

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session Tuesday, August 16, 2011 with all members present.

ER road projects and financing were discussed. Mark Anderson, KLJ, estimated the hillside at the Crossing would be a \$1 million project, and the Bayshore slide would be a simpler fix. Mr. Johnson reported the bids for the grade raise on County #22 west of Highway #1 would be opened August 19 in Bismarck. The Commission set a special meeting for August 22 to approve those bids.

Froelich made a motion, seconded by Berntson, to accept the finalized project CER-0221(070), a box culvert on County #21. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Load restrictions were discussed. Johnson presented a revised map of proposed additional restrictions on designated county gravel roads.

Froelich made a motion, seconded by Berntson, to impose the load restrictions to 6 tons with a speed limit of 35 mph on the designated roads, until further notice.

Johnson stated he has hired staff to fill all Highway Department positions.

Richard Risser, Highway Department employee, requested he be paid for mechanical work he did on the Parks pickup. After discussion, Froelich made a motion, seconded by Leitner, to approve payment of the \$1225 bill to Mr. Risser. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," except Knutson, who voted "no," motion carried.

The minutes were reviewed. Knutson made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to approve the minutes of August 2 and special meetings August 3 and 11, with corrections. Motion carried.

The Commission reviewed the cleaning contract currently held by Servicemaster. Stan Horst, Buildings and Grounds Director, recommended the contract be continued.

Betty Koslofsky, Tax Director, presented the following Planning and Zoning Board recommendations for approval:

- Melvin Wendel, variance for a 105' building setback for a storage building, Hemen Township, NW ¼, 4-139-60. Froelich made a motion, seconded by Knutson, to approve. Motion carried.
- Kyle Jorrisen, variance for a 140' building setback for a storage building, Edna Township, SW ¼, 21-142-60. Froelich made a motion, seconded by Knutson, to approve. Motion carried.
- Robert Burchill, auditor's lot 17.18 acres, Alta Township, 5-140-57, 17.18 acres. Knutson made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to approve. Motion carried.

The Commission discussed obtaining new no-cost buckle up signs for Courthouse parking lot entrances/exits.

The Commission authorized hiring a part-time employee to help with tasks in the Auditor's Office.

Harold Rotunda, CPA, was present to discuss the budget process. The Commission added budget discussion to the special meeting set for August 22.

Kim Franklin, Emergency Manager, presented a Memorandum of Understanding with Stutsman County. Berntson made a motion, seconded by Leitner, to approve and sign the Memorandum as presented. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Lee Grossman, State's Attorney, discussed the Nick of Time situation, in which Barnes County paid the agency \$45,000 for mapping which was not done. The company no longer exists and Mr. Grossman has not been able to contact owner Adam Powers. Grossman discussed litigation options. The Commission directed him to decide how to proceed.

Grossman also informed the Commission that no charges will be filed in the case of the radio frequency transfer contract wherein signatures were forged to have the contract transferred to the Valley City Police Department from the Sheriff's Office. A BCI investigation did not determine who signed the contract, and the frequency was never transferred; therefore, no charges will be filed.

A public hearing was held on the proposed sale of property to U.S. Fish and Wildlife. One written letter of protest was received. Berntson stated constituents he spoke to were opposed to the sale, with lack of weed control, the 7,000 acres already owned by the Service, and lost tax revenues. Froelich spoke in favor of the sale, supporting hunting land as well as landowner rights to sell where they can get the best price. Knutson spoke in opposition, citing the large amount of farmland being lost to water in the County already.

Froelich made a motion, seconded by Leitner, to approve the land sale to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife service as presented. Upon a roll call vote as follows: Leitner, yes; Knutson, no; Berntson, no; Froelich, yes; Schwehr, yes; motion carried.

Mary Buringrud, Correctional Officer who recently transferred from the Social Services office, requested a vacation buyout rather than transferring it. It was the consensus of the Commission to deny the buyout.

Stan Horst, Building & Grounds Supervisor, discussed the insurance payment for the election trailer totaled out by wind damage. It was the consensus of the Commission to purchase a new trailer with the insurance payment.

Theresa Will, Heather Pautz, and Ellen Bjelland reviewed the Achieve Assessment over the past year and discussed a worksite wellness grant which would allow expansion of the program.

Duane Lettenmaier and Jamie Smith of the Barnes County Water Resource District met with the Commission to request funding for water projects.

After discussion, Froelich made a motion, seconded by Knutson, to commit \$20,000 toward a Hobart Lake hydrologic study. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Paul Abrahamson, Edna Township landowner, presented a preliminary resolution regarding Ten Mile Lake.

Kim Franklin, Emergency Manager, discussed an ambulance service agreement, in which her ambulance schedule would be made available to Commissioner Knutson.

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

Edward R. McGough/jhn
Barnes County Auditor

Cindy Schwehr, Chairperson
Barnes County Commission