

Barnes County Commission
Tuesday, September 20, 2011
Valley City, North Dakota

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session Tuesday, September 20, 2011 with all members present.

Kerry Johnson, Highway Superintendent, presented for signature an agreement on the North Valley Bridge [Project BRU-2-990(040)044]. Froelich made a motion, seconded by Leitner, to approve signature of the agreement. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Shawn Mayfield of KLJ reported the ER projects are now completed. Discussion was held regarding concerns about the Urbana sites, and west of the blinking light. Mr. Johnson expressed concern about trucks using the road. He also addressed the road to the county tower and stated a pickup can get through the road and that a blade probably would not help.

Budget discussion was held. Lee Grossman, State's Attorney, discussed the Water Board mill allotment regarding whether additional mills could be levied to pay dues. He stated the mills are limited to 4.

A maintenance contract for two FEMA parcels in Marsh Township was reviewed. Knutson made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to approve the contract with David Johnson with terms as follows: a 5-year, renewable contract defining maintenance duties on Parcel 1, 1.81 acres located in the SE ¼ of SE ¼, 138-58-9; and Parcel 2, 2.19 acres located in the SE ¼ of 138-58-9, with the County to pay Mr. Johnson \$50 per year per parcel for the maintenance. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Part-time help in the auditor's office was discussed. Froelich made a motion, seconded by Leitner, to allow the office to hire Myrna Olstad for 17 hours per week at a salary \$10 per hour. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

A delegate to the North Dakota Association of Counties convention was discussed. Berntson made a motion, seconded by Leitner, to appoint Kerry Johnson. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Dates for the tax sale were discussed as follows: October 14, set prices; October 25, public hearing on prices; November 15, tax sale.

Minutes of August 16 and 22, and September 1 and 6 were reviewed, with one correction made. Knutson made a motion, seconded by Leitner, to approve the minutes as amended. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Jason Thiel, MIS Director, introduced new part-time employee, Felix Kyei-Asare, who will be working 12 hours per week.

Vicki Zinck, Treasurer, reported on her research for a credit card system to allow taxpayers the option of paying taxes by credit card. Leitner made a motion, seconded by Knutson, to approve entering into a contract with Official Payments to implement the option of tax payments by credit card. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Ms. Zinck also requested to hire part-time help. Froelich made a motion, seconded by Leitner, to allow her to hire a part-time employee to help seasonally. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Betty Koslofsky, Tax/Zoning Director, presented Planning and Zoning Board-recommended items. Vice-chair Froelich, acting chairperson in Schwehr's absence, closed the meeting and opened a variance hearing for Dean Carpenter, Thordenskjold, NE1/4, 2-137-57 for a 120' setback for a farm shop.

Knutson made a motion, seconded by Leitner, to close the variance hearing. Motion carried. Froelich re-convened the Commission meeting.

Knutson made a motion, seconded by Leitner, to approve the variance for Dean Carpenter as requested. Motion carried.

Froelich closed the regular meeting and opened the hearing on the E. John Pegg abatement, for Pcl 63-4000224, a FEMA buyout residence. Recommendation was for valuation reduction for 2009 from \$26,900 to \$18,500, and for 2010 from \$26,300 to \$9,600.

Knutson made a motion, seconded by Berntson, to close the abatement hearing. Motion carried. Froelich re-convened the Commission meeting.

Berntson made a motion, seconded by Knutson, to approve the abatement request as recommended. Upon a roll call vote with all present voting "yes," motion carried.

Discussion was held concerning the status of Auditor Ed McGough, who has been out on medical leave. It was the consensus of the Commission to set up a meeting with Mr. McGough to discuss a possible temporary replacement until such a time as he can resume his duties.

Betty Koslofsky provided requested copies of salary options.

Discussion was held regarding a portion of Little Yellowstone found to be owned by Grant Dick. The issue was tabled pending further research.

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