

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday August 21, 2012 with all members present.

### **Highway Department**

Kerry Johnson, County Road Superintendent, presented contracts CER-0221(072) Bayshore slide repair 12 miles north of Valley City and CER-0238(057) inslope repair, riprap and incidentals 4 miles east of Kathryn. Johnson will get a start date published in the paper once contracts are signed.

Commissioner Berntson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Knutson, to approve contracts with Strata to move forward with projects CER-0221(072) and CER-0238(057). Motion carried unanimously.

Shawn Mayfield, representing KLJ, presented two engineering contracts corresponding to the preceding projects. The Bayshore engineering construction fee will be \$26,580.13 and the Kathryn engineering construction fee will be \$17,266.22. This will be an 80/20 cost share resulting in Barnes County being responsible for \$5,316.03 and \$3,453.25 respectively.

Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Knutson, to approve the selection of KLJ for the projects. Motion carried unanimously.

Kerry Johnson gave project updates on the north valley bridge replacement, County #22 chip seal work, Fox Lake culvert, and Meadow Lake township work.

### **Pierce Township**

Leslie Koll, Piece Township Chairman, brought forth discussion regarding culverts that have been delivered for County #1 and #5. Concerns are that water goes into Griggs County and flows back into Baldhill Creek. The township has been stalled on placing culverts due to conflict with Griggs County. Kerry Johnson was in agreement that this project would benefit Pierce Township, and they will continue working to get it in place.

### **North Star Classic Consignment Sale**

Commissioner Berntson brought up the North Star Classic Consignment Sale in the first week of December. Chairperson Schwehr will send a letter to department heads to compile a list of excess and unused county inventory to be put up for bids at the auction.

### **Potter Township**

David Lettenmaier, Potter Township Supervisor, brought forth discussion regarding water problems 1 mile north of Sanborn on County #11. Lettenmaier requested the County survey, take core samples, clean the culverts out and work with the Highway Department and Water Board to resolve the situation. Commissioner Froelich recommended that Lettenmaier work with the Water Board and US Fish & Wildlife, then present their findings to the Commission for further determination on action required.

### **Auditor's Office**

Vicki Zinck, County Treasurer, requested a treasurer's check in the amount of \$6.00, payable to Jeffrey Hoover and dated 9/15/10, be cancelled. A letter was sent to him requesting that he cash it, but it remains outstanding.

Commissioner Bertson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Froelich, to cancel the \$6.00 check. Motion carried unanimously.

### **FEMA Buyouts**

Mary Geffre, representing SCDRC, requested an extension to move a FEMA buyout house purchased by Adam Johnson. The end date to have it removed from the property was September 15, but an extension was requested to allow it to be moved off by October 1. The lot must be completely cleared off by November 6. Commissioner Bertson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Knutson, to grant an extension to October 1, 2012 to move the house and outbuildings. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bertson reminded Geffre that the County had approved a motion several weeks back to put \$2200-2400 up to cover some expenses that property owners were supposed to pay up front in regards to the landslides at the lake. These funds have not been paid back to the County yet. Geffre said repayment to the County is forthcoming.

### **Bridge Bond Resolution**

Lee Grossman, States Attorney, presented a bridge bond resolution to be placed on the general election ballot. Commissioner Knutson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Froelich, to put a bridge bond issue on the ballot for the general election. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Commission Discussion**

There was discussion regarding the upcoming NDACo Annual Conference Sunday, October 7 through Wednesday October 10<sup>th</sup>. All Commissioners will be attending.

Ed McGough has retired from his position as County Auditor. A farewell party was discussed and a date of Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup> was set. It will be held in the Barnes County Courthouse from 2-4 pm.

### **Planning and Zoning**

Betty Koslofsky, Tax/Zoning Director, requested a variance of 155.58 acres, 150', in Mansfield Township, 2-139-61, SE ¼ to build a machinery shed for Johnny and Joseph Weber. Commissioner Bertson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Froelich, to approve the variance. Motion carried unanimously.

Koslofsky requested a conditional use permit in Raritan Township, 12-137-56, 6.61 acres, tract in NW ¼ to allow agricultural land to be used for residential land for Tyler Roach. Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Knutson, to approve the conditional use permit. Motion carried unanimously.

Koslofsky requested a conditional use permit and auditor's lot approval of 5 acres, more or less, in Potter Township, 26-140-60, part of auditor's lot 1 of NW ¼ to allow agricultural land to be used for residential land for Brian Welken. Commissioner Leitner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Knutson, to approve the conditional use permit and auditor's lot. Motion carried unanimously.

Koslofsky requested auditor's lot approval of 13.85 acres for Green Township, 16-139-59, auditor's lot 1 for David Bertson. Commissioner Bertson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Knutson, to approve the auditor's lot. Motion carried unanimously.

Koslofsky requested auditor's lot approvals of 18 acres in Getchell Township 05-141-58, auditor's lot 1 of NE ¼ and auditor's lot 1 of SW ¼, and Section 8, auditor's lot 1 W ½ to split crop from non-crop land for Albert Wittenberg. Commissioner Froehlich made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Knutson, to approve all three auditor's lots. Motion carried unanimously.

Koslofsky requested auditor's lot approval of 11.98 acres in Getchell Township, 32-141-58, auditor's lot 1 of NE ¼ for Cory Ravnaas. Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Leitner, to approve the auditor's lot. Motion carried unanimously.

Koslofsky requested auditor's lot approvals of 1.01 acres in Green Township, 17-139-59, auditor's lots 1 & 2 of NW ¼ for Larry Pederson. Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Berntson, to approve the auditor's lots. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion occurred regarding a FEMA buyout house originally belonging to Ken Adams which was bought by Cory Sorby and scheduled to move to a section of land that hadn't been zoned. There have been disagreements between the property owner and zoning board over a conditional use permit and who should cover the costs. Koslofsky will review with Lee Grossman on how to proceed.

### **Emergency Management**

Kim Franklin, Emergency Manager, discussed Lutheran Social Service Disaster Response reimbursing those that had damages related to flooding in 2011. The County was allotted a \$93,909.31 grant for housing rehabilitation. Franklin requested a resolution for LSSDR to oversee the program and give 3% of the allotment, or \$2817.28, to them for administrative costs.

Commissioner Leitner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Knutson, to enter an agreement with Lutheran Social Service Disaster Response to oversee the project. Motion carried unanimously.

There was also discussion regarding the conversion of radios to digital and narrow band. The conversion has caused considerable decrease in the quality and reliability of communications in certain areas of the county. Franklin wanted the Commission to consider adding another tower, which would run around \$180,000. Commissioner Berntson discussed the possibility of renting an existing tower west of Eckelson and the Commission recommended Franklin look into and report findings back at the next meeting.

### **Interim Auditor/Auditor's Office**

Commissioner Leitner and Interim Auditor Julie Mindt presented the Commission with an Auditor's Office plan during the search for a new Auditor. Discussion was also held regarding the appointment process for the new Auditor. Originally, all Commissioners were in consensus that it should be an appointed position, but after much consideration, Commissioner Berntson wanted it reflected that he is opposed to appointing an Auditor and that he feels someone should be elected to fill out the position.

Preliminary budget hearing dates were set for Thursday, August 30 and Thursday, September 6.

### **NDACo Proposal for NG-911**

NG-911 (Next Generation 911) is on the agenda to be covered at the NDACo annual convention in October. The current proposal concerning operation and control of NG-911 is unclear. Lee Grossman, States Attorney, said essentially control of 911 would be turned over to an NDACo seven member board if the County opts in to it. The Commissioners will attend the NDACo presentation to learn more before further action is taken regarding a decision on the proposal.

### **Clausen Springs**

Bobby Koeplin, Barnes County Park District, and Commissioner Knutson brought forth discussion on ATV's and snowmobiles going across the spillway at Clausen Springs. Koeplin reported that since it is owned by ND Game & Fish, ATV's and snowmobiles are not allowed in the area. The Barnes County Sheriff's Department and Game and Fish Department have enforcement authority over the area.

The Clausen Springs paving project build to date is \$278,317.49. \$347,958 was Border State's original paving contract amount. Koeplin is submitting for FEMA reimbursement but it hasn't come through yet. The Commission agreed to transfer from the General Fund to the Park Fund to cover the \$278,317.49. Once FEMA reimbursement comes in to the Park Fund, the funds will be transferred back to the General Fund.

Bob Nelson's resignation from the Park Board was discussed.

### **Truck Regulatory**

The Commission discussed entering into a contract with the City of Valley City to allow Truck Regulatory to weigh vehicles that have entered Valley City from the County for enforcement purposes. The City would reimburse Truck Regulatory approximately \$5000.00. Contract terms could be six or twelve months depending on an agreement with the City of Valley City. The County is awaiting the City's formal request.

### **Commission Discussion**

Commissioner Knutson questioned why entities such as the Weed Board and Emergency Manager pay rent to the Highway Department as they share the same County owned building. They are county entities as opposed to a separate entity that would have to pay rent to be in a county owned building. Knutson also questioned why the Highway Department was allowed a work week consisting of 4-10 hour shifts during the summer with Fridays off when no other County offices follow that schedule. Government offices should be open Monday through Friday to serve the public. These are possible future agenda items.

With no further business, Commissioner Knutson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Leitner, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

---

Julie Mindt  
Interim - Barnes County Auditor

---

Cindy Schwehr, Chairperson  
Barnes County Commission