

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session November 18, 2008, with all members present.

Kerry Johnson, Highway Superintendent, informed the Commission that the letters for the right of way along Old Highway 10 were sent out, and that there has been significant interest in it.

Discussion was held concerning a request from a resident of Old 10 to purchase some of the right of way.

Mr. Johnson requested authority to purchase a packer machine for grading, at an approximate cost of \$24,000.00.

Commissioner Berntson made a motion, seconded by Opdahl, to allow Johnson to purchase the packer machine at the approximate cost of \$24,000.00, with funds from the 2008 budget. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Brad Cruff, States Attorney, and Jason Thiel, MIS Director, requested to purchase two power point projectors, one each for the Highway Department conference room and the Commission room.

Commissioner Triebold made a motion, seconded by Opdahl, to allow the purchase of the projectors, with funds to come from the MIS budget. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Ellen Bjelland, County Extension Agent, and Amy Tichy, Parent Resource Coordinator, met with the Commission to discuss a grant program which requires a sponsoring agency to qualify for approximately \$18,000.00, to be used for a preschool program.

Commissioner Triebold made a motion, seconded by Weber, to allow the County to act as sponsoring agent for the preschool program, as requested. 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 October 21, 23, and 30, as presented. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Weber made a motion, seconded by Triebold, to enter into a contract with Healthcare Environmental Services, Inc. of Fargo for biomedical waste disposal. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Berntson made a motion, seconded by Triebold, to extend congratulations to the Valley City Hi-Liners for their excellent 2008 football season. Motion carried.

A letter of resignation from County Recorder Kerstin Cochran, effective February 20, 2009, was presented and discussed.

Gene Bjerke, Sheriff, met with the Commission to discuss Corrections salaries. It was the consensus of the Board that Sheriff Bjerke meets with the Compensation Committee to further discuss the salary issues.

The Commission, along with Sheriff Bjerke and States Attorney Cruff, opened bids for the maintenance and repairs at the jail.

The following bids were submitted: Reliance Telephone, cameras, \$19,710.00; Terry Gilbertson, general contracting, \$129,685.00; and Sorensen Construction, general contracting, \$102,470.00.

Commissioner Opdahl made a motion, seconded by Berntson, to accept the Reliance Telephone bid of \$19,710.00 for the cameras, contingent on the approval of Jason Thiel, MIS Director. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Opdahl made a motion, seconded by Weber, to accept the low bid of \$102,470.00, from Sorensen Construction, for general contracting for the project. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Berntson made a motion, seconded by Opdahl, to have Howard Swanson, attorney, finish the legal work in the Triebold abatement case. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Sarah Thomas of the Village Business Institute, Fargo, met with the Commission to discuss an Employee Assistance Program proposal.

Commissioner Schwehr made a motion, seconded by Opdahl, to join the VBI for the Employee Assistance Program and sign a one-year contract with the agency. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," except Berntson, who voted "no," motion carried.

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

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

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Edward R. McGough  
Barnes County Auditor

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Cindy Schwehr, Chairman  
Barnes County Commission