

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session Tuesday, April 21, 2009, with all members present except Commissioner Weber.

Mark Anderson of KLJ discussed pushing back a bid date for an upcoming overlay project on County Highway 21 because of roads still under water. It was the consensus of the Commission to go with Mr. Anderson's recommendations.

Kerry Johnson, Highway Superintendent, stated Keystone Pipeline wanted to haul material out on roads which still have load restrictions on them. It was the consensus of the Commission that Mr. Johnson should consult with Brad Cruff, States Attorney, on enforcing the haul road agreement.

Johnson also discussed progress on township roads, stating that many townships have hired contractors for road repair.

Johnson requested that the Highway Department staff be allowed to work five 10-hour days per week.

Commissioner Schwehr made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to allow Highway Department employees to work five 10-hour days. Upon a roll call vote with all present voting "yes," motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding a Highway Department salary. The matter was tabled until the May 5 meeting.

Discussion was held concerning whether to curtail Courthouse hours in view of the City of Valley City's mandatory closure of non-essential businesses.

It was the consensus of the Commission that the Courthouse should remain open for its regular hours during this time.

Eldred Knutson presented a concern about the lack of preparation time for equalization with the flooding problems. Betty Koslofsky, Tax Director, responded that the state was giving no extra time.

The Commission and Brad Cruff reviewed an agreement with FEMA for use of the Courthouse basement rooms for a Disaster Recovery Center.

Commissioner Opdahl made a motion, seconded by Froelich, that Chairman Berntson signs the Agreement for Use allowing FEMA to use the Courthouse basement for a Disaster Recovery Center. Upon a roll call vote with all present voting "yes," motion carried.

Betty Koslofsky, Tax Director, presented abatement applications from Hobart Township as follows:

Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Opdahl, to reduce the 2008 valuation on Parcel 17-4200900, Duane and Karen Leadbetter, from \$133,200 to \$110,000. Upon a roll call vote with Commissioner Weber absent, Schwehr, Froelich, and Opdahl voting "yes," and Berntson "no," motion carried.

Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Opdahl, to reduce the 2008 valuation on Parcel 17-2610110, Harriett and Jerome Johnson, from \$102,300 to \$78,500. Upon a roll call vote with all present voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Schwehr made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to reduce the 2008 valuation on Parcel 17-2740410, Pat and Connie McGough, from \$161,700 to \$150,500. Upon a roll call vote with Commissioner Weber absent, Schwehr, Froelich, and Opdahl voting "no," and Berntson voting "yes," motion failed.

Commissioner Opdahl made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to reduce the 2008 valuation on Parcel 17-2740410, Pat and Connie McGough, from \$161,700 to \$143,000.00. Upon a roll call vote with Commissioners Schwehr, Froelich and Opdahl voting "yes," and Berntson voting "no," motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the installation of a culvert at Clausen Springs, between Spring Creek and Oakhill townships. With additional damage done during the flooding, several funding options were discussed, and a funding agreement will be decided upon. Damages will be documented for possible FEMA help.

Discussion was held concerning abatement decisions.

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

Edward R. McGough
Barnes County Auditor

Rodger Berntson, Chairman
Barnes County Commission