

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 with Cindy Schwehr, Vicky Lovell, Bill Carlblom, Pete Paulson, and Shawn Olauson present. Chairman Carlblom called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m., the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the Agenda was reviewed.

Veterans Service – Storage / Van Needs

Angela Hunt, Veteran Service Officer, visited with the Commission regarding storage needs, as well as replacement of the current van in the coming year. Cindy Schwehr moved that eligible widows be allowed access to the veteran's van services; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting "yes".

Planning & Zoning – Variances/CUPs/Re-Zone

Jessica Jenrich, Planning & Zoning Coordinator, presented an application for a Variance – Setback 34' from West property line from Kristin M Boll (Ashtabula Township, Lakeview 2nd Sub 15-142-58). Bill Carlblom moved to approve the application at 38', contingent upon subdivision/section line questions being resolved; Cindy Schwehr seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with Vicky Lovell and Pete Paulson voting "no". Ms. Jenrich presented an application for a Conditional Use Permit - utility from Verizon Wireless (Ashtabula Township, NE ¼ 27-142-58). Cindy Schwehr moved to approve the application; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting "yes". Ms. Jenrich presented an application for a Variance – Setback 3' from South property line and 7' from North property line from James P Noeske (Ashtabula Township, Martin's Landing SW ¼ 32-142-58). Vicky Lovell moved to approve the application; Cindy Schwehr seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting "yes".

State's Attorney – New Hire / Office Space Proposal

Cindy Schwehr moved to approve offering \$74,000 to hire an Assistant State's Attorney; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting "yes". Vicky Lovell moved that the State's Attorney or Assistant State's Attorney be available at any meeting requested and that department head requests are addressed in a timely fashion; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting "yes". The State's Attorney proposed swapping space with Juvenile Court. The Commission chose to table the discussion until further research can be done.

Highway Department – Motor Grader Bids

Kerry Johnson, Highway Superintendent, provided project updates and presented the motor grader bids from Caterpillar and Deere. Mr. Johnson recommended purchase of the Deere 772GP at a cost of \$332,000 prior to the buy-back. Cindy Schwehr moved to approve the purchase; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting "yes".

Auditor – Minutes

Vicky Lovell moved to approve the October 7, 2021 minutes; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tax Equalization

Tax Director Stacie Hansen-Leier requested promotion of Taylor Carlblom from Grade 7 to Grade 8 and increasing her pay from \$17.57 per hour to \$19.33 per hour, due to her completion of Assessor I Certification. Cindy Schwehr moved to approve the request; Pete Paulson seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting "yes".

Commission Discussion

Commission discussion included portfolio updates. Cindy Schwehr moved to purchase a used kitchen for the Courthouse basement at a cost of \$3,500; Vicky Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting "yes". Valley Troubadours Courthouse Carol Sing will be held on Monday, December 13, 2021, most likely at 7:00 p.m. The hearing on appraisal for the tax sale properties will be held tonight at 6:00 p.m.

With no further business, Pete Paulson made a motion, seconded by Shawn Olauson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

Bill Carlblom, Chairman
Barnes County Commission

Beth M Didier
Barnes County Auditor