

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, July 18, 2017 with Cindy Schwehr, Bill Carlbom, Mike Metcalf, John Froelich, and Rodger Berntson present. Chairman Metcalf called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m., the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the Agenda was reviewed.

Planning & Zoning – Variances & CUPs / Maternity Leave

Jessica Jenrich, Planning & Zoning Coordinator, presented an application for three Variances – Setback of 30-33 feet from center of subdivision road from Paul J Finn (Sibley Trail Township, Lot 16 Block 1 Homestead Subdivision 13-143-58), Dennis W Finn (Lot 15 Block 1 Homestead Subdivision 13-143-58), and Joel P Finn (Lot 17 Block 1 Homestead Subdivision 13-143-58). Bill Carlbom moved to deny the applications; Rodger Berntson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Ms. Jenrich presented an application for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and a Variance – Utilities (only needed if closer than 75 feet from the center of the line) from Inter-Community Telephone Company, LLC (Norma Township, SE ¼ 7 & 8 138-57). Bill Carlbom moved to approve the application; John Froelich seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Ms. Jenrich presented an application for a Variance – Setback & Trees 25 feet from center of subdivision road - from Scott K Walker (Lot 1 Block 2 Homestead Subdivision Sibley Trail Township, SW ¼ 29-140-56). Bill Carlbom moved to deny the application; John Froelich seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. Ms. Jenrich presented an application for a CUP & a Variance – Setback for utilities closer than 75 feet from Barnes Rural Water District (Valley Township, N ½ 19-140-58). Bill Carlbom moved to approve the application; Rodger Berntson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. A preliminary plat for Moon Lake Subdivision was presented for review, and will be acted upon in August. Zoning of Lake Ashtabula subdivisions was discussed, as well as Ms. Jenrich’s upcoming maternity leave.

Social Services – Salary Request / Update

Wanda Larson, Social Services Director, wants to hire a new eligibility worker at \$3,700 per month. John Froelich moved to approve hiring a new eligibility worker at \$3,700; Cindy Schwehr seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. For the 2018 budget year, General Assistance and County Burials will be the responsibility of the General Fund.

Highway Department – Gussette Approach Application / Project Updates

Kerry Johnson, Road Superintendent, presented an Approach Application from Lee Gussette to move an approach in 27 & 28 -142-61. Cindy Schwehr moved to approve the request; Bill Carlbom seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”. An application for assistance is being submitted to address an issue of erosion on the Sheyenne River along County Road #21. Shawn Mayfield, Kadrmars, Lee & Jackson, provided project updates. The Faust Dam Bridge project should be done next week, and the paving up by Wimbledon should be done in the next week or two, as well.

Emergency Management – Burn Ban Discussion

Sue Lloyd, Emergency Manager, and Holly Neuberger, Assistant Dispatch Coordinator, met with the Commission to discuss whether or not to place a burn ban into effect for Barnes County. Ms. Neuberger indicated that most of the rural fire districts have felt that a burn ban is not necessary at this time, and offered to keep in touch with the fire chiefs on a regular basis, in order to stay on top of the situation.

Auditor – Minutes / Sodbuster Local Permit

Bill Carlbom moved to approve the July 3, 2017 regular Commission meeting minutes and the July 12, 2017 Special Meeting minutes; John Froelich seconded the motion. Motion carried. Cindy Schwehr moved to approve an Application for Local Permit for raffle and bingo from Sodbuster Club; Bill Carlbom seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

Commission Discussion

The budget schedule, Veterans Services vehicle repairs, and a thank you letter from Energy Transfer for the assistance received from the Barnes County Sheriff’s Department during the Dakota Access Pipeline protests were discussed. Dennis Maresh, Barnes County VSO driver, was honored to raise the flag at a recent Minnesota Twins game. Barnes County appreciates Dennis’ efforts for Barnes County veterans. Hobart Lake project is waiting on one easement. John Froelich is researching costs and possible cooperation with Stutsman County to bring up the weight restriction on an Uxbridge Township 1 ¼ mile road upgrade between Sections 19 and 30. The National Guard has moved out and turned over control of the property they were leasing at the Airport back to the Barnes County Airport Authority.

Department Head Meeting

Lilie Schoenack, Assistant State’s Attorney, will be leaving the County to be the Valley City City Attorney. The skylight / roof repair project is completed. There is some flashing to be replaced in the near future. Emergency Management will be putting on teen emergency response training at the Valley City High School. Veterans Services is working on getting some tombstones for unmarked veterans’ gravesites. Dispatch is implementing some changes intent on improving response times in cardiac and stroke events. The Sheriff’s Department obtained a drone using grant funds from Burlington Northern Railroad, Alliance Pipeline, and Cass County Electric’s round-

up program. A few employees will be trained to operate it, and it may be used for search & rescue, has infra-red capabilities, and can be used in many ways to access areas that may be inaccessible, or unsafe to send personnel into.

City-County Health District report:

- CCHD is working with CHI Mercy Health on being a Cardiac Ready Community. We will be looking for additional funding for local businesses to purchase AEDs for their sites, and they will be responsible for keeping them up to date with fresh batteries and pads per manufacturer recommendations. You may have also noticed at some events recently that the Barnes County Ambulance staff has been encouraging people to use the “hands only” CPR technique.
- Heather Schwehr, Tobacco Prevention coordinator, is working with Central Valley Health District’s tobacco coordinator on updating addiction protocols and procedures used at South Central Human Service Center in Jamestown. They will be urging South Central to treat ALL addictions at the same time (tobacco, alcohol, substances). Theresa is also among some public health directors working with the Department of Health regarding the change over from the Center for Tobacco Prevention & Control to NDDoH.
- Katie Beyer, Alcohol Prevention coordinator, attended Strategic Prevention Framework Partnership For Success required training in Bismarck last week. Becky Kratz also attended one day of SPF PFS financial training at the same time.
- Theresa is now among four certified Master Trainers in Valley City for the Adverse Childhood Experiences program. ACEs mission is to educate the public regarding the negative life-long effects of childhood trauma. She and the other trainers will be available for presentations in the workplace and to organizations and other groups. The program seeks to change the question of “What’s wrong with you?” to “What’s happened to you?”
- Theresa has been working on two major grant applications. We are applying for a regional \$250,000 per year HRSA grant and a \$180,000 ND Department of Human Services grant. The focus of both grants is Opioid Use Disorder and overdose. Opioid use is not as prevalent in the state as marijuana, meth and alcohol use, but these grants would allow our region and/or community to take a proactive stance on a looming issue.
- CCHD has offered in-kind office space to reGroup, a facility out of Moorhead that offers peer support and recovery services in the Minnesota area. They are applying for a grant that would allow them to do outreach work in nine counties in eastern ND, of which Barnes and Richland would be first among the target counties. They would have a recovery coach, project coordinator and peer mentors in Fargo. Over time, 1-2 would be based in Valley City. The staff that would potentially be coming here would be under a licensed addiction counselor out of Fargo’s reGroup. They want to see people who come out of prison/corrections or addiction treatment. The peer mentors are people who have had an addiction themselves and have been in recovery for at least two years.
- CCHD staff is gearing up for the upcoming flu shot season beginning in September.
- Our staff has been utilizing a new Patagonia Electronic Health Record system since mid-May. This system will provide more information security and will lessen the amount of paper needed. This has been a learning-curve project for staff members, but we are beginning to “pick up speed” entering information!

With no further business, Bill Carlblom made a motion, seconded by John Froelich, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Mike Metcalf, Chairman
Barnes County Commission

Beth M Didier
Barnes County Auditor