

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session Tuesday, January 22, 2008, with all members present.

Kerry Johnson, Highway Superintendent, discussed a meeting he and Commissioners Schwehr and Berntson, along with Stutsman County commissioners, attended concerning Old Highway 10 and other roads connected to the proposed ethanol plant.

Discussion was held regarding road restrictions and load limits.

Mr. Johnson requested permission to attend the National Engineers' Convention in Portland, Oregon, as he is a board member.

Commissioner Berntson made a motion, seconded by Triebold, to allow Johnson to travel to the national convention in Portland. Motion carried.

Commissioner Triebold made a motion, seconded by Opdahl, to approve the minutes of January 8, with one correction. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Several Valley City High School students requested the use of the Courthouse lawn for a Snow Days event (water balloon toss). It was the consensus of the Board to allow the event.

Stan Horst, Building and Grounds Director, was present to discuss the condition of the boilers which heat the Courthouse and Correctional Center. The Commission directed Mr. Horst to contact the boiler inspector to determine the present condition and the life expectancy of the boilers, and to explore other heating options.

Betty Koslofsky, Tax Equalization Director, met with the Commission to discuss 2008 agricultural valuations.

Commissioner Opdahl made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Triebold, to accept the Barnes County Soils Committee recommendation to reduce the 2008 Certified Price per Acre from the State Tax Department by 4.5 percent. For the 2008 tax year, the Barnes County Average Price per Acre will be \$392.92, the Average Price per Acre for Crop land will be \$454.87, and the Average Price per Acre for Non-Crop will be \$105.98. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Ms. Koslofsky also requested that the Commission reconsider the Residential land under Taxable Residential Structures policy. The Commission took no action.

Eric Hoberg, South Central Dakota Regional Council Director, presented information on SCDRC's membership services, and their process of calculating dues.

Randy Grueneich, Stan Horst, and Mary Ann Vig, master gardener in training, presented an evaluation of and plan for Courthouse landscaping. It was the consensus of the Commission that the Committee goes ahead with the first phase of the plan.

Vicki Zinck, Treasurer, met with the Commission to present the Pledge of Securities to cover Barnes County deposits with the following banks: Dacotah, Wells Fargo, First Community Credit Union, US Bank, Bank Forward, all of Valley City; and Bank Forward, Wimbledon; and Quality Bank, Fingal.

Commissioner Berntson made a motion, seconded by Weber, to approve the 2008 Pledge of Securities for Barnes County as presented. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Gene Bjerke, Sheriff, introduced new correctional officers Jeremy Wolff and Jerome Walle.

Sheriff Bjerke also presented the following quotes for the purchase of a new sheriff's vehicle:

Perkins, Inc. \$20,706.00; Miller Motors \$21,456.00; and Stoudt-Ross Ford \$23,981.00, all with the 2001 Impala trade-in.

Commissioner Opdahl made a motion, seconded by Triebold, to accept the low bid from Perkins for a 2008 Chevrolet Impala, for approximately \$20,706.00, with the trade-in. Upon a roll call vote with Schwehr, Triebold, and Opdahl voting “yes” and Berntson and Weber voting “no,” motion carried.

Bjerke discussed Homeland Security grants and stated that the Sheriff’s Office will purchase body armor with their grant dollars.

Bjerke informed the Commission that he has appointed Nicole Anderson as Chief Correctional Officer, with a salary of \$15.22 per hour, effective January 1, 2008.

Kim Franklin, Emergency Manager, presented for signature the new flood plain ordinance.

Commissioner Opdahl made a motion, seconded by Triebold, to approve the Barnes County Flood Plain Ordinance. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Ms. Franklin informed the Commission that she has been nominated to serve on the board of the Southeast Regional Advisory Committee for Homeland Security.

Commissioner Opdahl made a motion, seconded by Berntson, to approve Kim Franklin’s appointment to the Southeast Regional Advisory Committee for Homeland Security. Upon a roll call vote with all members voting "yes," motion carried.

Franklin also discussed the local emergency planning committee, and stated that its members had discussed possible appointees to the board.

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

Edward R. McGough
Barnes County Auditor

Cindy Schwehr, Chairman
Barnes County Commission