

The Barnes County Commission met in regular session Tuesday, April 19, 2011 with all members present.

Kerry Johnson, Highway Superintendent, stated that new employees Todd Smith and Randy Earles have joined the Highway Department. Mr. Johnson requested to hire one additional employee to train for an anticipated retirement.

Johnson discussed concerns about county roads #19 and #4, and repairs starting immediately on county roads. He presented rough estimates of flood damages to county infrastructure to \$2,000,000, and to township infrastructure of \$1,000,000.

Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Knutson, to approve the minutes of March 22 and April 5, with corrections. Motion carried.

Lee Grossman, State's Attorney, presented a contractor agreement for forklift operator services at the Winter Show building for county work.

Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Berntson, to approve the contract agreement to pay forklift operators as presented. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Brad Cruff, Assistant State's Attorney, presented a court services agreement with the City of Dazey.

Commissioner Leitner made a motion, seconded by Knutson, to approve the agreement with Dazey as presented. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Edward McGough, Auditor, presented a request from the Sheyenne Valley Friends of Animals to hold a quilt festival/craft show on the Courthouse lawn August 6.

Commissioner Leitner made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to approve the event as requested. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Chairwoman Schwehr recessed the Commission meeting and opened a hearing on a tax abatement request from Kevin and Susan Benson. Request was for a decrease from PCL: 03-6350030, Ashtabula Twp., Lot 3, Lee's Subdivision, for tax year 2010, from \$133,600 to \$36,000. Ashtabula Township recommended reduction to \$126,000. Betty Koslofsky, Tax Director, recommended reduction to \$133,100.

Lois Bjornson spoke in favor of approval of the abatement.

Commissioner Berntson made a motion, seconded by Knutson, to close the hearing and reconvene the Commission meeting. Motion carried.

Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Knutson, to approve reducing the Bensons' valuation for 2010, from \$133,600 to \$126,000, as recommended by the township. Upon a roll call vote with Leitner, Berntson, and Schwehr voting "no," motion failed.

Commissioner Berntson made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to reduce the valuation to \$99,000, due to the residence's use during only three-fourths of the year. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," except Knutson and Leitner, who voted "no," motion carried.

Ms. Koslofsky presented the following zoning variances for approval, as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Board.

Commissioner Berntson made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to approve a 100' building setback variance and a conditional use permit for Shawn Vachal, Valley Twp. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Knutson made a motion, seconded by Leitner, to approve a 17' building variance for Randy McClafin, Weimer Twp. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Leitner made a motion, seconded by Knutson, to approve a 10' and 8' variance setback and building size variance for Wayne Keller, Ashtabula Twp. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Leitner, to approve a 34' building variance for Myron Petersen, Laketown Twp. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Berntson made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to approve a 28' building variance for Dana Noot, Greenland Twp. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Knutson made a motion, seconded by Leitner, to approve a 100' building variance for Justin Enger, Meadow Lake Twp. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Knutson made a motion, seconded by Berntson, to approve an auditor's lot for Jeff Gilbertson, Oakhill Township, 11-137-58, NW1/4 and NE1/4. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Leitner made a motion, seconded by Berntson, to enter into a contract to assess properties for yearly valuations and equalization meetings as follows: Townships: Oakhill \$787.50; Raritan \$777.00; Uxbridge \$626.50; Cities: Kathryn \$308.00; Oriska \$399.00; Pillsbury \$224.00; Sibley \$301.00. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Paul Stenshoel met with the Commission to request their presence at a Planning and Zoning Board meeting at which he will discuss wind towers.

Commissioner Froelich made a motion, seconded by Knutson, to allow departments to adopt summer hours at the discretion of the department head, with all offices to remain open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Lee Grossman and Randy McClafin discussed overtime pay for exempt/elected employees.

Commissioner Leitner made a motion, seconded by Knutson, to approve specific authorization for additional compensation for time worked in excess of 40 hours during the emergency declared by the Board of County Commissioners on February 25, 2011. This additional compensation will continue until the emergency is terminated. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Jim McAllister, Weed Officer, discussed Weed Board appointments to fill the unexpired terms of Richard Monson and Ken Cruff, who have resigned.

Commissioner Berntson made a motion, seconded by Knutson, to appoint Mark Schlotman to fill the Weed Board term of Mr. Monson, ending in December, 2012. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

Commissioner Leitner made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to appoint Derek Bruns to fill the Weed Board term of Mr. Cruff, ending in December, 2014. Upon a roll call vote with all voting "yes," motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board, commissioner Leitner made a motion, seconded by Berntson, to adjourn. Motion carried.

Edward R. McGough
Barnes County Auditor

Cindy Schwehr, Chairperson
Barnes County Commission

