

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session Tuesday, September 21, 2010, with all members present.

Kerry Johnson, Highway Superintendent, updated the Commission on emergency road projects in progress.

Mr. Johnson also discussed gravel storage, costs in relation to the budget process, and the purchase of two years' worth of gravel next year.

Discussion took place on FEMA work at Clausen Springs Park as to road and dam work.

Commissioner Froelich discussed a resident's concerns about center line and lighting on the township road past Dietrich's.

Commissioner Weber made a motion, seconded by Opdahl, to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 7, and the budget meetings of September 2, 9, and 14, as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Weber made a motion, seconded by Opdahl, to re-appoint Commissioner Froelich to the North Dakota State Fair Board. Motion carried.

Commissioner Berntson made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to publish a notice of the bidding of County property to be leased. The bidding will be held October 19 at 11 a.m.

Edward McGough, Auditor, discussed the concerns of a rural resident about asking the railroad to remove abandoned rail cars left on unused tracks.

Brad Cruff, States Attorney, discussed changing the Administrative Assistant II position in the Auditor's Office to Administrative Assistant III as a better fit for the job description.

Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Opdahl, to approve the change to the Auditor's office position as presented, from Administrative Assistant II, grade 7, to Administrative Assistant III, grade 8, step 1, as recommended by the Barnes County Compensation Committee, and effective with the 2011 budget.

Brad Cruff, States Attorney, and Kerry Johnson, presented a report on meetings they have attended on setting up a position for truck regulatory as part of a multi-county program.

Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Schwehr, to approve \$20,000 from the general fund for the Barnes County share of a truck regulatory multi-county program, contingent on member counties' agreement of shared funding of \$20,000, and to amend the general fund to reflect this cost; additionally, that Barnes County would be designated in the joint powers agreement as fiscal and administrative agent for the program, if agreed to by other participating counties. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," except Opdahl, who voted "no," motion carried.

Chairperson Schwehr closed the meeting and opened a hearing for the Green Hills Energy wind tower project.

Attending were Kirby Anderson, Tom Hrdlicka, Duane Lettenamier, Eldred Knutson, Greg Svenningsen, Ray and Lillian Borg, Bob Eggert, Chuck Luessen, Dennis Stillings, Susan Enders, and Paul Stenshoel.

Mr. Stenshoel, Green Township resident, made a presentation. Commissioner Berntson stated that he owns land within this project and that if anyone felt that presented a conflict of interest, they should let him know and he will take the necessary steps to resolve the issue.

Stenshoel requested that the Commission reverse their previous vote approving the building permits and variances for the Green River project.

Lillian Borg, Green Township treasurer, spoke in favor of the project as to the positive financial impact of the towers.

Kirby Anderson of Ottertail Energy Services clarified that Green Hills Energy is a subsidiary of Ottertail and answered other questions.

Chairperson Schwehr closed the hearing and reconvened the Commission meeting.

Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Opdahl, to affirm the previous resolution as approved.

Commissioner Berntson declared a conflict of interest in the matter.

Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Weber, to accept the conflict of interest, and to disallow Berntson's vote on the Green Hills Energy project. Upon a roll call vote with Berntson abstaining and all others voting "yes," motion carried.

A vote on the previous motion affirming the Green Hills project was called for. Upon a roll call vote with Berntson abstaining and all others voting "yes," motion carried.

Budget matters were discussed as follows:

Betty Koslofsky, Tax Director, and Brad Cruff, State's Attorney, of the Compensation Committee, discussed salary budgets.

Mr. McGough informed the Commission that NDPERS has recommended an approximate 7.5% increase to health insurance.

Winter Show Board members Dale Maasjo, Tim Ost, Tory Hart, and Director Nancy Allen met with the Commission regarding their mill levy. Mr. Hart updated the Commission on the financial structure of the Show, and Mr. Ost described the process and challenge of procuring entertainment for it.

The Commission also met with the following to discuss their 2011 mill levies: Airport Authority, Dennis Helland, Board Member, and Lori Jury, Secretary; City-County Health District, Director Theresa Will; Economic Development, Director Jennifer Feist.

Betty Koslofsky met with the Commission to present updated salary information.

Commissioner Opdahl made a motion, seconded by Weber, to increase the 2011 salaries to bring employees to mid-range on the salary schedule, and a 2% cost of living increase. Upon a roll call vote with Opdahl, Weber, and Berntson voting "yes," and Froelich and Schwehr voting "no," motion carried.

Commissioner Opdahl made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to adopt the preliminary 2011 budget for publication. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Ms. Koslofsky requested to replace a printer that had failed. It was the consensus of the Commission to allow the purchase.

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

Edward R. McGough
Barnes County Auditor

Cindy Schwehr, Chairperson
Barnes County Commission