

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session Tuesday, January 20, 2009 with all members present.

Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Opdahl, to approve the minutes of December 31 and January 6. Motion carried.

Kerry Johnson, Highway Superintendent, informed the Commission that the repair truck had caught fire and was totaled, and he has been looking at replacements for the truck and its equipment.

Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Opdahl, to allow Mr. Johnson to replace the truck and equipment immediately. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Schwehr made a motion, seconded by Weber, to allow Johnson to hire part-time help with snow removal. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Johnson requested that the Commission declare a county emergency in order to access emergency funds to help with snow removal costs.

Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Opdahl, to advertise for bids for culverts and asphalt. Bid opening will be February 3 (culverts- 11 a.m., asphalt- 11:10 a.m.). Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Mark Anderson of KLJ presented for signature a two-year agreement for engineering services, and an engineering contract for the Kathryn Road project.

Commissioner Schwehr made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to submit a preliminary list of projects eligible for transportation enhancement grants, for such projects as county parks overlay and the North Valley Bike Path. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Schwehr made a motion, seconded by Weber, to sign and enter into a two-year agreement with KLJ for county engineering services. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Schwehr, to sign the engineering contract with KLJ for Project SC-0220 – Micro-surfacing on County Road 21 from Valley City south 9 miles. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding concerns about the Highway Department's summer hours, when they are open four days per week.

Vicki Zinck, Treasurer, presented the annual Pledge of Securities banks for county funds.

Commissioner Schwehr made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to approve the Pledge of Securities for the following financial institutions as presented: Dacotah Bank, Well Fargo Bank, and Bank Forward, all in Valley City. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Kim Franklin, Emergency Manager, presented a Declaration of Emergency for Barnes County.

Commissioner Schwehr made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to adopt the following Declaration of Emergency as presented. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Resolution #1 – Barnes County Emergency Declaration

WHEREAS, the county of Barnes has suffered financially due to overtime expenses for employees and repairs for equipment caused by excessive snowfall occurring in Barnes County;

WHEREAS, the impact of these damages threaten the health, well-being and public safety of citizens in the county of Barnes;

WHEREAS, the cost of response, cleanup, repair and replacement of such damaged property is far in excess of available County resources.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners declare an emergency and order the activation and utilization of the County Emergency Operations Plan, its procedures, attachments and appendices to monitor the situation, alleviate hardship and initiate appropriate relief actions and mitigation measures by departments and agencies of local government to limit the hardships and impact of this emergency upon the citizens of the county of Barnes.

DATED on this 20th day of January in the city of Valley City, North Dakota
/s/ Rodger Berntson, Chairperson, Board of County Commissioners

Chairman Berntson recessed the Commission meeting and opened a hearing on the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Ms. Franklin and Adam Powers of Nick of Time requested that the Commission sign the Plan.

With no one present for or against the plan, Berntson closed the hearing and reconvened the Commission meeting.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that no action will be taken until the plan can be reviewed.

Jim McAllister, Weed Control Director, met with the Commission to discuss 2008 Weed budget costs.

Betty Koslofsky and Liz Roorda of the Tax Office and Bob Eggert of the Soils Committee discussed residential and wind tower valuations.

Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Opdahl, to allow the Tax Director to value the land under the wind turbines and permanent service roads to the turbines as commercial property under a "leasehold interest" with the parcels' tax statements to be sent directly to said power company. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Chairman Berntson recessed the Commission meeting and Park Board Chairman Dale Maasjo opened the Park Board meeting. Present were Mr. Maasjo, Bev Anderson, Parks superintendent, and the Commissioners.

Auditor Edward McGough presented reports for discussion.

Discussion took place concerning possible effects to the Little Yellowstone water supply from an irrigation system a nearby resident has applied to the State Water Commission to install.

Also discussed was a new shower to be installed at Clausen Springs.

Bobby Koeplin discussed the availability of grant dollars.

Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Schwehr, to allow Mr. Maasjo to apply for grants for park improvements.

The Board discussed 2009 Parks part-time salaries.

Commissioner Opdahl made a motion, seconded by Weber, to recommend to the County Commission that the existing part-time Parks employee be allowed 1200 hours at \$9.00 per hour, to a maximum of \$10,800.00. Motion carried.

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

Chairman Berntson reconvened the Commission meeting.

Commissioner Opdahl made a motion, seconded by Weber, to accept the resignation of Kerstin Cochran, Recorder, as per her letter to the Commission, effective February 20, 2009. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

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

Edward R. McGough
Barnes County Auditor

Rodger Berntson, Chairman
Barnes County Commission