

The Barnes County Commission met in special session Tuesday, October 25, with all members present.

Froelich made a motion, seconded by Knutson, to remove the item "Devils Lake Resolution" from the agenda. Motion carried.

Chairperson Schwehr closed the meeting and opened the public hearing on the sale prices set for tax delinquent properties. With no one present for or against, Knutson made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to adjourn the hearing and re-convene the meeting. Motion carried.

Shawn Mayfield of KLJ reported on the damaged emergency repair sites at Meadow Lake and Eckelson Lake on Highways 22 and 7. Discussion was held regarding the differences between ER work and permanent repairs. Mayfield stated a pavement problem at the Sanborn grade raise will be fixed. He presented for signature a NDDOT contract amendment stating the DOT will fund the North Valley Bridge project, then bill the County back 20 percent of the cost.

Froelich made a motion, seconded by Leitner, to sign the Amendment to Contract 38112391 on Project BRU-2-990(040)044. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Minutes of October 4, 5, and 14 were reviewed and amended. Knutson made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding cell phone overages totaling \$605 incurred by Ed McGough, auditor, during his medical absence.

Leitner made a motion, seconded by Knutson, to communicate with McGough that he should pay the overage or provide documentation the overages were necessary to County business. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Linda Leadbetter, Steele County Auditor who is providing assistance to the Auditor's office during McGough's absence, reported to the Commission as to what she is prioritizing and her plans for the office. She stated she will spend about 1.5 days per week working here.

Betty Koslofsky, Tax/Zoning Director, presented an assessing contract for Rogers Township, containing 157 parcels. Leitner made a motion, seconded by Knutson, for the County to enter into the assessing contract with Rogers Township, for an annual charge of \$549.50. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Ms. Koslofsky presented Planning and Zoning Board-recommended business. Schwehr closed the meeting and opened a variance hearing for Shannon and Vivian Bowman on a 100' building setback for a grain bin in Rosebud Township, SE corner, 22-137-60.

Froelich made a motion, seconded by Berntson, to close the hearing and approve the variance as presented. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried. Schwehr re-convened the Commission meeting.

Schwehr closed the meeting and opened a variance hearing for David Bostrom on a 187' building setback for a garage in Green Township, NE1/4, 9-139-59.

Berntson made a motion, seconded by Knutson, to close the hearing and approve the variance as presented. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried. Schwehr re-convened the Commission meeting.

Schwehr closed the meeting and opened a variance hearing for Scott Hansen on a 100' building setback, on a pole building to be located on the section line, Marsh, SW1/4, 19 & 20-139-58. Discussion was held regarding the status of the section line abandonment. Lee Grossman, State's Attorney, stated he had changed his position on the abandonment and did not feel he would advise that action.

Knutson made a motion, seconded by Berntson, to close the hearing and approve the variance as presented. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried. Schwehr re-convened the Commission meeting.

Schwehr closed the meeting and opened the hearing for BNSF Railroad for a 150' tower height variance located in Ellsbury, 14/17-143-56W.

Schwehr closed the hearing and re-convened the meeting. Froelich made a motion, seconded by Leitner, to approve the variance. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Froelich made a motion, seconded by Knutson, to approve the following auditor's lots: Shirley Tschannen, Pcl 2, SW1/4, 32-142-58, Outlot A, Ashtabula Outlook; and Brady Jorrisen, Auditor's Lots 1, 2, & 3, SW1/4, Edna, 21-142-60. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Knutson summarized land leases available for bids.

Jason Thiel, MIS Director, requested to purchase a new document management system (M Files). He outlined the product and stated it can be used by multiple departments.

Leitner made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to allow the purchase of the Marco M Files system as requested, at a cost of approximately \$ 20,995. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," except Berntson, who voted "no," motion carried.

Kim Franklin reviewed recommended changes to the Courthouse Emergency Plan. Knutson made a motion, seconded by Leitner, to approve the Emergency Plan with the amendments. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Ms. Franklin also presented a list of cost information for various equipment and security at the EOC at the Highway Department. Knutson made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to proceed with the proposal. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Franklin presented the following grant proposals for signature: 2009 Homeland Security for Emergency Responder Reprogramming for \$26,375 and 2011 Homeland Security for P25 Radio Equipment for \$192,637. Knutson made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to sign the grant applications. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Discussion was held concerning setting up an easement on the parcel of land associated with Little Yellowstone Park which is owned by Grant Dick. The land in question is located on the east side of the creek in Ransom County and contains three campsites. The easement would allow the landowner to be released of any liability to campers.

Knutson made a motion, seconded by Leitner, to ask the State's Attorney to draw up an easement agreement releasing Grant Dick from liability on the property he owns at Little Yellowstone Park. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Compensation for Linda Leadbetter was discussed. It was the consensus of the Board to pay her regular salary plus mileage reimbursement.

Jim McAllister, Weed Manager, requested purchase of a UTB and a GPS unit for it, a cost of approximately \$17,000, as well as to purchase the chemical Milestone before the first of the year to take advantage of a cost savings of about \$30 per gallon.

Leitner made a motion, seconded by Knutson, to amend the Weed Department budget for the requested expenditures.

Mr. McAllister also discussed a right of way containing alfalfa which was sprayed and subsequently the County reseeded it. After discussion, Froelich made a motion, seconded by Knutson, that no alfalfa be planted in County right-of-ways, that grass only is allowed. Upon a roll call vote with Knutson, Froelich, and Schwehr voting "yes," and Leitner and Berntson voting "no," motion carried.

More discussion was held with Linda Leadbetter concerning auditor's office issues, redistricting, and salary and reimbursement. It was agreed that a contract would be drawn up within the next few days.

Knutson discussed scheduling of a Park Board meeting, and stated he would arrange for one in November.

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

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Edward R. McGough  
Barnes County Auditor

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Cindy Schwehr, Chairperson  
Barnes County Commission