

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session Thursday, December 17, with all members present.

Board appointments were discussed.

Commissioner Berntson made a motion, seconded by Opdahl, to re-appoint Don Kosse to the Airport Authority. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Weber made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to re-appoint Dr. James Buhr to the City-County Health Board. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Opdahl, to re-appoint Pat Hurley to the Water Resource Board. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Berntson presented a letter from Alex Punton, Jr., tendering his resignation from the Planning and Zoning Board.

Commissioner Berntson made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to accept the resignation of Alex Punton, Jr. from the Barnes County Planning and Zoning Board. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Ed McGough, Auditor, presented a letter from Jim Stevens indicating he would not serve another term on the Planning and Zoning Board. Commissioner Weber reported he is working with a possible replacement for Mr. Stevens.

The Board discussed the opening created on the School Annexation, Reorganization and Dissolution Committee (ARDC) with the resignation of Paul Gage. Mr. McGough presented the name of Mike Schwehr as a candidate for the position. Chairwoman Schwehr requested to refrain from the vote due to a possible conflict of interest.

Commissioner Opdahl made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to allow Schwehr to refrain from the vote to appoint a member to the ARDC due to conflict of interest in being related to the candidate. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Opdahl made a motion, seconded by Weber, to appoint Mike Schwehr to the Annexation, Reorganization and Dissolution Committee to finish the term of Paul Gage. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," except Commissioner Froelich, who voted "no," motion carried.

Ellen Bjelland, County Extension Agent, and Amy Tichy, Parenting Resource Coordinator, met with the Commission to present grant funding contracts for signatures.

Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Opdahl, to approve entering into contract to provide fiscal agent services for 2009-2010 Gearing Up for Kindergarten program, with Ms. Tichy as coordinator, along with sub awards #FAR-0015930VC and #FAR0015937.

Commissioner Weber made a motion, seconded by Berntson, to approve the minutes of December 1, 2009, as presented. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

The Commission discussed a change in the portfolio schedule as follows: Commissioner Berntson will take the Recorder's Office portfolio, and Chairwoman Schwehr will serve as the County Planning and Zoning portfolio holder.

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

Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Opdahl, to cancel taxes of \$164.84 on PCL: 62-060070 for tax sale property. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Berntson, to thank Jim Stevens and Alex Punton, Jr., for their years of dedicated service on the Barnes County Zoning Board. Motion carried.

Betty Koslofsky, Tax Director, presented an abatement application from Royce and Kaneia Kinney, requesting reduction of valuation on PCL: 17-4100325, from \$259,600.00 to \$175,000.00.

Bruce Anderson was present to discuss the abatement on behalf of Hobart Township, which recommended valuation reduction to \$175,000.00.

Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Weber, to lower the valuation of PCL: 17-4100325, from \$256,600.00 to \$185,000.00. Upon a roll call vote with Froelich, Weber, and Schwehr voting "yes," and Opdahl and Berntson voting "no," motion carried.

Wanda Auka, Clerk of Court, and Brad Cruff, States Attorney, met with the Commission to discuss the status of the state court grant.

Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Weber, to approve the inclusion of two computers and scanners into the grant. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Berntson, to approve submission of the grant application, which includes two computers and scanners, for a total of \$199,277.00. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Chairwoman Schwehr presented Beth Bakke an engraved clock in honor of her 40 years of dedicated service to the County. Ms. Bakke is employed in the Auditor's Office.

Brad Cruff and Betty Koslofsky of the Employee Compensation Committee met with the Commission to discuss the grade reduction of employee Richard Lee, who requested that his grade be returned to a 7 after being dropped to a 6. The Committee recommended that the grade remain at 6.

Commissioner Opdahl made a motion, seconded by Berntson, that the grade of Richard Lee, Highway Department employee, remains at 6. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," except Froelich, who voted "no," motion carried.

After discussion, Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Opdahl, that the Compensation Committee re-evaluates the Courthouse Deputy Custodian grade position. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Mike Abraham, Minnie Lake Township Chairman, discussed FEMA payments to the townships.

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

Edward R. McGough
Barnes County Auditor

Cindy Schwehr, Chairman
Barnes County Commission