

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session Tuesday, December 16, 2008, with all members present.

Dick Rausch of FPL Energy was present to discuss another wind farm project and requested permission to haul 60 to 70 loads of wind tower components over the Peak Road while road restrictions are in place. Mr. Rausch assured the commission that FLP will do whatever is needed to protect the road and repair it to its existing condition or better.

Commissioner Schwehr made a motion, seconded by Froelich, that the Commission considers the FPL request upon investigation of approximate cost estimate of minimum repairs by Kerry Johnson, Highway Superintendent, and Mark Anderson of KLJ. The estimates will be reviewed at a meeting set for December 22 at 8 a.m. in Commission chambers. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Opdahl made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to approve the minutes of December 2. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Schwehr made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to approve the following beer, liquor, and Sunday opening licenses: A & J Lodge; Kelly's Ashtabula Crossing Restaurant; City Lights Supper Club, Lounge & Casino; and Sami V's Chop House. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Schwehr made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to cancel taxes of \$116.16 owed on tax sale parcel #62-0100580 in the City of Wimbledon. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Auditor McGough presented a request on behalf of County employees to close the Courthouse Friday, December 26, as part of the Christmas holiday.

Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Opdahl, to close the Courthouse December 26 and allow it as a paid holiday for employees. Upon a roll call vote with Froelich, Opdahl, and Weber voting "yes," and Berntson and Schwehr voting "no," motion carried.

Scott Miller, Barnes County Ambulance owner, met with the Commission to discuss renewal of the County contract.

Commissioner Schwehr made a motion, seconded by Weber, to renew the three-year agreement with Barnes County Ambulance Service. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Opdahl made a motion, seconded by Weber, to continue to reimburse mileage at the current rate of 45 cents per mile in 2009. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Betty Koslofsky, Tax Director, discussed hiring a part-time employee in the tax office.

Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Schwehr, to allow Ms. Koslofsky to proceed with hiring for a 16-hour, no-benefit position, at a Grade 5, starting at \$9.07 per hour, effective January 1, 2009. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," except Opdahl, who voted "no," motion carried.

Commissioner Schwehr made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to adjust pay for the following Correctional officers to \$11.56 per hour: Jesse Burchill, Jenny Eikamp, and Beth Orthman, effective for the 2009 budget year. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Randy Grueneich, County Agent, and Mary Ann Vig updated the Commission on the courthouse lawn landscaping project. Ms. Vig requested approval of application for a Community Transportation Enhancement grant.

Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Opdahl, to allow Vig to proceed with application for the Community Transportation Enhancement grant. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," except Bertson, who voted "no," motion carried.

Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Opdahl, to allow Mr. Grueneich to install a humidifier in the County Extension office, funding the approximately \$1,000.00 cost through the County Agent revolving fund. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Theresa Will, City-County Health Director, met with the Commission to discuss legislation regarding public health funding.

Wanda Auka, Clerk of Court, discussed applying for a Court Facilities Improvement grant for office improvements.

Commissioner Schwehr made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to allow Ms. Auka to apply for the Court Facilities Improvement grant, which would include a County cost of approximately \$8,221.25. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Bob Eggert and Arvid Winkler met with the Commission regarding wind tower assessment procedures and what the State can do to simplify the taxation process for them.

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

Edward R. McGough
Barnes County Auditor

Rodger Bertson, Chairman
Barnes County Commission