a motion, seconded by Weber, to approve the 5-year tax exemption on the \$200,000.00 building, to be used as a lodge and located on the NW ¼, Sec. 19, Twp 143, Range 58, in Sibley Trail Township. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," except Berntson, who voted "no," motion carried.

Chairwoman Schwehr, who had returned, recessed the Commissioner meeting and opened the hearing for the Monte and Lori Pritchett tax abatement application for PCL:63-0730031.

Betty Koslofsky, Tax Director, recommended reducing the valuation to \$169,800.00, the amount recommended by the Valley City Commission at their abatement hearing.

Valley City Assessor Linda Morris was present to answer questions from the County Commission.

Commissioner Triebold made a motion, seconded by Weber, to close the abatement hearing. Motion carried.

Commissioner Berntson made a motion, seconded by Triebold, to approve the reduction in property valuation as requested by Monte and Lori Pritchett and recommended by the City of Valley City for PCL:63-0730031, to \$169,800.00. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting “yes,” motion carried.

Gene Bjerke, Sheriff, met with the Commission to request that Nicole Anderson, Chief Correctional Officer, be allowed to carry over 200-plus hours accumulated because of employee shortages that did not allow her to use the vacation.

Commissioner Triebold made a motion, seconded by Weber, to allow Ms. Anderson to use her vacation time instead of losing it. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting “yes,” except Opdahl and Berntson, who voted “no,” motion carried.

Commissioner Weber made a motion, seconded by Opdahl, to re-appoint the following board members: Airport: Robert Beyer, 5-year term; Library (County-appointed): Norma Voldal, 3-year term; School Annexation, Reorganization, and Dissolution Committee: Paul Gage (District 1) and Nyle Burchill (District 5), 3-year terms; School Tuition Committee: Rodger Berntson, 3-year term; Social Service Board: Harlan Opdahl, Cindy Schwehr, Rodger Berntson, 3-year terms; and Housing Authority: Ralph Hooper, 3-year term. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting “yes,” motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the jail situation, with several concerned citizens attending. Jennifer Feist and George Gaukler of the VC-BC Development Corporation presented new options and figures for construction of a new facility. The following were appointed as a core committee to work on a cost breakdown for remodeling the present facility: Sheriff Bjerke, Chief Corrections Officer Nicole Anderson, Commissioner Rhiny Weber, and States Attorney Brad Cruff.

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

Edward R. McGough
Barnes County Auditor

Cindy Schwehr, Chairman
Barnes County Commission